

**Douglas MacArthur PTA**  
**February 2025**  
**Community Meeting**

Tuesday, February 4, 2025



# UPCOMING EVENTS

- Spelling Bee (February 13th)
- Read-A-Thon
- Reflections (March 11th)
- School Dance (May 9th)
- Girls on the Run
- Restaurant Nights

# Spelling Bee


Thursday, February 13, 2025, 5pm @School

- Doors open at 4:45pm (enter and leave through Door 1)
  - We cannot allow late arrivals to compete, please be prompt!
  - Registration closes Feb. 7 - 72 kids registered already!
  - Study Lists on ParentSquare (Dec. 3 post or search “bee”)
- Six, simultaneous grade-level Bees (K-5)
  - Grades 3, 4 and 5 Winners compete on the Learning Stairs for champion title. Our champ will go to regionals in Fairfax County!
  - All invited to watch Champion Round - will have some snacks!
- *NEW THIS YEAR!* 25 ACHS National English Honor Society Titans to volunteer (so parents can watch and enjoy!)
- ParentSquare message will go out shortly for 7 parents to volunteer as judges in grade Bees
- Snazzy prizes & during-school perks for the winners!



# Read-A-Thon Fundraiser

## NEW FUNDRAISING MODEL THIS YEAR! GOAL: \$10K

- In previous years, donation requests focused in fall w/ Fall Appeal drive
  - *Pro*: Amount collected scoped what we could spend/accomplish for the year
  - *Con*: Heavy, concentrated fundraising burden on community a challenge in post pandemic economic reality
  - '23-'24 Fall Appeal raised ~19K, of \$26.7K total revenue for the school year
    - We ultimately spent ~\$28.2K, or *\$1500 more than we raised*
  - '24-'25 Fall Appeal raised ~\$15.8K school year goal of ~\$30K (Thank You!!)
- Read-a-Thon goal is twofold:
  - Distribue revenue sources - and community financial giving - across events through the school year
  - Directly invest students in the effort to raise funds & support ***their*** fun activities,
    - Spring Dance around the corner! 

# Read-A-Thon Fundraiser

Monday, February 24 - Monday, March 24

- Structured not to burden teacher/school staff (though teachers can view student progress)
- Students/Families Enlist Sponsors; Sponsors Pay Direct via Web Portal
  - Parents/caregivers will sign students up via web portal organized by classroom
  - Parents/caregivers log reading minutes during Read-a-Thon month
  - Students earn “RAT bucks” based on reward milestones
    - Ex: Parent sending texts, social media posts to gather sponsors, reaching reading minute targets
  - Students purchase prizes via portal w/ RAT bucks
    - from art supplies, key chains, small toys/fidgets/games all the way to jump rockets, microscope kits, tablet and an Xbox - Your student can set a unique goal!
- \$10K total goal equates to *less than \$20 goal per student*

# Read-A-Thon Fundraiser

Monday, February 24 - Monday, March 24

- \$10K total goal equates to less than \$20 raised per student if all students participate
- Hope this model will entice families to join - Welcome feedback through process!
- Working w/ school admin to create custom prizes for top reading classes and/or individuals

## ***Keep in Mind!***

**The school already asks that students read (or be read to) ~20 minutes a day. That's 100 minutes each school week or 400 minutes a month!**

*Enlist some family friends to donate & incentivize your student's already assigned reading time w/ prizes and the communal goal of supporting the Spring Dance!*

# Reflections

- Congratulations to all 31 DMES Stars who participated in the 2024-2025 Reflections Art Contest! This year's theme was "Accepting Imperfection." DMES first place winners advanced to the Alexandria City Council PTA (PTAC) competition. We are pleased to announce the submissions receiving top honors at the DMES school-level and at the Alexandria city-level. Three of our students placed at the city-level competition including **Willow Edwards** (2<sup>nd</sup> place, Visual Arts, Primary), **Graham Ashby Parks**, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Photography, Primary), and **Calvin Guy Parks** (3<sup>rd</sup> place, Photography, Intermediate)!
- We will hold a short program at our March PTA Meeting (March 11th) to highlight ALL of the Reflections participants and their amazing art!

# Girls On The Run

**Girls on the Run (GOTR) for Girls in Grades 3-5: We are thrilled to announce REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR SPRING '25 GOTR program.** Registration opens February 3 and closes February 23rd at 11:59 pm. The season runs March 3 until May 18, with practices on Mondays and Wednesdays immediately after school. We will share more info in future newsletters and on the grade-level Facebook pages. Space is limited (24 girls), so if necessary, we will run a lottery to confirm participants.

- **Program Dates & Practices:** The season starts Monday, **March 3 and meets 2x a week (M/W) until the weekend of May 17/18, 2025**, which is the weekend of the GOTR 5K. All participants are invited to run in the 5k on this final weekend. GOTR is for girls in Grades 3-5. Practices will be held Monday and Wednesday, immediately after school: 2:35 pm until 4:00 pm.
- **Cost:** GOTR makes it a priority to make the program affordable and accessible to all participants. The standard registration fee for the season is \$210 for 20 lessons (2x a week, 10 weeks). There are several financial assistance, discounts, and payment options available to eligible families, particularly any that qualify for free or reduced lunches, SNAP, TANF, WIC, or Medicaid.
  - **Financial Assistance:** Please visit [this form](#) to learn more about the financial assistance offerings. You can also call the GOTR office at 703-273-3153 to discuss the financial assistance option best for your family with a member of GOTR program staff.
- **Coaches:** We are excited to have two DMES parent coaches - Jen Gerritsen and Stuart Brierre - along with returning community coach Brianna Petro!
- **Contact:** Site Liaison: Jamie Pfister @ [jdpfister@gmail.com](mailto:jdpfister@gmail.com) OR 404-281-5034





# Upcoming RESTAURANT NIGHTS

*Family BBQ Night! A Taste of Summer in the Dead of Winter*

Tuesday, February 18 - Rocklands BBQ  
25 S. Quaker Ln.

Rocklands generously donates 15% of all sales for dine in, carry out and delivery orders 4-8pm.

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



# THANK YOU SPONSORS

With the support of our sponsors, our STARS can shine even brighter!



**General of the Army  
MacArthur Tier**



**BERTLES**  
REAL ESTATE



**General MacArthur  
Tier**



**MCS**  
MOORE CHRISTOFF & SIDDIQUI



**Lieutenant General  
MacArthur Level**



YES

# GW Block Schedule (2025-26)

**EVERYDAY:**  
Advisory, Lunch, Anchor Period (5th), Electives (6th & 7th)

**A DAYS:** 1st and 3rd Period Classes

**B DAYS:** 2nd and 4th Period Classes

<u>6th Grade Block Schedule - 'A' Day</u>			
PERIOD	TIME	ROOM #	SUBJECT/TEACHER
Advisory/Homeroom	8:30-9:00	314	Homeroom   Jannings
1st Period	9:03-10:33	GYM	PE  Quinn
Anchor Period (5th)	10:36-11:32	344	Science   Goodman
Lunch	11:35-12:05	CAFETERIA	
3rd Period	12:09-1:39	314	LA  Jannings
6th Period (elective)	1:42-2:27	A210	Chinese   Gao
7th Period (elective)	2:30-3:15	A228	Drama   McDonough

<u>6th Grade Block Schedule - 'B' Day</u>			
PERIOD	TIME	ROOM #	SUBJECT/TEACHER
Advisory/Homeroom	8:30-9:00	314	Homeroom   Jannings
2nd Period	9:05-10:35	315	History   Snow
Anchor Period (5th)	10:40-11:25	344	Science   Goodman
Lunch	11:30-12:00	CAFETERIA	
4th Period	12:05-1:35	A310	Math   White
6th Period (elective)	1:40-2:25	A210	Chinese   Gao
7th Period (elective)	2:30-3:15	A228	Drama   McDonough

A and B schedules alternate daily; in a typical two week period, students have three 'A' Days (MWF) and two 'B' Days (T/TH) in Week 1 and then three 'B' Days (MWF) and two 'A' Days (T/TH) in Week 2.



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

 [facebook.com/DMacPTA](https://facebook.com/DMacPTA)  
 [instagram.com/macarthurpta](https://instagram.com/macarthurpta)



# ADJOURN

## Save the dates for our Next Community Meeting:

Tuesday, March 11, 6:15pm (hybrid)

**Get Connected! Follow Us for Reminders and Updates!**





Bonjour! Sveiks! halo χαιρετισμός! أهالو،تحية! Привет! ¡Hola! γεια σας Buongiorno! Guten Tag! こんにちは! chào  
Merhaba! Dzień dobry! Mulembe! 你好



Douglas MacArthur's

# *International Heritage Night*

Thursday, March 20, 2025 (6.30pm-8pm)

Where: Douglas MacArthur







# *Introductions of Event Contacts*

Kristina West, parent of Inna (2nd grade)



Katie Brossy, parent of Evan (5th grade) and Jacob (1st grade)





# *What is International Heritage Night?*

- A time for our community to:
  - Get together have a celebration of cultural heritage
  - Represent the cultures/countries that make up the families of the Douglas MacArthur Community
  - Give our students an opportunity to learn more about their classmates and their families
  - Give families the opportunity to share their cultural heritage with the community
  - Connect families who share the same culture





# *What is International Heritage Night?*







# *Who Can Participate?*

- Families who have connection to a particular country, or a unique cultural heritage to share (such as Native American, second generation immigrants)
- Families who have lived in a particular country
- Volunteers who want to help support the event

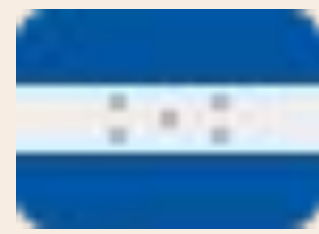




# Join Us!

These are the 28 countries signed up in 2023 and 202

Join a table or add your own country!







# *What will International Heritage Night look like?*



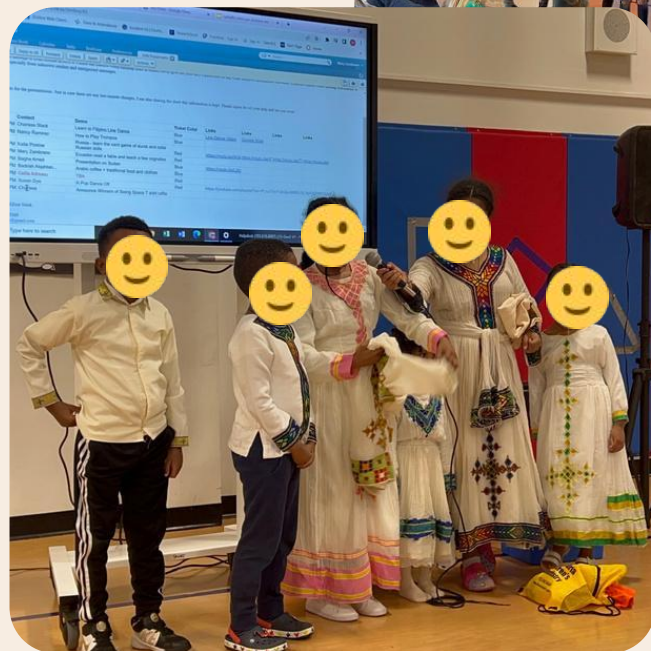
- The **Cafeteria** will host music, dances and activities for families to share their culture in an interactive way. There will be tables representing the countries that shape our MacArthur community
- **Food Trucks** will be parked in the bus bay for families to purchase food during the event.





# *What will International Heritage Night look like?*

- Performances/Demonstrations will be on the stage in the cafeteria. Examples:
  - Demonstrate a traditional craft/game
  - Perform a song
  - Present a dance
  - Play music from your country
  - Invite a demonstration group from your community





# *What will International Heritage Night look like?*

## Country/Tables:

- Each country will have a table set in the cafeteria where the families can set up their country's artifacts.
- Multiple families can host a table/country







# *What can you do for your table?*







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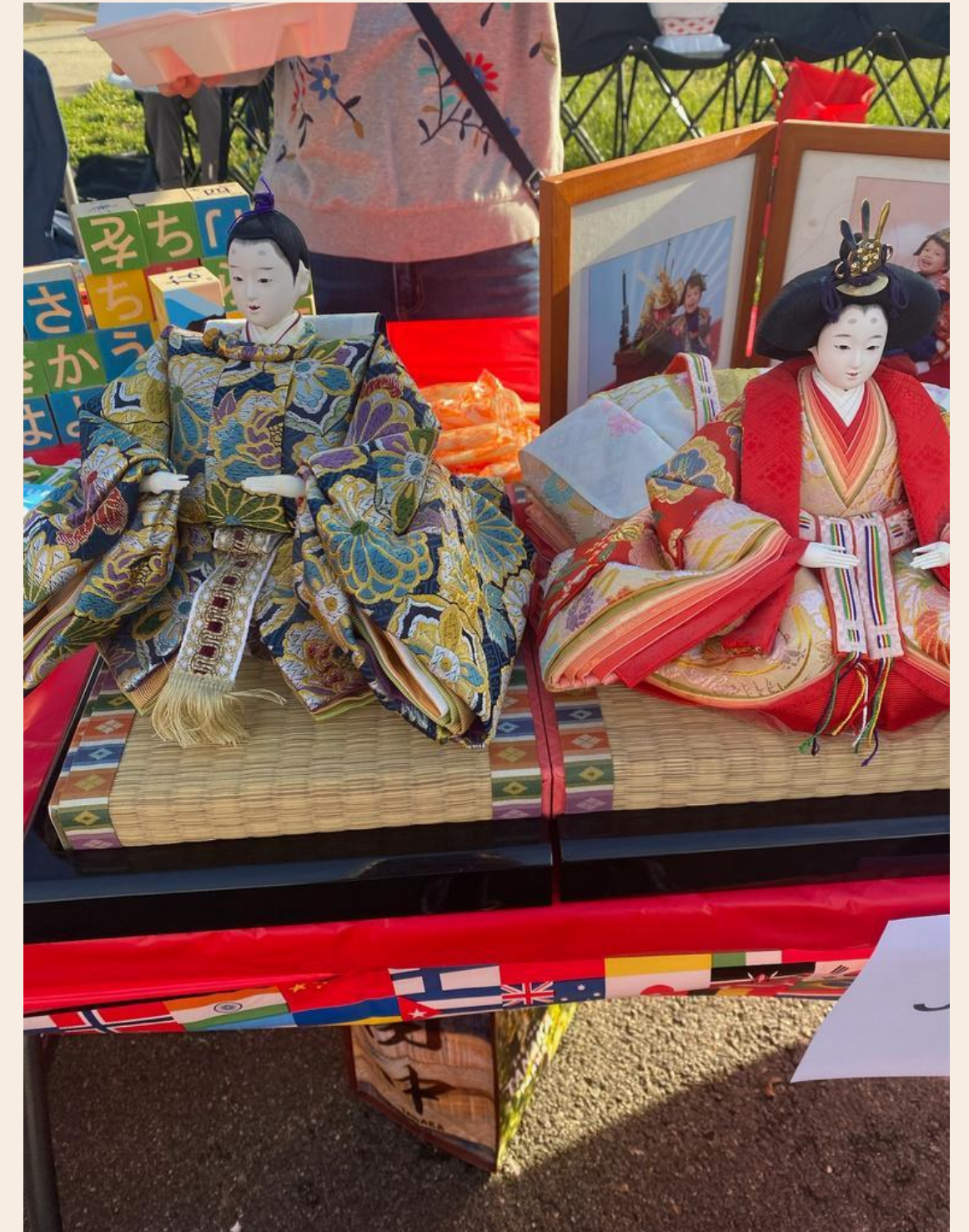
# *What can you do for your table?*







# *What can you do for your table?*







# *In what ways can you participate?*

## You can either:

- Join the organizing committee ( reach out to [kvasilkovska@gmail.com](mailto:kvasilkovska@gmail.com))
- Represent your country and set up a table
- Invite a folk song/dance/performance group
- Help with cafeteria set up or clean up
- **EVERY LITTLE BIT OF HELP IS WELCOMED!**



# Questions?

Kristina West - [kvasilkovska@gmail.com](mailto:kvasilkovska@gmail.com)

Katie Brossy [president@dmacpta.org](mailto:president@dmacpta.org)

