



BUZZ SHEET

from the
Matoska International Parent Teacher Organization (MIPTO)
Today's Edition: December 16, 2010

Volunteer Viewpoint

Being a parent volunteer has been very fulfilling for Merry Gray. Not only has she learned more about her children, kids in general, and the awesome devoted teachers at Matoska, but it has also inspired her to return to school to get a teaching degree – something she had not considered doing before she became a school volunteer.

Merry is currently a student at Century College, and will soon be involved in a work/study program that is a partnership between Century College and Matoska. She has five children, from Kindergarten through 9th grade, three of whom currently attend Matoska. Their family looks forward to "Friday Taco/Movie Night" when they can connect as a family after a long week.

One of Merry's favorite things about volunteering at Matoska is getting to know her kids' friends from their classrooms. She says "It's great to put a face to the many names I hear about after school and at dinner time, and I have also enjoyed meeting many other parents while volunteering. I have met so many lovely people who have become close friends over the years."

Now in her 9th year volunteering at school, Merry has had many opportunities to participate, including book clubs, publishing (great when she had a lot of little ones at home, and so much fun to read all the great stories from our student authors) and helping at the carnival and art auction. This year Merry is working on the pledge drive, reading and writing with students in the classroom, and one of her favorites – helping with stations with those busy kindergarteners who are always so eager to learn new things!

Merry would like to encourage other parents to try volunteering. She says, "There are so many wonderful opportunities, there really is something for everyone. It is an incredible way to connect with your children, your school and community."

IMPORTANT DATES

Winter Break - 12/23—12/31.
School resumes January 3, 2011

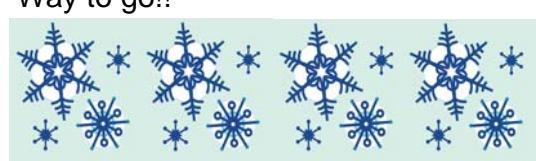
Look to the 2011 Buzz Sheet for dates for fundraising.

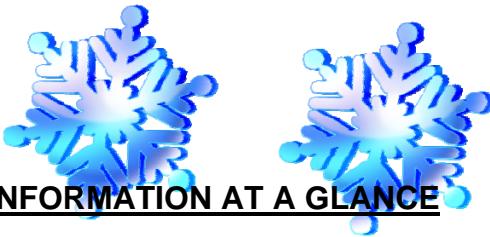
On behalf of Matoska International PTO, we wish you a happy holiday season. May you seek the rest you need, the happiness you deserve.



And the Skate Goes to...

Ms. Jennifer Reckinger's 3rd grade class for having the most participants at our recent Saints North Roller Skating night!
Way to go!!





Board Meeting Agenda

The MIPTO met on December 14 and were honored to have Dr. Lovett speak with us regarding the district strategic planning meeting.

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Dr. Lovett
3. Reports: 25 minutes
4. Review and approve November minutes
5. Treasurer's report
6. Principal's report
7. Staff news
8. School Board report
9. Mis Amigos/Cross Age Connections update
10. Movie Night update
11. Read-A-Thon update
12. Fundraising Committee update
13. Fourth Grade Plant Sale
14. Roller Skating update
15. Open Forum

School Board Report

George Kimball is the school board liaison to the MIPTO. Please visit <http://www.whitebear.k12.mn.us/strategicplan.html> for view details of the strategic planning process. The school board meets on the second Monday of each month.

1. Strategic Planning
2. School Board/Superintendent Goals 2010-2011
3. Student Recognition
4. Open Forum for Truth-in-Taxation Hearing
5. School Board Forum

OUTDOOR RECESS

Snow on the ground means dressing extra warm for outdoor recess. Please make sure to bring to school:

- Hats and gloves
- Good 'winter' jacket
- Snow pants
- Extra indoor shoes

These items can stay at school and in your child's classroom. Make sure to write your child's name on every article of clothing you bring to school just in case. If you have questions, don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher.

INFORMATION AT A GLANCE

Important Numbers:

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

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

Inclement weather season is almost upon us! 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 more information.

CALL FOR PHOTOS

This year's school yearbook needs your help!! We are in need of photos from all classes and activities.

- Photos need to be submitted via disc to Katy Vanderwood and can be returned to you.
- Please label by Teacher/ Class name.
- Any photos are welcome.

With your help we'll have a great yearbook - thank you!