

The **BEE** **MAIL**

**NAOMI L. BROOKS
ELEMENTARY PTA®**

December 14, 2021

'Tis the Season to Make a Difference!

*Help us
make a
difference!*



Donate and Make A Difference!

Dear Brooks Families,

It's hard to believe that the holidays are upon us and we are well into the second quarter of the school year already! I hope that you and your families are staying cozy in your hives and gearing up for some fun and festivities balanced with much-needed rest and relaxation over the next few weeks.

This seems like an opportune time to reflect on some of our accomplishments since the start of the school year with you and share a preview of coming attractions.

We kicked off the year with an ice cream truck offering treats for the kids after the virtual open house in late August. We hosted a welcome back breakfast and lunch for all staff the week prior to school. We held a successful movie night in early November, showing the Charlie Brown Thanksgiving special and providing hot drinks and popcorn to the kids. We funded a virtual Math Magical show (held during school hours) for the kids. We worked with the school and Lifetouch to enable students to have school photos again this year. We contributed to the school's Extended Learning fund to provide tutoring for additional students and provided some discretionary funds for Ms. Lusk to help Brooks families in need. We made playground improvements as well, replacing the hooks for students to hang backpacks and purchasing new soccer goals. We bought books for all students to celebrate literacy day. Most recently, we helped organize the Kindergarten and 1st grade holiday sing-a-long held in Del Ray just last weekend, supported a book drive for InspireLit, and coordinated an Art to Remember fundraiser allowing families to purchase keepsakes of their children's artwork. And these are just the highlights.

So far this school year, we have brought in more than \$11,000 in income through dine-outs, the Hooray for Books book fair, membership dues, community partner donations, and other smaller fundraisers, but we have spent much more, drawing from funds we had in our bank account, and we have a lot more planned for 2022 (see below). This is all the more reason we could really use some extra support at the end of the year through our year-end campaign. You can [donate here](#).

What's in store for next year? We are working on some more fun events for students and families, the highlight of which is a reimagined spring fundraiser: a fun-filled family festival complete with booths, activities, music, performances, a silent auction, food, drinks, and more. We will also support the annual spelling bee, health and wellness activities, and any approved mini-grants. As usual, we will also provide yearbooks to all students.

As always, I am all ears if anyone has any questions, comments or concerns about the Brooks PTA. I'm proud of all we have accomplished so far despite continued Covid concerns, and am looking forward to more great things in 2022!

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season!

Sincerely,
Kara Macek
Brooks PTA President, 2021-2022

Donate and Make A Difference!

WINTER VACATION VIRTUAL KICKOFF PARTY FRI. DEC. 17 @ 6PM



DJ Marty Z will be spinning holiday tunes and hosting live virtual trivia for Brooks families and friends via Zoom on Friday, December 17 at 6pm in support of the Brooks PTA "Make a Difference" Holiday campaign! Login via Zoom from wherever your staycation or vacation travels take you: [Winter Vacation Virtual Kickoff Zoom Link](#)

* = Bring Your Own Egg Nog

Art to Remember Update



Thanks to everyone that participated in Art to Remember - helping contribute over \$1,400 to the Brooks PTA. For those that placed an "Art To Remember" order, they will go home with students by this Thursday!

**Brooks Dine-Out December 16:
Joe Theismann's**

BROOKS DINE-OUT



1800 Diagonal Rd, Alexandria, VA 22314
703.739.0777
theismanns.com



15% OF SALES ON

DECEMBER 16

WILL SUPPORT THE BROOKS PTA



FOR DINE-IN, TAKEOUT, OR GIFT CARDS*

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*For online Gift Card orders send a copy of the confirmation to
brooksptagiftcards@gmail.com



Join the Brooks Festival Planning Team!

Our Biggest Fundraiser Re-Imagined - a family-friendly community-wide festival!

We will be planning a fun-filled family festival for next spring complete with booths, activities, music, performances, a silent auction, food, drinks, and more, and need your help.

We are looking for folks that can help us pivot from a gala format from previous years to this updated event.

Things we need help with:

- A catchy name for our festival
- Booth coordination
- Food and Drink Ideas
- Music
- Thinking up and securing silent auction items
- Organizing an optional adults-only event at night
- And more!

Please reach out to our fabulous co-chairs Carly Kayser (kayserfamily14@gmail.com) or Bridget Shea Westfall (bridget.shea.westfall@gmail.com) you are interested in helping!



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Brooks Spirit Wear, now with the official Naomi L. Brooks Elementary logo is [on sale at SquadLocker](#).

10% Of Your Purchase Supports the PTA!

Upcoming Dates

- **December 16: Brooks Dine-Out at Joe Theismann's**
- **December 20-31: NO SCHOOL**

Frequently Requested Links

STAY CONNECTED

- Make sure you've subscribed to Ms. Hess' weekly emails and ACPS updates.
- Get PTA updates: Just text the message “@nlbrooks” to the number 81010 to sign up for this service provided by the PTA. Email brooks-bees+subscribe@googlegroups.com to receive emails. Like our Facebook page and follow Brooks PTA on Twitter.
- Miss an email? Looking for PTA meeting minutes? Catch up on our website at brooksppta.org
- Need internet access? Submit an Internet Access request.
- Need to add school closings to your calendar? Import the Brooks PTA calendar!

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Thank you for supporting the Brooks PTA!