

Mount Vernon Community School PTA





Member Meeting

May 18, 2021



AGENDA

- Welcome and Check In
 - PTA Year in Review
- Updates from Ms. Burrell
- Call for 2021-22 Executive Committee Nominations

2020-21 PTA Year in Review

Providing COVID Relief + Family Support

COVID Relief Fund

Funded and distributed grocery store gift cards for families who otherwise would participate in Blessings in a Backpack. Carrying forward funds in anticipation of supporting increased need among families returning to school in the fall.

Helping Hands

Funded dental and vision care for kids with no other source of funding for critical care. Carrying forward funds in anticipation of supporting increased need among families returning to school in the fall.

Uniform Swap

Provided opportunity for all families to donate outgrown school uniforms and invited all families to help themselves to as many new-to-them school uniform pieces as they wishes. A second swap is already being planned for fall. In addition, hundreds of pieces of clothing were donated to Casa Chirilagua families.



2020-21 PTA Year in Review

Supporting Students

Virtual Field Trips + Assemblies

Funded *Uno Dos Tres Andres* Spanish language assembly for Hispanic Heritage Month, as well as grade level specific field trips for K-2 and 3-5.

Spring Break-a-Thon

While families remained close to home, students and their siblings were invited to explore new ideas and try new activities through more than 15 free virtual sessions held through spring break week.

Little Free Libraries

Installed two new Little Free Libraries in Chirilagua neighborhood to provide free, easy access to Spanish language books and encourage children to read at home.

Highlights Science Magazines

A new subscription to Highlights for every student in 1st-5th grade starting in May and continuing into the new school year.

Kinesthetic Classroom Equipment

While kids remain socially distanced with limited mobility in the building, these under desk pedals and bouncy chairs helps kids channel their energy while increasing their focus. Loved by students and teachers alike!



2020-21 PTA Year in Review

Celebrating Teachers

Teacher Mini-grants

Made grants available for every single teacher and paraprofessional, including Encore teachers, to purchase supplies (to help them teach from home and/or prepare their classrooms) or participate in professional development. **56 teachers** were awarded grants totaling **\$11,046**.

Fall Gratitude Project + Spring Teacher Appreciation Campaign

Engaging families in students to create 50+ posters wall on school fence and video montage featuring kid videos, poems and home made artwork in both fall and spring. Spring campaign underway now—submit your expression of gratitude to MVCSGratitude@gmail.com.

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast and Lunch

Welcoming teachers back to the building this spring with breakfast and drawings for spirit wear and local business gift certificates and treating them to lunch during Teacher Appreciation Month (May).

Teacher Lounge Wishlist

Coordinated a teacher-led wish list on Amazon where parents could purchase snacks and supplies to stock up the teacher lounge at school.



2020-21 PTA Year in Review

Building Community

Pumpkin Patch

Celebrating autumn with a bounty of pumpkins to decorate porches, tables and Halloween scenes. For many, this was their first visit to the school grounds in the new school year.

Marine Corps Virtual Fun Run

Unable to gather on the traditional course at the Pentagon last fall, the Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) Organization promoted the virtual MCM Semper Fun Mile. More than **60 MVCS students and their family members** participated in this exciting virtual event during the first week of November 2020 to get outside, get moving and keep the “Oorah” spirit alive!

Valentine’s Weekend Dance Party

Welcomed **nearly 100 families, teachers and neighbors** the opportunity to dance the night away and make some mid-winter memories, while supporting local businesses (who traditionally support our PTA) through gift certificate giveaways.

Kinder T-Shirts

Provided the gift of a new MVCS spirit shirt for every kinder family, distributed at school during quarterly packet pickup.



2020-21 PTA Year in Review

Enhancing Communications

New PTA Website

Centralizing all PTA information—activities, events, FAQs, online store and other resources—in one place, mvcspta.org. Includes instant translation between English and Spanish via Google translate, easy sign up for PTA distro list and social media.

PTA Thursday Folder Newsletter

Weekly news roundup for members, parents and teachers—sharing timely PTA news, upcoming events and special items of interest for our school community.

Monthly Meetings

Sustained monthly community connection via virtual meetings, conducted in English with simultaneous Spanish translation, featuring updates and time for Q&A with school principal; holiday celebrations from around the world; special topics such as self care and voting opportunities for members. Reduced meeting time from 90 to 60 minutes.



2020-21 PTA Year in Review

Providing Back-to-School + Return-to-School Support

Back-to-School and Return-to-School FAQs

Collected questions from families and worked with MVCS and ACPS to secure answers. Published FAQ docs in English and Spanish available to download on website.

Virtual Learning Support

Purchased schoolwide Seesaw License to enhance teacher/student communications and teacher feedback ability during distance learning.

Technology Support

Purchased headphones for more than 100 students who needed them to be prepared to learn from home. Supported district wide helpdesk and social service hotline to support families with technology, health care, food distribution and mental health support inquires.

Return-to-School Advocacy

Worked collaboratively with and helped channel communications to MVCS principal, ACPS leadership and School Board to fight for health and safety practices and protocols aligned with national standards as students returned to learning in person. Established new connections with ACPS facilities to monitor and track progress with MVCS building maintenance and updates.



2020-21 PTA Year in Review

Re-imagining + Re-focusing Fundraising

Fabulous Fall Fundraiser “From the Comfort of Home”

Raised **\$21,417** to support new online apps to make virtual learning easier for teachers and more engaging for students; professional development for teachers. Special thanks to community partners Jen Walker for her \$10,000 donation and Lost Boy Cider for their \$1,000 donation.

Giving Tuesday

Raised **\$7,785** for the COVID Relief Fund, created to provide supplemental food aid, winter enrichment for all students and support for the ACPS Virtual Plus+ Help Desk and interpretation services, which benefit MVCS families and others throughout our district. Another round of thanks to our community partner Jen Walker for her generous \$5,000 donation.

Spring2ACTION

On Alexandria's community-wide day of giving, we raised **\$5,666** to purchase Scholastic science and news magazines for each student in grades 1 - 5. In addition, the PTA will be matching these funds to purchase kinesthetic equipment for classrooms this spring.



Thank you to our 2020-21 executive committee

- Amy Gareis
- Ana Santos
- Adam Harris
- Caroline Simpson
- Jen Button
- Katie Campbell
- Katie Wright
- Laura Tarre
- Marina Carter Howell
- Martha Davis
- Megan Reing
- Patrick Smith
- Teofila Gomez

Also to our Teacher Liaison, **Priscila Elizondo**, and our Principal Liaison, **Laura Burkhart**



Updates from Ms. Burrell

- How many kids and how many teachers are in the building now?
- What are plans for summer learning/Summer Language Academy?
- What do families need to know about the new school year (in-person, virtual, dual language considerations, deadline for choosing)?
- How will we celebrate 5th grade promotion?
- How will MVCS celebrate the end of the school year?



“...all men are
created equal”

PTA Budget Update

- Patrick Smith



"...all men are
created equal"

VOTE on April Meeting Minutes



"...all men are
created equal"



What's Next?

2021-22 Executive Committee

Call for Nominations; *Marina Carter Howell, Chair,
Nominations Committee*

- President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- VP, Advocacy
- VP, Communications
- VP, Dual Language
- VP, Engagement
- VP, Enrichment (In School Time)
- VP, Fundraising
- VP, Membership
- VP, Programming (Out of School Time)



What's Next?

2021-22 Executive Committee Proposed Slate to Date

- President, **Megan Reing**
- Treasurer, **Patrick Smith**
- Secretary, **Marina Carter Howell**
- VP, Advocacy, **Terry Heubert + Ed Mills**
- VP, Communications, **Caroline Simpson**
- VP, Dual Language, **Martha Davis**
- VP, Engagement, **Teófila Gómez + Lisa League**
- VP, Enrichment, **Debbie Perry**
- VP, Fundraising, **Dana Colarulli**
- VP, Programming, **Lauren Heslep**
- VP, Membership, **Brittney Allen-Shaw + Brigida Martinez**



What's Next?

Final PTA Members Meeting Tuesday, June 15, 2021

- Election of New PTA Officers
- Presentation of 2021-22 School Year Budget
- Celebration of Community



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