



26th 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 26th 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 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. 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 eight 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 **Mad for Mariemont**, playing on the hit show Madmen. Ideas of what to wear will be shared in our weekly FLASH email as well as on the Mariemont Facebook page 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 options?

A: You will have the opportunity to select food that meets your dietary needs.

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 5:30 PM and ends at 11:00 PM on Saturday, March 21, 2020. We recommend arriving as close to 5:30 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"). 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 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") can be purchased with cash or your bid number. If you pay with your bid 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

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.

PAST Teacher Features have included:

- 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.

2020 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 total table amount donated and the dash is on! As soon as the Auctioneer calls your table number, your pre-determined "runner" will race to select the dessert of your choice.

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 other 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. We usually net around \$100,000 at each auction. This money covers 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, [please contact Shannon Wilson](#) and she'll help you work through the details.

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. The cards will be added to our auction baskets.

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, Sarah Mullins, sarahmullins916@gmail.com

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

Please email us at mariemontpta@gmail.com