



# Magnolia Trace Elementary

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



## JANUARY NEWS HOUND PTA NEWSLETTER

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 6- Students Return from Winter Break  
Jan. 13- Ambassador Meeting 4-5  
Jan. 14- Class Pictures, Sports Club 4-5  
Jan. 15- Lighthouse Meeting 4-5  
Jan. 19- No School  
Jan. 20- Boosterthon Kickoff, YAP Meeting 4-5  
Jan. 21- K-Kids Meeting 4-5  
Jan. 27- Terrific Leader 9:30  
Feb. 3- Ambassador Meeting 4-5  
Feb. 6- Cultural Arts Day, Boosterthon Fun Run  
Feb. 9- Marching Maggies 4-5  
Feb. 10- Lighthouse Meeting 4-5  
Feb. 11- Wear Yellow Safety awareness  
Feb. 12- Marigny Parade 1:30, School crossing guard appreciation day  
Feb. 13- SRO appreciation day  
Feb. 16-20- Mardi Gras Break

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are now halfway through the year and continuing to launch into excellence. Our teachers are analyzing mid-year assessments and adjusting instructions to better meet the students' needs. We are excited to embrace the 2026 school year. We will start the year off with a professional development day for the teachers. Do note we are preparing students for success, and we need students at school as much as possible.

At the end of January, we will kick off our annual Boosterthon Fundraiser. Our Cultural Arts day and fun run will be on Feb. 6th. We will learn all about Jamaica and run for a cause. More details will be shared as we get closer to this date. This month we are celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King. A visionary and a person who has left a legacy in all our lives. Please join us in celebrating his life! I also would like to remind parents that Class Group Pictures will be on Jan. 14th. Students will wear their uniforms. We would like all students to be present so they can be part of their class picture. During the second semester of school, we want to remember the 8 habits and our Core Paradigms.

I would like to thank all our volunteers and community partners for making the holidays special for so many families. We had several organizations reach out wanting to give back. We sincerely appreciate all of them and it shows how much good comes from a community working together for a common good. I also want to give a shout out to our amazing substitutes who continuously show up for us, especially on PLC days. Our professional learning is possible because we have a great network of people working with us.

As always, I am grateful for our entire Magnolia Trace Family. The year 2025 was a great one and 2026 will be even better. If you ever have any praises, questions or concerns feel free to email me at [Jamie.breaux@stpsb.org](mailto:Jamie.breaux@stpsb.org).

Thank you,  
Jamie Breaux  
Principal, MTE

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Happy New Year, Maggie families!

Welcome back to school! I hope you all had a fabulous break and enjoyed special time with your family and friends. I can't believe it is 2026...AND we are halfway through school! It has flown by...December was a very busy month for us! We hosted a special holiday luncheon catered by Zea's and the Grinch stopped by. Thank you to all the families who donated desserts, drinks, and volunteered to class sit!

January is a relatively quiet month for us. Our biggest Fundraiser of the year, Boosterthon, is kicking off on January 20<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for a team of 4-5 to help us coordinate these special 10 days for our students, completed with the Fun Run on February 6<sup>th</sup>. NO PRIOR experience is required! It's fairly simple, it is just busy each day for 10 days. You will have full support from the Executive Committee.

Soon we will begin our search for new PTA board members to replace all those moving on to Lake Harbor or Mandeville Middle. It takes many volunteers to make our events come to fruition, so please consider volunteering for MTE PTA in 2026-2027. Grab a friend and join us, it's a great chance to learn more about Magnolia Trace and take part in all the fun events we plan! Feel free to contact me with any questions at [magnoliatraceelementarypta@gmail.com](mailto:magnoliatraceelementarypta@gmail.com).

I can't say thank you enough to everyone who contributes to our wonderful school and PTA. It is only because of you that we can accomplish all that we do!

**Chanelle Smith**

PTA President 2025-2026

Magnolia Trace Elementary

Magnolia Trace  
2025- 2026  
PTA Executive Board

President – Chanelle Smith  
Secretary – Sarah Dunne  
Treasurer– Kourtney Chavis  
VP of Promotions– Brittany Joiner  
Board Member– Sherri Toucheque



Scan the QR code for  
the Cheddar Up Group  
Page for Member-  
ships, Volunteer Sign-  
Ups, and More!



## JOIN THE PTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Join the dedicated group of making MTE great for our kids!

Interested? Email [magnoliatraceelementarypta@gmail.com](mailto:magnoliatraceelementarypta@gmail.com)

## Second Grade

December was a very busy month full of fun and learning for our second graders! Our students had a lot of fun on our school-wide Celebration Day to celebrate the end of another successful 9 weeks of school! We had a wonderful time watching MTE's choir performance, and students took part in many holiday learning activities.

This month we are focusing on Habit #5, Seek First to Understand, Then To Be Understood. This is a powerful leadership skill that transforms relationships and promotes trust. Students will learn the difference between hearing and listening. They will learn the importance of listening with the intent to understand.

In our Reading unit, we are finishing up learning about Cycles in Nature, and are beginning Westward Expansion. This unit will introduce students to an important period in the history of the United States. Students will learn why pioneers were willing and eager to endure hardships to move westward. Your child will learn about important innovations in both transportation and communication during that period in history. This will help us build important background knowledge for future learning.

In Math this month, we are learning about shapes and time with fraction concepts. We are building on our part-whole understanding to compose and decompose composite shapes. We will be interpreting equal shares within composite shapes to show halves, thirds, and fourths. We will then apply our understanding of halves and fourths to concepts about time.

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.

Please continue to work with your child on basic addition and subtraction math facts within 20 each night. In addition, reading nightly with your child helps build his/her confidence, fluency, and enjoyment of reading. Thank you for all of your support at home. We hope you and your family have a wonderful 2026!

## Third Grade

We hope all of our MTE families enjoyed a wonderful and restful holiday season. December was a fun and exciting month at school! Our Celebration Day was a great success—thank you to everyone who helped make it possible. We're also looking forward to a special performance later this month from the FHS Theater Department, where students will have the chance to see Frozen. What a great way to "let it go" as we start the new year!

As we enter the second half of the school year, our third graders will begin preparing for the transition to fourth grade. In math, we will be working with area, as well as fractions on a number line. Please continue to encourage your child to practice math facts at home. Strong fluency supports confidence and efficiency in third grade and beyond. Reflex Math is an excellent tool for building fact fluency and is available both at school and at home.

In reading, students will dive into both literary and informational texts. We will continue exploring themes of companionship, friendship, and community, and students will be writing essays to express their ideas about these topics. Regular practice reading aloud at home will help your child work toward the goal of reading 105 words per minute.

In Social Studies, we will focus on Constructed Response writing and test-taking skills. Our next unit explores Westward Expansion and how the United States has changed over time.

In Science, we will wrap up our study of inheritance and traits and begin a new unit on environments and survival. As biomimicry engineers, students will investigate how the traits of grove snails support their survival in different habitats.

As always, thank you for your continued support!

## WATTERS' WORLD



Happy New Year to all my young artists!  
Ms. Watters

## STUDENT CORNER

### Ms. WATTERS

Ms. Watters teaches art. She teaches art at Marigny and Magnolia Trace.

In the morning Ms. Watters does car line and she helps all of the students get out of their cars. She greets them and tries to make sure that they do not get hurt while getting out of their cars.

Mrs. Watters is a great teacher at our school and she is a hard working person. She tries to give us easy ways to make art projects and she makes learning fun!

Written By: Ben Breaux

### MEET MS. AUDREY HOTARD

Our new MTE music teacher is Ms. Audrey. Her favorite book is Where The Red Fern Grows. Her favorite food is steak, her favorite drink is matcha, and her favorite flavor of ice cream is mint chocolate chip. Her favorite dessert is cake.

Ms. Audrey said her favorite part about being Magnolia Trace's music teacher is getting to know people who love music. Ms. Audrey is a nice teacher and Magnolia Trace wouldn't be the same without her. Welcome, Ms. Audrey!

Written By: Ben Breaux



## LIBRARY: CHECK IT OUT!



We hope that you and your family had a wonderful holiday. We have missed the children. We are ready to get back to reading in our library. Our plan for the month is to expose your child to various books/series in the library. Encourage your child to try something new, just as he/she might try a new food. This can surprise them and they might find a new genre of book that they love reading. We are getting ready for our final book fair of the school year, which will take place Monday, February 2 – Friday, February 6th. The book fair will close on Friday, February 6th @ noon! The children will have an opportunity to create a wish list and preview the book fair the week before it begins. Information will be coming home soon.

“Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.” - Frederick Douglass

Happy New Year,

Julie Kuylen and Joanne Santos

Magnolia Trace Library

### MUSICAL NOTES

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a fantastic break! I will be holding choir auditions for the spring show titled, "Welcome To Cajun Country". We will begin these auditions during the last week of January. We will be learning about Louisiana culture and Cajun music while we prepare for this super fun show!

Our song for choir auditions will be "You Are My Sunshine" by Papillion from his album "Cajun for Kids"

Audrey Hotard

### COACH'S CORNER

Some call Christmas the “most wonderful time of the year”. That is, unless you’re a scale. The holidays are the perfect scenario for pounds to sneak onto our bodies. With all of the parties to ruin a diet and lack of schedule to find exercise time, it’s tough to stay on track.

Since it gets dark so early and the weather can be a little rough this time of year, it’s hard to get out and play. Luckily our area has plenty of facilities that feature rock climbing walls, trampolines, and indoor sports fields. So no excuses, make sure to keep yourself and your children active this new year.

Coach Dusang  
Physical Education Teacher



Happy New Year!

I am very excited to see all of our students as I return from maternity leave. It's 2026 and that means we are ready to set new goals and continue toward success for our old ones! As goals are being set for the New Year, let's take this opportunity to encourage students to not only set goals but to work toward achieving them. Setting the goal and creating steps to achieve the goal is one way to start. It takes courage to set our minds to reach goals. As we move into the New Year let's encourage courage, confidence, and reaching our goals not only now but as the year progresses.

As we continue to practice Habit #4: here are some thoughts to keep in mind while practicing:

"I want everyone to be successful"

"I do not have to put others down to get what I want"

"When a conflict happens I can look for a third option (mediating option)"

"I believe that we all can win!"



#### Habit 4 Book List

*Charlotte's Web* by E.W. White

*Out of Left Field* by Ellen Klages

*Nothing's Fair in Fifth Grade* by Barthe DeClements

*The Butter Battle Book* by Dr. Seuss

*The Great Gilly Hopkins* by Katherine Paterson

*The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister

I look forward to continued growth and many more memories made here at MTE this year!

**-Mrs. Jordan**



## December 2025 Terrific Kids



Brody Dickens  
Maxwell Walters  
Keiran Gerkin  
Ellis Milam  
Mallex Buras  
Eloise Alt

Adrian Arnone  
Matthew Montano-Valencia  
Kai Toucheque  
Peter Medick  
Harper Larsen  
Remy Tran

Seth Bacile  
Evelyn Hodge  
Emiliano Garcia  
Heidi Hall  
Rosalyn Buckhannon  
Ava Sorrel



MTE PTA

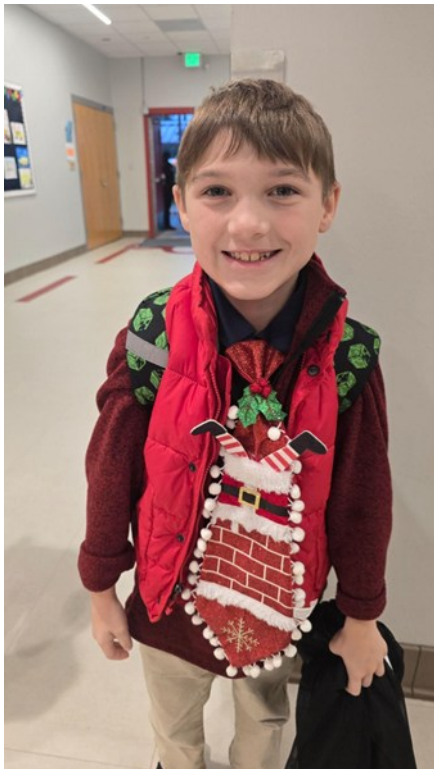
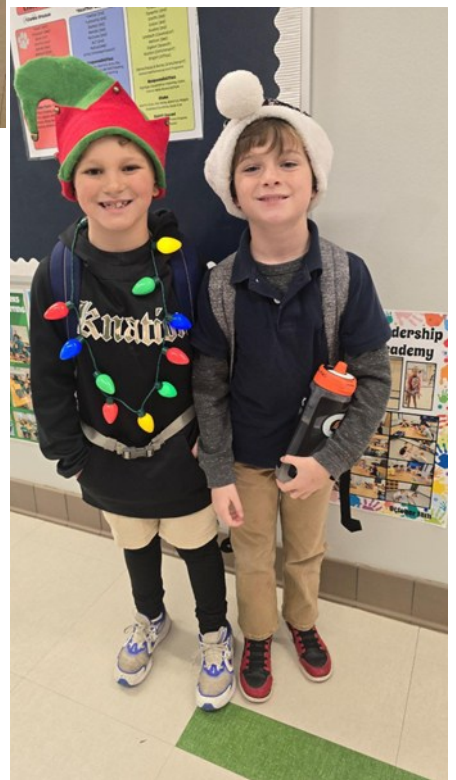
# RESTAURANT NIGHT

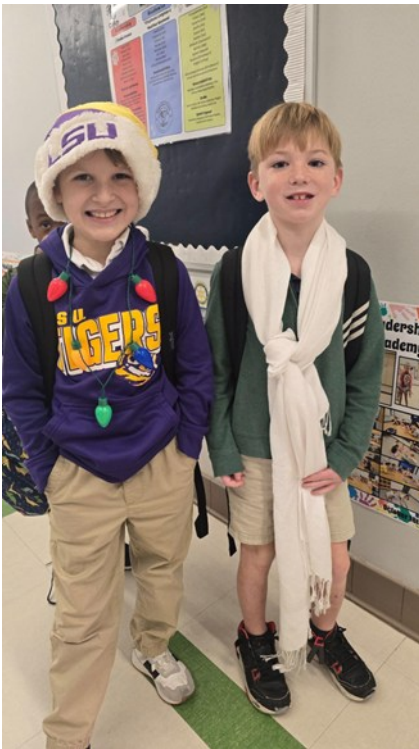


Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026



1680 HWY 59 SUITE 500,  
MANDEVILLE, LA 70448





# JANUARY MTE LUNCH MENU

JANUARY 2026

| MONDAY                                                         | TUESDAY                                                                                 | WEDNESDAY                                                                                  | THURSDAY                                                                                   | FRIDAY                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 29                                                             | 30                                                                                      | 31                                                                                         | 1                                                                                          | 2                                                                         |
| Professional Development/ No Students<br>All Day               | 5                                                                                       | 6                                                                                          | 7                                                                                          | 8                                                                         |
| 1. Chicken Tenders, Mac & Cheese & Fresh Baked Roll<br>All Day | 1. Beef Tacos with Fixings, Ranchero Beans, Cinnamon<br>Breadstick<br>All Day           | 1. Mandarin Orange or General Tso's Chicken, Steamed<br>Rice, Seasoned Broccoli<br>All Day | 1. Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza, Seasoned Corn, Marinara<br>Sauce<br>All Day                  | 2. Garlic Mozzarella Cheesy Bread, Seasoned Corn<br>All Day               |
| 2. Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Fries<br>All Day                  | 2. Cheesy Chicken Nachos w/ Fixings & Ranchero<br>Beans<br>All Day                      | 2. Walking Tacos with Fixings & Ranchero Beans<br>All Day                                  | 2. Hamburger/ Cheeseburger, Fries<br>All Day                                               |                                                                           |
| 12                                                             | 13                                                                                      | 14                                                                                         | 15                                                                                         | 16                                                                        |
| 1. Red Beans & Rice, w/ Texas Toast<br>All Day                 | 1. Cheesy Chicken Burrito w/ Fixings, Ranchero Beans,<br>Cinnamon Breadstick<br>All Day | 1. Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Fresh Baked<br>French Bread<br>All Day             | Manager's Choice<br>All Day                                                                | 1. Garlic Mozzarella Cheesy Bread, Seasoned Corn<br>All Day               |
| 2. Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Fries<br>All Day                  | 2. Cheesy Chicken Tenders w/ Fixings & Ranchero<br>Beans<br>All Day                     | 2. Corn Dog, Fries<br>All Day                                                              |                                                                                            | 2. Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza, Seasoned Corn, Marinara<br>Sauce<br>All Day |
| No School<br>All Day                                           | 19                                                                                      | 20                                                                                         | 21                                                                                         | 22                                                                        |
|                                                                | 1. Chicken Tenders, Mac & Cheese & Fresh Baked Roll<br>All Day                          | 1. Cheesy Beefy Mac, Green Beans, Fresh Baked Roll<br>All Day                              | 1. Mandarin Orange or General Tso's Chicken, Steamed<br>Rice, Seasoned Broccoli<br>All Day | 1. Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza, Seasoned Corn, Marinara<br>Sauce<br>All Day |
|                                                                | 2. Chicken Tender Basket w/ Fries & Fresh Roll<br>All Day                               | 2. Crispy Chicken Drumsticks, Fries<br>All Day                                             | 2. Hamburger/ Cheeseburger, Fries<br>All Day                                               | 2. Garlic Mozzarella Cheesy Bread, Seasoned Corn<br>All Day               |
| 1. Breaded Chicken Sandwich, Fries<br>All Day                  | 26                                                                                      | 27                                                                                         | 28                                                                                         | 29                                                                        |
| 2. Chicken Nuggets w/ Mac & Cheese, Fresh Roll<br>All Day      | Manager's Choice<br>All Day                                                             | 1. Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Green Beans, Fresh Baked<br>French Bread<br>All Day             | 1. Mandarin Orange or General Tso's Chicken, Steamed<br>Rice, Steamed Carrots<br>All Day   | 1. Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza, Seasoned Corn, Marinara<br>Sauce<br>All Day |
|                                                                |                                                                                         | 2. Corn Dog, Fries<br>All Day                                                              | 2. Steamed Chicken & Veggie Dumplings, Seasoned<br>Carrots, Fresh Baked Roll<br>All Day    | 2. Garlic Mozzarella Cheesy Bread, Seasoned Corn<br>All Day               |

**Vegetarian option, vegetable, fruit and choice of milk offered daily.**

# JANUARY BREAKFAST MENU

JANUARY 2026

| MONDAY                                           | TUESDAY                                     | WEDNESDAY                                         | THURSDAY                                 | FRIDAY                             |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 29                                               | 30                                          | 31                                                | 1                                        | 2                                  |
| Professional Development/ No Students<br>All Day | 5 Breakfast Pizza<br>All Day                | 6 Flaky Schoolmade Biscuit w/ Sausage<br>All Day  | 7 Toasty Cheese Sandwich<br>All Day      | 8 Egg & Cheese Biscuit<br>All Day  |
| 12 Pancake w/ Sausage on a Stick<br>All Day      | 13 Egg w/Grits & Toast<br>All Day           | 14 Flaky Schoolmade Biscuit w/ Sausage<br>All Day | 15 School Made Muffins<br>All Day        | 16 Manager's Choice<br>All Day     |
| 19 No School<br>All Day                          | 20 Cheesy Egg & Sausage Sandwich<br>All Day | 21 Flaky Schoolmade Biscuit w/ Sausage<br>All Day | 22 Toasty Cheese Sandwich<br>All Day     | 23 Egg & Cheese Biscuit<br>All Day |
| 26 Pancake w/ Sausage on a Stick<br>All Day      | 27 Breakfast Egg Scramble<br>All Day        | 28 Flaky Schoolmade Biscuit w/ Sausage<br>All Day | 29 School Made Cinnamon Rolls<br>All Day | 30 Manager's Choice<br>All Day     |