



## **Welcome Information Packet**

### **From the Marrs Elementary PTO**

Welcome to the start of another great school year at Marrs Elementary. We are a four-star STEM academy. The Marrs PTO is looking forward to providing enriching and enjoyable programs and activities for the students, families, and staff at Marrs.

We organize and put on the Fall Burgoo and the Spring Walk-A-Thon, and host a variety of other events throughout the year. To make all of this happen, we need your assistance and support for volunteering.

In the past and the future, Marrs has had a lot of involvement from parents, guardians, and families. The PTO offers many options to help your children's school. The best part is, none of them include selling things to your friends, families, and co-workers. We also don't ask you to go door to door to sell items. The Marrs PTO hopes you will consider actively participating in your school's success which reflects directly into our students' success. Here are some of the many things the PTO does at Marrs and how you can help us have a great school year.

Thank you in advance,

Kendra Bisesi Moore, PTO President

# WELCOME TO MARRS ELEMENTARY

## PTO

Marrs has a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) that meets once a month at different restaurants in town. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend and participate in the meetings. We have 4 officer positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and many volunteer opportunities to provide you with ways to get involved. A monthly PTO newsletter will come home at the beginning of each month which will include all the upcoming school activities, along with any additional information that you may find of interest. You can also find the latest information on our Marrs webpage and Marrs Facebook page Marrs PTO Facebook page. All you have to do is "like" us on Facebook and keep up to date on everything happening at Marrs!

## YEAR-ROUND FUNDRAISING WITH PRODUCT REWARDS

Marrs participates in year-round product rewards fundraising: Box Top App for Education, Schnuck's Escript cards, Buffalo Wild Wings, and Amazon Smile.

The Schnuck's Escript card is also a very easy way to earn money for our school. Pick up a card at any Schnuck's grocery store or in the school office. Register the card online or by calling the number listed on the card. Make sure to designate Marrs Elementary School in Mt. Vernon, Indiana to receive your contributions. Every time you shop at Schnuck's, simply give the cashier your card to scan. Marrs receives a percentage back from the purchases we make there.

At Buffalo Wild Wings, all you have to do is mention that your student attends Marrs Elementary School in Mount Vernon, IN and they will give a percentage to the PTO for the students.

By purchasing items on Amazon, if you go to Amazon Smile ([smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)) and set up an email and password, then when you purchase from them the Marrs PTO will receive 0.05% of the price of your purchases to go to the organization.

## STUDENT ASSEMBLY/RECOGNITION

At the end of each grading period, the student body gathers at 8:30 AM in the gym to be recognized for their achievements for the grading period. High Honors and Honors ribbons that have been earned are given to the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>-grade students. Perfect attendance certifications and AR achievements are recognized for all grades. In May, the 5<sup>th</sup>-grade students have special recognition in the afternoon with a reception immediately following. All parents, guardians, and family members are welcome to attend any of the student recognition assemblies throughout the year.

## **SPIRIT DAYS**

Spirit Days are a fun way to show school pride and foster a sense of community at Marris. Students and faculty are encouraged to wear a Marris shirt or school colors (green and yellow) on these designated days. Special events at Marris, such as Burgoo week and Walk-A-Thon, may be preceded by a Spirit Week where the Student Council chooses a different theme for each day. Examples of past themes are: Sports Day, Crazy Hair Day, and Inside Out Day.

## **BOOK FAIR**

The Book Fair is offered twice each school year, once in the Fall and again in the Spring. Students and parents have the opportunity to shop and purchase books of all reading levels and interests. The Book Fair in the Spring offers a buy-one-get-one half-price sale. This is a great opportunity to volunteer at Marris. The Book Fair usually needs two people to work each shift. There is a morning and an afternoon shift for two to three hours each. If interested in volunteering, watch for the volunteer forms online thru Sign Up Genius.

## **AR**

Marris participates in the Accelerated Reader (AR) Program. It is a wonderful motivational tool to help keep children interested in reading. Your child's teacher will determine an individual goal and reading level for each student. The books in the school library are color coded with circle "dot" stickers on the spine to coordinate with different reading levels. After reading each book, the students log onto a school computer and take a comprehension quiz. More information regarding this program can be found at: [www.renlearn.com](http://www.renlearn.com).

## **HONOR ROLL LUNCH**

A special lunch is held twice a year for honor roll students at Marris. All third, fourth, and fifth graders who make high honors or honors for the first two grading periods are invited by a special invitation to attend the Honor Roll Lunch in January. Similarly, all third, fourth, and fifth-grade students who do the same for the final two grading periods are invited to attend the Honor Roll Lunch in May. For this lunch, parent volunteers serve pizza, drinks, and ice cream dessert in the gym. The Marris PTO provides the food and supplies for both lunches and the students are not charged for the lunch. The students enjoy socializing and eating with their friends. Parents are welcome to attend the lunch to help and/or take pictures of their children.

## FREE POPCORN DAY

Popcorn Day is held on the first Friday of every month during the school year. On this day, parent volunteers pop and bag popcorn for all the students in each classroom. The MARRS PTO provides the popcorn and supplies. The students are not charged for the popcorn. The students (and staff) look forward to this special day every month!

## BIRTHDAYS

If you would like to send in a special birthday treat for your child to share, please contact your child's teacher. Be sure to ask if there are any food allergies in the classroom.

## BOOK FAIR

### Shop with the Principal

This is a monthly citizenship reward program celebrated each month. Classroom teachers select one student from their room who has exhibited excellent citizenship or shown great improvement in their classroom work. These students are honored and recognized by receiving a classroom visit from the Principal and her shopping cart filled with treats and prizes. Students are also recognized on our school's Facebook page.

## HONOR ROLL LUNCH

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## **FALL SEMESTER**

### **BURGOO**

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and is a long-standing community event. Burgoo is held on the first Saturday in October. (Unless there is a conflict with the Westside Nut Club Fall Festival, then it is rescheduled for later in the month.) It takes the help of everyone to make this event successful. All parents are asked to volunteer for at least one shift. In addition, we ask that each family help with dessert. Donations from area businesses and individual supporters are collected for a raffle. Each classroom will also collect items for themed baskets to be raffled. There are games and inflatables for the kids to play on. Join us for delicious food and fellowship at this truly unique Marrs tradition.

### **FALL PARTY**

Fall-themed parties are held at the end of October. Parent volunteers coordinate with the teachers to plan games, crafts, and treats. There is an opportunity to sign up to help with the party on the sign-up genius.

### **CHRISTMAS SHOPPE**

The PTO sponsors a Christmas Shoppe for all the students in December. The Shoppe gives an opportunity for the students to purchase up to 5 gifts for friends or family members. All gifts are \$1.00 each and are gift wrapped ready to go under the tree! In the spirit of giving, we encourage the students to purchase for family members, pets, or friends. There is an opportunity for parents to volunteer to help with this event on the sign-up genius.

### **REINDEER GAMES**

In 2012, the school started Reindeer games on the last day of school before winter break began. This is a fun-filled day afternoon of relay races with a holiday theme. All of our students participate and their energy level is very high.

We finish this special day with a visit from Santa who is on the roof of the building and waves to the students as they leave the school for winter break.

## **SPRING SEMESTER**

### **VALENTINE PARTY**

Classroom parties are held on Valentine's Day each year. Parent volunteers coordinate the party with the teachers to plan games, crafts, and treats. There is an opportunity for parents to sign up to help with the party on the sign-up genius.

### **WALK-A-THON**

Our Spring fundraiser, the Walk-A-Thon, is generally held in April. Students raise money by collecting pledges for how many laps they plan to walk. Parents and guardians are also encouraged to participate and walk with their kids. Volunteers are always needed to help with drinks, snacks, and lap rewards. It is a very high-energy, fun time for everyone involved. Every dollar raised directly benefits Marrs Elementary.

### **FIELD DAY**

Field Day is held during the last week of school. It is a highly anticipated morning of outdoor fun. Organized games like tug-of-war and kickball. A special ice cream treat is also usually included. This is a great opportunity for parents to volunteer and celebrate a year of academic accomplishments with their students.

### **GRANDPARENTS' DAY**

In March, a special day is planned for students to invite their grandparents to school. Specific times and details are released prior to the event. This is a great opportunity for grandparents to see the school, meet their grandchild's teacher, and visit their classroom.