

DUFIEF PTA DRAGON'S BREATH NEWSLETTER

Parent Express



May 25, 2017

DRAGON'S BREATH

MAY 2017 ISSUE

President's Letter

This school year is coming to a close and with it, my two-year term as President of our PTA. When I took this office, I had two primary goals for my time in this position - first, to increase engagement of our parents and families across a wider cross-section of our community, and second, to enhance the PTA's communication to our community - to make it more reliable, useful and available via various channels (facebook, text alerts, regular email listserv)

These two goals really went hand-in-hand and I'm proud of our progress in both areas!

We have an amazing incoming Board of parents who are primarily new to the PTA - they will come with refreshed energy and new ideas - a win-win for everyone! If I were to give parting words of 'wisdom' I'd say two things:

- I would encourage everyone to continue to reach out to our new families and engage them in our community.
- Think outside the box! Don't do things 'the way we've always done them' - think of better ways! We have the benefit of a small school community that encourages new ideas. If you are willing to help bring an idea into action, our PTA, administration and teachers are here to support you! Get active in our school - you'll be glad you did!

I want to give a shoutout to our departing Board of Directors for all of your hard work over the last few years - Jennifer Nakashima, Leilani Micalizzi, Aashima Mehta, Rob Kemp, Malik Rao, Danielle Carrick, Siva Venkatachalam, Debora Brakarz and Lauren Su.

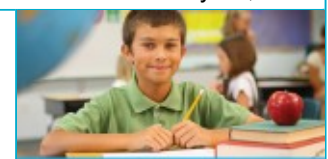
Finally, we have a few parents in our community who have held major leadership positions over the years and are now graduating from DuFief. At the risk of missing someone who I should be thanking, I'd like to send an extra 'thank you' to Past Presidents, Heather Handel and Suzanne Messing, and to Jeanette Repie and Sabarni Chatterjee.

Over the summer, please don't hesitate to contact me at yonat.lurie@gmail.com , or you can contact Leilani Micalizzi, our incoming president, at leilanik@gmail.com .

Have a great summer and we'll see you next year!
Yonat Lurie

Upcoming Events

May 29	No School, Holiday
June 2	Spirit Day
June 2	Field Day
June 10	Westleigh Summer Kickoff Party
June 16	Early Release, Last Day of School



What is Your Child's Learning Style? Find Out.

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[Why ads?](#)

DuFief Spirit Days

Friday, June 2nd - Have your kids wear all their Dufief swag or blue & yellow! Need to purchase a \$10 Dufief T-shirt? Contact James Noon at jamesnoon@gmail.com to set up a time to purchase.



Field Day

Mrs. Screen is looking for parent volunteers for Field Day on **Friday, June 2nd** from 10am -12pm.

Please sign up at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a4fafa2aa6fa7-field>

Westleigh Recreation Club Summer Kickoff Pool Party

Westleigh Recreation Club has invited all DuFief friends and families to an Open House on **Saturday, June 10th**. Entrance for the day is FREE for all DuFief friends and families. If you are not a member, but will be attending, please RSVP with the number in your party in the comments on facebook or email yonat.lurie@gmail.com so that we can get an approximate headcount.

While you can use the pool, tennis courts, playgrounds etc all day long (starting at 1pm), we will have our 'Party' from 2:00-5:00pm. Please bring a friend and a dessert to share! If you have questions about membership, please contact Susan Zahavi, WRC Membership Manager at (301) 279-0417 or membership@westleigh-club.org.

'Like' Westleigh's OFFICIAL page for more information about the club: - <https://www.facebook.com/WestleighSwimClub/>

PTA Programs

Incoming 2017-2018 PTA Board

HUGE Congratulations to our 2017-2018 PTA board, elected at the May 2nd PTA meeting:

- President - Leilani Micalizzi
- 1st VP - Jamie Pflasterer
- 2nd VP - James Noon
- 3rd VP - Kim Merrifield Brock
- Treasurer - Roderic Allsopp
- Recording Secretary - Siva Venkatachalam
- Social Media Secretary - Yonat Stadd Lurie

PTA Text Alerts

Would you like another way to get reminders from our PTA? We will now send out high-priority (infrequent) text-reminders to your phone about our PTA via [remind.com](https://www.remind.com) - you may already be signed up through your kids' classes, in which case, you can just add our 'class' with this link: <https://www.remind.com/join/dufi> OR text '@dufi' to 81010. Full directions [here](#) .

Contact yonat.lurie@gmail.com with questions.

Thank you to Allentuck Landscaping

DuFief Elementary School has won a garden from Allentuck Landscaping in this year's Gardens for Grade School Grants competition! Allentuck will be installing a beautiful butterfly garden at our school.

This is something the entire DuFief community can enjoy and the staff can incorporate into their learning curriculums. If you get a chance, please thank our neighbor, Allentuck Landscaping (<http://www.allentucklandscaping.com/>), for this as they continue to help keep DuFief's exterior looking great!

Parking

Reminder for PARENTS AND EXTENDED FAMILY:

Please observe the handicap signs and the designated family parking signs AT ALL TIMES.

The designated family parking spaces are ONLY for the families who paid for these spots at the silent auction.

Please also DO NOT PARK or STOP on DuFief Drive on the sidewalk by the stop sign at the school exit. Pedestrians cannot walk to and from school safely and buses have a hard time exiting.

Dining for DuFief



Thank you to all of the families who participated in our Dining for DuFief program this year. We raised over \$1,300 which helps support PTA sponsored events!!!

Questions? Contact [Shelley McGinness](#)

Box Tops for Education

We're holding our second annual box tops competition this month! The class with the most box tops collection sheets by **May 31** will win a popsicle party. Ms. Nicholls' class is in the lead but there's still time for another class to pull ahead.

Need more sheets? Click [here](#)

Please only use the official box tops sheets provided and only fill the allotted number of spaces on the sheets. Please don't submit box tops on plain sheets of white paper (with no General Mills markings) as General Mills only accepts their official sheets.

Don't hesitate to email me at bethdame@gmail.com with any questions.



Volunteer Corner



Would you like to become more involved in the PTA? Perhaps start by taking a look at the wide variety of PTA volunteer opportunities [here](#) or contact [Debora Brakarz](#), our Volunteer Coordinator, with questions.

PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President : Yonat Lurie yonat.lurie@gmail.com

1st VP – Educational Programs : Jennifer Nakashima jtmnakashima@gmail.com

2nd VP– Community Resources: Leilani Micalizzi leilanik@gmail.com

3rd VP – Social Events: Aashima Mehta aashima_mehta@hotmail.com

Treasurer : Rob Kemp rnkemp3@hotmail.com

Secretary – Corresponding : Malik Rao raosvm@gmail.com

Secretary – Recording : Danielle Carrick danielle.carrick@gmail.com

For more information check out our website at:

<http://dufiefpta.org/>

Questions?

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