



Magnolia Trace Elementary

1405 Hwy. 1088 • Mandeville, LA 70448
985-626-8238



February NEWS HOUND PTA NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2024 New Year! January has been a busy and a great month. This is the part of the year that seems to go very quickly with the holidays and the fast pace of activities. Students are growing and embracing new learning each day. We have completed our middle of the year testing and teachers will be looking at this data to see how they can adjust lessons and individual small groups for students. We are in the midst of teacher observations and evaluations. Our teachers are phenomenal and consistently keep perfecting their craft through professional learning committees, daily collaboration, and reflection. We appreciate all they do! It is encouraged that students come to school and vacations are planned during the days we are not in school. The teachers are covering important information and it is difficult to catch the students up when they miss multiple days. Please be cognizant of this as we move further into the spring semester.

In February, we are excited about our Cultural Arts day! We will be covering the different cultural regions in Louisiana and having a few guest presenters. We will also be joining in with Marigny's Mardi Gras Parade on February 8th. In addition to our Cultural Arts day, we are celebrating Black History month. Our committee has developed fun and informative activities to celebrate leaders who have made an impact on our country. Our spring Book Fair will also take place this month. We encourage students to keep reading.

As a school we are focusing on reading fluency and mathematical reasoning. We want students to be able to explain the reasoning behind their answers to math problems. How did they solve the problem and/or why is a certain answer to a problem incorrect or correct? By explaining their answers, students are demonstrating they understand mathematical concepts. In regards to student reading fluency, we want students' rate of reading to increase along with their accuracy. This will increase by students reading more frequently. Encourage students to read books they enjoy so it can be a fun learning experience for them!

I want to extend my appreciation to all of you for your continuous support. Our school is an amazing place to work, grow, and learn. We are very proud of our students, faculty, and staff. We are blessed to work in a community that collaborates, supports one another, and strives to find the best in every child. I am humbled every day by the work that happens here. If you ever have any concerns, praises, or feedback it is always welcomed. Please feel free to email me at jamie.breaux@stpsb.org. I thank you again for your support as we work together to educate every child every day.

Sincerely,

Jamie Breaux

MTE Principal

Upcoming Events

February 1st - Black History Month Begins
February 2nd - Spring Book Fair Opens until Feb. 8th
February 6th - Ambassador meeting 4-5 / Interim Reports
February 7th - Terrific Kids 9:30/ Fire Drill/ Counselor Celebration Day
February 8th - Cultural Arts Day/ 1:30 Marigny Parade
February 12th-16th Mardi Gras Break- No School
February 19th -SRO Celebration Day
February 21st - PTA meeting 9:30
February 22nd - Faculty meeting 7:45
February 27th -Student Light house meeting 4-5
February 28th - SWE meeting 2:30

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Hi Maggie families!

It's February already! January was a great month for us. It started off a little chilly but our staff was treated to hot chocolate from Kona Ice on the first day back to school! All of your donations help us fund these little treats for our teachers, so thank you for your support!

Cultural Arts day is coming up! We have some informative and hands-on stations planned to learn about Louisiana culture and some of the festivals in local areas. A few more volunteers are still needed. Please check out the sign up on our Facebook page. We would love to have your help with this fun day!

As we near the end of the year we're beginning to look at filling positions for the PTA Board next year. If you are interested in volunteering, please email me at magnoliatraceutelementarypta@gmail.com. We can discuss various positions, large and small and can find something that fits your needs. If you know anyone from Marigny coming to MTE and think they would be a great addition and are ready to be involved, please share this information with them. It is such a rewarding position!

Mardi Gras Break is coming up. Once we get back, we will have a busy March, April, and May. We look forward to a fabulous end to the school year!

Laissez les bon temps rouler!

Caitlin Ness

MTE PTA President

magnoliatraceutelementarypta@gmail.com

Magnolia Trace
2023 - 2024
PTA Executive Board



Sign up here!



MTE.PTBOARD.COM

President - Caitlin Ness
VP of Membership - Kaitlin McCaulley
VP of Cultural Arts - Tonya Deville
VP of Awards - Christine Childress
Secretary - Clare Katner
Treasurer - Sheri Olsen

Please email us at
magnoliatraceutelementarypta@gmail.com
if you have any questions, concerns,
or suggestions.

Second Grade

January was so much fun in second grade! We had a great time going to see the play, *Madagascar*, at Fontainebleau High School. Our students were so well behaved and really enjoyed the performance! This month we can't wait to celebrate Louisiana Festivals for Cultural Arts Day and learn more about Black History Month.

In our Reading Unit, we learned about westward expansion during the 1800s. Our students learned why pioneers were willing and eager to endure hardships to move westward and about important innovations in both transportation and communication during that period, which greatly increased the movement of people westward. This month, our next domain will introduce students to the largest group of animals on Earth. Students will learn the characteristics of insects, the life cycles of insects, how insects can be categorized as solitary or social, and how insects are viewed as both helpful and harmful. These topics will help us build the foundation for later learning this year and in other grades.

In Math, we finished up our module on shapes and time with fraction concepts. We then began our next module where our students will deepen their understanding of addition and subtraction working within 1,000. They will reason about place value, properties of operations, and the relationship between numbers as they choose efficient strategies to solve problems.

This month in Science, we are continuing to learn about the properties of materials. Students will have the opportunity to investigate, test, and analyze materials and their properties. As glue engineers, students will also be challenged to create a glue for use at our school that meets a set of design goals.

We'll get back to Social Studies after Mardi Gras break and will be learning why the United States needed a constitution and how the founding fathers created the new government that we use today. Students will study the United States government to learn about its structure and functions.

Please continue to work with your child on basic addition and subtraction math facts within 20 each night. Reading nightly with your child also helps build his/her confidence, fluency, and enjoyment of reading. Thank you for all of your support at home!

We hope you enjoy the carnival season and have a very Happy Mardi Gras!

Third Grade

December brought many fun events including our second Celebration Day and a beautiful Choir performance. The students visited Fontainebleau High school for the fun filled presentation of *Madagascar*.

Math: Now it is time to get back to work and the third grade students have stepped up to the plate! In January they began a new math module that covered multiplication and area. They will soon move into Module 5 which includes fractions. This module builds on previous knowledge of shapes and parts of shapes to describe fractions. Fluency in math facts helps to produce successful math students. Please continue to encourage your child to practice multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction facts nightly.

Activities for math:

Skip counting while singing and moving like clapping, hopping...

Using dice, cards, or arrays to practice facts

Ready, set, multiply or Ready, set, add

Fraction Fun:

Measuring during cooking or baking

Sharing pizza, candy bars, sandwiches...

ELA: The students have completed *Because of Winn Dixie* and have enjoyed a chance to re-enact a scene from the book. This gave them a chance to discover friendship right in their own classrooms. They have been assessed using the Middle of the Year DIBELS assessment and will continue to work on their W.I.G.s, (Wildly Important Goals.) These goals may include reading nightly, listening to someone read, reading to a parent or sibling, or just having books around the house to pick up and enjoy.

We will be reading *The Louisiana Purchase*. This is a non-fiction historical book that relates to the events leading up to the Louisiana Purchase.

Thank you for your continued support in making education at MTE a successful adventure!



MUSIC NOTES

Students will be learning about jazz from its beginning in New Orleans to modern jazz today. We are also starting a new musical, "This is America".

Loving my job,

Norma Ganucheau

Norma.Ganucheau@stpsb.org



Library -Check it out!

It is such a treat to watch your child grow as a reader this year. We are excited about our final book fair of the school year, which will take place Friday, February 2nd – Thursday, February 8th. Your child will be doing his/her shopping during their library time and day. Please consider using e-Wallet for your child. This method works very well in light of the fact that our book fair is cashless.

"There are many little ways to enlarge your world. Love of books is the best of all." - Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis



Julie Kaylen and Joanne Santos



Coach's Corner

In P.E, we have been working on our throwing, catching, and kicking skills. We have practiced the correct motions and have used the skills in games. Since we have been playing games lately, we have also had plenty of discussion about "good sportsmanship". It's not always the easiest thing for young children to understand, but we are working on it.

Unfortunately, a lot of jackets get left in the gym. The students come in wearing a jacket, get hot while we are playing, and leave without grabbing their jacket. I make it a point to mention "grab your jackets from the stage", but it is not always heard. If a jacket is forgotten I usually leave it on the stage for the owner to return. Also, parents, please help your children remember which days they have P.E. and make sure they wear appropriate shoes. Boots are dangerous to run around in and damage the gym floor.

Coach Dusang, Physical Education Teacher

WATTERS WORLD: Art News

Thank you to all my students, you make my life full of joy, laughter, and LOVE!!!

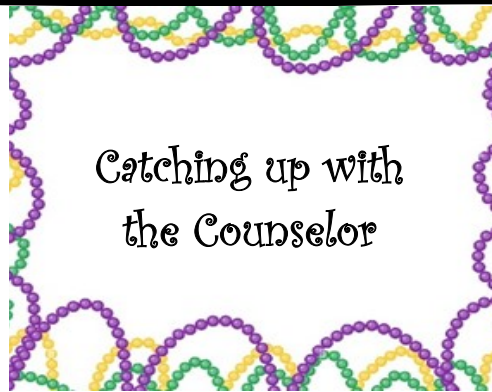


FEBRUARY MTE LUNCH MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
			H, Pulled Pork, Vegetarian Option, Baked Potato, Creamy Cole Slaw, Fresh Baked Roll, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk S, Chicken Sandwich, Tots, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk	H, Pizza, Tots, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk S, Hot Dog w/Fixings, Vegetarian Option, Tots, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk
5	6	7	8	9
H: Chicken Tenders, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Texas Toast, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk S, Chicken Sandwich, Vegetarian Option, Tots, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk	H, Pork Nachos with Fixings, Vegetarian Option, Steamed Corn, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk S, Hamburger or Cheeseburger, Tots, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk	H, Spaghetti & Meatsauce, Vegetarian Option, Green Beans, Fresh Baked French Bread, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk S, Turkey Melt Sandwich, Tots, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk	H, Gumbo, Steamed Rice, Vegetarian Option, Potato Salad, Texas Toast, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk S, BBQ Pulled Pork on Bun, Tots, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk	H, Hamburger or Cheeseburger, Vegetarian Option, Tots, Rice Crisp Treat, Roasted Chickpeas, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk S, Hamburger or Cheeseburger, Tots, Roasted Chickpeas, Fruit Crisp, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk
12	13	14	15	16
NO SCHOOL—MARDI GRAS BREAK				
19	20	21	22	23
H, Chicken Tenders, Vegetarian Option, Macaroni & Cheese, Steamed Carrots, Texas Toast, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk S, Hot Dog w/Fixings, Chili, Tots, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk	S, Beef Burrito, Vegetarian Option, Ranchero Beans, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk H, BBQ Chicken Sandwich, Tots, Ranchero Beans, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk	H: Turkey Roast, Steamed Rice, Gravy, Steamed Broccoli, Vegetarian Option, Fresh Baked Roll, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk S: Hamburger, Tots, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk	H: Jambalaya, Vegetarian Option, Oven Roasted Squash & Zucchini, Texas Toast, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk S: Chicken Sandwich, Tots, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk	H: Fish Sticks, Texas Toast, Vegetarian Option, Tots, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk S: BBQ Chicken Sandwich, Tots, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk
26	27	28	29	
H: Chicken Tenders, Vegetarian Option, Creamy Red Beans, Biscuit, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk S: Chicken Sandwich, Tots, Red Beans, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk	H: Chicken Taco, Vegetarian Option, Corn, Fresh Baked Cinnamon Breadstick, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk S: BBQ Pulled Pork on Bun, Tots, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk	H: Spaghetti & Meatsauce, Vegetarian Option, Green Beans, Fresh Baked Roll, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk S: Hamburger or Cheeseburger, Tots, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk	H: Breaded Pork Patty, Vegetarian Option, Steamed Spinach, Black-Eyed Peas, Cornbread, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk S: Sloppy Joe on Bun, Tots, Chilled Fruit, Cold Milk	

FEBRUARY MTE BREAKFAST MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
			Choice of Breakfast Burrito OR Cereal w/Toast or Toaster Pastry, Chilled Fruit, Chilled Fruit Juice, Cold Milk	Choice of School Made Beignets OR Cereal w/Toast, chilled fruit, Chilled Fruit Juice, Cold Milk
5	6	7	8	9
Choice of Dutch Waffle OR Cereal w/Toast, Chilled Fruit, Chilled Fruit Juice, Cold Milk	Choice of Breakfast Eggs w/Grits & Toast, OR Cereal w/Toast, Raisins, Chilled Fruit Juice, Cold Milk	Choice of Flaky Biscuit w/Sausage Patty OR Cereal w/Toast, Chilled Fruit, Chilled Fruit Juice, Cold Milk	Choice of School Made Muffin OR Cereal w/Toast OR Toaster Pastry w/Toast, Chilled Fruit, Chilled Fruit Juice, Cold Milk	Choice of School Made Cinnamon Roll OR Cereal w/Toast, Chilled Fruit, Chilled Fruit Juice, Cold Milk
12	13	14	15	16
NO SCHOOL—MARDI GRAS BREAK				
19	20	21	22	23
Choice of Breakfast Pizza OR Cereal w/Toast, Chilled Fruit, Chilled Fruit Juice, Cold Milk	Choice of Breakfast Eggs w/Grits & Toast, OR Cereal w/Toast, Raisins, Chilled Fruit Juice, Cold Milk	Choice of Flaky Biscuit w/Sausage Patty OR Cereal w/Toast, Chilled Fruit, Chilled Fruit Juice, Cold Milk	Choice of Breakfast Burrito OR Cereal w/Toast or Toaster Pastry, Chilled Fruit, Chilled Fruit Juice, Cold Milk	Choice of School Made Beignets OR Cereal w/Toast, chilled fruit, Chilled Fruit Juice, Cold Milk
26	27	28	29	
Student Choice of, Donut or, Cereal w/Toast, Chilled Fruit, Chilled Fruit Juice, Cold Milk	Student Choice of, Breakfast Eggs w/Grits & Toast OR Cereal w/Toast OR Toaster Pastry w/Toast, Raisins, Chilled Fruit Juice, Cold Milk	Student Choice of, Flaky Biscuit w/Sausage OR Cereal w/Toast, Chilled Fruit, Chilled Fruit Juice, Cold Milk	Student Choice of, School Made Muffin OR Cereal w/Toast OR Toaster Pastry w/Toast, Chilled Fruit, Chilled Fruit Juice, Cold Milk	



Catching up with the Counselor

February: a month of love and kindness. Throughout the month of February, the students will learn all about self-love, affirmations, kindness, empathy, and confidence. There will be a fun and interactive display up for the students and faculty to participate in, so stay tuned for that! I encourage you all at home to practice affirmations for yourself, whether you are a parent/guardian or a student. An affirmation a day keeps the negativity away!

National School Counseling Week is February 5th-9th. This is a week to learn all about aspects of the school counselor's role. This year's theme is **School Counseling: Standards-Based, Student-Focused**.

A little about what my work: School counselors are employed in public and private schools to help students reach their full potential; we are actively committed to helping students explore their abilities, strengths, interests, and talents as these traits relate to career awareness and development. We help parents focus on ways to further the educational, personal and social growth of their children, and we work with teachers and other educators to help students explore their potential and set realistic goals for themselves. School counselors seek to identify and utilize community resources that can enhance and complement comprehensive school counseling programs and help students become productive members of society. Comprehensive developmental school counseling programs are considered an integral part of the educational process that enables all students to achieve success in school.

Hello, Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood. When practicing this habit really listen to what others are saying and sit back and think about their words. This habit helps us step out of our own shoes and into someone else's. We all want to be heard so practicing patience and truly listening to what someone is saying rather than just waiting your turn to speak is beneficial!

Check Out the Habit 5 Book List:

Veronica Knows Best by Nancy K. Robinson

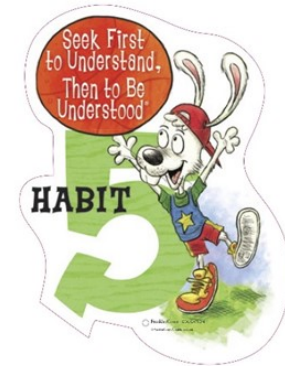
The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi

Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech

Rules by Cynthia Lord

Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman

It Looked Like Spilled Milk by Charles Shaw



--- Mrs. Jordan 

PTA Volunteer of the Month

January's volunteer of the month is Kim Collins! Kim is our restaurant night coordinator and puts so much work into planning and organizing all of our fun evening events! She can also be seen volunteering in many other ways at MTE. Thank you for always donating so much time to us!



Hensley Williams
Everly Thibault
Bennett Ellison
Carson Kaufmann
Sierra Shaffer
Kate Riviere
Jude Barefield
Lena Gardner
Zorie Golden
Tanner Thomas



Riley Robertson
Lilli Johnson
Bryce LeBlanc
Brooks Thurston
Charlotte Dabdoub
Oliver Carpenter
Everett Pezant
Elora Rostron
Layke Lockhart
Mariana Mendieta
Daisy Jourdan

February

Upcoming Restaurant and Fundraising Nights



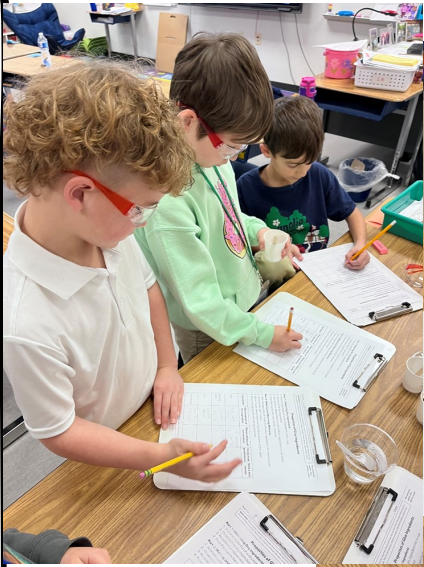
Lago Mexican
Wednesday, February 21
4-9:00 pm



Altitude
Thursday, March 14
5-8:00 pm

**. Get 15% off all jump pass sales
online and in person**







MTE STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Yami Pena
Cafeteria Technician



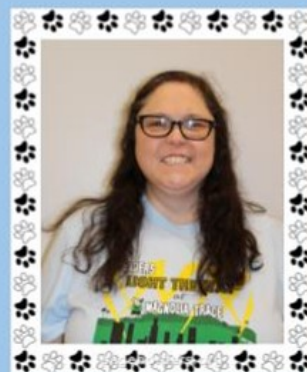
- 9 years at Magnolia Trace
- 12 years in Education
- Dream Vacation: Italy, Egypt, Paris
- Favorite Restaurant: The Boulevard
- On weekends I like to: fish and spend time with my husband and son
- I cheer for: Saints or LSU but most of all God

I love to interact with the children.



MTE STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Kimberly Morgan
2nd Grade Teacher



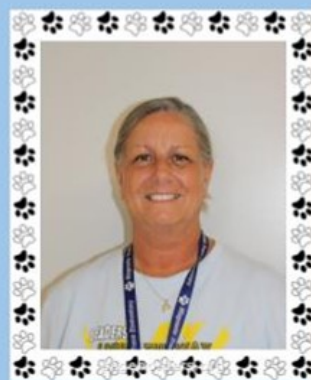
- 2nd Year at Magnolia Trace
- 24 Years in Education
- Dream Vacation: Europe
- Favorite Restaurant: Bosc's
- On weekends I like to: make educational games, spend time with family, and shop on Amazon
- I cheer for: The Saints

I became an educator because I love teaching and to make a positive difference in children's lives.



MTE STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Kim Littlejohn
SWE Para



- 4 Years at Magnolia Trace
- 24 years in Education
- Dream Vacation: Cruise the Mississippi River
- Favorite Restaurant: Boulevard Bistro
- On weekends I like to: relax and spend time with family
- I cheer for: Jim Littlejohn

I became an educator because I love working with children. I love the way their face lights up when they get a concept.



MTE STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Michelle Weber
School Nurse



- 1.5 Years at Magnolia Trace
- Dream Vacation: Any
- Favorite Restaurant: Keith Youngs
- On weekends I like to: just be home with my kids, hubby, mom and my toy poodle, Snickers
- I cheer for: LSU, Saints, USM

As a nurse I wanted to use my degree to work in the school setting to provide care for kids assisting them in maintaining their well being in order to perform their academic best.



MTE STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Nichole Anderson
Talented Art Teacher

- 3 Years at Magnolia Trace
- 11 Years in Education
- Dream Vacation: log cabin in the mountains with my whole family
- Favorite Restaurant: The OLD Ponchos
- On weekends I like to: spend time exploring new adventures with my son and husband
- I cheer for: Everyone!

I became an educator even though it wasn't my plan. Somehow through college I realized I was good at guiding and educating others and that I actually loved it! Education chose me!



MTE STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Casey Fradella
3rd Grade Math,
Science, Social Studies

- 16 Years at Magnolia Trace
- 16 Years in Education
- Dream Vacation: Italy and Greece
- Favorite Restaurant: Coffee Rani, Pat's Rest a While
- On weekends I like to: Travel, Go on my boat
- I cheer for: LSU and University of Georgia

I became an educator to make a difference.



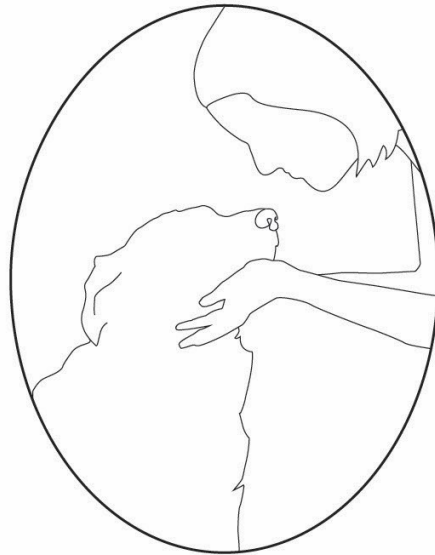
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**MONDAY - FRIDAY
8AM-5PM**

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!



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