

BUZZ SHEET

from the
Matoska International Parent Teacher Organization (MIPTO)
Today's Edition: December 1, 2011

Third Grade Check-in

At Tuesday night's Saints North Skate Night, we were able to take a few minutes out of some third graders skate fest to ask them about their school year. The interviews were brief as they would roll away, answers trailing behind them. Katie Cueto, 3rd grader in Ms. Reckinger's class, and Lynn Fastner in Ms. Susie's class were nice to skate slow enough for us to ask questions.

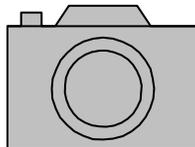
With much enthusiasm the girls were happy to share every thing they were learning and doing in class, from writing and publishing a book on Mary Pope Osborne and "Rights and Responsibilities". They were equally excited about the upcoming Orchestra Hall Field Trip with Mrs. Farinella and the other 3rd graders. It was fun watching the girls list off activities and chime in with an "Really? That is so cool!" and "Oh yeah, I did that too."

Ms. Mahoney adds, "we are currently finishing up Write On which involved learning about authors where they get their ideas, genres etc. They each wrote a biography about an author. We are also working on "Rights and Responsibilities", which deals with local, state and federal government and will include a field trip to the capitol."



Call for Photos

Ms. Vanderwood is in charge of the yearbook this year and is requesting photos. Parents/families/students can send them by email (KatyVernon@gmail.com) IF they are small files (low resolution). Otherwise photos can be burned to a CD. Photos on a CD will be returned if requested. We need all grades so the more the merrier. If there are questions please call Ms. Vanderwood at (651) 653-4050 or email at KatyVernon@gmail.com.



IMPORTANT DATES

NO School Dates - Dec 23—Jan 2
School is back in session on Tuesday, January 3.

MIPTO Meeting Dates - Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 14, Mar. 13, Apr. 10, May 8, June 12. 6:30pm in Media Center

Check the lost and found for your unlabeled items.

Unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity over the winter break.



5th Grade Fundraisers

5th graders are fundraising for their Camp Widgiwagan trip. Look for "Y-Ties" shoelaces—shoelaces that do not require tying—and a fifth-grade only weather calendar.

Flyers were sent home to describing the fundraising efforts in greater detail.

Hansel and Gretel

Students started practicing/auditioning for the play "Hansel and Gretel" this past Monday. The play features students from Matoska International in association with Ashland Productions. Play practices are Monday and Wednesdays from 8:15a-9a. Parts will be given to students on December 5 and practice times may change, depending on the part(s). Performances dates are March 2, 3 and 4 at the Maplewood Community Center.



Volunteer Opportunities

We have a new volunteer system. Parent volunteers can now go to **www.google.com** and login to email using the following login information:

Email: MatoskaParentVolunteers@isd624.org
Password: mpvol2012

With the new email you can view volunteer requests and an interactive sign-up sheets for various opportunities. Users can also send email to the same address for all volunteers to view.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Late December registration packets will be mailed home for kindergarten students for year 2012-2013.

Kindergarten Registration Night, January 19th, 5:30-7:00.

MATOSKA SHIRTS/SWEATSHIRTS

The Matoska shirts and sweatshirts on sale! Make sure to check out the order form, sent home this week, if you want to order Matoska clothing. Orders are due *this* Friday, December 2nd. Items range from \$10.25 to \$34.00.

CHECK OUT THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER FOR OF UPDATES! The newsletter packet will be sent home this week.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

I encourage parents to label **all** of your child's personal property. This includes lunch boxes, coats, jackets, hats, boots, mittens, tennis shoes, water bottles, etc. Every year we give multiple bags of items to the Goodwill because no one claims them. Our lost and found is located across from the gym in the closets. We also want to remind parents to be sure your children are properly dressed for the colder weather and being outside at recess. Hats, winter coats, mittens or gloves all make for a better outdoor recess.

Electronics and cell phones are expensive items and often get lost or taken. Please **DO NOT** bring iPods, cell phones, video games, or other electronics to school.

INFORMATION AT A GLANCE

Important Numbers:

Attendance Line: **651-653-2848**.

Transportation Changes? Contact Carolyn Kay in the main office at **651-653-2847**.

Colder weather is here! Time to pull out the warm jackets, gloves, scarves and hats. Make sure your child's name is on their outerwear. The lost and found by the cafeteria is filling up, so check there for any unclaimed items. When the snow falls, you will probably need indoor sneakers too.

If you get chapped lips, make sure to bring some chapstick.

Should a school closing be necessary, families are notified in the following four ways:

- An instant alert phone message and e-mail will be sent to all parents
- There will be a message on the WBL school closing hotline- **651-407-7540**
- A message will be posted on www.whitebear.k12.mn.us
- Closings will be posted on local news channels

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many ways to volunteer at Matoska International. Contact our volunteer coordinator, Gayle Chapman, at **651-653-2852** for

Save Your Box Tops

Start saving those Box Tops! The box tops contest runs from Monday, November 28th through Wednesday, December 14th. There will be a prize for the classroom with the most box tops collected.

Volunteer View Point



Matoska International School has a strong and vibrant Art Enrichment program, with classrooms art lessons led by volunteers from Matoska families. This program is coordinated by 2 energetic and talented volunteer co-chairs, Betsy Diekema and Erika Arndt. This week we're introducing you to Betsy, and we'll profile Erika in the next Buzz Sheet.

My name is Betsy Diekema and I am a Co-Chair for the Art Enrichment program at Matoska. I have been involved in this program for the past 10 years. I have also been a Book Club leader, Family Group leader, and classroom coordinator at Centerpoint. I love creating art with students and also training parents to be art leaders! We are so lucky to have this incredible program for our kids and so many creative parents involved in the program as art leaders and art helpers. I love being stopped in the hallways and being asked "Betsy! Is it an art day today?!" by excited students! This shows me how much our students love to create art and how important this program is for all children. I tell the students that there is never a "wrong" in art and all students are artists! Art allows children to share their feelings and views of the world. It is a positive and joyful experience to paint, draw, or create a work of art. Our Matoska students should be very proud of their masterpieces! I sure am proud of them! I feel very lucky to have this wonderful experience to participate in the Art Enrichment program at Matoska! My own kids (Ben 14, Sam 12, and Anna 8) have many strong memories of art lessons and the Spring Art Shows at Matoska. I am grateful that they have grown to love art! I was a classroom teacher in Milwaukee, Madison, and Roseville and now I teach classes at White Bear Center for the Arts and also create and sell my own line of jewelry, "Betsy Beads." I also play the violin and ukulele, and love to garden, read, and travel. My favorite artists are Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse.

Art Leaders, Helpers and Volunteers

Attention Art Leaders, Art Helpers, and Classroom teachers:

Wow! I am so impressed and inspired by the amazing artwork that is popping up in the halls of Matoska! Many classes have already had a few art lessons and the last few classes should be up and running in the next few weeks. Thank you for supporting our students by providing them with wonderful quality art lessons! Your time and effort is so appreciated!

Art Leaders and Teachers:

Please make sure that you have contacted all your art helpers and let them know the dates for art for this school year. If you have not set up art dates, please do this at your earliest convenience.

Art leaders:

If you would like help with planning lessons or brainstorming, please contact the Art Co-Chairs, Betsy Diekema (b.diekema@comcast.net) or Erika Arndt (houseoferiken@q.com). We would be happy to meet with you and plan some lessons!

On a final note- please make sure you check the Buzz Sheet and your classroom's weekly newsletter for art information. We are such a big group that this is a great way to communicate. Thank you for all you do! Get Smart! Keep Making Art!

REMEMBER: We need to make sure all Art Leaders and Art Helpers have filled out a **background check** with the school district. Your background check is good for three years. Background checks are available in the main office if you need one. Please fill them out as soon as possible!