

SAMUEL W. TUCKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA 2009-2010 ACTIVITIES

Every Child – One Voice



The PTA is often asked, “What exactly do you do, and how can I help make a difference?” So, we’ve put together highlights of this year’s activities. We welcome additional support, ideas, and volunteers and ask if you are interested in participating in 2010-2011, please reach out to us at TuckerTigersRoar@gmail.com.

This year marked the 10th anniversary of Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School, and the Tucker PTA committed to commemorate this milestone with a multi-cultural outreach plan to celebrate our school rich in diversity. With more than 50 countries and 40 languages represented in our student body of 700-plus, it seemed a natural tribute to honor civil rights activist Samuel W. Tucker’s passion, dedication, and perseverance for education, opportunity, and equality for all.

The PTA, school teachers and staff, parent and community volunteers, and neighborhood partners have come together to help our students invest in themselves, their academic achievements, and their personal development. Through committed team work, we all have worked to provide a welcoming environment, stronger school community, additional resources, and strong programs to support Alexandria City Public School’s mission to ensure all students are equipped to succeed.

PTA objectives and activities this year focused on continuing to:

- increase awareness for health, nutrition, wellness, fitness, safety, and environmental stewardship;
- share and celebrate our school’s cultural diversity;
- build partnerships with our community neighbors;
- establish and welcome a broader base of parent volunteers to better represent our student body;
- broaden our participation in the academic community to include other PTA’s, ACPS, and community efforts;
- advocate on behalf of our school’s students, teachers, staff, and parents;
- increase fundraising results that assist our teachers and students with technology, programs, resources, and supplies;
- provide engaging events, informational programs, educational workshops, and affordable after school classes;
- better support our teachers by being more responsive, and
- be more effective communicators and distributors of key information.

10TH ANNIVERSARY WALL-SIZE ART MURAL



by Artist Sean Murphy

In honor of Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School’s 10th anniversary, the PTA has commissioned artist Sean Murphy to design a wall-size art mural commemorating civil rights activist Samuel W. Tucker and our student body’s cultural heritages from around the globe. In tribute to Samuel W. Tucker’s passion, dedication, and perseverance, the mural captures his vision of education, opportunity, and equality for all and the future our students dream for themselves. The artist proof will be available for silent auction in fall at the unveiling reception of the wall-size mural.

Enthusiastic to be a good corporate neighbor, Covanta Energy seized the opportunity to support our school PTA and serve as sole sponsor of this original masterpiece that we hope will showcase in our school for decades to come.



International Fall Festival (IFF)

The Tucker community embarked on an unofficial passport tour through the continents of the world. On Saturday, November 7, the school hosted its first International Fall Festival where travelers participated in free family fun as they shared and celebrated our student body's cultural heritages from around the globe; 48 countries were showcased. Parents and students performed on stage along with the Bolivian Dance Company, Far East dancers, and Miguel Guillarte & Musicians. Parents hosted tours of continents featuring countries' authentic games and crafts, art and photo displays, cultural dress, handmade novelties, information, and food tastings from the following participating countries:



Central America: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama



South America: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela



Canada



Armenia



Russian Federation



Ethiopia



Senegal



Korea



United States of America



Austria



Norway



Ghana



Bangladesh



Lebanon



Mexico



France



Sweden



Guinea



China



Vietnam



Australia



Germany



Morocco



Ivory Coast



India



Azerbaijan



Italy



Egypt



Kenya



Japan

Community Partners of the IFF:



Carlyle House Historic Park



Junior Girl Scout Troop 6160



Empowered Women International



Potomac Curling Club

Bolivian Dance Company

Pan American Bakery

Samuel W. Tucker Library Reenactment: Our Hometown Hero

TC Williams High School Key Club

Musician Miguel Guillarte

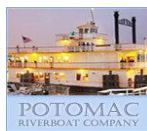
The Art of Illusion Dancers

Australian, Swedish, and German Embassies

Spring Fling Auction & Raffle

As Tucker PTA's main fundraiser, the Spring Fling Auction & Raffle was brought back this year with the added component of Free Family Fun & Entertainment. Students and their families enjoyed a DJ, Karate demonstrations, face painting, and Henna tattoos while waiting for our students' own Michelangelo Art Auction, designed by Art teacher Sean Murphy, to close and raffle numbers to be called. Generous donations included a helicopter ride, Washington Mystics tickets and autographed basketball, U.S. Winter Olympian-signed t-shirts, dinner with Mayor William Euille, day at the zoo with City Councilwoman Alicia Hughes, ds lite, Ipod, two bikes, golf clubs and package, custom made one-of-a-kind jewelry, teacher sponsored gift baskets full of games, chocolates, rainy day activities, movies, math, books, and 'green' treats, DJ for a day with Dave Adler at 95.3, day trips with teachers, YMCA membership, NASA goodies, tour of the new fire station, dinner for 10 at Marrakesh, ReMax-sponsored professional house cleaning, and much more. Everyone enjoyed \$1 Pizza Slice, \$1 Raffle Ticket, and \$1 Art.

Community Partners of the second-annual Spring Fling Auction & Raffle:



Kelley Jackson Fitness
kelleyfitness.com



Back to Health Center
justadjustit.com



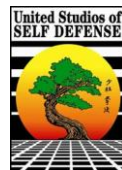
ARBONNE[®] INTERNATIONAL
tyshatalavera.myarbonne.com



THE WAYNE BABB TEAM
RE/MAX Allegiance



'Young Eagles'



GeorgetownSkin.com



www.VirginiaPaving.com



SuperHits of the 60's & 70's



Marrakesh Restaurant



Mayor Euille Councilwoman Hughes and Fire Chief Thiel



PINECREST GOLF COURSE



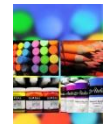
Shadowland Lazer Tag



www.robblitzer.com



CONGRESSMAN. JAMES P. MORAN
VA 8th District



Artist Sean Murphy



Tucker Teachers



TopGolf Kingstown



Hart, Calley, Gibbs & Karp, P.C.

LAND, CLARK, CARROLL, MENDELSON & BLAIR, P.C.

YMCA Family Wellness Day

Led by PE teacher Martha Grutza and supported by the PTA, the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington and Whole Foods of Alexandria hosted Family Wellness Day at Tucker Elementary on Saturday, January 23. Families came out in record-number to experience the YMCA's PHD (Physical, Healthy, Driven) Program; talked with a personal trainer, tested their fitness skills; exercised while playing video games; danced on Dance-Dance Revolution; sampled a yoga class, boot camp, and kickboxing; tried gymnastics on a soft mat station; competed in the obstacle courses; sampled healthy snacks and meals, watched Chef Egg teach easy-to-make healthy cooking recipes; spoke with a nutritionist; picked up summer camp and bike safety information; and enjoyed the free giveaways and raffles. Everyone learned to Play & Exercise Safely and Eat Healthy as a Family! Be Good, Do Good, Feel Good!



T.R.O.T. Family Fun 5K

Tucker teachers and Tucker Runners on Track (T.R.O.T.) coaches Martha Grutza and Naomi Salamon organized Tucker's first 5K in honor of our school's 10th Anniversary. With the support of the PTA, student runners and walkers joined forces with an adult or teachers for a morning of healthy exercise and team spirit and an energy boost from Whole Foods of Alexandria. It was so fun, students have already requested it be done again next year!

Community Partners of Tucker's first T.R.O.T. 5K:



www.robblitzer.com



THE WAYNE
BABB TEAM
RE/MAX Allegiance



Hart, Calley, Gibbs & Karp, P.C.

LAND, CLARK, CARROLL, MENDELSON & BLAIR, P.C.

New, Affordable After School Programs



The PTA launched New Affordable Afterschool Programs to serve a broader student population and help interested students build mentoring relationships with teachers, bond with peers, and exercise their mind or body. During 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarters, the PTA worked with teachers to meet the overwhelming demand for drama, art, science, Be Active fitness, games, healthy cooking, and recorder karate music. We also brought back KidSpanish and introduced Silver Knights Chess. Because so many students were interested, the PTA plans to bring even more after school classes to our student body next year.

Workshops, Socials & Information Nights

Dr. Rene Hackney Positive Discipline & Different Learning Styles Workshops



Life Sciences & Risky Behavior Parent-Student Workshop



City of Alexandria's Commission for Women's Walking into Womanhood Workshop– led by Tucker's nurse Olga Wright and supported by the Junior Girl Scouts Troop 6160

The NetSmartz Workshop Internet Safety Information Night

March Madness Information Night & Student Panel at Tucker Elementary with Francis Hammond Middle School



Information Night with Superintendent Dr. Morton Sherman and ACPS staff

- Boo Hoo Breakfast and Orientation for Kindergarten Parents



Kindergarten Italian Ice Social

- Grade-level Ice Cream Socials



Family Dine Out Together Nights



Family Picnic and Bike Rodeo per Safe Routes to School



Supported PE teacher in her collaborations with Whole Foods to bring Healthy Chef Night to Tucker Elementary and Healthy Kids Night for Tucker Families at Whole Foods in Alexandria



Dung Nguyen proudly met with students in third grade to share Chinese New Year, the year of the tiger, and to talk about Vietnam – her heritage. This year, Vietnam was the country in which Tucker's RIF was sponsoring and raising funds for books.

Outreach, Advocacy and Communications

- Established a Beautification committee to maintain Tucker grounds in fall and spring



More than 40 school parents and teachers volunteered to remove this winter's historic snowfall in three shoveling shifts, including the school grounds, Kindergarten playground, and bus stops and sidewalks.



Tucker's Safe Routes to School committee secured cross walks and crossing guards at drop off and pick up; worked with local police for contact information and process to report vehicles not abiding by the law; hosted bike safety and maintenance lessons and sample ride with a City of Alexandria bicycle police; determined and logged safest routes to school and made map to reflect information; hosted information booth at community events, and secured approval from the City for flashing beacon lights and 15 MPH signs to be posted by the school next year



Supported Lynda Gallagher, Brenda Barnes and other Tucker teachers who rallied the troops and their students to write letters to Alexandria City Council members and the mayor to save Winkler Botanical Preserve, attended local rallies, and addressed the City Council



Addressed ACPS School Board members re: over-enrollment at Tucker and impact, MOE, MSC, proposed coaching model changes, budget, and library resources

- Kept a pulse on the proposed ACPS School Budget FY 2012 and add/deletes and worked with PTA Council and other ACPS elementary school PTA's to discuss possible changes that would affect schools citywide



Nominated and received award for PE teacher Martha Grutza's from the Commission on Women for the Women's Health & Safety Advocate



Nominated and received award for Covanta Energy for New Community Partner in Education

- Nominated teachers for the VA Super Teacher Lottery award
- Worked with Eileen Brady to create a "Welcome to Tucker K" video and Welcome to Kindergarten Q&A for Tucker's Open House and webpage
- Established TuckerTigersRoar@gmail.com weekly email blasts, VolunteerSpot.com registration, an #800 Google message line to more effectively communicate with PTA members and volunteers
- Translated material (newsletter, fliers, and key information) into Spanish
- Provided free childcare at all PTA General meetings and workshops and translators when requested
- Researched trivia and produced a World Calendar cross-referenced with Tucker's student body



Purchased and hung wall-size World Map and marked student body's cultural heritages

- Organized and delivered School Supplies to classrooms before school started
- Outfitted the first and second floor with cork-strips for teachers to use to display artwork and key information
- Funded new technology requests with money raised from Spring Fling 2009 and plan to do again in 2010



Recruited volunteers to work all four Reading Is Fundamental Book Fairs, sponsored by librarian Nancy Silcox and Kindergarten teacher Jennifer Willment

- Recruited volunteers to help at the Scholastic Book Fair, two days of H1N1 flu vaccines coordinated by nurse Olga Wright, two picture days, room parents, Friends of the Library, and contributed to grade-level field trips



Marketed Cookie Dough fundraiser with Kindergarten teacher Jennifer Yates - *all* proceeds support classroom needs



Helped defray teacher book cost of ACPS & PTA Council's Community Read, Turn the Page, spring 2010 – *Nurture Shock*

- Supported Principal Scott in hosting a breakfast for teacher's on the morning of Open House
- Parents close to teacher Tina Jobkar helped with the Historic Library Reenactment of the Sit-in involving Samuel W. Tucker 70 years ago – *Our Hometown Hero*

Fundraising & Grants



Tucker's Tiger's Den, a new program launched this year, provides the opportunity to make a tax deductible donation directly to the PTA.



Often times, teachers make book and materials purchases out of their own pocket from Target, book stores, Manchester Learning Center, and online sources. The Classic Cookie Dough Fundraiser raises money solely to support teachers and their classroom needs directly.



Sally Foster Gift-wrap catalogue fundraiser was brought back by popular demand



BJ's offered discounted, extended memberships and donated to the PTA



Tucker Wear & Spirit Wear adorn our students and family members in school pride



the difference
we can make.

Box Tops are worth 10 cents each!



SAFEGWAY
Ingredients for life..

Harris Teeter
Your Neighborhood Food Market

Shopping for groceries



Spring Fling Auction & Raffle serves as the PTA's largest fundraiser which has helped us purchase technology for our school

Northern Virginia District



everychild. one voice.

Awarded Health & Safety grant from the Northern VA PTA for hosting the YMCA Family Wellness Day

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