



# Mater Amoris Matters

## January 2012

Mater Amoris Montessori School  
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### Calendar of Events

#### Mon, Jan 16

**NO CLASSES**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

#### Wed, Feb 8

Kennedy Center field trip for lower and upper elementary

#### Thur, Feb 16

Rehearsal for the musical

#### Fri, Feb 17

Dress rehearsal for the musical

#### Sat, Feb 18

Musical performance of "Persephone" at the Olney Theatre

#### Mon-Fri, Feb 20-24

**NO CLASSES**

President's Day and Mid-Winter Break



### SNOW POLICY

Mater Amoris will follow Montgomery County Schools' Snow Policy for school closings. However, **when Montgomery County schools open one or two hours late, Mater Amoris will open at its regular time. When Montgomery County schools close early, Mater Amoris will close early.** *You do not need to call the school – just follow the radio announcements.*

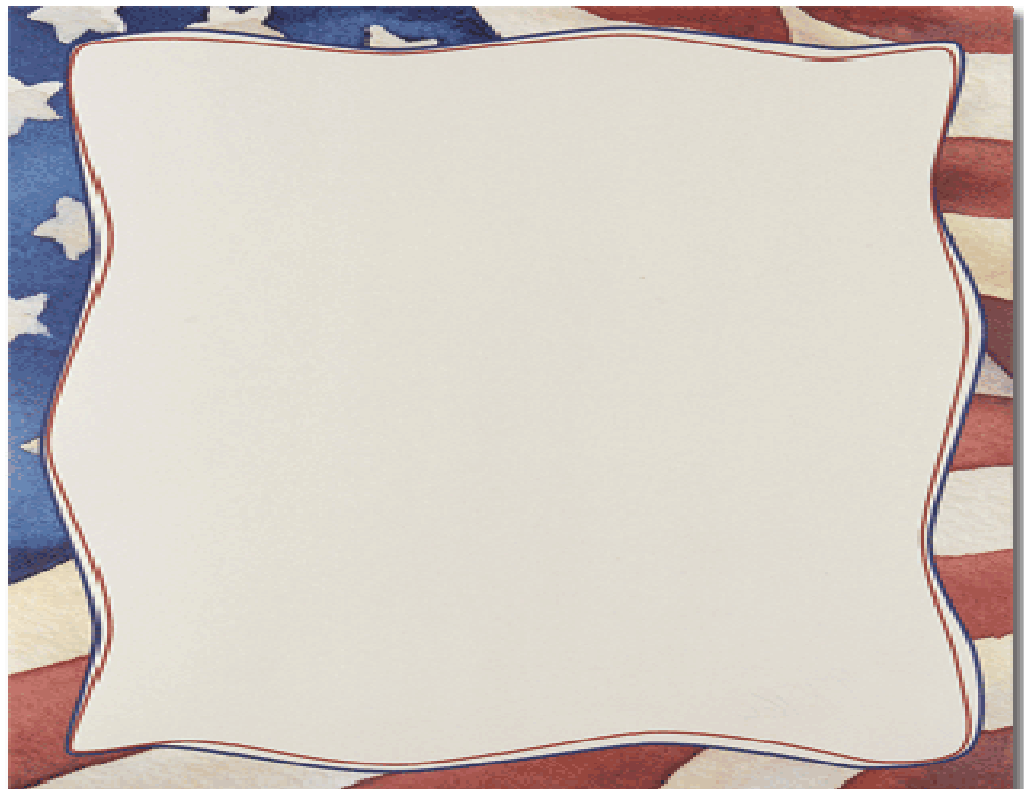
### FROM THE DIRECTRESS



The staff and I would like to extend a Happy New Year to all of our families. We also wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the very generous and thoughtful holiday gifts we received in December.

The annual Bake Sale and Holiday Program was once again a great success. Congratulations to all of the children who sang, danced and played instruments for the performance. The contributions to the bake sale were beautifully wrapped and very inviting. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped with packaging, pricing, set-up, selling and clean-up. I would like to extend a special word of appreciation to Najla Dildar for the delicious meal she prepared. Her food was once again a highlight of the sale and was thoroughly enjoyed. Many thanks also to Jessica Eustace and Carrie Weitzman for conducting the raffle and announcing the lucky winners. It was a wonderful evening for everyone who attended.

After a relaxing break, we are now ready to settle into our school routine and look forward to the semester ahead.



## **FROM THE MATER AMORIS PARENT COUNCIL**

Happy New Year! The Mater Amoris Parent Council would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to update you about our activities and accomplishments thus far this year, as well as to let you know what is in store for the second half of the school year. We look forward to the opportunities available to enhance our children's academic experience and to further our strong sense of community in the upcoming year.

### **EQUAL EXCHANGE FUNDRAISER 2012**

#### **Chocolate, Coffee, Gifts and More**

#### *Help Our School by Helping Others*

This year, our goal is to donate a whole, live cow to a needy family, providing them with milk, cheese and a baby calf to pass on to yet another family. **If each student sells \$100 or each family sells \$150 worth of products**, we can reach our goal of **\$4,000 cash for Mater Amoris enrichment! Our Equal Exchange fundraising will last for only ONE MONTH . . . with orders due by February 1<sup>st</sup>**. The gifts you order will be ready for Valentine's Day! But that means we all must sell like crazy throughout the month of January to meet our goal of giving and receiving.

Last year, the children learned how chocolate is made through hands-on experience. This month, they will learn the artisan craft of making paper. Thanks for your support and generosity! If you have questions or would like to help, contact Michelle Belfie (mbelfie@cs.com).

#### **It's All Greek to MA**

#### **Spring Fair and Silent Auction**

While it is still many months away, preparations are already being made for our annual Spring Fair and Silent Auction. As always, we hope to surpass the success of past years' events. We are trying to bring in more community donations and to increase participation by having more friends and family bid on available items. Again this year, we are asking everyone to be creative in thinking about friends, family and businesses that might be willing to donate something to be auctioned.

If you have contacts in the Greek community, in the Olympic community or for London based travel, please let us know. In February, we will be contacting those of you who've contributed in the past to brainstorm, or to get an early confirmation of repeat donations.

In an effort to draw in more bidders, we will be sponsoring an adults-only Advance Bidding Night the Friday (May 11) before the Spring Fair, so rally your friends, family and neighbors and book your sitters early. We will serve complimentary food and spirits and enjoy a relaxed environment, much like the Parent Social last fall. But in this case, we strongly encourage you to bring another couple, a handful of friends, even your parents. Many of the most sought after items will have Buy It Now prices and there will be Automatic Bidding Options available to make it easier for bidders who will not be attending the Spring Fair to win an item.

Your past support has been critical to our success and we look forward to your continued involvement.

#### **YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK**

As a result of ongoing Mater Amoris Parent Association (MAPA) fundraising efforts, a number of important initiatives have or will be funded by the Parent Council this school year, including the following:

- Nature Trails - the trails are complete now! Feel free to call the school and arrange to take a stroll and discover something new.
- Classroom Materials – the Parent Council has allocated almost \$3000 for classroom materials including \$1500 for books from the Scholastic Book Fair.
- Buses for field trips to the Kennedy Center.
- Costs associated with the Holiday Program, Parent Education Nights, PJ Party, Holiday Program, Spring Musical and Graduation Ceremony.

It is through the support of all families that the council is able to meet its goals. Thank you to the parents who have attended the fall picnic, parent social, and parent education nights; who have volunteered at the book fair and/or bake sale; or helped raise funds for the school by attending the Mater Amoris Night Out events, clipping Box Tops, or making purchases at the book fair or the recent Holiday Program bake sale.

We thank you in advance for your support of the Fair Trade Exchange Company fundraiser in January and look forward to seeing you at future Parent Education Nights, the annual Egg and Scavenger Hunt and, of course, at the Spring Fair and Silent Auction.

For questions or to offer ideas or other support for the Spring Fair and Silent Auction, please call Kimberly Morrison at 301-774-3886 or Carrie Weitzman at 301-854-3121.

