

# Matsuyama Elementary School

## Harvest Festival October 17th from 4-7pm

It's that time of year again! As the days are growing shorter, and the leaves are starting to change, the Matsuyama Harvest Festival is drawing near! This year's Harvest Festival will be held on Friday, October 17, 2014 from 4 - 7 pm at Matsuyama. The entire family is invited to enjoy a variety of fun arts and crafts, plenty of delicious food from the Firefighter's BBQ Grill, as well as a bake sale and cake walk.

This year we will offer combined Food & Craft punch cards-- providing added value and ease of use. Look for pre-order forms in your child's backpack in the coming weeks.

All proceeds from the Harvest Festival benefit our Matsuyama teachers by funding classroom supplies for our students. As always, we welcome your generous donations and volunteer time to make our Harvest Festival a success. We need many volunteers to run this event. Please sign up online:

<http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/1097968730011>

On this site you can sign up for teacher's booths, baked item donations and event needs are on the online tool. We also sent out a flyer. Hope to see you there!



October 2014 Newsletter



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# From the Desk of Principal Montgomery

## Off to a Great and Smooth Start

The 2014-2015 school year is off to a great and smooth start. As of today all of our open spots have been filled with students coming from schools that were over-flowing at certain grade levels. I am happy to welcome these new students and their families to our community. Our open 6th grade position has been filled by Ms. Stephanie Kuroda. I had the honor of working with Stephanie at Caroline Wenzel and I can honestly say that she is a great addition to the Matsuyama team. We are also joined by two new instructional aides, Patricia Gregson and Jean Dascher. In January our school community liaison, Kristin Butler, will be on board. Finally, Zachary Billingsly has joined the staff as our new School Plant Operations Manager. Our beloved Willie Mosley has moved to the night custodian position. His time is split between Matsuyama and Martin Luther King, Jr. K-8.

You will notice some changes in instructional strategies, curriculum and homework this year. The Common Core standards are being fully implemented and we have a new math adoption, Envision. The Language Arts curriculum is still Open Court; however, Core Ready materials are being used to support teachers in bringing the reading and writing standards to the level of rigor expected by the Common Core Standards. Consequently there will be some significant changes in testing, classroom activities, curriculum and homework. The common core standards are focused on college and career ready expectations and involve a great amount of critical thinking and problem solving skills.

In math students will be focusing on fewer concepts each year, but are expected to have a great depth of conceptual understanding. This will mean that students in grades 3-6 will be bringing home fewer math problems; however, each problem may require multiple steps to solve and will use a multitude of math concepts to solve. In the classroom, there will be less direct instruction and more exploration and critical discussion as students use the number sense skills developed in kinder-2nd grade to solve real life math problems. In addition, they will be required to write about how they solved a particular problem.

In Language Arts there is a strong focus on informational text and critical literary analysis. Students will be reading more novels, and participating in debates and classroom discussions to develop a deep level of comprehension. Most homework will involve persuasive and comparative writing activities. In regards to testing, students in grades 3-6 will take the online CAASPP test again. This year we will receive results for the test. Parents can view test sample questions at: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/pilot-test/>

I am excited about the changes but also anticipate a lot of growing pains as we all of a sudden ask students to think critically, analyze their thinking, explain their rationale, work collaboratively, and struggle with the learning. It has been said that confusion leads to learning and that learning is messy! This is a great year to learn to embrace the ambiguity and confusion, as our human nature is to find balance through innovation and adaptation skills.

# PTA Reflections

**This Year's Theme: The World Would be a Better Place if...**

The world would be a better place if...is this year's theme for the National PTA Reflections Art Contest. The arts—and the National PTA Reflections program—are valuable tools to help support student success. Celebrate arts learning by participating in Reflections. It's pretty simple: Students in all grades and all ability levels are encouraged to think about how they can express themselves through art. Reflect on the theme (The world would be a better place if...), then create an original work of art in the categories of dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts. Students may create only one piece of art work per category, but may submit entries in more than one category. All participants will be recognized. After judging, top entries in each category will have the opportunity to advance all the way to the National competition. Creative interpretation of the theme is more important than artistic ability. Entry forms and rules are available in the front office and on the school website. Get creative! Deadline for entries: November 12, 2014.

## Student Staff Spotlight

### Mrs. Magee by Ashlyn and Samantha

Mrs. Magee is Matsuyama's Office Manager. She does a lot of things that keeps the school running smoothly. She loves her job because she gets to answer phone calls and make sure everyone gets paid. All the supplies that the teachers and students use is ordered by Mrs. Magee. Mrs. Magee has worked at Matsuyama for about ten years, first as the office clerk and now as the office manager. Before Matsuyama, Mrs. Magee, worked at Macys, a quilt store and Joseph Magnin.

Mrs. Magee says that all her wishes have come true. She has three children and two grandchildren and a very pretty Collie dog name Zoe. She loves to quilt, crochet, travel and go to the movies. For lunch, Mrs. Magee, loves to eat shrimp cocktail in the staff lounge and read a good book.

After the office closes, Mrs. Magee, cleans up and closes down the office for the day. The one thing she does not like about her job is when she has to change the film on the laminator. "It's to awkward and heavy," she says. Mrs. Magee loves our school because of the nice kids; principal and very dedicated staff members. Mrs. Magee works hard so the next time you see her tell her she ROCKS!







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# Kids Can Food Drive

## Because Character Education Is a very important

Character education is an important aspect of the development of our children, the staff of Matsuyama has been focused on encouraging actions that reflect the themes of good character.

November's theme is compassion, and we will be collecting food for our KCRA Kids Can Food Drive. South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership will receive the food for families here in our neighborhood. The food drive begins on October 13 and will run through November 14. Here is a list of most needed items that you child can bring to class to help us out. NO GLASS JARS PLEASE!!!

- Canned fruits / vegetables
- Canned & dry soups
- Canned tuna, chicken, ham
- Ready-to-eat spaghetti, ravioli, pork & beans, stew, refried beans
- Dry rice / pasta / beans /Macaroni & cheese /Ramen
- Pancake mix /Iron-rich dry cereals/Quaker oaks /Cream of wheat
- Fruit cups
- Peanut butter / jelly (no glass jars please)
- Powdered milk
- Baby food / formula



## Harvest Festival Pumpkin Carving Contest

### Room 5/Mrs. Spinella's booth

#### MATSUYAMA PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST

Show your creativity!

Carve your pumpkin at home and bring it to Mrs. Spinella in room 5 the day of the Harvest Festival before 4 PM.

**YOU MUST PICK UP YOUR PUMPKIN THAT EVENING BY 7:00 PM. WE CANNOT KEEP THEM OVER THE WEEKEND!**

The artist of the pumpkin that receives the most votes will win a gift certificate for Heavenly Yogurt.



# First Day of School

Mrs. Arnett's Kindergarten Class excited for the first day at Matsuyama!



Layla: "I like choice time because we can play games."



Emani: "My favorite thing is math and snack too."



Jolynn: "My favorite time is choice time, because we do fun things."



Amir: "My favorite part of kindergarten is reading."



Burhan: "I like recess the best."



Anthony: "I like everything."

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