



25th Annual Mariemont Dinner and Auction: FAQ's

An FAQ for the Mariemont Dinner and Auction newbie AND veteran

NEW TO MARIEMONT? START HERE ...

Q: Silly question: What IS the Annual Mariemont Dinner and Auction? And, why does Mariemont host the event?

A: Now in its 25th year, the Mariemont Dinner and Auction, is our annual fundraising event. Mariemont has a long history of coming together as a community to support our incredible neighborhood school. The funds raised on this evening help the PTA support events and programs throughout the school year. In past years, the PTA has used the dinner/auction money to purchase updated technology, improve landscaping, buy quality playground equipment with shade structures, and complete an entire makeover of our library. Also, it's our big (kids-free!) social event of the year!

Q: Why should I attend?

A: This is the most significant fundraiser of the year and always a good time. Enjoy some delicious food, great company, and fun dancing all while supporting our school! Fun. Food. Good company. It's a no-brainer! The LIVE Auction is one you do not want to miss. Be prepared for (fun, intense) bidding wars. Also, attendees will have first access to the Sign-Up Parties and Teacher Features with limited spots. Plan to bid high and bid often, and get ready for a memorable night!

Q: How do I buy tickets?

A: Online! Saving paper. Saving trees. Saving time. Everyone wins. Be on the lookout for information during February. We will be sending home a flyer with detailed information on tickets and registration. The event can — and likely will — sell out! It's always best to buy your tickets well in advance of the deadline.

Q: Is there assigned seating at the dinner/auction? What if I want to sit with another family? What if I don't know anyone?

A: All seating is pre-assigned by tables. When registering online, be sure to indicate who you would like to sit with. Include ... Last Name(s), Grade Level, Teacher Name, or "No Preference." Tables of ten are encouraged but not required. We will do our best to accommodate your requests, but can't guarantee! Sorry.

Q: AHHHHH!!!! What do I wear?

A: Each year brings a new and fun theme to our Annual Auction & Dinner. This year's theme is Sapphire and Silver. Evening Cocktail attire is always a great place to start. Ideas to be posted on our Mariemont Facebook page and communicated via our weekly email newsletter (The Newsflash) in the weeks leading up to the event.

Q: Can I bring my kids?

A: No. Sorry! This is a fun adult-only event where everyone gets to cut loose and have a good time with their friends ... and without kiddos. Get those babysitters lined up now!

Q: Are there gluten-free/Paleo/Atkins/South Beach (insert food allergy/diet here) options?

A: We may not be able to accommodate the latest diet trend, but you will have the opportunity to select your entree! When you register online and purchase a ticket, you will be asked to choose a main entree. All the food is professionally prepared and served by Jackson Catering, an award-winning highly sought after caterer. And, Chris and Piper Jackson's sweet kids attend Mariemont as well. We are very fortunate to have them in our community.

Q: Is transportation provided?

A: No, unfortunately not. We strongly encourage parents to carpool, Uber, Lyft, Taxi, etc. In the past, we had a shuttle service sponsored by a local business. If we happen to get another shuttle service for this year, we will let everyone know about it!

Q: When, where and what time should we show up?

A: Venue: [The Center at 2300](#). The event officially starts at 5:00 PM and ends at 11:00 PM on Saturday, March 16, 2019. We recommend arriving as close to 5:00 PM as possible. After all, you don't want to miss out on the fast-to-sell-out Sign Up Parties. You can be fashionably late, but then you'll have less time to scope out the desserts on display for the Dessert Dash. Also, late arrivals may get fewer shots at the Mystery Wine Grab (formerly known as the "Wine Wheel") or less time to see the incredible Gift Card Wall. Oh, and if you show up too late, you could miss out on taking a fun group pic at the Selfie Station. Did we mention the incredible Classroom Projects? You don't want to miss those! Finally, the sooner you arrive, the more you can keep an eye on your online bids for the Silent Auction items, enjoy cocktails and passed appetizers, and finally get settled before dinner starts around 7:00 PM. Phew!

Q: Do I need to bring cash?

A: While you don't have to bring cash, we highly recommend having some on hand (or in your pocket or purse). There will be three bars at The Center. Yes, 3! Two of the bars will be fully-stocked; while the other bar will be beer and wine only. The bars will accept credit cards and cash. Keep in mind, as a PTA, Mariemont does not profit from the sale of alcohol. Your credit card bill will be separate from your auction bill. Some of the activities (Dessert Dash, Mystery Wine Grab (formerly known as the "Wine Wheel"), Gift Card Wall, etc.) can be purchased with cash or your bid number. If you pay with your big number all purchases will be totaled and added to your bill at the end of the night.

Q: How do I bid?

A: Bidding for silent auction packages, some (but not all) Classroom Projects, some (but not all) Teacher Features, some (but not all) Sign-Up Parties will be available online via your mobile devices. Bidding throughout the evening will be with your bidder number, via old-fashioned bid sheets and bidder paddles during the LIVE Auction.

Q: Will there be dancing?

A: Of course. What's a dinner/auction (party!) without dancing? After all of the desserts have been auctioned off ... after we have watched a tear-jerking video of our kids ... and after the LIVE auction is over ... dancing will COMMENCE.

SOME DEFINITIONS

Gift Card Wall? Huh? What's that?

A: Guests pay \$20 cash or with their bid number to select a "blind" gift card box. The gift cards will range from \$10-50. The actual gift cards are in boxes attached to a fun, clever display. Gift cards are usually from local restaurants or businesses. A complete list of all the available cards is in the printed program.

I've heard about this amazing Photo Wall. Tell me more.

Who doesn't love a fabulous picture of their kid(s)! Mariemont is fortunate to have a professional photograph and Mariemont Mom, Valeri Andersen. Valeri volunteers her time to take incredible individual pictures of Mariemont kids with parents attending the auction. Last year, each 5x7 photo was on display in the lobby creating a unique "Photo Wall!"

What's a Teacher Feature?

This one is for your kids! Each grade level either hosts a party or organizes a special field trip for the top bidders.

2018 Teacher Features:

- Kindergarten: Top 3 bidders from each class joined their teacher for an Effie Yeaw Nature Walk.
- 1st Grade: Top 3 bidders from each class had a Tie-Dye and Treats Party
- 2nd Grade: All 2nd graders had a PJs, Pizza, and Pixar Party
- 3rd Grade: All 3rd graders had an afternoon Movie and Snacks with their teachers
- 4th Grade: Top 3 bidders from each class joined their teacher for bowling
- 5th Grade: Top 3 bidders from each class joined their teacher for a movie and popcorn at the movie theater.

2018 Teacher Features: TBD

Mystery Wine Grab (formerly known as the “Wine Wheel”)

A fun game full of WINE! Pay with cash or bidder number to have a chance at ... well ... wine. *Details to follow.* You may take your winning bottles home or have The Center’s Bartenders open the bottle(s) for a fee. Mariemont families donate all wine which varies in value, region, varietal, etc.

Dessert Dash

A Mariemont Auction tradition! It brings out laughs and fierce competition for the best desserts. Cakes, cupcakes, cookies, and tarts are just a small sample of what’s available for "the Dash!" All tables will have a "Dessert Dash form" and an envelope. Guests complete the form with cash and/or bid numbers. All envelopes are collected and quickly counted. The highest bidding table gets to pick the dessert first ... so bid high! Midway through the LIVE Auction, the winning table will be announced in order from highest to lowest bid and the dash in on! As soon as the Auctioneer calls your table number, your pre-determined “runner” will race to select the dessert of your choice. Bids start at \$50.00 per table.

Sign Up Parties

Sign Up Parties are fun events throughout the year hosted by Mariemont Families exclusively “sold” at the Auction. Parties can be "adults only" or "kids only" or the entire family. They can also be for fathers & daughters or mothers & sons. The party possibilities are endless. Sign Up Parties are a fantastic way to get to know other Mariemont parents and provide a wonderful fundraiser for the school.

Past Sign-Up Parties include:

- Father-Daughter Dance
- Holiday Wrapping Party (all supplies and Mimosas provided)
- Ping Pong Party
- 5th Grade Graduation Party
- OktoberBEST
- Barn Bash
- Holiday Light Bike Tour
- and many more Couples, Dads Only, Moms Only, Kids only and Family Themed events and activities

See below for more details on how to register for and/or host a Sign Up Party.

What is “Stand Up For Mariemont” and where does all of the money raised go?

A: Stand Up For Mariemont is an exciting part of the LIVE Auction presentation ... an opportunity to provide a direct donation for a predetermined need at the school. Each year, the teachers and staff brainstorm ideas for where to spend the generous direct donations. The need changes

each year. We have supported everything from playground equipment to cutting-edge technology for the new 5th-grade wing.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Q: How much money has the auction raised in past years? How much do we expect (hope?) to bring in this year?

A: Thanks to the incredible generosity of Mariemont families and supporters, every year seems to surpass the previous with the amount raised. Last year, gross proceeds were just over \$134,000 with expenses coming in close to \$24,000 ... leaving us with around \$110,000 of net income. This money covered about half of Mariemont PTA's annual operating budget.

Q: How do I host a Sign Up Party?

A: If you have a great party idea, contact Molly Messner (yes, the same Mrs. Messner from 2nd grade). Molly is coordinating all the Sign-Up Parties: molly.messner@yahoo.com.

Q: How do I attend a Sign Up Party?

A: As an attendee of the Auction, you will have the opportunity to register (write in your name and bid number) for the parties that interest you. Most Sign Up Parties have a limited number of guests allowed. While most of the auction will be online, Sign Up Parties will be on paper bid sheets at the Auction.*

**Note: Parties with unlimited guests (Father-Daughter Dance, 5th Grade Promotion Party, etc.) will be available online via mobile bidding.*

Q: I have extra gift cards that I don't use, can I donate those?

A: Yes, please! Gift cards are always needed and appreciated. Sometimes the cards are added to a theme basket while other gift cards can be added to the Gift Card Wall.

Q: I own a business. How can I be a sponsor or advertise at the Auction?

A: Excellent! There are over 600 students at Mariemont. With so many neighborhood families, Mariemont is at the heart of the Arden Park community. For Ad and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Rosemary Reynolds, rosemary@madsenroof.com.

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS OR JUST WANT TO SAY HELLO?

Please email us at mariemontpta@gmail.com