

# THE MEADOW RIDGE ELEMENTARY PTO



## NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2026

### President's Message:

Welcome back and Happy New Year, Monarch Families! I hope your break was wonderful and you're feeling refreshed heading into the next half of the school year. Although the first couple of months of the year feel slow & relaxed, behind the scenes, we are gearing up for the jam-packed spring calendar! I hope you'll join us at the next General PTO Meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup> to hear about all we are doing for the rest of the year, share thoughts on anything PTO-related, and sign up for some open positions for next year! We're always looking for more voices, ideas, and involvement, and truly value your opinions and thoughts. As always, I'm thankful for your support and the role you play in making MDR such a great place to be!



*Lacey Jonassen*  
**Kindly,** [MDRMonarchs@gmail.com](mailto:MDRMonarchs@gmail.com) 517.614.2209

### BUTTER BRAIDS

Thank you to those of you who purchased Butter Braids! We hope that they were as delicious as always! Thanks to your support, we were able to provide our Meadow Ridge Essentials Needs Program with \$2,095! This is a fund used by our amazing MDR Social Worker, Kendra Weidenfeller, to provide support to MDR families, programs & needs within the scope of her program directly within the Meadow Ridge Building.

### WINTER WONDERSHOPPE

We would like to thank all of the amazing volunteers who helped to make our Winter Wondershoppe a success this year! We hope you enjoyed opening any of the gifts you received that were specially 'hand picked' with love & intention, from your Monarch! We also want to give a special THANK YOU to our Winter Wondershoppe Chairs- Krystal Stuart & Robin Thacker!



# PTO VOLUNTEER SHOUT-OUTS!!!

## ROOM PARENTS & CLASSROOM HOLIDAY PARTIES

We want to thank each of our ROOM PARENTS for all of the time and effort that has gone into organizing and coordinating the amazing holiday parties for each class at Meadow Ridge!

These parents go above and beyond to make each classroom event special and spent countless hours creating sign ups, planning details, reaching out to teachers, shopping for & collecting items and coordinating it all!

Their efforts are truly unmatched and the kids' experiences are so great, thanks to the help and work of these wonderful parents!

## BIRTHDAY BOARDS



These amazing birthday boards were created by Erin Cizauskas (left) and Lynn Neill (right) to highlight our November, December & January Monarch birthdays!!

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# RECENT UPDATES

## RECORDER PURCHASE

Part of the music curriculum in 4<sup>th</sup> grade involves learning to play the recorder. In the past, parents were required to purchase these for their students. This year, the PTO was able to purchase recorders to be kept, maintained & sanitized at the school so that parents no longer will need to make this purchase! 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Graders will play recorders throughout the school year!



## SPECIALS FIELD TRIPS

Given the amazing fundraising success of the past 2 years, we are been able to cover all costs to send our Monarchs on "Specials" Field Trips. These trips are planned and coordinated by Mr. Kooiker, Mr DeWinkle & Mrs. Demorest! This year's trips will include:

Kinder & 1st Grade: Lollipops Concert, GR Symphony & Grand Rapids Ballet

2nd Grade: New Vintage Place Music

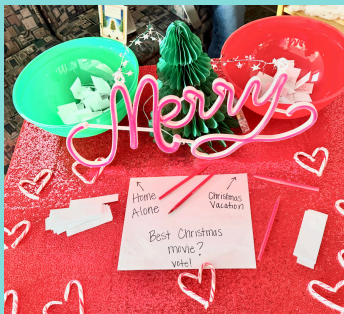
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Glow Golf, PE

4<sup>th</sup> Grade: DeVos Performance Hall Music



## ALL-STAFF HOLIDAY LUNCH

As you know, one role of the PTO is to help to provide appreciation to our wonderful teachers and staff! Our amazing Staff Appreciation chair, Amy Klobucher, coordinated an amazing holiday meal, catered by Olive Garden, for all staff and teachers at MDR prior to break. This meal would not have been possible without the help from our ROOM PARENTS & volunteers who took the time to provide classroom coverage so that all staff could participate and enjoy a lunch together!





# THE MEADOW RIDGE ELEMENTARY PTO FUTURE PLANS!



## WHAT ELSE CAN WE EXPECT TO SEE THIS YEAR?

We have been absolutely blown away by the success of our fundraising efforts over the past 2 years, and we want to be sure to keep you all updated on what those funds are being used for in order to support our Monarchs and MDR community! At our most recent General PTO Meeting, the majority of the discussion was focused on brainstorming options with staff regarding their thoughts for upgrades and enhancements, as they are the experts in student learning and experience! Multiple great ideas were shared and ongoing discussions are in process to determine which upgrades and/or additions the PTO will be able to provide to enhance student experience at MDR! When the teacher surveys return, there will be updates as to where more funding will be spent, aside from the traditional PTO coverage that was highlighted in the Start of the Year Bulletin! The ideas below are currently being researched further as potential options based on teacher and staff feedback from the meeting! We are excited to see what additional enhancements your amazing support will be able to provide for our Monarchs!

## WHAT'S ON THE LIST OF IDEAS?

### Hammock Forest

This would be a dedicated outdoor space for reading, mindfulness, and other learning opportunities outside of the traditional classroom setting. This was a wish list item from teachers & has been a positive addition at other local elementary schools

*\*with approval & coordination with RPS Facilities Services*



### Outdoor Track

We are currently getting information regarding the cost for a paved track (length and space TBD) that would have the ability to be used for many activities at MDR, including PE activities (timed runs), Mileage Club, outdoor classroom engagement, Girls On The Run, etc.

*\*with approval & coordination with RPS Facilities Services*



### Enhanced Student Assemblies/Enrichment



### Refreshed Indoor Recess Activities

### CKLA Curriculum Supplement Supplies



Amplify CKLA

MDR 2026

# EVENT CALENDAR

## JANUARY

Thu 1/8 PTO General Meeting  
6 PM in MDR Library  
Fri 1/9 Popcorn Friday  
Fri 1/23 Popcorn Friday

## FEBRUARY

Fri 2/6 Popcorn Friday  
Fri 2/13 & No School- Midwinter  
Mon 2/16 Break  
Fri 2/20 Popcorn Friday

## MARCH

Fri 3/6 Popcorn Friday  
Thu 3/12 PTO General Meeting  
6 PM in MDR Library  
Fri 3/20 Popcorn Friday

## APRIL

Thu 4/2- No School- Spring  
Fri 4/10 Break  
Fri 4/17 Popcorn Friday  
Fri 4/24 Spring Carnival  
& Raffle

## MAY

Fri 5/1 Popcorn Friday  
Thur 5/7 Donuts With Grownups  
Fri 5/8 Donuts With Grownups  
Thu 5/14 PTO General Meeting  
6 PM in MDR Library  
Fri 5/15 Popcorn Friday  
Fri 5/29 Popcorn Friday

## JUNE

Thu 6/4 Half Day  
Fri 6/5 Half Day- Last Day  
of School!!!

## JULY



Carnival committee planning meeting date, coming VERY soon! Come join the fun and plan the greatest spring event at MDR, with us!