

October 2011



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy autumn! This time of year brings many exciting events at Maryvale Elementary, and the PTA is happy to be involved in several of them. In mid-October, we kicked off our first major fundraiser of the year – Mixed Bag Designs. Please see page 2 for more information about the PTA's only "product" fundraiser this year. We are also gearing up for the Fall Book Fair in November, and welcome your donations of used books and time to help make this a success. As always, we need many volunteers to help support the PTA's programs and activities. Your time and effort will enable us to enrich the experiences of all students at Maryvale. We look forward to seeing you at one of our monthly family restaurant nights, an upcoming PTA meeting, or other event soon.

-- Caryn Nagler, naglerc@verizon.net, 301-943-3148

HALLOWEEN PARADE

Maryvale students are invited to participate in a Halloween Parade on Friday, October 28th, at 2:00pm. If you wish to attend the parade, or the classroom celebrations that follow, please remember to sign in and get a visitor sticker at the main office. *Note: Students may bring costumes to change into just before the parade.*

DUDES AND DONUTS!

On November 11th from 9:00 - 9:30 am, the PTA will host a brand new event. Students will invite the most important "dude" in their life, whether that be dad, uncle, grandfather, or cousin, to join them for donuts (and fruit!) in the cafeteria. The Dudes will be encouraged to "dress up" and ties will be provided. Students will go to class at 9:15.

PTA MEETING NEWS

Please join us at the General PTA Meetings on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 pm in the Media Center. Each general meeting is followed by a Board Meeting at 8 pm. Refreshments and child care are provided at all PTA meetings! To thank the

Save the Dates

Friday, Oct. 28 – School Halloween Parade, 2:00 pm
Tuesday, Nov. 1 – PTA General Meeting, 7:00 pm
Tuesday, Nov. 8 – Friday, Nov. 11th – Fall Book Fair
Monday, Nov. 14 – Silver Diner Restaurant Night, 5:00–8:00 pm

community for attending our PTA meetings, two winners will be selected randomly at the end of each meeting to receive a \$10 Silver Diner gift card. We had two lucky winners at the October meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

The PTA is continuing to reach out to Maryvale families in a variety of ways this year, including: the monthly PTA Newsletter; weekly Connect-Ed phone messages on Sunday nights; weekly emails on the PTA Listserv; our website: <http://maryvalepta.net>; the school sign in front of the school; and on Facebook too! We want you to stay connected:

- On Facebook, search for "Maryvale Elementary School PTA" and click the "Like" button.
- To join the PTA Listserv, send an email to: MaryvalePTA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

NUESTRO RINCON HISPANO:

Estimados padres de familia una vez mas les damos la bienvenida a este otro ano escolar esperando que logremos alcanzar todos los propositos y objetivos trazados para con nuetros hijos y nuestra escuela de Maryvale.

Uno de los objetivos del Comité Hispano para este ano escolar es lograr la mayor participacion de las familias Hispanas en las diferentes actividades y eventos que tanto el PTA como la directiva de la escuela tienen programados para este ano.

Si ud padre de familia tiene alguna inquietud o le gustaria que el comite Hispano organice algun evento especial para las demas familias latinas de la escuela por favor dejenos saber su sugerencia u opinion.

Gracias

Atentamente

Norma Mendoza, PTA Comité Hispano

normamendozaperu@hotmail.com, o 240-888-2927

FUNDRAISING

The PTA's first and only "product" fundraiser of the year, **Mixed Bag Designs**, has started. Catalogs and order forms went home in mid-October. Please let us know if you did not receive one. Check out the display case in the front hall to see various designs and bag sizes. See the evidence that they really do hold 50 lbs.



Get ready now for the Montgomery County bag tax on January 1st with these colorful, recycled and reusable bags. There are many cool items for you to consider...not only are there reusable bags, but also a wide variety of cell phone covers, laptop/iPad cases, stationery products, totes and lunch bags. Orders are due Oct 28th and will be delivered December 5th – 9th. Please contact Melissa McKenna with any questions at maryvalees.treasurer@gmail.com.



The PTA is still selling Rockville Rewards cards, which offer discounts at almost 100 Rockville restaurants, stores, and other businesses, including Aardvark Swim and Sport, Toy Kingdom, BounceU, The Bean Bag Deli, etc. The card is \$25, and all proceeds go directly to the PTA to support student programs and activities. Check out the most up-to-date list of participating businesses at: <http://www.rockvillerewards.com>.

Please continue to save and send in your Box Tops. Also, if you haven't linked your Giant or Safeway cards to Maryvale yet, we can help you do so! Send your card numbers to Lynne Kingsley at lynnekingsley@gmail.com.



Let the PTA recycle your INK CARTRIDGES. Leave your empty ink cartridges in the PTA Mailbox in the Main Office, and Maryvale will earn money from them. If your business would like to participate to help Maryvale, please contact us and we can give you a collection bin.

Restaurant Night

Thank you to everyone who came out to our Mamma Lucia Restaurant Night last week! We'll keep you posted on how they help us. Baskin Robbins and Baja Fresh donated almost \$200 to the PTA for the September event.

Our next Restaurant Night will be on Monday, November 14th at the Silver Diner in Rockville from 5 to 8 pm. We'll "Run the Diner", and we're looking for volunteers to help for 30 minute shifts from 5 to 8 pm. Volunteers will receive a \$10 Silver Diner gift card for volunteering for 30 minutes. If you volunteer for 60 minutes, you will receive two \$10 gift cards. If you can volunteer, please contact Jackie Suzich at jsuzich@comcast.net or 301-990-6088 and let her know what time(s) you are available. Middle school and high school students may volunteer as well for SSL hours.

VOLUNTEER UPDATE

Many thanks to all the wonderful parents, guardians and staff members who have already offered their help with our programs and activities, including the Ice Cream Social on September 21st. We had a record crowd, and could not have had such a hugely successful evening without your help.

A few reminders: Please do not forget to sign in at the office when you first come in, and to register your volunteer hours in the volunteer log binder. Also, it's important to let your child's teacher know that you will be volunteering in the classroom. If your name is not on the schedule, the office will not let you proceed to the classroom. Please confirm with your child's teacher that your name is on his/her schedule before you come in.

Announcing our new PTA Volunteer Rewards program!

To thank you for taking the time to submit your hours, volunteer names will be randomly selected every month to receive \$10 Silver Diner gift cards. In September, close to 40 volunteers submitted their hours. The four lucky winners were: Jenn Auroux, Julia Naoui, Ling Ling Xy and Isabelle Dahan.

URGENT! The Maryvale PTA is looking for a few more volunteers to help with critical and time-sensitive projects. If you can help or want to get more information, please contact Patricia Polster, VP of Volunteers at patricia.polster@verizon.net or 301-251-2964.

PTA Board Position: Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for taking minutes at the General and Board meetings, and being the official record keeper of the PTA. No experience is needed, but you must be able to attend meetings from 7 - 9pm on the first Tuesday of every month.

Mixed Bag Designs Fundraiser Volunteers

Work includes collecting order forms and payment, compiling orders, receiving order shipment, sorting orders and distributing after school. The fundraiser is running October 14th – 28th, and orders should arrive on/about December 2nd.

Spring Fling Silent Auction

Two or more volunteers are needed to work on the Silent Auction (which is held in May.) Training and advance work starts in the fall. Volunteers will work with other experienced volunteers.

Staff Meeting Snacks Volunteers

Once or twice a month, volunteers purchase snacks and/or set up snack stations for school staff meetings. This can be done on a rotating basis if enough volunteers sign up. Volunteers will be reimbursed for expenses. Please indicate your availability.

Special Education Committee

One or more volunteers are needed to serve as advocates for Special Education, and be points of contact between the school, the PTA, and MCCPTA (Montgomery County Council of PTAs).

THE FALL BOOK FAIR IS COMING!!!

Maryvale's Fall Book Fair will be held November 8 – 11. We'll be open the following hours: Tuesday & Wednesday, 9:30 am – 4 pm; Thursday, 8:30 am – 6 pm; Friday, 9:30 am – 5:30 pm.

We need a lot of volunteers! Set up will be on Monday, November 7 from 9:15 am until we're

done, hopefully by 1 pm. Volunteers are also needed to staff the fair the other days, plus take-down on Monday, November 14 in the morning.

Please send in your used books! In addition to all the new English, French, and Spanish books, we also offer gently used children's books at bargain prices for thrifty shoppers and prolific readers. Please bring your used children's books to the collection box in the front hallway of the school.

CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE UPDATE

The PTA funds many of the Cultural Arts assemblies at school each year. The Cultural Arts Committee researches and previews possible performers, and makes recommendations to the school administration. Maryvale staff provide input on what types of performances they would like – music, dance, science, entertainment, motivation, etc. – and we do our best to find performers who match the staff wishes and provide a variety of experiences for the children. Thank you to the volunteers who went to the MCPS showcases of performers in September and October – Diane Ferguson, Anne Simcox, and Jenny Price-Smith – and to those of you who provided feedback on performers you have seen before.

We have three assemblies scheduled to date:

We are delighted to have award-winning Native American Storyteller Dovie Thomason at Maryvale on Thursday, October 27, to tell stories related to making choices. Please ask your children about the assembly afterwards – perhaps they will be able to re-tell a story or something they learned about Native Americans or the tradition of storytelling.

MerMan will use magic, illusions, and comedy in his special program about bullying on Thursday, November 3. Bullying is no laughing matter, but humor can be an effective teaching tool, particularly for children.

Award-winning ukulele musician, singer, and songwriter Victoria Vox will entertain students on Thursday, December 15. Some of you may remember her from the MCPS French Teachers'

Francophone Festivals the past few years. She will perform one assembly in English, and one in French.

NATIONAL PTA REFLECTIONS ART CONTEST

It's that time of the year to encourage your child to have fun with creating inspiring projects and receiving recognition! Maryvale PTA is again participating in the National PTA Reflections Contest and would like to search for talented photographers, visual artists, writers, composers, choreographers, or film producers among our students. All of the students from preschool to grade 5 are eligible to participate.

The theme for 2011-2012 is "Diversity Means...". Students may submit their creative works in six arts areas, including literature, musical composition, dance choreography, photography, visual arts, and film production. The deadline for submitting your child's art work to the Maryvale PTA is Friday, December 2nd. Entries received after the deadline will not be considered.

For more information about the Reflections Program, please visit the website http://www.ptareflections.org/cs/about_reflections
To participate, simply fill out the Student Entry form and consent form available at http://www.ptareflections.org/cs/student_entry_form. Both forms must be completed entirely.

If you have any questions about the contest, please contact Pofen Salem at plinsalem@yahoo.com or Ping Steimel at pington@yahoo.com.

GOT INSTRUMENTS??

If you or anyone you know has a musical instrument and is no longer using it, please consider donating it to Maryvale's instrumental music program for 4th and 5th graders to borrow. Many students cannot afford to buy or rent their own instruments, and the school does not currently have enough instruments for all students who would like to participate. For example, there are 22 students who would like to learn violin, but Maryvale only has 11 violins to loan to students. If you have any questions, you may contact Mr. Gale at William_C_Gale@mcpsmd.org.

He is at Maryvale on Monday mornings, and all day on Wednesdays. Your instrument donation is tax-deductible.

STUDENT SUPPORT GROUP FORMING NOW

Several parents have expressed an interest in starting a group at Maryvale for siblings of children on the autism spectrum. It would be a great way for neuro-typical kids who have siblings with ASD to make a connection, receive support, and share experiences. This group will meet during school, most likely once or twice a month. If you are interested please contact Miss Drozdowicz (school counselor), or Jane Karakashian (parent) at jkrash36@yahoo.com. Names will be kept confidential, and will only be shared with Miss D. as you wish.

COMING SOON.....

The Maryvale Directory is nearly done! If you want your parent contact information included, but have not yet submitted the form, please contact Karen Doswell immediately at karendoswell@verizon.net.

There is a Kids Euro Festival running through November 10th at various venues around the DC area. www.kidseurofestival.org

The school's FREE Flu Mist clinic Nov. 10th from 12:30 to 3:30 pm.

Parent/Teacher conferences are Nov. 10th and 11th.

THANK YOUs

- ❖ Thanks to Mrs. Chittum for speaking about Media resources at the Oct. 4th PTA meeting.
- ❖ Thank you to all the wonderful entertainers at the October 14th International Night, including the Bolivian Dance Company, the Rockville (HS) Latin Club dancers, and our own Maryvale students and parents. Thanks also to all the volunteers and families who made it such an enjoyable evening.
- ❖ Thank you to Mamma Lucia's in Rockville for hosting the October Restaurant Night. The PTA will receive 8% of the proceeds to use for student enrichment programs.