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Mater Amoris Matters

JANUARY
2010

For All the News That Matters



Calendar of Events

Mon, Jan 18

NO CLASSES

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day

Tues, Jan 19

Echo Hill deposit due

Thurs, Jan 21

Kennedy Center field trip
for lower and upper
elementary

Thur-Sun, Feb 4-7

Ocelots at Disney Field
Hockey Showcase

Thur, Feb 11

Vision and Hearing
Screening

Mon-Fri, Feb 15-19

NO CLASSES

President's Day and Mid-
Winter Break

Mon-Thu, Mar 8-11

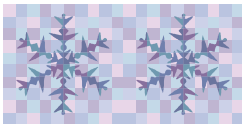
Science Fair

Wed, Mar 10

Science Fair Parent Night

Sat, Mar 28

Easter Egg and Scavenger
Hunt



SAVE THE DATE!

This year's Spring Musical
will take place **Saturday,
April 24, 2010**, at Paint
Branch High School.
Rehearsals will be Tuesday,
April 20 and Thursday,
April 22. More details will
follow as the date
approaches.

FROM THE DIRECTRESS

Happy New Year to everyone. After a restful vacation, we are all ready to settle back into the school routine. I would like to extend thanks on behalf of myself and the entire staff for the many holiday gifts and cards we received from you. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

A belated congratulations to the Primary and Junior children who participated in the Holiday Program. They did a wonderful job and the performance was enjoyed by everyone. The Parent Association's Bake Sale was a great success thanks to your contributions of delicious holiday treats. Thank you to everyone who helped make it a memorable evening.

DISNEY WIDE WORLD OF SPORTS FIELD HOCKEY SHOWCASE

The entire upper elementary class is working hard to get the Ocelot teams ready for the tournament at Disney Wide World of Sports to be held in Orlando, Florida, February 5-7, 2010. There are currently 16 students from the school scheduled to participate in this tournament. **Go, Ocelots!**

KENNEDY CENTER FIELD TRIPS

The lower and upper elementary children attended a fantastic performance of "Teddy Roosevelt and the Ghostly Mistletoe" on December 7th at the Kennedy Center. This holiday play, inspired by Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", featured ghostly sounds, laughter and music throughout the White House at Christmas time. There will be two additional Kennedy Center performances this year. On January 21st, three world class acrobatic choreographers will present "Galumph's The Human Jungle Gym", featuring a whirlwind of movement, striking visual effects, and choreography which turns the human body into shapes and forms that seem to break the laws of physics! The final performance for this year will be on April 19th, when the National Symphony Orchestra presents "Sounds Historic". The music of Haydn, Beethoven and Stravinsky will be placed in the context of American history featuring George Washington, Lewis and Clark, and events leading up to World War I. Bus transportation for the field trips is generously paid for by the Parent Association.



DRESSING FOR WINTRY CONDITIONS

When there is snow, slush, or muddy conditions due to melting, all full-day primary children and all juniors must have **boots** and either **snow pants** or an **extra pair of pants** to change into after playtime, as well as hats and mittens or gloves. The children love to play in the snow but must be appropriately dressed in order to go outside for playtime.



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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.*



VISION AND HEARING SCREENINGS

On Thursday, February 11th, Vision and Hearing Screening Service will be at Mater Amoris for optional testing of your child. Details, including cost, will be sent home soon with the children.



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 give you an update on 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.

While it is still many months away, preparations are already being made for our annual Spring Fair and Silent Auction. Our goal is 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. 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. To help you get thinking about this, we've posted an Idea Generator page on the school website, MaterAmoris.com. If you have your own great idea, but are uncomfortable doing the soliciting, we'd like to hear from you. We can help.

Also, in an effort to draw in more bidders, we will again be sponsoring an adults-only Advance Bidding Night the Friday before the Spring Fair. 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.

As you should already know, our theme this year is America the Beautiful and we will decorate the school library and celebrate in the tradition of Rte. 66. This theme will carry through in the classroom baskets, which are described on the website.

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

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:

- Monarch Butterfly Gardens – the Parent Council has approved funds to cover the cost for Mater Amoris to be a part of the Monarch Butterfly's migratory path to Mexico.
- Classroom Materials – the Parent Council has allocated almost \$3000 for classroom materials including \$1500 for books from the Scholastic Book Fair. In addition, more than 70 books were donated to the teachers through the "Teachers' Wish Lists", which were promoted at the Scholastic Book Fair.
- Buses for field trips to the Kennedy Center.
- Costs associated with the 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, portrait sale, 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.

Moreover, if you think you might like to serve on the Parent Council, please contact Kimberly Morrison at 301-774-3886.