

Douglas MacArthur Elementary School PTA

General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 12, 2024 @ 6:15pm (Hybrid)

Attendance: Quorum achieved (5 in person, 11 virtual)

- I. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order by Jay Hallen, Treasurer at 6:20pm. Interpreter provided for Spanish speakers.
- II. **PTA Business**
 - A. Approval of October 2024 General Membership Meeting Minutes
- III. **Literacy Presentation with Ms. Angelo**
 - A. Evolution of how students have been taught reading from phonics to whole word to [Science of Reading](#)
 - B. [NAEP Test](#) has shown decline since 2017 across the U.S.
 1. Virginia scores are declining from 43% above proficient to 32% (equal to the national average)
 2. PALS data (K-2nd reading assessment) has also shown deficiencies especially among certain populations
 - C. [Virginia Literacy Act](#)
 1. Every K-5 student in kindergarten will receive core literacy instruction based in scientifically based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction, as defined in the VLA. K-8 students will also receive evidence-based supplemental instruction and intervention, as outlined in an individualized student reading plan, if they do not meet literacy benchmarks.
 2. Every family will have access to online resources to support literacy development at home, and will be able to participate in the development of their child's student reading plan, if their child does not meet literacy benchmarks.
 3. Every teacher will use evidence-based literacy curriculum, assess student learning using approved literacy screeners, use student-level data to inform instruction and intervention, and participate in

pre-service preparation or training on evidence-based literacy instruction.

- a) Requires [additional PD days during 2024-25 school year](#)
- b) Nine modules of professional development, each are 2+ hours

D. Based on Simple View of Reading

1. Decoding (Word Recognition) X Language Comprehension = Reading Comprehension

E. [Scarborough's Reading Rope](#)

1. Language Comprehension (increasingly strategic)
 - a) Background knowledge (facts, concepts, etc.)
 - b) Vocabulary (breadth, precision, links, etc.)
 - c) Language structures (syntax, semantics, etc.)
 - d) Verbal reasoning (inference, metaphor, etc.)
 - e) Literacy knowledge (print concepts, genres, etc)
2. Word Recognition (increasingly automatic)
 - a) Phonological awareness (syllables, phonemes, etc.)
 - b) Decoding
 - c) Sight recognition

F. ACPS/DMES Resources

1. Bookworms
 - a) Uses trade books, available readily in school and to public
 - b) Each student has access to book
 - c) Began in 2011 from University of Delaware
 - d) Corresponds to science and social studies curriculum, allowing for cross-curricular development
 - e) Teachers began PD in Bookworms last year and continue in the 2024-25 school year
 - f) Examples of books shown in Presentation
2. Really Great Reading (phonics program)
 - a) Explicit and systematic
 - b) 18 year history
 - c) K-1 Decodables
 - d) Teacher PD
 - e) Engaging

G. Assessments

1. DIBELS-IRF
 - a) For Grades 1-5, created by University of Oregon
 - b) 30+ years history

- c) Students are measured against a benchmark, and if not met, they take IDI
- d) Teachers then use information for instruction for individual students

2. VALLSS

- a) For K-2 students and 3rd graders who did not meet the benchmark in 2nd grade
- b) Replacing PALS, which is outdated
- c) Covers both sides of the reading rope
- d) High risk students receive a Student Reading Plan and 30 minutes of daily direct instruction

3. MAP Growth

- a) Grade 2-5
- b) Focuses on literacy text, information text, vocabulary

4. Q&A

- a) Do you anticipate that there will need to be additional professional development days in the 2025-26 school year to meet VLA professional development needs?
 - (1) Anticipate that this year's training will meet requirements for one-time course to meet new VLA standards
- b) Why has there been a downward slope in literacy performance?
 - (1) We were teaching reading in a way that wasn't helpful for students. It wasn't direct or explicit and it didn't follow a path that built all the skills that kids need. There wasn't a phonics program consistently used in ACPS, which led to some gaps in literacy learning.
- c) When did new literacy instruction begin at DMES?
 - (1) Updated phonics instructions began four years ago, current 5th graders began this new program in 2nd grade
 - (2) Bookworms has been available for 2 to 3 years
- d) How can parents support literacy learning?
 - (1) Have kids look at the letters on the page and not the pictures to predict
 - (2) Breaking down words in your speech (e.g. "r-e-d" or "t-oo") to emphasize the letter components
 - (3) Reading at home (books, song lyrics, poems)
 - (a) Tic-tac-toe boards with silly voices

- (b) Repetitive reading of the same text
- e) How are writing and spelling incorporated into the literacy curriculum?
 - (1) Writing, sentence structure are taught in Bookworms.
 - (2) Students are instructed to sound out each word they are trying to spell, or to tap out the number of sounds in the word. This expectation varies based on grade level and literacy proficiency, as well as the purpose of each assignment.

IV. Upcoming Events

- A. Fall Appeal Fundraising Update
 - 1. Over 100 individual donations from families and local business/sponsors
 - 2. Just shy of \$16,000 target, but still a strong foundation for 2024-25 activities
 - 3. Additional opportunity to meet goal with January Read-a-Thon
- B. Sponsors
 - 1. \$4000 in sponsorship from eight local businesses, including several new supporters:
 - a) Chris Upham, Compass Realtor
 - b) Kate Hennigan Real Estate
 - c) Moore, Christoff, & Siddiqui, PLLC
 - d) Allied Title & Escrow
 - e) Sarah Bennett Aesthetics
 - f) Goldfish Swim School
 - g) MB Baker
 - h) Goodhart Group
- C. Question from attendee re: opportunities to fundraise or plan for additional shading for playground
 - a) Amy Hillis: Opportunities have been limited so far because of the ongoing construction and development of the school grounds. Amy Hillis in
 - 2. Turkey Trot
 - a) Info for registration
 - b) Info for volunteers
 - c) Bring non-perishable donations
- D. RIF
 - 1. Scheduled for November 22nd

- E. Angel Tree
- F. December Fundraiser with MB Bakery on the Go
 - 1. Gingerbread House and Cookie Decorating Kits available for pickup at school on December 11 or 12
 - 2. Flyers will be coming home with kids
 - 3. 100% of profits donated to DMES PTA
- G. Restaurant Nights
 - 1. Raised over \$1500 so far through &Pizza, Panera, Noodles & Co., Franke Pepe's this fall
 - 2. Use code FUNDRAISEDMAC with [Minted](#) for 20% off holiday cards

V. New Business

VI. Upcoming Community Meetings

- A. Tuesday, December 10th, 6:15pm (Virtual)

Meeting concluded at 7:35pm.

APPENDICES

- PTA Slide Deck
- Ms. Angelo's Slides

Douglas MacArthur PTA
November 2024
Community Meeting

Tuesday, November 12, 2024



AGENDA

- PTA Business
 - Approval of October 2024 General Membership Meeting Minutes
- Literacy Presentation with Ms. Angelo
- Upcoming Events
 - Fall Appeal Fundraising Update
 - Turkey Trot
 - RIF
 - Restaurant Nights
- New Business

PTA BUSINESS

- Approval of [October 2024 General Membership Meeting Minutes](#)

Literacy Presentation with Ms. Angelo

Virtual

Please use the Q&A function in Zoom to submit your questions. We will alternate between in-person and virtual questions



In-Person

Please raise your hand to ask a question or submit your question to a PTA officer using one of the index cards at your table.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Fall Appeal Fundraising Update
- Turkey Trot
- RIF
- DMES Angel Tree
- Restaurant Nights

FALL APPEAL



★ Thank You, MacArthur! ★

Ruth Torrance - Fletcher Bruegger - Jack Hilton - Anna Slother - Katharine Mitchell-Tombras - Anna Dick - Katie Brossy - Taron Murakami - Chris Collado - Paul George - Kara Page - Tsegewoiny Tesfaye - Dianne Russo - Lauren Sprott - Jay Hallen - Ariel Siskind - Katherine Dominick - Karen Schott - Amanda Lahr - Emily Freeland - Natalie Maxwell - Corinne Mather - Alicia Backous - Lydia Helgesen - Kate Hennigan - Amy Hillis - Sarah Hertzberg - Susan Thakore - Jessica Hazlett - Katherine Weller - Karen Meade - Kunegunda Belle - Annie Meza - Miruna Stanica - Dana Alkalas - Pam Resnick - Anna K - Anna Dick - Michele Dixey - Cassie Sanderson - Emily Garrahan - Melissa Swain - Sarah Pray - Perry Hodgkins Jones - Saher Tanvirv- Courtney Ebel - Hollie Szamsfalvi - Adam Branch - Jennifer Lanco - Christopher Smith - Lucia Lodato - Charlene Whitman-Barr - Natalie Ortiz - Millie McKeachie - Brooke Gill - Melanie Ficke - Mark Lacy - Cristina Nilikanta - Peter Brossy - Jenna Rupp - Pieter Black - Karen Heath - Carly Robb - Katie Lee - Miki Franks - Stephanie Jackson - Carmina Carper - Susan Christoff - Jill Ralph - Lisa Motley - Noelle Brown - Krista Ludwig - Julia Kellaris - Cathy Cook - Jen Fitzpatrick - Whitney Tull - Sara Boyce - Devon Tutak - Jessica Sheehan - James Rawlings - Fletcher Bruegger - Mallory Perry - Alex Spisak - William Pfister - Natallia Maroz - Mohamed Zouitine - Stephen Ng - Colleen Meehan - Jessica Bowman - John and Marisha Sherry - Ashley Daniel - Robin Mullins - Laura Wait - Arthur Smith - Sany Calvar - Stephanie Paulson - Melissa Callahan - Iria Roe - Katia Post

We Raised \$14,671.67 during Fall Appeal!

A fabulous start to funding all of our activities this year!

FALL APPEAL

Thank You for your generosity!

- We are just shy of our \$16K target!
- Strong foundation to plan activities this year; kids will make up the difference with the Read-a-Thon in January!

Sponsors Support A Full Schedule

- 8 sponsors, totaling \$4,000
- Chris Upham, Compass Realtor
- Kate Hennigan Real Estate
- Moore, Christoff & Siddiqui, PLLC
- Allied Title & Escrow
- Sarah Bennett Aesthetics
- Goldfish Swim School
- MB Bakery (also donating cookies for Turkey Trot)
- Goodhart Group



THANK YOU SPONSORS

General of the Army MacArthur Tier

- CHRIS UPHAM PROPERTIES COMPASS
- BERTLES REAL ESTATE

General MacArthur Tier

- Sarah Bennett Aesthetics: Enhancing Beauty. Elevating Confidence.
- goldfish swim school
- MCS MOORE CHRISTOFF & SIDDIQUI

Lieutenant General MacArthur Level

- MB BAKERY ON THE GO

BECOME A SPONSOR

CONTACT AMY HILLIS: YP.FUNDRAISING@DMACPTA.ORG | 202.615.3299



TURKEY TROT

- Saturday, November 16
- Registration opens at 7:45, race starts at 8:30
- 3 races: PK-1st, 2nd-34d, 4th-5th
- Chinquapin Park (3210 King Street)
- Please park at Alexandria City High School (3330 King Street)
- Race is free but please bring non-perishable food item to donate
- Register here: [4th Annual Douglas MacArthur Turkey Trot Registration](#)
- We need volunteers!: [Douglas MacArthur Elementary PTA: Douglas MacArthur Turkey Trot Volunteers](#)



RIF: Reading Is Fundamental

November 22, 2024

- Reading is Fundamental takes place at DMES
- Every student has a chance to *pick out and keep* a book
- If you would like to volunteer at RIF please reach out to Jocelyn Parks (jocieruth@gmail.com) or Emily Garrahan (emilygarrahan@gmail.com) and a sign-up genius will be forthcoming

Angel Tree

The *Angel Tree* is a special program that provides gifts for students of families in need. This year, DMES is hoping to make the season brighter for our students and we need your help to make this possible.

How it works:

- You will receive information on an anonymous student with their interests, and sizes.
- There is no minimum or limit to the amount of gifts that can be given.
 - All gifts must be submitted to **Lauren Fitchett by Monday, December 16th**.
 - Gifts can be sent to Lauren Fitchett (room 121) at 1101 Janneys Lane, Alexandria, VA 22302, by Monday, December 16th.
- Gift wrapping is not mandatory but highly suggested.

If you or someone you know are interested in becoming an *Angel Tree* donor, **please reach out to Ms. Fitchett by 11/15/24**. You will receive your student information no later than 11/22/24.

Your generosity has the power to create lasting memories and bring joy to someone this holiday season. We are incredibly grateful for your support, and together, we can make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most.

If you would like more information or have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Lauren Fitchett at

lauren.fitchett@acps.k12.va.us or 703-619- 8520



RESTAURANT NIGHTS

Restaurant Nights Have Been Strong Source of Revenue

- Election Night @ &Pizza - \$183.27
- Previous Fundraisers:
 - Panera - \$355.76
 - Noodles & Co. - \$264.34
 - Frank Pepe's - \$711.75!
- Total So Far: \$1,515.12

Partnering Again w/Minted for Holiday Card Fundraiser - use code **FUNDRAISEDMAC**

[instagram.com/macarthurpta](https://www.instagram.com/macarthurpta)



New Culinary Fundraiser

Next Partnership in December W/ MB Bakery on the Go!

- Gingerbread House and Cookie Decorating Kits for Purchase
- Look for a flyer in your student(s) folder(s) to order
- Pick Up @school Dec. 11 or 12 (more to come via ParentSquare)

This is a SWEET DEAL! - MB Bakery has graciously offered us all of the profits!



Follow Douglas MacArthur PTA
for reminders and details!



NEW BUSINESS

- New business/Q&A
 - Plan for community board by the playground



**Follow Douglas MacArthur PTA
for reminders and details!**



facebook.com/DMacPTA



instagram.com/macarthurpta



ADJOURN

Save the dates for our remaining 2024 Community Meetings

Tuesday, December 10th, 6:15pm (Virtual)

Get Connected! Follow Us for Reminders and Updates!

