

## What's up at PTO?

### November Parent and Staff Panel

Special thanks to the parents and staff who participated in a Q&A session at the November PTO meeting. We had a lively discussion on what to consider in deciding when to transition children from MSA to another school; how MSA alums fare when faced with grades, timed tests, and homework; and what to expect from Virginia's standards of learning. The panel was so successful that we are planning another for January – details coming soon.

### Dessert Social and Auction Planning

Our next PTO meeting, on **Thursday, December 10th, at 6:30 p.m.**, will be primarily dedicated to planning the spring 2010 MSA Auction. Please join us to share a holiday dessert, talk about classroom celebrations, and learn more about PTO's largest annual fundraiser.

### Protecting Your Family – What You Need to Know

The PTO meeting on **January 14, 2010, at 6:30 p.m.** will feature a special presentation by the Fairfax County Fire Department on what parents need to know about the latest guidelines for fire safety and emergency preparedness.

MSA PTO provides babysitting and pizza for each meeting – just sign up in the lobby, and join us to learn more about upcoming events!



### 'Tis the season...

Show your appreciation for the MSA staff's hard work by supporting the annual gift fund – you can place checks (or cash in a labeled envelope) in the labeled box in the MSA lobby.

The MSA community is providing holiday gifts for several families in need through Alexandria's ALIVE ecumenical program. You can find more information and a sign-up sheet with details in the MSA lobby.

## PTO Newsletter

December 2009



The MSA community made the Holiday Party on December 5 a memorable one. Students and their families enjoyed a lively performance by musician Eric Maring, shared treats, and worked diligently on crafts in their decorated classrooms. Santa arrived in time to hear holiday wishes as snow drifted gently down. Thanks so much to everyone who helped make the celebration so much fun, especially party coordinators Martina Simpkins and Ria Shah).



### Become a celebration volunteer!

You can help make your child's class holiday celebrations a success even if free



time is a distant memory. Mrs. Qureshi could still use help with Chinese New Year and Persian New Year. Please contact Kim Lewis at [kml2310@yahoo.com](mailto:kml2310@yahoo.com) to help.