

DUFIEF PTA DRAGON'S BREATH NEWSLETTER

Parent Express



February 18, 2016

DRAGON'S BREATH

FEBRUARY 2016 ISSUE

President's Letter

This was a busy month, and so at the risk of forgetting to thank some people, I'd like to try and thank our list of volunteers for making this month a great one for our kids and our community:

- **Thanks** to Aashima Mehta, Flora Zheng and Hui Shang for coordinating International Night. Additionally, we couldn't have done it without our parents who volunteered to create tables to take our kids 'around the world' - Kaya Vellala, Aashima Mehta, Subha Jamburajan, Daya Jirage, Shubra Bhasin, Nidhi Patni, Siva Venkatachalam, Reshmi Thayavallivil, Manpreet Basra, Arti Savani, Purnima Kar, Runako & Rodric Allsopp, Anahita Yousefi & Saurabh Channan, Elena Makareeva, Irena Shapiro, Debora Brakarz, Teresa Souza, Sandra Vazquez, Sanna Sander, Shannon Zhao, Huijun Shang, Jinping Liu, Xiaoli Jiang, Lily Lin, Agnes Chen, Huan Zhang and Binchao Xing.
- **Thanks** to Agnes Chen and Shannon Zhao who have been working tirelessly to put together a new in-house field trip for our 2nd graders, "A Journey to China".
- **Thanks** to all the parents who planned and executed awesome Valentine Day parties for all the classrooms.
- **Thanks** to Mr. Mascott and his team for putting together a fun and creative night of learning for our families.
- **Thanks** to 5th grade parents who volunteered with our kids during a week with our Artist-in-Residence.
- **Thanks** to Clara Ely and the 3rd grade families for putting together a great soup-er-bowl for our teachers.
- **Thanks** to Shari Weinstein and her team for giving us another great Books & Bagels.

A few other items to note:

If you made a direct donation to the PTA this school year, you should have received an acknowledgement letter for tax purposes in the mail by now. If you have not, please contact our Treasurer, [Rob Kemp](#).

It's not too late to join the PTA's facebook group - I've heard from lots of parents that this is a favorite way to get information from the PTA. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dufiefpta/> and click 'Join this Group' to request membership. This is a closed group, which means that anyone can see the group and who is in it, but only members can see the posts.

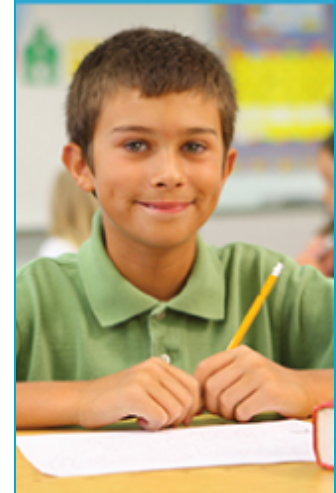
Finally, on **February 26th** our PTA is hosting one of our most popular evenings - the Talent Show and Silent Auction. Please come out and support our kids at the Talent Show - DuFiefs Got Talent.

Leap Day Printables



What is Your Child's Learning Style?

Find Out.



[Why ads?](#)

While you're with us for the Talent Show, please come by the Silent Auction (this year in the media center) and place a few bids on our fantastic [list of donations](#) . Don't forget about our [DISNEYWORLD RAFFLE](#) of 4-one day park hoppers - purchase your tickets in advance for the best deal! This is the single largest fundraiser for our cultural arts program. This year, our cultural arts budget brought 4 school-wide assemblies and a week-long artist-in-residence to work with our fifth graders. We need your help to make sure these program continue in the coming year!

Everyone is invited to join us at our next PTA meeting - Tuesday, **April 5th** from 7:00-8:00pm in the media center.

[Yonat Lurie](#)

President

Upcoming Events

February 18&19	Class Group Pictures
February 26	Early Release
February 26	Talent Show & Silent Auction, 6:30-9:00PM, APR
March 4	DuFief Spirit Day
March 7	Dining for DuFief, Panera (Kentlands)
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

Talent Show



This year's show, DuFiefs Got Talent, will be held in the APR room on **Friday, February 26th** from 6:30-9:00PM. We are so excited to celebrate our students' talents, and we want this event to be enjoyable for everyone. To keep the show as professional as possible, we ask that audience members show the same demeanor you would at a professional show. In order to make this happen, we ask that families discuss proper "audience etiquette" with your students. We will have volunteers to help keep the "Broadway Show" atmosphere. Let's make this year's show awesome!

All grades and ability levels are invited to join the Talent Show as part of a group dance that will be the Grand Finale of the show. Practice will be Tuesday, **February 23rd** from 6:30-7:45 in the APR. Students should dress accordingly and be ready to dance. You may want to bring a water bottle. Interested students must be accompanied by a parent. See you Tuesday!

Your Talent Show Committee

[Suzanne Messing](#)

Silent Auction



This year's Silent Auction will be held on **February 26, 2016** in the Media Center. Check out the list of [donated items](#) you can bid on!

Don't forget to enter the Disney Raffle for a package of four one-day park-hopper passes to Walt Disney World Florida. That's a \$500 value! See the [Disney Raffle Flyer](#) for more information.

Questions? Contact [Lauren Su](#)

Illustrated Essay Challenge 2016

Students are invited to submit an Illustrated Essay on the Topic: **Proud Moments at DuFief**. Write and/or draw about a moment at school that has made a difference to you and you will never forget.

Entries due by Tuesday, **February 23**. Entries will be displayed at the Silent Auction/Talent Show on February 26th. Check out [Illustrated Essay Challenge 2016](#) flyer for more details.

Questions? Contact [Monica Foster](#).

DuFief Spirit Days

Friday, March 4th - Spirit Day on the first Friday of every month! Kids should wear their Dufief swag or any blue/gold outfits. If you still need to purchase your Dufief T-shirt, please email yonat.lurie@gmail.com to arrange for delivery.



Dining for DuFief



Please plan to join us for our remaining Dining for DuFief dates! Remember that all proceeds help to fund PTA sponsored events throughout the year!

- **March 7th** : Panera (Kentlands)
- **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](#)



Science Expo

Save the date on **Tuesday March 22, 2016** from 6:00-8:00PM in the APR for this year's Science Expo.

The Science Expo is a science exhibition organized by the DuFief Elementary PTA. Participation is **voluntary** and **open to all grade levels**, and is always a lot of fun! Projects are to be completed by student participants at home, and brought to school for display. Check out the [Science Expo Flyer](#) for more information.

Wootton Cluster News

We've had four meetings of the roundtable and a final one on Feb. 24. We thank those of you who came out to the cluster meeting a couple of weeks ago to give us feedback on the approaches to date. We did relay the thoughts of the group at subsequent meetings and the approaches have been refined somewhat based on that and other feedback received from all three clusters. The final approaches can be found at:

http://gis.mcpsmd.org/roundtablepdfs/TriCluster_ApproachesEnglish.pdf

The approaches most affecting the Wootton Cluster are the 3, 3a, 6 and 7. Approaches 3 and 3a affect DuFief ES as they would delay the currently planned rev/ex for 6 months as the holding school wouldn't be available until then. We are told that the Rachel Carson kids will not be moved to DuFief until that rev/ex is completed. Of course, this is assuming the current CIP timeline remains intact through the legislative season this spring.

The biggest impact of these approaches on the Wootton cluster would occur with 6 and potentially with 7—that is, lopping off portions of the Gaithersburg cluster (Belward, Crown and Decoverly) and redirecting them to the Wootton Cluster. It has been—and will continue to be—noted that the elementary schools with the most space available in the Wootton cluster (Travilah and Cold Spring) are not the ones adjacent to those areas (Stone Mill, Lakewood and Fallsmead), requiring bussing further away. It has also been noted that we would adamantly oppose a domino shuffling of kids among the Wootton elementary schools to accommodate the added students. We've also talked at length about the long-term planned development already within our cluster boundaries (literally over 5000 residential units) and how students tend to come to the cluster in the higher grades. Finally, we've talked about how the Wootton HS location is not conducive to being built much larger than it currently is and the middle schools don't have the space, not to mention the kids that are already planned to be added to DuFief from Rachel Carson (albeit, not sure yet if they will stay within Wootton or split articulate back to QO).

An important factor here is the fact that the Gaithersburg Cluster apparently favors the approaches that keep their students within their cluster—they do NOT want them to move; however, I personally get the feeling that the MCPS looks favorably on 5, 6 and/or 7 (why Magruder and Wootton were brought into the roundtable).

The Wootton roundtable representatives will be getting together the night before the last meeting on **February 24** to compare notes and synthesize any input you feed us. We will tentatively be meeting at Not Your Average Joe's at 7pm (on **Tuesday, Feb. 23**—yes we're skipping the Delegates Assembly—couldn't be helped). Anyone is welcome to join us if you're interested.

All of the information related to the Tri-Cluster roundtable can be found at:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/roundtable.aspx>

Thanks everyone in advance for any thoughts you have.

Karen Collishaw, Wootton Cluster Coordinator

240-404-8767

Education Budget Meeting

Councilmember Craig Rice along with Interim Superintendent Larry Bowers and Montgomery College President DeRionne Pollard are hosting 5 Education Budget Forums throughout the county starting mid-February. This is a great opportunity to come out to hear how the budget process works, what to expect this year and ways you can provide input into the process. [This](#) is the flyer with the dates and times of each forum.

Yearbook

Each parent in our community is able to upload high-quality photos to our yearbook database. Upload photos using your computer or download Walsworth Yearbook's app in order to add photos.

1. On your computer go to: <http://yearbookforever.com>
 1. Type in our school name
 2. click on 'DuFief Elementary School'
 3. click 'Community Upload'
 4. Enter access code "Dufief"
 5. Add photos!
2. On your phone download the app 'Yearbook Snap' by Walsworth yearbooks and follow similar steps!

Contact Hui Shang at shang_huijun02@yahoo.com with any questions or if you are interested in helping out with the yearbook.

Box Tops for Education

Congrats to Kate B. in Ms. Wolski's class for winning the February box tops drawing. Keep those box tops coming! The next drawing for a \$5 Target gift card will be Monday, **March 1**.

Remember, for your child's name to be drawn their name has to be written on the back of each individual box top.

Questions? Contact bethdame@gmail.com.

Be T.R.U.E 5K 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 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](#)

Volunteer Corner



Thank you to all our January volunteers. Special congratulations to our **January Volunteer of the Month**, Tricia Banaszewski! Tricia frequently volunteers at Dufief in a number of different capacities most recently helping with 5th graders with the Artist-In-Residence Project. She was selected through a random drawing and will receive a \$10 gift card to Target.

[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.