

BUZZ SHEET

from the
Matoska International Parent Teacher Organization (MIPTO)
Today's Edition: September 19, 2013

Off and Running...A Great Start!

2013-2014 is off to a great start! Did you notice the renovation of some classrooms or the new coat of paint in the hallways? The bright colors remind me of how "bright" our Matoska students are. In addition to the school changing, our returning students came back from their summer breaks a little changed as well. Students sported new haircuts and grew a few inches taller. But like the school, it is always reassuring to know that the hearts of children do not change. Girls still were giddy when they saw their friends, quickly huddling together like football players on the field. The boys high-fived each other and tried to keep a straight face, but soon were laughing at each other's attempt to stay stoic.

School routines like hallway walking, lunches, reading and math, are established and students can be seen engaging each other and their teachers in the classrooms. My fifth grade son is using his new class planner and learning skills that I did not have until I was in high school. My third grade daughter talks about the way she is learning math and asks inquisitive questions that make me proud to be a Matoska parent. So, now the home routine is set but instead of hallway walking and lunches, we've replaced it with asking about school over dinner, and reading and math classroom time has been replaced with family homework time.

I am often amazed at how Matoska's teachers engage their students in the learning process. Technology is becoming a vital part in everyday instruction and homework. Teachers and students are actively using Schoology (<http://whitebear.schoology.com>). Students can access Schoology with their **Student ID number @isd624.org** and their birthdate (like **01011990**—January 1, 1990). For more information on how to access, contact your child's teacher or WBL help desk.

Being a Matoska parent and member of the PTO has been rewarding. I am amazed at the commitment of parents and families towards their students' education and that the lessons learned in the classroom extend to the home.

We are off and running to a great 2013-2014 school year! Let's all make it a great one!

IMPORTANT DATES

NO School Dates - Oct. 17, 18

MIPTO Meeting Dates - Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10, Jan. 7, Feb. 11, Mar. 18, Apr. 8, May 13, June 10. 6:15pm in Media Center.

Chip Shoppe Pickup - Monday, October 7 from 3pm-6pm

Conference Dates - Oct. 10, 14, 15 from 5pm—8pm



Curriculum night

Thursday, September 19 from 5pm—7pm



Picture Day - Wednesday, October 2.



Art Enrichment

Volunteer Meeting - Thursday, October 3 at 4pm-4:30pm.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Looking for ways to volunteer at Matoska International? You can always volunteer in your child's classroom (contact your teacher) or at events like the Art Show. Supporting your child's education both in the school and at home are some of the ways to enhance your child's education.

FUNDRAISING GALORE!

Matoska International PTO seeks many ways to support teachers and students in the classroom to enhance students' learning and academic success. Fundraising is one of the ways we earn these funds in addition to many MIPTO-hosted events throughout the year. Look for information to be sent home on the following:

Chip Shoppe Fundraiser	Plant Sales
Read-A-Thon	Book Fairs
Saints North Roller Skating	School Carnival
Pizza Nights	Art Show & Auction
4 th & 5 th Grade Camps	and more!

SEPTEMBER FUNDRAISING EVENTS



Matoska International PTO is partnering with Chip Shoppe for our first fundraiser of the year. In addition to scrumptious cookies like the traditional chocolate chip cookie to the mildly wild caramel and walnut cookie, Chip Shoppe also sells items like cheesy bread and pizza. There are also many non-edible items like stickers and pencils. Prizes are a-plenty as well. Information was sent home September 16. Orders and money are due by September 24.

Volunteer to be an art leader or helper! We are currently recruiting volunteers to both lead and assist art enrichment in all classrooms (K-5). Lessons are typically scheduled twice a month for at least an hour. Absolutely no experience or background in art is necessary to either lead or teach in your child's classroom. We have coordinators for every grade that can assist you with lesson plans and ideas. Please contact Dana Stob to get involved at danastob@comcast.net or [651-470-9889](tel:651-470-9889).

SAVE THE DATE: Art Enrichment Volunteer Meeting on Thursday, October 3rd at 4:00pm in the Media Center (child care provided). This meeting is scheduled in the fall to provide art leaders and helpers (new and returning) with some basic information about the program (how it works, budgeting, supplies, schedule, resources, etc.) and concludes with an optional tour of the art supply area. Please join us if you can!

INFORMATION AT A GLANCE

Important Numbers:

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

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

Although the sweltering heat of the summer may be past us, make sure to dress appropriately for whatever weather conditions come your way. Do you know where the safest place is in your home if there is a tornado? In case of any emergency, know who to contact and where your "safe" place is. Practice with your family (and pets).

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.