

# DRAGON NEWS

A newsletter from Principal Collins and the DES PTA

March 2016

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### DAMASCUS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**ADDRESS:**

10201 Bethesda Church Road  
Damascus, MD 20872

**PHONE:**

301-253-7080

**FAX:**

301-253-8717

**SCHOOL WEBSITE:**

[http://  
montgomeryschoolsmd.org/  
schools/damascuses/](http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/damascuses/)

**PRINCIPAL:**

Bill Collins

**EMAIL:**

William\_J\_Collins  
@mcpsmd.org

**TWITTER:**

@collinswj

**PTA WEBSITE:**

[www.damascuspta.com](http://www.damascuspta.com)

**PTA EMAIL:**

[desptamail@gmail.com](mailto:desptamail@gmail.com)



Spring is here! While my kids are counting the days to Spring Break, I am busy helping the PTA get ready for our Totally Awesome 80's Dance Party and Silent Auction. Having been a teenager in the 80's (I am dating myself), I know this is going to be a "totally awesome" evening. Think Pac Man, florescent colors, rubik's cubes, mullets, and the Electric Slide. Are you getting as excited as I am? This event is one of our most anticipated of the year.

As soon as Spring Break is over, Chrystie Kurz will be starting a new running program for boys and girls of all ages. Being a long time runner myself, I think this is one of the most important sports a child can do. As I tell my kids, all you need is a pair of shoes and you can run almost anywhere. Look for more details in backpacks soon.

If you think it sounds like our PTA has too much fun, you are right. Although we are always "working"

hard to bring so many wonderful programs to Damascus Elementary, we enjoy every minute.

Consider taking a more active role in your DES PTA. PTA board positions coming up for election are Treasurer, Vice President of Finance, and Recording Secretary. We are also looking for volunteers that can share their talents and time on one of our many committees. No matter what your schedule, we have a volunteer opportunity that will work for you. Feel free to send me an email at [desptamail@gmail.com](mailto:desptamail@gmail.com).

*~Melissa North  
DES PTA President*

**"Helping is its own reward.  
It's surprising how it  
just feels right."**

*~Paul Newman*

## LAST CALL TO SUBMIT PHOTOS FOR THE YEARBOOK!

Photos can be emailed to [rachkro@gmail.com](mailto:rachkro@gmail.com).

Order forms will be sent home next month,  
so be on the lookout!



## SILENT AUCTION—FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 6-8 PM

Bring your checkbook or hit the ATM before you come to the Totally Awesome 80's Dance this Friday. We have some incredible items and services you will want to bid on. Here are a few of the items we will have available for auction:

4 one hour free jump passes from Stratosphere in Eldersburg

4 front row tickets to the Ringling Bros-Barnum & Bailey Circus on March 26

Nintendo 2 DS

2 tickets to "Bakersfield Mist" playing at the Olney Theatre

2 admission tickets to Luray Caverns

2 Beginner learn to ski or snowboard packages from Whitetail Resort - 8 years and up

4 one - day Park Hopper passes to Walt Disney World

4 tickets to the Frederick Keys

2 tickets to Medieval Times

One week of Kids Co Summer Camp

One week of access to the Ridge Swim Club in Mt. Airy

Gift bag and passes to Monster Mini Golf

\$20 gift card to Maggi's in Damascus

Paintings from Painting with Tammy

Pampers Chef items donated from Nancy Giganti

Items donated from FC Frederick:

1 FCF Pro Camp (June), 1 FCF Pro Camp (July), 2 family passes to FC Frederick PRO minor League soccer

4 gym classes from Orange Theory Fitness in Clarksburg

Limo Ride and Breakfast with Mr. Collins (Donated from Night on the Town Limo)

Mr. Collins will be a buddy for a day

Mr. Collins will come to an outside sporting event with a student

Classroom baskets

Mulch from Damascus Enterprises

Goodies for your four legged friend from Paws and Claws Animal Hospital

AND MUCH MORE!!!

Payment for any items won will require payment at the close of bidding that evening. We look forward to seeing you on Friday!



# Don't Miss

<b>Damascus Elementary School PTA Board</b>	
President	Melissa North
VP Finance	Kristin Peake
VP Communications	Laurie Murtaugh
Treasurer	Lisa Willis
Recording Secretary	Chrystie Kurz
Corresponding Secretary	Tara Owens
PTA Website	<a href="http://www.damascuspta.com">www.damascuspta.com</a>
PTA Email	<a href="mailto:desptamail@gmail.com">desptamail@gmail.com</a>

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

### MARCH

- 15-18: Canned Food Drive for Damascus Help
- 18: Parent Helping Teachers Group, 9:30-11:30 am
- 18: Totally Awesome 80's Dance and Silent Auction
- 22: Class/Group Pictures
- 23: Third Marking Period Ends
- 24: NO SCHOOL—Teacher Professional Day
- 25—31: NO SCHOOL—Spring Break

### APRIL

- 1: NO SCHOOL—Last Day of Spring Break
- 15: Parents Helping Teachers Group, 9:30-11:30 am
- 21: PTA Spirit Night at Chick-fil-A, 6-8 p.m.
- 21-22: Kindergarten Orientation  
(no school for current kindergarten students)
- 26: NO SCHOOL—Primary Election
- 27: Administrative Professionals Day
- 27: 5th Grade Field Trip to DC
- 28: Take Your Child to Work Day
- 29: Parents Helping Teachers Group, 9:30-11:30 am



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### STAY CONNECTED

Are you receiving emails from the PTA? If not, email Laurie Murtaugh at [laurie.murtaugh@verizon.net](mailto:laurie.murtaugh@verizon.net) to be added to the list to stay up-to-date about upcoming events and activities.

Did you know your Damascus Elementary School PTA has a Facebook page? "Like" us on Facebook to stay up-to-date on PTA news and activities.



<https://www.facebook.com/damascusPTA>

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## VOLUNTEER NEWS

February was our biggest month for volunteers yet! We had 159 people give 707 hours of their time in so many ways from the Book Fair to Valentine Parties and so many others.

First, thank you to all of the people who helped with the **Book Fair**. Led by Kristin, we had at least 24 helpers put in more than 160 hours to make the set-up, sales, and clean-up possible. Thank you to Jaime, Jody, Laurie, Stephanie, Adam, Nancy, Melissa, Faziah, Gerry, Christine, Roberta, Marianne, Tara, and Mollada. Thank you also to our high school helpers: Emma, Brooke, Hope, Gage, Chloe, Mark and Kaitlyn who helped with sales after school and were amazing during set up and clean up. Led by Mollada, **Family Fun Night** was awesome! Thank you to Jennie, Suzie, Kristin, Kelly, Isabelle, Hope, Emma, and Brooke.

Second, thank you to everyone who helped make the **Science Fair** a huge success. Thank you to our chairs: Christi, Faziah, and Sarah, and our set-up helpers: Melissa, Stephanie, Christine, Hope, and Gage. Thank you also to all of our high school judges who listened and cheered for our young scientists.

Third, thank you to all of the room parents and their teams who made **Valentine's Day** an amazing celebration! Valentine parties are a lifetime memory for our students but these parties take hours of planning, coordinating, and shopping.

Also, thank you to Nancy, Jody, Teresa, Roberta, Christine, Veronique, and Gerry for their help during **Parents Helping Teachers**. It is an amazing resource for our teachers!

Finally, thank you to all our behind the scenes helpers that contribute so much in important ways that are not visible as school wide events. Thank you to our **Bus Driver Appreciation Week Team**, our **Chili Cook-off contributors**, the **fifth grade concession team**, our **Jump Rope for Heart supervisors**, and our **yearbook team**.

Thank you so much for all that you do to make our school an amazing place! It makes a huge difference!

*~Christine Derby, Chair  
derbyjc@bellatlantic.net*

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Breakfast Helpers

We still need one helper each school day for breakfast. We are taking a pause from lunch helpers now that students have become more self sufficient as the school year has progressed. Sign up online at:

**[bit.ly/DESmealhelpers](http://bit.ly/DESmealhelpers)**

### Parents Helping Teachers

This workgroup helps teachers prepare classroom materials by copying, cutting, and laminating. We meet Fridays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and we always welcome new helpers. The next meetings are March 18 and April 15. No preregistration is necessary; just show up at the main office.

If you have questions about any of these opportunities or would prefer to sign up directly with me, please contact Christine at [derbyjc@bellatlantic.net](mailto:derbyjc@bellatlantic.net)



## RUNNING PROGRAM COMING THIS SPRING!

The Damascus PTA is sponsoring "The Dashing Dragons," a kids running program. The program will be co-ed, open to all grades, and take place before school.

The start date will depend on weather, but hopefully we can begin the first week after spring break. Students will learn about healthy choices for the mind and body. Each session will include a small lesson, stretching, and running. We will be building up to complete a one mile run for grades K-2 and a 5K for grades 3-5.

Please consider having your child participate in this great program! More information will be sent

home as dates are set. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Chrystie Kurz at [Kurzhealthconcepts@gmail.com](mailto:Kurzhealthconcepts@gmail.com) or 443-375-8627.



Join us for  
**Chick-fil-A**  
for dinner!

Our next DES Spirit Night will be on  
**Thursday, April 21** from 6 to 8 p.m. at

**Chick-fil-A**  
19945 Century Blvd.  
Germantown, MD 20874

The Chick-fil-A cow will come  
visit the school too!

## PARENTS HELPING TEACHERS WORKGROUP

Thanks to Roberta Sherwood, Teresa Tenzier, Nancy Bailey, Gerry Choulas and Christine Derby for helping out at the Parents Helping Teachers Workgroup on Friday, February 19. Also thanks to Roberta Sherwood, Teresa Tenzier, Nancy Bailey, Gerry Choulas and Christine Derby for helping out again on Friday, March 4. We were able to complete many work requests for the teachers, and we thank you for sharing your time to help out the teachers and staff.

Upcoming workgroups are scheduled for the following Fridays from 9:30-11:30 a.m.:

**March 18**  
**April 15**

We meet at the front office and will train you on anything you need to know. If your schedule permits, please come and join us!

~ *Gerry McBrinn-Choulas*  
Co-chair



Send your box tops and labels into your child's classroom. At the end of each month the class in each grade that collects the most will receive a treat!

## PAINLESS FUNDRAISING

Many companies and stores offer money and credits for supplies and equipment to schools based on the purchases of customers. THAT'S RIGHT, you can help OUR SCHOOL support OUR KIDS just by doing your regular household shopping – at no additional cost to you!

Box Tops for Education

Labels for Education

Coke Rewards Points

Ink and Toner Cartridges

Amazon Smile

Giant

Safeway

Harris Teeter

Find more information on the PTA website at:

[www.damascuspta.com/fundraising/](http://www.damascuspta.com/fundraising/)

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## PARCC TESTING IN MAY

PARCC testing for grades 3, 4, and 5 is scheduled for the weeks of May 16 – 20 and May 23 – 27. Please try to avoid scheduling vacations and appointments during these two weeks. This will minimize the amount of additional instruction time missed due to make-up testing. We appreciate your cooperation.

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Have an item for the next newsletter? Send it to [diane@loomisdesign.com](mailto:diane@loomisdesign.com) by April 10.

# TOTALLY AWESOME LAB'S PARTY!

**Friday March 18<sup>th</sup>  
6:00-8:30pm**

- Dance will be held in the All Purpose room. Free Admission!
- Silent Auction will be held in the hallway. All proceeds directly benefit the school.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade will be selling pizza and drinks at the event.
- PTA will be selling candy and snacks.
- Prizes will be awarded to the best dressed in each grade!!!
- Come dressed to impress in 80's attire!



Sponsored by the PTA  
Contact [tara.owens@gmail.com](mailto:tara.owens@gmail.com) with questions



Brought to you by: Damascus Elementary School

**Registration Deadline:**

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

**Details:**

Monday, 8:10 AM-9:10 AM

4/4/16-5/23/16

No Class: None

-No Class:

**Cost:** \$112/ 8 wk



**MAD SCIENCE®  
ENRICHMENT PROGRAM  
COURSE REGISTRATION FORM**

**Calling all agents, calling all agents! During this exciting 8 week program the Jr Detectives will explore:**

Crime Lab

Got clues? Analyze clues and get hot on the trail of a culprit with the Crime Lab program.

Sleuths on the Scene

Suspects, schematics, and sleuths... oh my! Connect the dots using science to help solve a crime.

Funky Forensics

Figure out the science of forensics in this hands-on look at crime scenes, evidence collection and puzzle making.

Whodunit?

Want to know who did it? Test your skills and learn how the pros do it through careful observation!

Spy Academy

Look out 007! The Mad Science Spy Academy is in session!

Students will make their own Secret Code Breaker.

Agent Undercover

Calling all agents, calling all agents! Learn what it takes to be successful in the spy world.

Discover Detection

Step into the shoes of a detective—collect, and analyze evidence.

Whodunit? Find out using your Mad Science Fingerprint Finder.

Jr. Detectives

Are detectives really scientists in disguise? Our young scientists will have all they need to get started on their detective adventure.

**Mad Science Policies:**

- Classes may be cancelled due to low enrollment. If class is canceled due to exigent circumstances (e.g. inclement weather), we will try to reschedule, but cannot guarantee a make-up class.
- A full refund (less a \$10 processing fee) will be given if requested in writing and received by Mad Science within 5 business days after the first class. Email [info@madscienceofdc.com](mailto:info@madscienceofdc.com)
- MS is not responsible for your child prior to and after the scheduled class. Please make sure you pick up your child on time. We do allow a 10-minute grace period, and will charge you \$1/minute thereafter based on the school clock. This should be paid directly to the instructor.
- Please send a note with your child on the first day of Mad Science to remind their classroom teacher to send them to Mad Science. Mad Science does not pick children up from the individual classrooms.

*Sparking  
Imaginative Learning*

Register online at [dc.madscience.org](http://dc.madscience.org)

**Registration is done on a first-come, first-served basis, so please register early to secure your spot!**

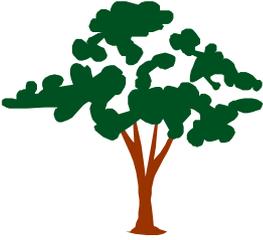
**Questions? Problems registering?**

**Contact:**

**Sarah Grimshaw at [sarahdgrimshaw@gmail.com](mailto:sarahdgrimshaw@gmail.com)**

**or**

**Mad Science [info@madscienceofdc.com](mailto:info@madscienceofdc.com) 301-593-4777**



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Edging & Mulching  
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Tree Removal & Stump Grinding  
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