



Mustang Matters

The Maxey Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization Newsletter

President
Jon Eslick

Mustang Matters Editor
Greg Donovan

May 27, 2009

Maxey Elementary School: Our mission is to maximize learning for all students

Thanks to Jon Eslick for his OUTSTANDING Leadership of the 08-09 Maxey PTO

Nature Night: A Great Success

More than 480 people Maxey's first "Nature Night" attended the kick-off event. There were many booths where students and families could make soybean necklaces and binoculars. Students and families played the drums, played with wooden "cookies", blocks and mini bricks. They planted seeds and drank "like a hummingbird". Needle-nose pliers were the kids' "beak of choice" as they scavenged the shore as a Piping Plover. Many hands helped paint Maxey's new fish-themed rain barrel. It was a hands-on experience. A turtle, a snake and a giant bug were also popular attractions. We invite you all to join us for the next "Nature Night". We will keep you informed so your family can make plans to come join the fun! It is a fun way to get your family outside to enjoy the weather.

Our new Nature Explore area in and around the playground will include many of the same kinds of materials available at Nature Night! "Nature Night" was made possible through hard work and time devoted to the project.

THANKS to PTO parent Chris Kiewra, 3rd Grade Teacher Shari Bitney, and the many volunteers for making the night a big success.

Running Track to be Completed this Summer

The Maxey PTO is excited to announce the installation of a running track around the lower grass soccer field. The soccer fields would remain in the middle. This project is scheduled to be completed this summer and will be available for students, their families and the neighborhood. The track is already funded through the PTO and is the big ticket item addition to the school this year. In previous years the PTO has provided major funding to equalize all classrooms and create a mobile computer lab. This year the major project will be to enhance the school grounds to incorporate nature education into the curriculum.

Plans for School Grounds

You might have noticed the large areas of empty grounds surrounding our school. The Maxey PTO has a blueprint and plan in place for an outdoor area which would connect both the new track and the existing playground equipment. Incorporated into this natural grassland prairie are paths, a stage/music area, blocks & wooden cookies. It will provide hand-on experience with plants, natural materials, seeds, music, art and worms.

The plans are posted on our website www.maxeypto.org. We invite you to check out the poster in front of the office. It shows the plans, includes the plant list and projected cost.

There are many ways you can contribute. At the table in front of the office are "GREEN for GREEN" wish list items. If time permits, look through the catalog. It shows pictures of the materials that will be used.

Turn in Receipts: June 4 Deadline

All receipts for reimbursement from the PTO for the 2008-09 school year are due by 3pm on June 4th, the last day of school. Any reimbursement requests after that date will not be processed.

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PTO Committee Chairs Needed

The following volunteer committee chair positions are open:

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>
After School Classes	Organize classes, helpers and students for after-school classes
Displays	Create displays for glass cases in front hallway
Lost & Found	Organize lost & found. Donate unclaimed items.
Lunchroom volunteers	Recruit helpers to assist students in the lunchroom
Media Volunteers	Recruit helpers for the library
Outdoor Classroom	Organize vol.s & guide the path of our outdoor area improvements
Room Parent Volunteer	Call parent volunteers for classroom Fall & Valentine parties
Safety	Gather information regarding the carpool lane and students crossing parking lot, work with teacher crosswalk volunteers
School Directory	Compile information for the student phone directory
Yearbook	Collect & compile candid photos of classrooms. Guide order process.

If you are interested in any of the above please contact:

Mary Linafelter at 483-6178 or pkumail@aol.com or

Mary Schleich at 484-8312 or mcschleich@gmail.com [NOTE: Mary's new e-mail address]

www.maxeypto.org

Your online resource for news and information about Maxey PTO