



Marie H. Reed Elementary School

Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) Newsletter

October 3, 2017

No. 1

Welcome Back to School, Panthers!

Greetings from your PTA! We are looking forward to building on our successes of prior year to enhance programming and community engagement to new levels for the 2017-2018 school year. Please meet the PTA Board consisting of:

- President:** Hallie Shuffler (hshuffler@yahoo.com)
- Vice President:** Dari Pogach (daripogach@gmail.com)
- Communications:** Fani Cruz (fanicruz@yahoo.com)
and Justine Sturtevant (Justine.sturtevant@gmail.com)
- Membership:** Kessia Cruz (kessia.cruz@gmail.com)
- Fundraising Co-Chairs:** Chris Myers (cmyers2173@gmail.com)
and Katherine Fertakis
- Events Co-Chairs:** Emily Touboli (emilytoubali@gmail.com)
and Paty Huber (Paty.c.huber@gmail.com)
- Treasurer:** Anne Rodriguez Jones (rodriguezjones@gmail.com)

Welcome back to school! We are excited for the year ahead and all that awaits every Marie Reed Panther! We have a lot of events planned and are launching some new and exciting initiatives including our first ever school-wide Box Top competition!

It is my pleasure to be your PTA President. Hope to see everyone at our next PTA meeting on Thursday, October 19, at 545 pm in the living room. - Hallie

★ PTA meetings are open to everyone, in Spanish and English, and take place every 3rd Thursday at 5:45pm. We welcome all input and ideas! To sign up for the **Google group**, and be aware of PTA activities between meetings, go to: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/marie-reed-pta/join>

Principal Lundgren's Update

Notes from Coffee with the Principal and the PTA meeting on 9/21:

- Construction is still ongoing in corners of the building but should not be disruptive to student activities.
- Marie Reed's 2017 PARCC scores are in and rose again for the 3rd straight year (by 4.0 percentage points to 39% of students at Level 4 or 5 in ELA and by 3.6 percentage points to 46% of students at Level 4 or 5 in math).
- The FRESHFARM Markets FoodPrints program is at Marie Reed this year, offering food/cooking education mixed with science! The PTA needs to raise \$5,000 for this initiative so stay tuned and watch this video for more info:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUCAiJwQQAk>
- Marie Reed's arts focus means each student has art and music weekly. In addition, there will be "Tools of Discovery" performances, arts related field trips and a winter showcase of art and music.
- Swimming is part of the curriculum this year for students in grades 3-5 for 1 hour/week.
- There are 4 chickens at Marie Reed for the next 8 weeks as part of Ms. Beasley's People Animals Love (PAL) program!
- Concerns have been raised over ECE drop-off on Ontario Road and those procedures will be reviewed and tweaked. DDOT will also be taking measures to slow traffic on Ontario.

Requesting "Room Parent" Volunteers

The goal for the 2017-2018 year is to have at least one active room parent for each classroom at Marie Reed. The function of a room parent is to foster communication and support among parents in a classroom. This is a volunteer position, and ideally there are 2 or more room parents per classroom that can communicate in English and Spanish and/or other relevant languages.

Though there are no strict responsibilities, the following are some roles and actions that are useful for building community in the classroom:

- Collect parent contact information: phone # and/or email to allow parent communications through group texts and emails.
- Organize weekend or after school get togethers at local playgrounds
- Organize Holiday and end of year gifts for teachers
- Plan and organize Winter party and end-of-year pizza party at school for kids and parents
- Bring food to Parent-Teacher meetings (snacks, drinks)
- Help coordinate parent volunteers in the classroom when needed
- Function as a conduit of information between the PTA and classroom parents.

Please contact Adam Jachimowicz @ [202 341 4214](tel:2023414214) or amjdisaster@gmail.com for more information.

<h3>Parent Volunteer Opportunities</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Festival! We need volunteers for many roles related to planning, set-up, during the event, and clean-up. Please contact Paty or Emily (contact info on page 1) to get involved. • Have ideas or talent related to Fundraising, Events, Communication (web design)? Get involved by contacting the appropriate PTA chair (contact info on page 1). 	<h3>Box Tops for Education (Friendly) Contest!</h3> <p>Starting collecting now and submit to your teacher by 10/26. Marie Reed's goal is \$500 from this source this year, which is 5,000 box tops at \$0.10 each. A list of participating products can be found here: http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products. Box tops are commonly found on these brands: Hefty, Cheerios, Old El Paso, Annie's, Nature Valley, Land O'Lakes, Scott, Ziplock, Green Giant, Lysol and more.</p> 
<h3>After-School Program Inquiries?</h3> <p>Contact After-School Coordinator, Walter Castillo: Walter.Castillo@dc.gov</p>	 <h3>Mark Your Calendar</h3> <p>10/7 – Adams Morgan Porchfest Marie Reed Bake Sale at 2300 Ontario, 2-6pm 10/9 – School closed for Columbus Day 10/13 - Hispanic Heritage celebration! Families are invited! ECE-1st @ 9:30am, 2nd-5th @ 2pm 10/15 – Zumbathon 11-1pm 10/19 – Next PTA meeting @ 5:45pm 10/20 – Fall Festival @ 6pm 10/27 – End of Term, No School</p>
<p>To make a tax-deductible donation to the PTA, use this paypal link: https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=JAJKUSELDHDQC</p>	<h3>Smile.Amazon.com</h3> <p>Please choose the Marie Reed PTA to receive 0.5% cash back on your eligible purchases from Amazon. To do this, go to smile.amazon.com and search for the Marie Reed PTA as your beneficiary. <u>Important</u>: you only get credit for purchases made on the smile website, not in an app, but you can create a link to the smile.amazon.com page on your phone or ipad by clicking on the download icon that looks like a box with an arrow coming out (on the iPhone) and selecting, "Add to Home Screen." Then you can do all of your shopping in the app, but be sure to go to the smiles webpage to check out.</p>
<p>Link up your Harris Teeter VIC card for their "Together in Education" Program. Do it at HarrisTeeter.com or the customer service desk at Harris Teeter – its takes 2 seconds! Target: 100 shoppers. Re-linking required every Aug.</p>	<h3>Did you know?</h3> <p>In Washington DC, only 9 in 100 low income students graduate from college and there is a 20-30 point difference in standardized test scores based on race and class. Research shows that the social networks of communities explain the gap in standardized test scores and graduation rates more than any other factor, including poverty¹. If we are to change this disturbing reality, we need to engage in true dialogue with each other across lines of race, class and language in order to improve our children's academic success. Being a diverse school does not mean that we have diverse friendships, and this is what we need to ensure that all of our children succeed academically.</p> <p>Kindred (www.kindredcommunities.org) engages parents in dialogue groups that are representative of our school population. Be a part of closing the opportunity gap and commit to joining one of our groups, which typically meet bi-weekly for 12 sessions. Email sangeeta@kindredcommunities.com to sign up. Race and Equity groups will begin the third week of October of this year and then again in October 2018.</p>
<p>Newsletter submission for next month? Email Terra: terrablodnikar@gmail.com</p>	

¹ Adapted from Stuart Wells, A., et. al. (2016, February 9). [How Racially Diverse Schools and Classrooms Can Benefit All Students](#) and Kahlenberg, R. and Potter, H. (2014). *A Smarter Charter: Finding What Works for Charter Schools and Public Education*, New York: Teachers College Press, 2014.