

## DuFief Elementary School PTA Community email from Siva Venkatachalam on Mar 17, 2016 "March 2016 DuFief PTA Newsletter"



# DUFIEF PTA DRAGON'S BREATH NEWSLETTER

Parent Express



March 17, 2016

## DRAGON'S BREATH

MARCH 2016 ISSUE

### President's Letter

February was a great month for Dufief ES, we had a wildly successful Talent Show and a wonderful Silent Auction, due in no small part to the hard work of our chair people, Suzanne Messing, Ghiante Sesay, Lauren Su and Jean-Marie Brietzke.

Our Silent Auction brought in nearly \$8000 for our PTA's Cultural Arts program! This year, that Cultural Arts program brought 4 school-wide assemblies to our students AND we revitalized our Artist-in-Residence program for our 5th grade students. With the success of this Silent Auction, we look forward to continuing to grow this program - thank you for your contribution!

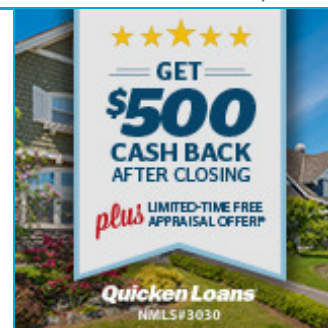
In my [January letter](#), I listed some of the many ways that your donations are put to great use for our kids. However, given that we just had our largest fundraiser, I'd like to go into a bit more depth about just one of our programs - the PTA Mini-Grants. The PTA Mini-Grants allow for up to \$2000 of disbursements directly to our teachers for use in their classrooms. This year, I'm happy to say, that we dispersed all of those funds to our teachers and our children are reaping the benefits every day! This is a list of the items that we funded:

- **Fifth Grade** - Noise Canceling Headphones, Boogie Boards, Edison Robots, Saftco Runtz Exercise Ball Stools
- **Fourth Grade** - Amazon Echo
- **Third Grade** - Subsidy to offset cost of field trip to Baltimore Museum of Industry
- **Second Grade** - Stability/wobble cushions
- **First Grade** - Wireless mice for chromebooks
- **Kindergarten** - Headphones for chromebooks

Our next PTA Meeting is on **Tuesday, April 5th at 7:00pm** in the Media Center - please join us!

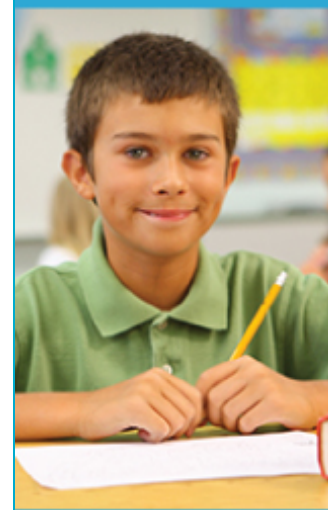
[Yonat](#)

PTA President



What is  
Your Child's  
Learning  
Style?

Find Out.



## Upcoming Events

March 19	Be T.R.U.E. 5K Run/Walk, Wootton High School
March 22	DuFief Science Fair, 6:00-8:00PM, APR
March 24 - April 1	No School
April 5	PTA Meeting, 7:00-8:00PM, Media Center
April 8	DuFief Spirit Day
April 15	Bingo Night, 6:30-8:30PM, APR
April 19	Dining for DuFief, Ledo Pizza (Travillah)

## Be T.R.U.E Run/Walk

The "Be T.R.U.E. Leadership Award", in memory of Sam Williams, raises funds to provide a variety of programs focused on team building and leadership training for teens. The Foundation is hosting it's third annual Be T.R.U.E. 5K run/walk event at Wootton High School THIS WEEKEND on **March 19, 2016**.

Register at <http://samwilliamsleadershipfoundation.blogspot.com/> and see the attached flyer for more details.

[Be T.R.U.E 5K Run/Walk](#)



## Science Expo

A reminder to all DuFief families the Science Fair will be hosted on **Tuesday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00-8:00PM in the APR.**

We have two exciting additions to this year's Science Fair. We have a scientist from NIH who will demonstrate the process of extracting DNA from strawberries! Students will have a hands-on opportunity to participate in " *unlocking life's code* ". We will also have volunteers from the Muddy Branch Alliance who will demonstrate the effects of storm water runoff on the environment.

*All registered participants in this year's Science Fair please note the following:*

**Set-up:** Students are asked to set up their projects in the APR on the morning of March 22<sup>nd</sup> between 7:30am and 8:30am

**Science Fair:** The Science Fair will be hosted in the DuFief APR on the evening of March 22 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. All DuFief students and families are welcome to attend, and student participants are encouraged to discuss their project displays. Ribbons will be awarded to all participants.

**Break-down:** Projects are to be disassembled and taken home on the evening of March 22 at the completion of the Fair.

Please let us know if you would like to be a parent volunteer during the science fair. Parent volunteers will be asked to talk to students about their projects and will award ribbons.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Science Fair!

For questions please contact us at [dufiefscience@gmail.com](mailto:dufiefscience@gmail.com).

## DuFief Spirit Days



[Why ads?](#)

**Friday, April 8th** - All students should wear their DuFief swag or our school colors - blue and yellow. Do you still want to purchase a t-shirt? Contact [yonat.lurie@gmail.com](mailto:yonat.lurie@gmail.com) to arrange the details!

# DUFIEF

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### BINGO Night

Save the date on **Friday April 15th, from 6:30PM-8:30PM** for the annual DuFief Bingo Night. See the [Bingo Night Flyer](#) for more details. Questions? Contact [Jeanette Repie](#)



### Dining for DuFief

Thanks to all who came out in March for our Dining for Dufief at Panera Bread in the Kentlands - you earned \$150 for our PTA! Keep the following dates in mind for our remaining Dining for DuFief events! Remember that all proceeds help to fund PTA sponsored events throughout the year!

- **April 19th** : Ledo Pizza (Travillah)
- **May 5th** : Chick-fil-A (Kentlands)
- **June 6th** : Potomac Pizza (Travillah)

Hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact [Shelley McGinness](#)

### DuFief Annual Tag Sale

Save the date for this year's Tag Sale on Saturday May 7th from 8:00AM-12:00PM. If you would like to rent a spot, please register by April 27th. See the [DuFief Annual Tag Sale Flyer](#) for more information. Question? Contact [Danielle Carrick](#)

## PTA Programs

### Gardens for Grade School Grant

Would you like to see DuFief win a FREE CEDAR RAISED GARDEN for our students to enjoy? Allentuck Landscaping Co., a local landscaping firm, is offering this as part of its 'Gardens for Grade School Grant' program and all we have to do is vote for our school! Follow this [link](#) to 'Gallery' and click on the photo of DuFief. Please share this link on your personal pages as well. Thank you to Wendy Rodriguez for getting this all set up for us!

### Dragons on the Run

Now that the weather is warmer, we'd love to get our DRAGONS ON THE RUN club back together. Unfortunately, Katy Karis is not able to continue to coach, but she is around for some guidance, if needed. Dragons on the Run is open to boys AND girls K-5. Ideally we'd meet 2x a week from 8:15-8:45am on the blacktop and/or fields by the school. We are connected with a turnkey program, [justrun.org](http://justrun.org) - they supply us with an agenda and suggested activities - you would receive all of those materials. There are always other parents on hand to help out...we just need someone to take the reigns of this operation.

Do we have any parents (or team of parents) out there who are willing to spearhead our Spring session? Contact [yonat.lurie@gmail.com](mailto:yonat.lurie@gmail.com) to learn more.

## KidWrite After School Program - NOW OPEN for registration!

### Class Grades 1-3

Cost: 9 week / \$175 (includes a \$10 materials fee)

Schedule: Monday 3:30-4:30pm Apr 4, 11, 18, 25; May 2, 9, 16, 23; Jun 6.  
(No class May 30)

### Class Grades 4&5

Cost: 10 week / \$195 (includes a \$10 materials fee)

Schedule: Wednesday 3:30-4:30pm Apr 6, 13, 20, 27; May 4, 11, 18, 25; Jun 1, 8

(Note: Students will meet at dismissal at the blue benches by the front door where they will eat a small snack before class begins.)

#### **TO REGISTER:**

##### **Class Grades 1-3:**

Go to

<http://www.kidwriteonline.com/dufief-registration/>

and select Grades 1-3.

##### **Class Grades 4&5:**

Go to

<http://www.kidwriteonline.com/dufief-registration/>

and select Grades 4/5

Fill in the required information about your child and make payment. Once payment is made, your child is registered for the class.

\*\*Be sure to provide the requested emergency, health, and release info requested when you register your child\*\*

Questions? Gina Hagler 301-762-0387.

[KidWrite@gmail.com](mailto:KidWrite@gmail.com)

## 2016-2017 Nominating Committee

The PTA is forming a nominating committee to find PTA volunteers for the 2016-2017 school year. The commitment will approximately be: one 1-hour meeting, individual follow-up with various members of our community and communication with the committee - mostly between mid-April and mid-May. It would be ideal to have committee members representing all the different grades. If you might be interested in serving on the nominating committee, please contact [Jenn Nakashima](#). Thank you for your interest! More info on the nominating committee:

Our role as the nominating committee is to develop a list of potential nominees for various roles in the PTA. Potential nominees should include PTA members who represent the social and ethnic makeup of the school and parent community. Once we develop a list, we will be responsible for contacting the nominees to discuss their interests and strengths and how they might best work within the PTA.

## Message From Mr. Mascott



I have great news to share. Montgomery County Public Schools Department of Human Resources has notified me that Mrs. Annette Peretzman, Kindergarten teacher, has won the Shirley J. Lowrie "Thank You for Teaching" Award!

Congratulations, Mrs. Peretzman!!!

This award is much deserved, and we are extremely happy for Mrs. Peretzman; she exemplifies what this award is about – a love for teaching and a true dedication and commitment to helping all students reach high levels of success. A special thank you to Yonat Lurie for nominating Mrs. Peretzman for this award and to the many parents and staff who wrote letters in support of Mrs. Peretzman.

Again, please join me in congratulating Mrs. Peretzman on this outstanding recognition!

## Message from MCCPTA

Each year, MCCPTA recognizes our outstanding PTA volunteers, teachers, principals, and local business partners through various awards and by participating on the Teacher and Principal of the Year review panels.

Consider the people in your community who have made an outstanding contribution to your school, to your PTA, and most importantly - to the students. Review our annual awards and submit your nominees for special recognition at our upcoming awards programs. Thank you to all of our PTA supports!

Sincerely,  
Frances Frost, President  
Montgomery County Council of PTAs

### Special Education Awards

The MCCPTA Special Education Committee is seeking nominations that reflect outstanding contributions to the success of students with special needs by Students, Parents, Educators and Programs. Each year the MCCPTA Special Education Committee holds a recognition ceremony in the spring to honor educators, programs, parents, and students who foster acceptance and provide outstanding support to students with special needs in MCPS during the school year.

Any parent, administrator, educator, or student can submit nominations. All nominations must be received no later than Friday, March 18, 2016. Nominations can be submitted by email attachment to Jeanne Taylor at [frtjmt@yahoo.com](mailto:frtjmt@yahoo.com)

Award Ceremony: Monday, May 9, 2016 (tentatively)

### MCCPTA Achievement Awards

We all know those volunteers who go above and beyond on behalf of our children and schools, and those businesses that make community service to our youth a priority. It's time to honor them and let them know how much their efforts are appreciated.

Nominate a well-deserving individual, business, or community group for one of the following awards:

- PTA President of the Year
- Maryland PTA Lifetime Achievement Award
- National PTA Life Achievement Award
- Partners for Education Award
- Principal of the Year
- Advocacy Award

Act today! The nomination deadline is Friday, March 25, 2016.



Further details can be found on the nomination forms. Contact Daria Daniel, Awards Committee Chair at [daria\\_daniel@yahoo.com](mailto:daria_daniel@yahoo.com) or 240.354.7899, if you have any questions.

Award Ceremony: Winners will be announced at the annual Presidents & Principals Dinner on Monday, May 23, 2016.

## Box Tops for Education

Our spring box tops submission to General Mills was \$488.40! In 7-10 weeks, our amazing school will receive a check for that amount in the mail. Let's keep the momentum going -- keep those box tops coming!

Need an incentive to keep clipping? By writing your child's name on the back of every box top you clip, they're entered into a drawing by Ms. Kiser on the first Tuesday of every month for a \$5 gift card. The March winner was Swathi S. in Ms. Naas class. She got a \$5 gift card to Five Below and her name read on the morning announcements.

Questions? Contact [Bethany Dame](#)





## Summer Camp Information

**Up to 50% OFF local summer camps - on [Certifikid.com](http://www.certifikid.com).** Bonus - Our school will receive \$10 for each camp purchased!

Just go to <http://www.certifikid.com/pages/all-deals/camps> and Sign Up (it's free!) Then browse from 100+ local camps.

Make sure to enter Promo Code

**DUFIEFES**

when you check out.

Please forward this email to your friends and family. There is no limit to how much we can raise!

### Important Notes

:

- Certifikid will be adding more camps every day - so check back often!

- \$10 donation for every camp purchase of \$100 or more with promo code

**DUFIEFES**

- Ex: Purchase 3 camps @ \$175 each = \$30 PTA Donation!

- Promotion ends 6/15/2016 .

## Volunteer Corner



Happy Spring DuFief families! Congratulations to our **February Volunteer of the Month**, Lauren Su! Lauren spent many hours raising money for the DuFief PTA by co-chairing the Silent Auction. This is just one example of Lauren's service to DuFief. She volunteers in many other capacities. Lauren was selected through a random drawing and will receive a \$10 gift card to Target. Please remember to log your hours every time you volunteer!

Thanks again to all of our volunteers!

[Wendy Rodriguez](#) Volunteer Coordinator

[Wendy Rodriguez](#), volunteer coordinator

## Questions?

Have questions regarding this newsletter or want to submit something for the next newsletter? Please contact [Siva Venkatachalam](#) at [siva9977@yahoo.com](mailto:siva9977@yahoo.com).

