



Bird's Eye View

Matoaka Elementary School | 4001 Brick Bat Road , Williamsburg, VA 23188

Matoaka Elementary School



DECEMBER 2016

For detailed, up-to-the-minute Matoaka PTA news see <http://www.matoaka-pta.org>

Reflections Winners



PTA.org/Reflections

This year's PTA Reflections Program "**What is Your Story?**" will have five students representing Matoaka at the WJCC level.. Matoaka's representatives are:

Primary Visual Arts - Landry Kailian, "Sad Coyote"
Intermediate Visual Arts - Sierra Mileski, "Just the Beginning"
Intermediate Photography - Sara Centolanza, "My Friend Riley"
Intermediate Literature - Jeffery Hennessey, "When Dolphins Fly"
Intermediate Music Composition - Nina Longo, "My Life, My Story"

Please join us in congratulating these students on their outstanding Interpretation of this year's theme and wishing them luck at the next level and beyond!

Thank you to all of the students who showed off their artistic abilities and submitted an entry to this year's Reflections Program. The PTA will host an art show of all our Matoaka entries in early in 2017!

December

- 12/10: Spirit Night at Williams Sonoma, 1-4pm
- 12/18: Family Fun Event, William & Mary Women's Basketball game, 2pm
- 12/21: Early Release – Winter Break
- 12/22-1/2/17: Winter Break – No School

Where do our PTA funds go?

A portion of our PTA funds were recently allocated to our fabulous teachers. PTA has given each of Matoaka's 51 teachers (including grade-level teachers plus special education teachers, center teachers, enrichment specialists, and speech & guidance staff) **\$50 towards educational supplies**. The teachers are free to choose the supplies they most need for their class. What are teachers saying about these funds?

"Oh what \$50 can do! I chose 6 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) projects for the 6 remaining months of the school year. I started with ideas purchased from Teachers Pay Teachers. I adapted those to fit first graders. Two of the ideas purchased have literature tie-ins. I will add that language arts part to the other projects. I purchased nearly all of the supplies needed for the 6 experiences. The children are going to LOVE it. Thanks so much!" –1st grade teacher

"Thanks to our very supportive PTA for this generous donation! One idea that teachers have shared for the proposed use of the \$50 is to use it for the website "Teachers Pay Teachers." This site allows for the purchase of resources and classroom ideas across the curriculum. We are grateful for this gift and look forward to utilizing these items in our classroom. –2nd grade teacher

Happy Holidays!



December 2016

Help Needed for Cardinal Carnival



Please save the date for the Matoaka Cardinal Carnival: **Saturday, March 25th** from 2–5 pm. Thank you to Amy Davies for volunteering to chair this fantastic event. Please consider helping out as Carnival co-chair with Amy or as a subcommittee chair. The committee will be meeting once a month, then more frequently as the Carnival approaches. We need all the help and great minds we can get! Want to help? Please email Amy at amycherelledavies@gmail.com.

Thank you to all the families who joined the **Matoaka PTA**. We will report the results from the membership contest in the January newsletter!

Matoaka Dads

Matoaka is always looking for volunteer help in the classrooms and around the school. Below are some of the programs for which Dads have traditionally volunteered their time and ones we advertise as part of our program. If you are interested in helping out with any of the areas below or with anything else, please contact John Johnson at matoaka.dads@gmail.com with your name, child's grade, teacher, and the program you are interested in.

New this year we are having a friendly competition where the classroom with the highest number of Dad volunteer hours each marking period wins a prize. Make sure that whenever you volunteer at Matoaka you fill out the special blue Matoaka Dads Program sign-in sheet in the office to get your hours counted.

Classroom Reading * Organized Recess * Centers * Math Tutoring * Living Wedge Projects

Healthy Lifestyles Week Recap

Healthy Lifestyles Week started off on **Saturday, October 29th** with the annual Matoaka 1K Run. Thanks to Matoaka gym teacher Ms. Rock for hosting the event!



On **Tuesday, Nov 1st** the students were treated to a **tasting of locally grown produce** from KelRae Farms and our own Matoaka School Garden. We had students asking for seconds and thirds!

On **Wednesday, Nov 2nd**, **Chef Chris Long** of Second Street Restaurant used butternut squash donated by KelRae Farms to make a delicious butternut squash sauce served over whole wheat pasta noodles. Yummy, Yummy! Lots of kiddos were surprised they enjoyed it.

The students were treated to a **Brian Richard's bfit show** on **Thursday, Nov 3rd**. This health and fitness assembly used magic, comedy, juggling and audience participation to get the students excited about healthy eating and exercise.

To end the week, the PTA hosted a **Family Fun Night of Zumba and Yoga** on **Friday, Nov 4th**. Thank you to both SHIP and Studio South for their awesome instructors. We all had a blast!

Finally, thank you to all the students who brought in their leftover Halloween Candy for **Treats for Troops**. The PTA collected a whopping **225 lbs.** of candy that will be sent to the troops overseas!

Calling all Matoaka artists... the 2016-17 Yearbook Cover Contest is coming soon!

2016-2017 marks Matoaka's 10th anniversary. We would love the yearbook cover to reflect 10 years of Cardinal pride!

A detailed flyer with the contest's rules and instructions will be coming out in early December.

The contest, open to all grades, will run until the end of January 2017. The 5th grade winner and runner up's artwork will be the front and back cover of the yearbook. The lower grade winners' artwork will be displayed in the yearbook.

Get ready to show 10 years of Cardinal pride!