**Maury PTA Meeting Notes for September 2012- May 2013**

**5/16/13**

Here is my summary of our 5/16/13 PTA meeting.

I would also just like to let everyone know that I have withdrawn as PTA Secretary for the coming term and so that position on the Executive Board remains open. If you are interested in it please contact Michelle Evans (mbpevans@yahoo.com).

Agenda

1.      PTA Elections: Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer 2 (Michelle Evans)

2.      CAG Updates:

o    Staffing

o    New Playground

o    Upcoming May/June Calendar Items

3.      Announcements:

o    PTA SY13-14 Budget (Amy Weedon)

o    Early Childhood (Paul Bevans)

  Mr Scott's Survey

 Summary

1.      **PTA Elections**: Elected, effective immediately for a 2 year term:

         Vice President: Emily Paterson

         Secretary: Antonia Herzog. Note: Antonia has since withdrawn so this position remains open.

         Treasurer II: Chantese Alston

2.      **CAG Updates**:

         *Staffing* –Teacher preference taken into account in below changes.

 Ms Hanni and Ms Kelly will be leaving Maury next year. Both teachers have been at Maury 4 years.

 Ms VanNessa Duckett will be coming back to Maury. She taught at Maury for 12 years but spent the past three years mentoring new teachers in DCPS and managing the PWP grant at Tyler ES. She'll be teaching 4th grade.

 Ms Cooper will move to 1st grade.

  Mr Havner will be moving to 2nd grade.

 Ms George will be moving to 4th grade.

 A veteran teacher, Ms Kim Vaugeois, will be joining us to teach 5th grade. She has taught in DCPS and Charter Schools for over 20 years but most recently at Brent ES. (Brent principal is cool with this move)

 All DCPS instructional aides will be returning to Maury in the fall. They will be assigned to classes once enrollment has been finalized.

 Our teacher assignments will be:  
PRES – Scott Harding and Janine Levin  
Mixed Age – Deborah Timmons  
PREK – Nadine Mitchell and Kim Wright-Spurlock  
Kindergarten – Shirley Battle and Mamie Vick  
Grade 1 – Henri Cooper and Asonja Dorsey  
Grade 2 – Norah Mallaney and Nathan Havner  
Grade 3 – Amber Scott – TBD (interviewing)  
Grade 4 – Jennifer George and VanNessa Duckett (not departmentalized, same teacher in the class all day no flip flopping as is currently done between 4/5 grades)  
Grade 5 – Kim Vaugeois (this classroom will be in the music room space next year)  
  
Special Education – Lauren Conley and Joe Ludes  
Music – Nathaniel Rogers  
Art – Lauren Bomba  
Library/Tech – Kate Sweeney  
PE/Health – Caroline Hunt  
Think Tank – Vanessa Ford

 No Spanish candidate yet. As this will only be a half time position looking into splitting it with either Payne of Eliot-Hine.

 Part time Assistant Principal (AP). Ms May fell through. Getting a half time AP is tough. CAG will try. She has also been accepted as a mentor principal so could tap into the Mary Jane Patterson principal mentor program.  But this is only for 18 weeks so CAG has requested two of them to cover a full school year. They have a learning curve though and part of the program criteria is they have to be in a school completely different than what they are used to. So, we would need to be patient with them. CAG has chosen her top candidates and is just waiting to hear if any are interested. If AP not going to happen then that 0.5 position would be reallocated to get someone to help Ms Coleman in the front office.

 DCPS – A budget change which if it goes through will give us another half teacher position. CAG will take this to the LSAT for recommendations and if you have thoughts you should share them with her. Some examples are a literacy instructor, go to the mental health team as both those positions were cut in half, or create full time spanish teacher from a half one.

* + *New Playground –*The current plans are posted across from Mr Scott’s room. Construction will start when school ends, though possibly a bit before.
  + *Last day of school* - Friday, June 21st , dismissal at 12:15pm. No teacher conference day on June 3, that has been canceled.
  + *Career Day* - Need more volunteers for Career Day, May 31st. Only have 10 so far. Contact Ms Makonnen or Ms Sweeney if interested.
  + *Literacy Lab Parent Workshop Materials* - Antonia will upload Literacy Lab Parent Workshop materials to the Maury Yahoo website.  Also will have copies in the main office. If you have any questions or want to get a specific handout you can also contact Mr. Kevin Gamba directly (kgamba@theliteracylab.org).

1. **PTA Budget**: Amy Weedon was not present so this was not discussed. Pasted below are the notes from the April PTA meeting budget discussion.
   * Unexpected windfall of $4k this year just came in from the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capitol Area. We need to market this fundraising opportunity better to Maury parents who are government employees.
   * Preliminary budget outline for next school year was presented. Beginning balance is estimated at $47k. This is coming mostly from the carryover of this year's MaTM fundraising effort.
   * PTA funds support staff and so we cannot run out of money and must be very conservative and cautious with our budget to ensure we always have enough funds to pay the staff we commit to supporting throughout the year.
   * There are a multitude of PTA expenses that we need to cover over the course of the year from academic materials to special school events to teacher professional development but by far the biggest single expense in our budget are the PTA aids.
   * We will have 8 classes without DCPS aids next year from 1-5th grade.  If we were to hire 8 aids, 5 day/week at 5hrs/day for 8 classes, that would cost $103k for the full school year. We simply do not have that budget.
   * If you cut back the aid time and instead did 8 aids, 3 days/week for 3 hours/day for 8 classes, it would be $42k, which is about what we have spent on aids in the past.  But hiring 8 people for such a limited work load becomes very logistically cumbersome.
   * Thus, the solution the Executive Board is proposing is to instead hire four aids 5 day/week for 5 hr/day. 3 aids would cover grades 1,2,4 and float between the 2 class per grade covering where the need was greatest at the determination of the teachers and principal. 5th grade will only be 1 class so their PTA aid can actually split their time and cover other school needs like recess coordinator or extra literacy support. That decision would depend on who was hired and what next year's SOS fundraiser is used for. Finally, the 1 extra DCPS aid we have could cover 3rd grade since it is the biggest class at 57 students.  This brings us to 4 PTA aids total that we would then need to hire at a cost of $51.5k for the year, which we should be able to just swing.
   * Any questions or comments and if interested in seeing the draft budget proposal that was presented at the meeting contact Amy weedon at amyweedon@verizon.net. (Note there is a discrepancy between  expenses and income that we expect to be reconciled shortly).
   * To vote on PTA issues like the budget you must be a PTA member. You can still become one if you aren't already, forms are in the main lobby, or contact Antonia Herzog (avherzog@gmail.com) for one. We have never raised our PTA dues, $15/person, and if someone cannot cover it it is waived. There should never be a money barrier to joining the Maury PTA.

4.      **Mr Scott Early Childhood Survey** (PS/PK parents only). Fill it out online, or copies in the main office to give them back to Ms Coleman.

Over the past 3 years, our family engagement strategies for preschool and pre-kindergarten have changed dramatically. As we continue to refine our work, we need your help. Let us know how we are doing, what's working, and what you would like to see strengthened by completing a short online survey. Our survey will be open to all Maury preschool and pre-kindergarten families until Friday, May 31st. You can find our survey by visiting**http://tinyurl.com/mauryfeedback.**For more information, please email [maurypreschool@gmail.com](mailto:maurypreschool@gmail.com).

**4/18/13**

There was not a big crowd at this month's PTA meeting, so please read the notes below if you did not attend so you know what was discussed, especially as we discussed next year's PTA budget.

PTA Meeting Agenda, 4/18/13

* 1. CAG Updates:
     + DC CAS
     + Other
  2. Call for Elections:
     + PTA: Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer II (Michelle Evans)
     + LSAT: 4 Parent Members (Antonia Herzog)
  3. Announcements:
     + Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week (Heather Bonome)
     + Ambassador Program (Amy Weedon)
     + National Bike to School Day (George Blackmon)
     + Literacy Lab Parent Workshop #4 (Antonia Herzog)
     + Labyrinth Game Wish Lists for Teachers (Antonia Herzog)
     + Early Childhood update (Paul Bevans)
  4. Discussion of PTA Preliminary Budget for SY13-14 (Amy Weedon)

Meeting Summary

1. **CAG Updates**:
   1. *Language Survey*- 194 families responded to the survey. The clear favorite was Spanish followed by French, Chinese and ASL. So CAG will begin her search for a half time Spanish teacher for next year. Any questions or comments contact CAG. Results will be posted via email and a flyer.
   2. *DC CAS testing -* starts next week on Tuesday 4/23.
      * It is all math and reading next week, they alternate the 2 subjects. Then the 4th and 5th graders go into the following week, 29-30, doing other subjects including composition, Health/PE, and Science.
      * Please get the kids to school on time. Once the test protocol starts no one can enter the room. If a child misses a test due to lateness or illness they will have to do a make up which can be stressful and is something to avoid if at all possible. Parents will have no access to the West building after 9am as that is where all the testing grades are. If you arrive after 9am take your child to the main office and they will be escorted by staff to their classroom.
      * Testing takes place in the morning up to lunchtime and the kids have a break mid-way through for the bathroom and a snack (they can be escorted to the bathroom during testing if needed). Many thanks to the Room parents who are organizing the donation of snacks for all the testing classes.
      * Some students need special accommodations for testing and so there will be a total of 15 testing locations in the school. Additional time is provided for kids if they are not able to finish the test in the given time period.
      * For next week (23-26) CAG asks that no parents volunteer in the classrooms in the west building. Best to limit the number of extra people around. The following week it is alright to volunteer again.
      * The testing schedule is:
        + April 23, 24, 25 (Grades 2-5)
        + April 26 (Grades 3-5)
        + April 29-30 (Grades 4-5)
      * Promote your children's positive attitude and confidence, help them relax.
      * The testing grades will have no homework next week.
      * Results come out at the end of August published in the Washington Post and those are just the schoolwide results. Individual results come in later.
   3. *Aftercare Next Year* -
      * There will be 2 aftercare providers at Maury next year: Polite Piggy's(PP) and Havner Care (HC).
      * They expect the aftercare programs to enroll ~200 kids. Both programs have a sliding tuition scale. HC can only accommodate 30 kids. PP will have no upper limit and will cover everyone that needs aftercare and hire the necessary staff. No one will be turned away!
      * Since the last PTA mtg CAG held a special aftercare meeting to discuss and answer questions.
      * Good news! CAG has been able to convince DCPS to cover snack costs for PP next year, which is a significant cost saving allowing PP to better balance costs for security (a previous expense concern). For HC the kids already bring their own snacks so this does not apply.
      * The academic Power Hour will continue next year, 3:30-4:30pm. It will be free. Any student getting free or reduced lunch qualifies and gets priority. Then if there is any room left others can sign up on a first come first serve basis. It is expected that there will be space for all interested children as currently there are 84 children enrolled and there should be space for that many next year.  Power Hour will have special certified teaching staff, paid at a higher rate. Class size generally will be 8-12 kids, but up to 15. PP will cover the aftercare for free from 3:15-3:30pm for power hour kids, as the teachers can not come down till 3:30pm. VDT is covering the logistics for Power Hour.
      * PP has revised its sliding tuition scale. If taking Power Hour (which is free) and doing PP  before and/or aftercare tuition is reduced some compared to if not doing Power Hour.
      * Aftercare enrollment is starting early, next week, so parents have time to figure things out for next year. Form for HC should go to Ms Coleman. PP has hours posted for enrollment at the school. But if no one is there forms can be put into the PP box behind Ms Washington's desk.
      * Questions for PP: email is politepiggysdaycamp@yahoo.com; phone is 260-396-8957.
   4. *Enrollment Forms for Next Year* -
      * Need to get your enrollment forms in ASAP. DCPS is giving out prizes to the schools that get them all in first.
      * Ms Coleman is holding a school contest for classes that get in all their enrollment forms. If you do not intend to return you simply need to tell her so she can check you off. If a class gets in all their forms by May 1st the last week of school will be a no uniform week. Next 3 classes will get an ice cream party. Classes that come in at 100% of forms will get movie tickets for the class and teachers will get gift cards. If the whole school gets their forms in by May 31st then CAG will put on a cheerleading outfit and wig and stand out in front of the building with a sign saying we are #1
2. **Elections**:
   1. *PTA Elections -*Will be held on May 16th, the next PTA meeting, starting at 6:30pm. This is a call for nominations for Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer II. There will be a flyer in the Tuesday folder about it. If interested in one of these positions email Michelle Evan (Parliamentarian) at: invisiblecolours@yahoo.com.
   2. *Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) Elections* - This election is for 4 parent representatives to be on next year's LSAT. The election will be held on May 16 at 6pm. You do not have to be a PTA member to run. There will be a flyer in the Tuesday folder about it. If interested in running or nominating someone contact Antonia Herzog: avherzog@gmail.com.
3. **Staff Appreciation Week**, May 6-10:
   1. *Penny Wars* - to raise money for staff gifts will start on 4/22. Fill your class jar in the main office with pennies and other class jars with other change (or bills or a check) to subtract from their total. Sonja Walti needs help taking pennies to the bank. Contact Sonja if you can help her with Penny Wars (walti@american.edu)
   2. *Program* -
      * Julia Bargo has a great theme for decorations
      * Monday will be an ice cream social for teachers/staff after school
      * Tu or W a surprise labor of love. Need 6-8 adults willing to get a bit dirty, contact Jen Smoker (jen.smoker@verizon.net) or Jim Roberts (jjrpjc@msn.com).
      * Thursday will be a luncheon for teacher/staff. Nandos is catering thanks to the Heiss family. Need deserts and help to set up and clean up, contact Jen Smoker (jen.smoker@verizon.net) or Lela Lee (lelalee9@gmail.com). Need help to cover classrooms, contact Kristen Salvo (kristensalvo@gmail.com).
      * Friday morning will be a breakfast buffet for teachers/staff. Need parent help to cover the playground till 9am. Contact Kristen Salvo (kristensalvo@gmail.com) to help.
4. **Ambassador Program for Next Year**:
   1. Offer family ambassadors to all new maury families next year. Be their parent contact to help them learn the ropes, inform them about school activities and how to get involved in school initiatives. If interested in participating contact Amy Weedon (amyweedon@verizon.net).
5. **National Bike to School Day, May 8th, 7:30-8:30am at Lincoln Park.**
6. **The last Literacy Lab Parent Workshop #4 is on May 8th, 5-6pm:**
   1. It is for all parents and will cover how to continue to develop literacy skills through the summer and provide activities that all ages can participate in together.
7. **Labyrinth Teacher Game Wish Lists:**
   1. Urge your teachers to put together a game wish list to file at Labyrinth Games (owned by Maury mom Kathleen Donahue). Game donations to your class can then be made by Labyrinth customers off the teacher's wish list. If interested in getting your teacher involved contact kathleen@labyrinthgameshop.com.
8. **Early Childhood Development:**
   1. *"Be a Parent Partner" - Prepare your child for school success,*May 6th - June 10th, 9-10am. If interested in signing up for a group contact Ms Lisa Goode at 202-262-3674.
9. **Grants:**
   1. Literary Fest is CHCF's big fundraiser where you host a dinner based on a literary theme for 10 people on Oct 19th.  Donny Kirsch is trying to organize a Maury sponsored dinner as CHCF does so much for Maury through their grants. Need to find a location. Application due by May 13th.  If interested in helping with this contact Donny (donny.kirsch@gmail.com).
10. **PTA Budget:**
    1. Unexpected windfall of $4k this year just came in from the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capitol Area. We meed to market this fundraising opportunity better to Maury parents who are government employees.
    2. Preliminary budget outline for next school year was presented. Beginning balance is estimated at $47k. This is coming mostly from the carry over of this year's MaTM fundraising effort.
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    7. Thus, the solution the Executive Board is proposing is to instead hire four aids 5 day/week for 5 hr/day. 3 aids would cover grades 1,2,4 and float between the 2 class per grade covering where the need was greatest at the determination of the teachers and principal. 5th grade will only be 1 class so their PTA aid can actually split their time and cover other school needs like recess coordinator or extra literacy support. That decision would depend on who was hired and what next year's SOS fundraiser is used for. Finally, the 1 extra DCPS aid we have could cover 3rd grade since it is the biggest class at 57 students.  This brings us to 4 PTA aids total that we would then need to hire at a cost of $51.5k for the year, which we should be able to just swing.
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**3/21/13**

Here is my summary of our PTA meeting on 3/21/13. We had a great turn out with over 75 folks showing up to listen and participate.

PTA Meeting Agenda, 3/21/13

1. Announcements:
   * Think Tank update (Ms Ford)
   * MaTM (Elsa & Linda)
2. Principal's Update (CAG):
   * New Playground
   * SY13-14 Budget
     + Title I loss
3. Updated PTA By-laws (Amy)
   * Vote

Summary

1. Ms Ford's absence: Ms Ford will be having back surgery and will be out from April 1 - June 3. For PS-PK there will be a think tank sub  but not for the other grades. The game lending library will only be open to teachers for check out in for the classroom unless there is a parent who wants to volunteer to help manage it while Ms Ford is absent. if so please contact her.
2. Maury at the Market:
   * We made over $70k total! Net with expenses included brings that down to about $65k.
   * The laptop donations came to $1380.The total amount needed for the 25 laptops is $13,500. So, quite a bit more needs to be raised still. Flyers to make further donations will go home in a Tuesday folders.
   * Some auction items ended up not getting bid on so there will be an in school auction for these items soon.
   * Some winners have still not collected their items, though everyone has now been alerted to what they won. if you have not collected your item please contact Linda Samuel (lindabsamuel at yahoo dot com) ASAP.
   * Please consider volunteering for the fundraising cmt next year. It's lots of fun! If interested in getting involved sooner contact Elsa Huxley (elsahuxley@gmail.com).
3. CAG Updates:
   * Playground area -
     + There will be a portable classroom unit with 4 full size classrooms, bathrooms and a custodial closet installed where the playground currently is over the summer. The cost of this is $750k paid for by dcps.
     + A new playground area will also be built where the current full size basketball court is. Cost $250k paid for by dcps. A smaller more versatile basketball area accessible to all kids will be placed in the current blacktop area. This area will continue to be used for open play like kickball and soccer and the surface will be repainted.
     + We still have 2 greening grants equal to about $80k. We are going to try to coordinate and integrate that into the playground rebuild to get the most out of our money to enhance the funds available for the playground equipment.
     + Turner Construction is the contractor and has been very good so far. A wish list of equipment was sent to them recently in consultation with the teachers, CAG and the School Improvement committee members. They sent back various ideas for possible configurations.
     + The playground will include both smaller kid and bigger kid equipment plus other free standing stations placed around the structures and in the green areas.
     + We were shown some pictures of what the new playground equipment and configuration would look like. The styling is similar to the new Watkins school playground.
     + We need to decide within a week on which design we want. The design options Turner came up with will be posted on the Bulletin board across from Ms Scott's classroom for parent feedback. Comments on the playground design options should be sent to CAG and are due by 3/27/13. Ms Ford sent some further info around  over the Maury listserve about how the equipment options were chosen based on parent feedback from last year. Her email is pasted below.\*\*
   * There are 474 kids on our waitlist, clearly a strong interest in Maury out there.
     + This is a good argument for building our new addition so we can expand beyond the 4-class room portable unit. This eventual permanent addition would go behind the multipurpose room and the current teacher’s parking lot would be moved to where that portable unit is being placed.
     + We were supposed to have had 4 new slots for incoming second grade as our first grade classes are quite small. Unfortunately, instead dcps made a mistake and put the 4 new slots into the incoming 3rd grade, and 2nd grade has the largest classes right now at 29/27. We do have a wait list for the incoming second grade so CAG will take 5 children off of it to fill in the incoming 2nd grade class. These calls will start next week.
   * Budget: Our budget was cut because we are now considered to be a "small" school with only ~330 students. Last year the cutoff for a small school was 300 students. In this budget cycle without any notice that cutoff was raised to 400 students. The result is that a small school no longer has access to certain resources and teacher/aid/staff positions are cut. Another thing we lost was our budget autonomy, which had allowed CAG to make the staff budgeting decisions she wished to without dcps approval. Now she must go through the process of making budget requests in writing and getting them approved by dcps. Which while doable it time consuming and uncertain in outcome. The Maury community did a quick letter writing campaign to the Chancellor and DC Council Members as a result of these cuts and the loss of our budget autonomy that was very successful and CAG met with the Chancellor. She made a number of budget requests all of which the Chancellor has signed off. This will at least partially through creative budgeting help fix various of the Maury budget shortfalls slated for next year. Luckily so far we seem to have maintained our autonomy over our curriculum since a number of our academic programs are not used in dcps, e.g., Singapore math and word our way. The current status of our budget:
     + We will be keeping all full-time special teachers (music too).
     + We will have a half time foreign language teacher, dcps mandated for all schools now. We need to decide which foreign language we want. A parent survey a few years ago had Spanish as our number one choice and Chinese as number 2. Another survey will go out soon to redetermine what the Maury community's language preference is now. A decision needs to  be made quickly so CAG can begin to tap the pool of applicants. DCPS as a result of this new policy is now looking for 70 new foreign language teachers. We need to get to them quickly to choose the best applicants. We may have to share this teacher with another school as ours will just be a half time position. Since we will have 16 homerooms next year for K-5 there will be a full extra language special, 1 class/week, but for PS-PK it will just be a 20-25 minute mini-lesson language push once a week. A half time person can do no more.
     + CAG will get a half time Assistant Principal next year. This could be Ms May! Our former music teacher is back in DC writing her dissertation. A part time position like this one works well for her.  She is taking the principal's exam in April and has applied to DCPS to become part of the pool of AP applicants. CAG has gotten approval for a part time AP which is rarely allowed so that is good news and Ms May would be a perfect fit.
     + We were given a third K teacher and aid in our budget for next year. But we do not have a 3rd K classroom planned (just two PK classes right now). So, these positions have been turned into Ms Ford's position and an extra dcps aid, Ms Jones, for another classroom.
     + The big downside of our budget cuts for next year that has not been fixed yet is that we are only being given a half time psychologist and social worker, down from full time for both. So, basically our mental health team has been cut in half. As a responsive classrooms school with a differentiated learning approach this simply does not work well for containing disciplinary issues that arise. CAG is trying to work out a solution to get someone here full time. CAG has a proposal to fix this into DCPS that is still outstanding.
     + Aids are being cut. We will have 8 classrooms with no DCPS aids next year.  So the PTA will have to expand from covering 5 aids to covering 8 aids.
   * Title 1 and Aftercare: This year we were the only school in the whole system that fully lost Title 1 status. Last year many more schools lost it while we managed to hang on one more year.
     + To get full Title 1 you need to have 60% of your student population eligible for free or reduced lunch (FARM). Below 60% till 40% if the student population meets this criteria you get targeted assistance which is what we have had till now.
     + Our projections for next year based on this year's student population is only 31% of our students will be eligible for FARM, thus no more Title 1 resources. This means we will totally lose the DCPS aftercare program.
     + But Polite Piggies (PP) and Havner Care (HC) have both been working over the last few months figuring out how to fill the gap next year. It is estimated that they will have to absorb about 70 kids with a comprehensive sliding tuition scale just like dcps aftercare. They have come up with a plan to do this. The information about this new aftercare plan and tuition assistance will be in this week's Tuesday folder. For families who need this assistance they should quickly determine if the plan and sliding assistance scale will meet their needs and let CAG (NOT Ms Bailey) know asap.
     + Furthermore, CAG has convinced DCPS to still fund at least for one more year a targeted academic power hour in aftercare starting at 3:30pm. Then the students would go into PP or HC.
     + We will also be applying for CHCF grants of $2500 to go into a Maury scholarship fund for aftercare services.
     + VDT and CAG will set up a meeting for parents to just discuss these aftercare changes hopefully next week. CAG will make a robocall to try to ensure we let all interested families about it. This meeting will be at 6pm and childcare will be provided by PP. In addition, she will try to reach out to incoming 3 year olds as some of the headstart extras (like toothbrushes) will also disappear with no title 1. PS/PK new family orientation is on Wednesday 3/27, so the plan is to discuss these changes with the new incoming families at that meeting.
     + Hopefully AU will once again partner with Literacy Lab next year to continue the free afterschool tutoring program.
4. PTA Bylaws: Made a few changes. They are:
   * Eliminate the Historian position and creating a second Treasurer.
   * Have elections for half the PTA Executive Board every other year. So we don't lose everyone at once who has knowledge of how things work.  This year we will have elections for the Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer 2 positions.  Next year it will be President, Treasurer 1 and Parliamentarian, and then they will continue to alternate from year to year from here on.
   * These changes were voted on and approved by the PTA members present.

\*\***From:** vanessa\_ford09 <vanessa.ford@dc.gov>

**To:** maury\_elementary@yahoogroups.com   
**Sent:** Friday, March 22, 2013 2:55 PM  
**Subject:** [maury\_elementary] Give your feedback on the new playground!

The bulletin board for parent feedback is up outside Mr. Scott's classroom on the first floor. The contractor has given us a very short turnaround time so please stop by, take a look and email any questions or comments to CAG by Wednesday, March 27th.   
  
The current designs are based on students, parent and staff feedback from 2011-2012 SY and this year as well. The main trends in student wants guided our options. They are posted for you to see but also below.  
  
Thanks for your time looking at the pictures!  
  
-Vanessa  
  
STUDENT DESIGN TRENDS THAT WERE THE BASE FOR OUR OPTIONS  
PLAY HOUSES: Students wanted play houses that they could go in. There are many regulations to playground structures so we opted to ask for approved structures that had "house" like components as well as places for kids to go in and under.  
  
SPORTS AREAS: Students wanted to have soccer goals and more basketball hoops. They were particularly interested in hoops of varying sizes and targets within goal spaces. The new proposal allows for "hoop" variety as well as leaves space for active sports such as soccer and football.  
  
NATURE ACTIVITIES: Students wanted to be able to dig and "discover" bugs and other earthy beings. The hope is to have many green spaces incorporated into the design (rain gardens, shades spaces, magnifying glasses for students use etc).  
  
MUSIC/ART ACTIVITIES: The desire was very high for these activities. Ms. Bomba is working with the team to create a chalkboard type wall for "water painting". Mr. Rogers has researched a number of durable, yet fun musical instruments and apparatus that would be stored outside for recess use.  
  
SHADE: The hope is that the new structures provide places to crawl under or areas that cast shade. In addition, the green spaces will eventually hold trees that will provide some of this as well.

**2-21-13**

Here is my summary of our 2-21-13 PTA meeting.

MAURY PTA MEETING AGENDA - 2/21/13

**Calendar:**

**February**

21 Th 6:00pm PTA Meeting

27  W 5:00pm Literacy Lab Parent Workshop, 2nd - 5th grade

**March**

6   W  6:00pm  Mathedemics (Grades 3-5)

***16 Sa 7:00pm   Maury at the Market***

21 Th 6:00pm    PTA Meeting

27  W 6:00pm    New PS/PK Family Orientation

28  Th 6:00pm    Maury Family Traditions Showcase

**Don’t forget**:  1st and 3rd Tuesdays are Maury night at Tunnicliff’s (222 7th St SE) and 2nd and 4th Mondays are Maury night at The Argonaut (1433 H St NE).

**Agenda:**

1.      Principal's Updates - CAG

2.      Maury at the Market (3/16)  - Elsa & Linda

3.      Announcements:

o    Updating PTA Bylaws - Amy

o    Catholic University Library Marketing Project - Ms Sweeney

o    Mathedemics (3/6) -  Diane

o    Literacy Lab upcoming Parent Workshops (2/27 see flyer, 3/20, and 5/8) - Antonia

o    Cleaning up the Parent Resource Room - Amy

o    Maury Loyalty Programs (pasted below)

Summary:

1. Principal Updates:

**Budget** process for the next school year is starting.  We have been very lucky in previous years let's hope that continues.

**Additional 4th grade:**Next year we are adding an additional class, 4th grade, so there will be two 4th grades (still one 5th grade class). There will be no reductions in the number of classes elsewhere. That is why we have a space constraint and are getting a set of 4 mobile classrooms. When CAG first started at Maury we had on 235 students. Next year we are projected to have 330! This year’s school population has been very stable.

**New Playground**: Great news is we are set to get a new playground to be put in the current basketball court area! The mobile classroom unit will be put where the current playground is located. The playground is being put in by Turner construction and they will be presenting us with options in the next 3-4 weeks. We will need to then turn around with a decision in about a week time frame. The School Improvement Committee (SIC) is putting together a wish list for Turner to consider. They are using the input from last year's surveys sent out to parents and students for their thoughts and ideas on what they would like to see in a new playground area. #1 request was to have a playhouse. The SIC plans to put up a bulletin board to display the proposed designs and plans and have a place to provide feedback on them. The playground will be delivered in June and installed in July is the current plan.  Very exciting!!

**Open houses**: They have all been a great success.

**First in Math:**This program is being well received by our K-5th grades.  Teachers are seeing a positive impact on those kids who log in and do a lot of problems. DCPS has purchased a membership for all students and so it is free to us. Unfortunately, CAG does not know of any similarly good program for reading.

**Unexcused Absences**: Still having many families taking extended vacations with unexcused absences during the school year. This is no longer acceptable. DCPS is really cracking down. If you have more than 10 unexcused absences you will get an automatic referral to child and family services.  An excused absence is when your child is sick. This is the new proposed DCPS policy that CAG is implementing.

**2013-2014 DCPS school calendar:** Next year's DCPS calendar has been proposed and is available on their website: http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/Files/downloads/ABOUT%20DCPS/English%202013-2014-SY-Calendar.pdf.

**Calder Mobiles**: 4th and 5th graders have created Calderesque mobiles with an artist connected with the National Gallery of Art (NGA)who has been coming in to work with them. They look amazing and will be permanently mounted in our main lobby, look for them next week.  They have been given to us as a gift from the NGA to commemorate our 10th year in partnership with them in Art Around the Corner. Originally this partnership was only supposed to last 3 years. Luckily, we are not dropping it totally. Next year the 4-5th graders will still get to do an intensive spring session with 4-5 filed trips to the NGA.

**Aftercare**: Seems very likely that our DCPS aftercare will go away next year if based on last year's criteria of needing at least 40% of our students getting free and reduced lunch. We now only have 33%. We currently have 80 kids in our Maury DCPS aftercare program run by Ms Bailey. If it goes away we will lose Ms Bailey and it will also affect the Maury staff who work for it after school. So, it will be a definite loss. CAG is trying to find out its status for next year.

However, the good news is we have a plan B for aftercare. Polite Piggies and Havner Care will expand to pick up all the students who would otherwise be in the DCPS aftercare program and offer reduced prices based on income like DCPS does.

We will however keep our clubs that have been supported by DCPS aftercare like basketball and cheerleading and will be starting a touch football club too.

**Playground Sheds**: The big ugly shed is going to be removed once the new sheds are completed in the play area. One will be a "parking garage" for the trikes.  The other two will store other playground equipment used for aftercare, PE/Health and recess, and will have green roofs put on them. There will also be a plastic shed to store the custodial equipment.

2. Maury at the Market:

To help out or ask questions contacts:

Elsa Huxley - elsahuxley at gmail dot com

Linda Samuel - lindabsamuel at yahoo dot com

**Sponsorships**: MaTM sponsorships currently at $11k. Last year was $17K so still hoping to get more in and have been approaching corporate sponsors this year which we are still waiting to hear back from. An a email from Bill (Megan) Buck was sent around with a company list in case any parents worked at the companies and could put in a good word.

**Donations**: Getting good donations and spirit events lined up and still taking in donations thru next Wednesday (2/27). They will be posting on the Maury listserve a sampling of the donations and spirit events soon and they will also be put up on the MaTM website: http://www.mauryatthemarket.org/.

**Publicity**: You should also start seeing more publicity soon, and we need help posting flyers around. Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come. Flyers, tickets and babysitting forms and other MaTM items can be found on the Maury yahoo group under "files":

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/maury_elementary/files/2013%20Maury%20at%20the%20Market/>

**Advance ticket sales**: Advance tickets will be sold through 3/8 for $30/ticket. After that you can buy at the door for $35. You can fill out a ticket form (forms in the lobby/office and were in Tuesday’s folders) and put it in the PTA box in the main lobby or buy them online at: <http://www.mauryatthemarket.org/>. You can also fill out a babysitting form for Polite Piggies that goes directly with payment into the Polite Piggies box in the main lobby. Cost is $15 for 4 hours of care and deadline to get this in is 3/8.

**Raffle**: Selling raffle tickets for $5/ticket or 5 for $20. The big prize is a new **ipad** and there will be many other fun prizes as well. You can get tickets to sell to friends, family and work colleagues from Elsa. Help us sell tickets it is super easy!

They will also be selling raffle tickets every morning over the next 2 weeks, 8:15-9am, in the Maury main lobby. You don’t need to be at the event to win the raffle.

**Laptops**: We need 25 new laptops for the new technology program Ms Sweeney is heading up next school year. The fundraising for this will start at MaTM. At check out there will be a form to make a donation for a new laptop for this program. More info on this to come.

**In school Pre Auction**: This will start next week. Look for auction items in the main lobby. Diane Douglas is organizing this.

**Volunteer database**: The MaTM volunteer database is up on the Maury yahoo site under “databases” and we still need volunteers. Please check it out and volunteer for a slot: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/maury\_elementary/database?method=reportRows&tbl=45

All food and drinks and program production is being donated this year. Many thanks to Tunnicliff’s, Argonaut, Nandos and others for their generosity.

3. Announcements:

**Restaurant Nights**: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays are Maury night at Tunnicliff’s (222 7th St SE) and 2nd and 4th Mondays are Maury night at The Argonaut (1433 H St NE). Argonaut gems can be placed in the treasure box in the main office.

**Mathedemics (3/6)**: It is a jeopardy style competition and tons of fun. Mr Havner will be the MC.

-24 students total participating in grades 3-5  
-5 teams with 4/5 students per team (evenly distributed by grade, gender, etc.)  
-Big night is Wed. March 6 at 6:00 pm in the multipurpose room  
-Content is broken down into: fast facts, the four operations, fractions, geometric measurement and time; each round will focus on a different content area culminating with a final round  
-The adult coaches and teams are:  
      Ms. Perry and the Math Geniuses - Xavier, Shaun R., Xia, Isabel, Julian  
      CAG and the Fast Fact Team - Kianna, Joel, David, Stella, Dylan  
      Ms. Hunt and the Math Dragons - Robert, Kerry, Luke, Milo, Gabby  
      Ms. Makonnen and the Math Wizards - Olivia, Caden, Ivan, Isaac, Sumaya  
      Ms. Rabiah and the Calculating Nerds - Shaylah, Marquettte, Clara, Andrew, Martin  
-Practice takes place twice a week from 8:45-9:15am.

**Literacy Lab Parent Workshops:**  Our next SOS funded Literacy Lab parent workshop is scheduled for Wed, Feb 27, 5-6pm in the Library. It is focused on 2nd -5th grade parents to help them learn how to improve their children;s reading comprehension skills. Good preparation for the DCCAS. We will then have two more SOS funded parent workshops sponsored by Literacy Lab on March 20th and May 8th. The topics are still being decided. If you have ideas please email CAG and Antonia Herzog.

**Parent Resource Room**: The parent resource room is a mess. It is mostly used for storage and not for meetings as was originally intended. Clearly we need more storage space and can use the small conference room for meetings as we have been doing. So, to that end we will be purchasing shelving and trying to organize it better as a storage area for PTA needs.

**PTA By-Laws**: We are reviewing our bylaws and updating them. Key changes we are envisioning include:

* Expand Treasurer position to 2 people. Just too much work for one person now. We regularly deal with a ~$100k budget, have lots of grants coming in all the time, handle money for the school clubs and employ from 6-7 people. Thus, thinking of repurposing one of the other Executive Board positions whose duties are not currently well defined like the Historian.
* Need to change the Executive Board election cycle so not everyone is up at the same time. So, have the half the Board be up on off years to help preserve continuity.

Once these changes have been drafted we will bring to the PTA to vote and approve them. If you want to see the current by-laws or have any thoughts please contact Amy Weedon.

**1/17/13**

PTA Meeting Agenda, 1/17/13

1. Presentation by Ms. Young, Eliot-Hine's principal (20 minutes)

2. CAG Updates:

* Building expansion plans
* Technology class for grades 1-5
* Building Security update

3. Maury at the Market, 3/16 (Elsa Huxley and Linda Samuel)

4. Maury at the Nats, 4/14

5. Other Announcements

Calendar:

January

24 Th 6:00pm Think Tank Expo

26 Th 8:00am Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast

30 W 9:30am Maury Spelling Bee (Grades 3-5)

February

6 W 6:00pm DC CAS Parent Night (Grades 2-5)

8 F all day A Journey Through Time: Celebration of Afr. Am. Heritage

14 Th 6:00pm Maury Loves Disco

18-22 All day Jump Rope for the Heart Week

20 W 9:00am Open House

21 Th 6:00pm PTA Meeting

Summary

1. CAG Updates:

Building expansion update.

We need space for next school year as will have two 4th grade classes. So, next year will need an additional classroom plus a proper classroom for think tank would be nice too. Then the year after we could end up with an extra K class as there were 20 in bounds PS children who did not take a slot this year and so could come back in 2 years for K.

CAG had a good meeting with DCPS officials on our space needs. It looks like we will get a portable facility with 4 classrooms that will be installed during the summer. They will have all the classroom amenities, same classroom technology, bathrooms and running water, custodial closets just like in the main building.

Next year Music and Think Tank would move into it and 5th grade would probably then move to where music is now.

Looking to the future when we hope to get an annex built the current question is where does it makes most sense to install this temporary structure so it can tie into our green space plans now without it being all dug up later.

The idea put forth is to install the temp classroom facility where the current playground structure is and to get a new playground and put it where the basketball court is just off of 13th st, and then start installing some of the greening projects around it. (Current playground is almost 10 years old). This would give the playground more public visibility and it could be used by the community on the weekends while being locked up at night. The rest of the schoolyard area would still be open for play.

Eventually the annex would be put in off the back of the multipurpose room and the parking lot would be moved to where the temp facility would be opening up a play area on the side and in back of the annex tied into the playground in the front. CAG showed a picture of how this would all work. This is still in the planning stages.

Cost of the playground would be ~$250k. The portable classrooms would cost ~750k. We need Tommy Wells support and the city's financial officer as the City Council will need to sign off on this for it to move forward. CAG has spoken to Tommy Wells about it already.

A question came up of why not put the annex on top of our current building to reduce tis footprint. The answer is that is not structurally possible as the building was not constructed to support more floors.

Technology class next year for 1-5 grades.

It will no longer be sustainable to have a double health/PE for a full year with an additional 4th grade class coming in. So, we need to change and Ms Sweeney and Ms Hunt came up with a great idea. Will still have PE and Library once a week for all classes PS-5 all school year. But now there will be a flip flop over 2 semesters with a new technology class and the health class.

1) Fall/Winter: Health 1-2 grade with Ms Hunt; Technology with Ms Sweeney 3-5.

2) Winter/spring: Health 3-5; Technology 1-2

To do this we will need 25 extra computers on top of what we already have. (Last year we got 2 laptop carts with 30 laptops between them.) This is something for the Grants and Fundraising committees to think about how to raise the money for now. Cannot wait for next year's SOS campaign as will need these computers right at the beginning of the school year. Maybe a role for Maury at the Market to help raise the money needed this year.

Security.

CAG has gone to several trainings and has been assessing the situation over the last month. One key component is the ability to exit of the building by any door which creates a security risk. A solution is we can now only enter and leave by the main doors on 13th st. We cannot use the Constitution ave doors before, during, after school hours except for dismissal time. Also, 1,2 graders will not go out until a parent or guardian is seen for their pick up.

Need to sign in during school hours and limit visits during the school day. The main office is understaffed and Ms Brockenberry is ill and won't be back this school year.

Officer Washington is there from 8am-6pm. Need to have people out of the building after 6pm. The only people on the clock after 6pm are the custodians.

CAG plans to put this info and other plans into a short memo soon for distribution.

If you have any concerns or ideas on this topic please email CAG.

Lottery.

The lottery is coming up and it will be changing. Now if you put a school as your top choice and get in then you are taken off all other wait lists immediately. If you get your second choice you will stay on your top choice wait list but get taken off lower choice wait lists. The hope is this will speed up the process, reduce confusion and long waits and attempts to game the system.

Also, they will be aligning the timing of the dcps lottery result with the Charters.

Still have 8 out of bound siblings on our PS wait list.

2. Principal for Eliot-Hine, Ms Young presented.

This is her second year at E-H middle school. It is the destination middle school for Maury and she wants to develop a relationship with us.

She will be back on Feb 12th to meet with the upper grades.

E-H is becoming a middle school IB program along with Jefferson and Eastern HS. They are now getting the teachers and culture prepared and there are still 2 years before they are fully authorized. All middle school students will be in the IB program. On Jan 22 there was a more in depth info meeting on the IB program with all 3 schools involved at the Westminster Presbyterian church.

This year they started the first DCPS media broadcast program, and the 6-8th graders broadcasted the inauguration from the Wilson Building downtown.

They are reintroducing Algebra 1 for select 8th graders and pre-algebra for 7th grades.

There is a student computer lab, media lab and technology in the classrooms. They have an instrumental band as an elective course. Concert band just started and they participate in the Eastern HS marching band.

They have 2 gyms and a baseball and basketball courts as well as an open green field. Expanding athletics too activities like skiing, golf, Tennis clubs.

They have a PWP afterschool program till 6pm.

There will be an open house on Wed Jan 30th at 9am and 5:30pm, and also in May. They are pen for building tours. Tuesdays are best as then they have people available to give tours.

PTA meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 6pm. There is a new Executive Board in place. Still a work in progress.

Currently 30% of students are in bounds. The rest come from feeder schools (students could be out of bounds) and out of bounds students, especially Ward 7 due to proximity.

Majority of graduates go onto Eastern HS, also some go to SWW and Duke Ellington and other DC high schools.

Find out more at eliothinemiddleschool.org

3. Maury at the Market, March 16th

This is a silent and live auction and there will be a raffle too with printed tickets that will be sold ahead of time.

Now working on securing donations for auction and raffle.

A new idea is to host an event at your house that people can sign up for at a set price. Like a cooking demo, or playdate for the kids, games night, etc....If you have some ideas and are interested in doing this please contact Linda Samuel.

An email went out over the listserve looking for volunteers to take charge of key MaTM activities. Then they will set up a sign up volunteer database.

Classes will all still do a special class item but they want to phase out gift baskets as they didn't make much money.

If you want to get involved or have any questions contact:

Elsa Huxley: elsahuxley at gmail dot com

Linda Samuel: lindabsamuel at yahoo dot com

4. Mark you calendar there will be a Maury at the Nats game on April 14th.

5. Other Announcements.

Jen Smoker: Cub scouts pancake breakfast this Saturday 8-11am. They make awesome pancakes and toppings.

Jen Smoker: The 5th grade will be selling valentinegrams the week before valentine's day to raise money for ski trips.

Paul Bevans: DC's Office of Early Childhood Education is offering to fund CDA certification for Parents in DCPS; this certifies them to be be Early childhood teacher assistants in the classroom. If anyone is interested please contact: shanickwa.spencer at dc dot gov

**December 13, 2012**

**Agenda:**

**Singapore Math Overview**

**Principal’s Announcements (canceled as CAG had laryngitis)**

(Announcements and calendar for next 2 months below)

Summary:

Robyn Silbey gave a very engaging and informative presentation about Singapore Math to about 40 parents and staff who attended yesterday's PTA meeting. Singapore Math easily meets the new common core standards and in fact is more advanced. The focus is on student centered classroom. The core concept is working around the base 10 system and composing and decomposing numbers to regroup into 10s.

The "crown jewel" of Singapore Math starts in 3rd grade and is called "bar modeling". Basically visualizing the word problem as a bar.

The 4 steps of problem solving upon which Singapore Math is based are: 1) Understand the problem, 2) Plan how to solve it, 3) Solve the problem, and 4) Evaluate if you did it correctly.

Key to helping your child is to have them do the math exercises not you doing it for them. Talk them through problems but if parents work them then you are doing the learning not your child.

The Singapore Math text books do not come home as they are expensive ($11/book) and it is too risky that they will be lost. So, that is why just the worksheets are sent home for the homework from the teachers. The workbooks the children used will come home at the end of the year.

You can see the materials used at: Singaporemath.com. It has all the textbooks. Look at the student not the teacher edition. There are 2 volumes per year. Singapore math covers elementary school and goes through middle school when it becomes very rigorous.

Very few of the DCPS elementary schools use the Singapore Math curriculum. Maury is one of the few and is very advanced in that we started using it 4 years ago in K, and each year expanded a grade. This year we jumped to using it in all grades K-5. It is the first year that 3-5th grade have used it.

If folks have questions or want to learn more you can contact Robyn at [rsilbey@hotmail.](mailto:rsilbey@hotmail.)com or go to: [www.robynsilbey.com](http://www.robynsilbey.com/). Or ask your teacher, Ms Rabiah or CAG directly.

**Other Announcements:**

**Winter Concert:**

Come one come all, the more kids participating the better it will sound.

Date: Thursday, December 20th. There will be two concerts that day one at 9:30am and the other will start at 6pm sharp. They will take place in the multipurpose room. If you have any questions contact Mr Rogers (rogers.nathaniel@gmail.com).

**Maury Notecards:**

Maury notecards are now on sale. $10 a pack. They are being sold at several local stores: Labyrinth, Monkey's Uncle, Dawn Price Baby, & Hill's Kitchen. In addition, we will have a table at Eastern Market this weekend (Sunday, 9-5) selling them and could use more volunteers to help staff the table. If interested in helping out or if you have any questions contact Linda Samuel (lindabsamuel@yahoo.com).

**Baby Item Donations:**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Baby Item Drive. Together with your support we were able to collect over 25 baby coats, 17 packages of wipes, over 540 diapers, 50 blankets, 30 bibs, 80 socks, 9 bags of toys, and lots of clothes! In addition, our 3rd through 5th graders on the Homeless Awareness committee were able to study about homelessness and were able to put that knowledge into practice to create a very successful service project! Lauren Conley (organizer, laurenmichelleconley@gmail.com)

**IB Middle School Program:**

Learn more about the IB Middle Years Programme at Eliot-Hine, Jefferson & Eastern will take place on Tuesday, Jan 21 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Any questions contact Joe Weedon, (joeweedon@verizon.net).

**Playground Sheds:**

Perhaps you’ve noticed, there are 3 new sheds that are being built in the schoolyard. They are being built by DC Greenworks (Maury parents Anya Zmudzka & Steve Sattler designed them) and funded through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. They are meant to provide easy access to tricycles and other recess equipment and replace the existing metal shed.  All three will also have green (vegetated) roofs which will be used as a resource for environmental education (learning about watershed protection issues, etc…). Students of interested teachers will have a chance to be involved in the hands-on installation of the plants on the roofs – although it will probably be in the spring. Any questions contact Anya Zmudzka (anya@artgardendesign.com).

**Teachers’ Blogs:**

There are a number of wonderful Maury teacher blogs that everyone should be aware of. They are listed on the Maury website at: http://www.mauryelementary.com/

The blogs are:

Studio Maury (Art, Ms Bomba): http://studiomaury.wordpress.com/

Maury Library (Ms Sweeney): http://maurylibrary.blogspot.com/

Maury Think Tank (Ms Ford): http://maurythinktank.blogspot.com/

Maury Music (Mr Rogers): http://maurymusic.wordpress.com/

Maury P.E. (Ms Hunt): http://maurype.blogspot.com/

Mr Scott Harding’s PS class:  http://www.mymaury.com  (membership required)

**Bulletin Boards and Whiteboard in Main Lobby:**

You may have noticed that two sets of Bulletin Boards went up in the main lobby along the two blue columns as you enter the front doors. These are for posting upcoming Maury events and Maury news items of general interest. The hope is that it will help create a central place where people will know to look for communications about Maury activities and events. In addition, there is also a whiteboard in the main lobby which is updated pretty much daily and is for highlighting Maury events for the week. If you have any questions contact Antonia Herzog (avherzog@gmail.com) or Michelle Evans (invisiblecolours@yahoo.com).

**Committees:**

**School Improvement Committee Meeting –**

Kickoff meeting will be on Wednesday, December 19th, at 6pm, location TBA. Interested in participating in this committee please come to the meeting or contact committee chair Bill Schultheiss (schlthss@yahoo.com) with any questions.

**Communications Meeting  Update –**

The first communication committee meeting was held Nov. 28. The conversation concluded that there’s too much paper and a lot of the communications get lost.  In particular, an effort to find a solution to improve Tuesday folder materials is in the works among some pre-school parents. Key is to not overwhelm Ms. Coleman by adding more to her already overflowing plate, but find a more efficient process for gathering the information and conveying it.

The other part of the conversation centered around improving the content and look of the Maury website (http://www.mauryelementary.com/). The committee has started updating components of the site using the Maury handbook but there are many areas that need to be improved upon. All the Specials teachers’ blogs have now been added and are all in one spot. The goal is to make the Maury website more user-friendly. Further ideas are welcome.

Interested in joining the committee or if you have any questions contact committee co-chairs: Michelle Evans (invisiblecolours@yahoo.com) and Shauna Steele (shauna.steele789@gmail.com).

T-Shirts:

Maury tshirts came in and were distributed last week directly to the kids in their classrooms. If you believe you ordered one and did not recieve it contact Wendy Putnam ([wendy.putnam@gmail.com](mailto:wendy.putnam@gmail.com)).

CALENDAR

**December**

20 Th 6:00pm Winter Concert

**January**

16 W 9:00am Open House

16 W 6:15pm Open House

17 Th 6:00pm PTA Meeting

24 Th 6:00pm Think Tank Expo

26 Sa 8:00am Cub Scout Pancake breakfast

30 W 9:30am Maury Spelling Bee (Grades 3-5)

**11/15/12**

Here is a summary of Thursday's PTA meeting, 11/15/12.

Calendar

**November**

16 F 6:00pm Teacher vs. Parent Basketball Fundraiser

29 Th 6:00pm Family Fitness Night

**December**

11 Tu All day Picture Make-up Day

12 W 9:00am Open House

13 Th 6:00pm PTA Meeting

20 Th 6:00pm Winter Concert

Agenda

1. Zumba Demo

2. CAG update:

Count Day results

Info on Substitute teachers

3. SOS Update (Antonia Herzog)

4. Class of 2022 event (Michelle Evans/Drew Golin)

5. Announcements:

· New School Improvement Committee co-chairs and Family Fitness Night (Antonia Herzog)

· Fundraising Committee update (Elsa Huxley)

· Communications Committee update (Shauna Steele)

· Grants Committee update (Rachel Klein)

· Parent/Staff Basketball Game Fundraiser (George Blackmon)

· Other

6. Thanksgiving Basket Assembly (Jen Smoker)

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Summary

1. Zumba demo: Let LOOSE with LuLu.

Ton of fun! Sorry no videos to share of everyone dancing :). If interested classes are at Maury every T,TH 6:15-7:15pm. Only $5 per class (pay as you come)!

Contact info: 703-203-7217; [ldhgallmon@gmail.com](mailto:ldhgallmon@gmail.com).

2. CAG Update:

Student Count Day: It was very successful. We had only 6 students missing and they have since been credited, so we have full credit for all 317 students and have gotten 100% of our funding as based on per student.

FARM Applications: Still need to get all our FARM applications in for "free and reduced lunch", even if you don't qualify please submit one. Please ask Ms Coleman if you still need to get your form in and she can give it to you to fill out.

School lunch overcharges: Folks have been accruing overcharges that have been billed to the school. Folks need to pay their outstanding bills. Need to make checks out to DC Treasurer for DC lunches.

Substitute Teachers: Need more substitute teachers. If parents are interested in becoming subs there is an application process to become one and you can specifically request only 1 school to cover, like Maury. It pays $100/day. If interested contact CAG to learn more about how to do this.

Need a process for alerting parents when teachers are out and there is a sub. Teachers/staff get 15 sick/personal days.

Teachers when they know they will be out ahead of time (e.g., prof dev training) should notify the class directly or let the Room Parent know so they can let the class know through their class email list. If it is an unexpected absence (e.g., sickness) then CAG will email the room parent when she gets the news. The room parent then should notify the rest of the class.

Question on School Closures: How will they affect Maury? If a student at a closing school is inbounds to Maury then that student will end up at Maury. An example is Prospect Learning Center which is nearby. A key factor in deciding which schools would be closed in addition to under enrollment was how large their out of bounds student population was.

If we do get additional students we get additional money and more staff as the school population increases. But the biggest problem we are currently facing is we will be out of space next year. There will be no classroom for a 3rd grade class next year. CAG is talking to DCPS about this issue. There are 3 options. 1) Take away a specials classroom (Music) and that special then moves from class to class like Think Tank currently works. 2) Get a Portable classroom for music to move into. Trailers seem easy to install but they actually have a big footprint and can upset the neighbors, so not so easy to do. 3) Phase 2 proposal for an addition. This is highly unlikely as almost no phase 2s have occurred at other schools except under dire circumstances. CAG will invite the School Improvement Committee members to participate in this discussion of options with DCPS. We ultimately will need 6 additional classrooms and so must continue to push for this addition.

Just got to the end of our in boundary PS list and still 8 out of bound siblings on it. There are 20 inbound 3 year olds who did not take a spot at Maury, they could they show up in K.

3. SOS Update: We have raised $20,500! The total needed to fund the recess coordinator and Literacy Lab programs is $23,000 (slightly less due to a later start in the year). As a result of getting the PWP grant some of our previously budgeted monies have been freed up and so can now be used to cover the extra $2500 needed to fund these SOS programs. So, we are set to go. Mr Franklin was hired about 2 months ago, and the Literacy Lab contract has recently been signed. The 1 and 2 grade reading intervention and Readers Theater book club programs will all start up shortly. The emerging readers workshops have already started.

4. Class of 2022 3rd grade play date at Lincoln Park: This went extremely well and there were kids there from 2 rivers, Tyler, Watkins, St Peters and other local schools. Lots of parents from Maury attended. This was a chance for the parents and kids from different schools who will end up at the same middle school and high school to get to know each other and help to foster working together on current and future issues. No one really knows what they are doing for middle school or High school and we need a clear path to high school otherwise families will move out. We need a solution to this uncertainty. This class working together is key.

5. Announcements:

A. New School Improvement Committee Co-chairs: The SIC is being reinvigorated. Bill Schultheiss and Sarah Hais have offered to co-chair it. Bill will in the next few weeks send out a notice for the first meeting. If you are interested in participating email him at: schlthss at yahoo dot com.

B. Family Fitness Night: Thursday Nov 29th starting at 6pm. Will be lots of fun!

What to expect:

- There will be over ten different stations and rooms that focus on various areas of fitness.

- We will have a station that is designed to teach adults how to exercise in their own home.

- We have more than one station involving Olympic athletes.

- 3-5th grade students have been working on a project to benefit a local homeless shelter and will be collecting various items as an "entry fee" (more information about this in the next Tuesday folder).

- We are inviting our friends from the neighborhood, so feel free to bring families from other elementary schools along.

- Volunteers are always accepted!

C. Fundraising Committee: They will start selling our student cards after Thanksgiving at PTA meetings, some local stores and Eastern Market on weekends.

Also, there is a new website to make your own cards and calendars where the profits all go to Maury. It is at: [www.brightdoc.com/mauryelementary](http://www.brightdoc.com/mauryelementary). Check it out.

D. Grants Committee: Just got 6 grants totaling $7500 in!

They are:

- Prof Development for Mr Rogers: $1000

- Recess equipment: $1000

- Books for 3rd grade library (extra classroom now): $1000

- New carpets for the classrooms: $1500

- Recess equipment with an arts and creative play focus: $1500

- Schoolwide science curriculum for Ms Ford to use (K-5): $1500

E. The second grade Think Tank Club got too many applicants for what Ms Ford was envisioning so she is rethinking how to do this to accommodate the demand. We will hear more about this from her after Thanksgiving. She also hopes to expand it to other grades eventually.

F. Parent/Teacher Basketball Game: Fundraiser for aftercare on Friday 11/16.

G. Other:

-The Early Childhood committee meeting is at 5:30pm right before the PTA meeting in the conference room. Outreach coordinator Lisa Goode is organizing 3 programs called "PK Parents as Partners" 4:45 - 5:30pm, in the Maury conference room. Nov 19th, "Language Development in Early Childhood"; Nov 26, "Early Math Experiences for Young Children"; Dec 10, "Let's Get Ready for Kindergarten"; Dec 17, "Dialogue with the Principal". For more info contact Ms Goode at 202-262-3674.

-Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast has been scheduled for Saturday Jan 26th, 8-11am in the Maury multipurpose room. It is being organized by Sonja Walti and Jen Smoker with the help of Sharon Simpson and Carmen Jones.

- Erica Martin is organizing the logistics for the Maury Open Houses. The first one is Dec 12th at 9am. If interested in volunteering to help out at one of them contact her at: [ericakmartin at yahoo dot com](mailto:ericakmartin@yahoo.com).

- Coat Drive: We got all the coats we needed and more. The extra coats we will donate to Ludlow Taylor which needs them and just started their coat drive.

1. We organized 20 Thanksgiving Bags for Maury families. Two of them will go to Ms Johnson, our crossing guard, and Ms Brockenberry, business manager in the main office, both of whom are ill. Our best wishes go out to them and their families.

-Shauna Steele announced that on Nov. 28, 6:30pm, there will be a communications committee meeting where they will discuss the website and other strategies to continue being inclusive. Look for her coming announcement.

**10/18/12**

Below is the summary of Thursday's PTA Meeting. We had a great turnout, about 70 people attended.

Some Stats:

We currently have a total of 178 PTA members, which is great but still less than half our Maury families.

Our SOS Campaign has hit $18,500. Thanks to everyone who has so generously donated to date! Our goal is $25,000. Please Donate whatever you can if you have not done so yet. These are great schoolwide efforts we are trying to fund, and we can't do it without everyone's help. You can pick up a PTA/SOS forms at the Book fair this week, or just donate online at: <http://maurysos.org>.

**Maury PTA Agenda – 10/18/12**

1. Principal’s Update (CAG)

         Title I:

1.       Targeted Assistance

2.       Entitlements

3.       Plan for Maury

2. Introducing our New Recess Coordinator, Mr. Franklin

3. Announcements:

         Fall Book Fair (Kate Sweeney)

         SOS Update (Antonia Herzog)

         PTA Newsletter (Kristine Kilmister)

         Thanksgiving Baskets and Coat Drive (Hospitality Committee)

         IB Atlas Event (Joe Weedon)

         Fall Festival (Amber Scott)

4. Maury Clubs:

         Cheerleaders (Ericka Busey)

         Boy Scouts (Alastair McFarlane)

         Girl Scouts (Rashelle Henderson)

         Girls on the Run (Amber Scott)

         Running Club (Caroline Hunt)

         Polite Piggies (VDT)

PTA Meeting Notes:

1. CAG Update

We have retained a portion of our Title 1 status based on the % of our school population that needed free and reduced lunch last year (needs to be at least 40%). We got $58k in Title 1 funds: $30k goes to reading intervention for 1-2 grade; $10k for guided reading books for small group instruction; $12k to purchase 22-25 ipads for teachers to aid in instruction for children not preforming at grade level; and the final $8k is title 2 for professional development for literacy.

There was a question last spring whether we would retain our Title 1 status. So this is all in addition to the school budget put together last spring that we got.

The school now has to cover unpaid lunches. CAG just got a $350 bill for unpaid lunches. This is unsustainable. People need to ensure their lunch accounts are up to date.

EVERY family MUST submit a FARM (free/reduced lunch)form. That is how we retain our Title 1 status next year. Ms Coleman will know if you have turned it in so if you are not sure check with her.

Enrollment count is on Thursday, October 25th. Please be at school if at all possible. An absent child must go through a lengthy followup investigation. This is how the school gets its funding. If a student does not get counted we lose money: $15k for early childhood and $8-10 for older students.

2. Early childhood, Lisa Goode. City wide early childhood policy council is an 18 member parent group elected to serve on this council. This last year Mr Bevens was on it representing Ward 6 and Maury. He headed up the policy subcommittee. For this year's election Ms Michelle Austin is up for the ward 6 rep and is from Maury.

Parent workshops will be starting soon, and info will go out. Early childhood parent meetings are at 5:30pm right before the PTA mtg. Next one will be on Nov 15th in the small conference room. Information and a reminder will be sent out.

3. Introduction of new recess coordinator, Mr Arnie Franklin. He has been here 3 weeks. A retired DCPS teacher of 20 yers in PE and instructional technology. He is creating a recess baseline now. The biggest object is to implement more structure for the kids during recess. Working on conflict resolution and working/playing together, improving their socialization skills.

Teaching them to make better use of and take better care of the recess equipment/toys. There have been fewer incidents and disciplinary actions necessary since Mr Franklin has started.

4. Picture day, October 30th - Chantese Alston. Uniforms not required that day. Only individual pictures are being taken, and safety card pictures. There will be a make-up day announced. Class pictures will be taken in the spring and will be with uniform.

5. Fall Book Fair. It will be in the Library this year. Starts Monday all day, then thru Thursday in the mornings and afternoons right before and after school. Every class, k-5, will have a special time to come to the book fair over the week. Ms Sweeney is selling gift certificates, which went home in Tuesday folders. If have left over money will get a reimbursement. This way kids don't have to come to school with money. At the Book fair will take: cash, check or credit card. All proceeds benefit the library. See Ms Sweeney's email that just went out for more details.

6. PTA newsletter editor is Kristine Kilmister, and layout designer is Tesia Williams. The Newsletter comes out at the beginning of each month and goes home in Tuesday folders and is emailed out over the Maury listserve as well. If you are interestd in submitting an article email Kristine at: maurymessenger at gmail dot com.

7. Box tops. One more week to get them in.

8. Thanksgiving baskets and Coat drive (Hospitality Committee). Next PTA meeting we will be putting together 20 thanksgiving baskets for Maury families in need. There will be an item sign up table set up on the Maury listserve soon, as well as a sign up in the main office.

There will be a seperate item sign up table for donating winter clothing on the Maury listserve and in the main office.

9. IB event at the Atlas. At the Atlas Performing Arts Center

1333 H Street, NE

Tuesday, October 23, 6:00pm

Eastern HS, Elliot-Hine MS, Jefferson MS, and central office staff will all be there. They will describe the rolling out of the the IB curriculum, grades 6-10 and diploma program. They've been working on this for 3 years now and we are finally seeing progress, which is exciting. This is a good curriculum for us. Now we just need to show up and show them we care. DCPS has done its part. More schools are getting involved - we need to be all in this together.

10. Class of 2022 - 3rd grade (Heather Schoell). The 3rd grade classes across all the Hill ES schools are coming together. A list serve is being created. Way to get the families and kids who would be going to MS together to get to know each other. If you want to take the lead for other classes let Joe Weedon know.

11. Fall Festival, Saturday Oct 27th. This event is being brought to us this year by the exracurricular support committee and is being run by the Maury clubs. The committee is run by Amber Scott, Chantese Alston, and Ms Coleman. This committee needs more help. Contact Amber Scott to become involved.

Need help at the Fall festival. Enter cook off (flyer went home in tuesday folders), need more cakes for the cake walk delivered by 9am the day of (contact VDT). Food is being donated by Nandos, thanks to the Heiss family! There will be a pumpkin relay race, mystery boxes, arts and crafts, costume parade, and a dunk tank (dunk CAG to raise money for the SOS). And if your teacher agrees to get dunked that money all goes to the class for field trips and such. Convince your teacher to get dunked:)!

12. Maury Clubs.

Cheerleaders - Ericka Busey head cheerleading coach. Raising money to try to get the cheerleaders to the Contest of Champions competition in FL March 1-4. Cost ~$10k, all inclusive.

They are performing at the Wizards vs. Bulls game on Jan 26th. Ticket info will be in Tuesday folders and you can purchase tickets online and a % will go to the club. Next big fundraiser will be on Nov 30th at chucky cheese. Also, cheerleading shirts can be bought for $12.50.

Cub Scouts - Alastair McFarlane, pack 3838. Can take 1st graders now. Have two new den leaders so able to tailor the activities to grade levels better. Meet Mondays 5-6pm rain or shine. They keep parents updated through a website (pack3838.weebly.com). If interested contact maury\_cubs at yahoo dot com.

Girl Scouts - Mrs Phyllis Stubbs, pack 6498. This is their 2nd year started late last year and the troop is growing and needs volunteers. Meets 5-6pm every Monday in multipurpose room. Troop leader is Mrs. Stubbs. Daisy troop assistant is Ms. Blake, Brownie troop assistant is Ms Valerie Jones, Junior troop assistant is Ms. Rashelle Henderson. $12 registration fee and one time dues fee of $15.

Parent volunteers needed, if interested please contact Ms Stubbs at: montee419 at gmail.com. Can also put stuff in Ms Jones mailbox in the main office. Need 6 volunteers, 2 per group (Daisy 1 grade, Brownie 2-3 grades, junior 4-5 grades).

Girls on the Run - Amber Scott site liaison. Partner with afterschool coaches and the national club. It is a nonprofit that focuses on health and fitness. First 25 minutes is a workshop, focuses on values, followed by a run around Lincoln park. For Grades 3-5.

Girls set a goal and the season ends with a 5k race on Dec 5th. There is both a Fall and Spring season. Meets Mondays and Wednesday 3:30-4:45pm. Run starts at 4pm at Lincoln park. Coaches are: Megan Nesper and Alexandra Gillard. More Coaches are needed. Contact Amber Scott, amber.scott at dc dot gov.

Running Club - Caroline Hunt. Ms Hunt just created an additional running club, for 3-5th grade. If a 2nd grader wants to participate has to bring an adult along. Total of 18 kids involved. Been running now for 3 weeks.

Looking to expand to other schools and get involved with track and field. Want to get more kids involved. There is no fee. Meet on Monday and Thursday 3:30-4:30pm. If interested contact Caroline Hunt, and forms are on her office door.

**September 20, 2012**

First thanks to everyone who made it to our first PTA meeting yesterday evening! We had 94 people in attendance!

Here is a brief summary of the meeting for those who could not make it.

**Calendar:**

**September**

23 Su 1:35pm Maury at the Nats

29 Sa 9:00am Yard Sale

**October**

3 W 8:00am Walk to School Event at Lincoln Park

4 Th 6:00pm Literacy Night

18 Th 6:00pm PTA Meeting

22-26 8:15am Fall Book Fair

24 W 6:00pm PS & PK Parent Meeting

27 Sa 9:00am Fall Festival

30 Tu All day Picture Day

**PTA Meeting Agenda, September 20, 2012**

1. **Principal’s address (CAG)**
2. **SOS update (Ms Hunt; Ashley and Kevin from Literacy Lab)**
3. **PTA updates and information - including introductions**

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Documents that were handed out can be found at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/maury\_elementary/files/PTA%20documents%20/SY11-2/

1. 'PTA Meeting Agenda' - 9/20/12

2. "PTA Welcome Packet" - Includes PTA sign up and SOS Donation form plus Volunteer Opportunities sign-up sheet. If you haven't filled these two forms out yet please do and return to the PTA box in the front lobby of the school.

3. "The Literacy Lab: Maury Partnership": Handout from Literacy Lab outlining the Maury Partnership being proposing for the 2012-13 school year. NOTE the parts highlighted in yellow HAVE NOT been funded yet and this is what half of our SOS fundraising campaign is all about raising money for. So, PLEASE DONATE.

4. "Update on Walk to School Day": Q&A Handout from George Blackmon who is organizing our participation in International Walk to School Day on October 3rd, 2012.

1. Lice: CAG spoke about Maury's head Lice issue over this last week. Letters went home explaining the problem to all parents. The kids and staff have been checked multiple times over the week and parents need to continue to check their children regularly. Everything is being done to swiftly contain the problem such that it has been eliminated this week. (e.g., all rugs are being shampooed, etc...). There were less than 15 cases identified among the kids out of the 320 children at the school and 7 out of 45 staff members. At this time there is no need to clear the building. If the problem persists beyond another week the Department of Health will then get involved. We have been doing all the right things and seem to have the problem under control.

2. S.O.S. – Support Our School - Two Components:

· Playground Coordinator. Ms Hunt gave this presentation.

· Someone has been hired to launch this effort. Former PE teacher Ernie Franklin. He was at Back to School Night. He starts on Monday. The first 2 days he will observe then on Wednesday he and Ms Hunt will meet to discuss his findings and observations and put together an implementation plan, starting by structuring one game with real equipment and referreeing.

· The goal here is not to create a recess that is completely structured. Rather create a play time which gives the kids multiple choices of activities to engage in including just free play.

· They will also work with Anya on the renovations of the look to the play area and how to complement their planned activities with how the space changes.

· Work to take what the kids learn in PE out to the playground and recess time.

· Eventually will work on getting the teachers and Aids more engaged as well in recess time and the structured activities.

· For this effort to continue beyond the Launch and be fully fleshed out and implemented we will need to raise those SOS funds otherwise it will be discontinued.

· The Literacy Lab. Ashley and Kevin from LL presented. (See hand out at the link above) NOTE – 3 programs have not been funded yet, that is what the SOS campaign is for.

· There are 6 programs being proposed for Maury this year. These programs are very targeted to the appropriate students carefully determined by assessments tgiven by he teachers and in consultation with Ms Rabiah our instructional coach. They are done with small groups of students so that the program can be set at exactly the level they need it.

1. Burst Reading Intervention for 1st graders needing basic phonics instruction – funded thru Title I funds

2. Targeted Reading Intervention for 1st and 2nd graders needing extra instruction in comprehension and fluency - SOS FUNDS

3. After-school reading intervention for 1st-5th graders needing extra help with phonics, fluency and comprehension – funded thru a partnership with American University

4. Enrichment Book Clubs, up to 10 this year, for 1st and 2nd graders reading above grade level to build their analytical and higher order thinking skills – SOS FUNDS

5. Literacy Focused Math Support for 3rd-5th graders struggling with math due to literacy issues – funded thru DCPS and the PWP grant we got

6. Parent Workshops still being developed – SOS FUNDS

PLEASE Donate to our SOS Campaign!!! Donation forms can be found outside the main office on the table or at the link above in the “PTA Welcome Packet”.

3. Introductions

· PTA Executive Board: Amy Weedon (President), Amber Scott (Vice President), Antonia Herzog (Secretary), Jason Kowalski (Treasurer), Emily Paterson (Historian), Michelle Phipps-Evans (Parliamentarian).

· PTA Volunteer Coordinator: Antonia Herzog.

· Fundraising cmt: Elsa Huxley and Linda Samuels. Projects underway include:

o Yard andBake sale: Donate your stuff (on stage of multipurpose room), need more volunteers to sign up at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/maury\_elementary/database?method=reportRows&tbl=39

o Student art card project – winners selected by Capitol Hill Village

o New card and calendar website – can make cards and calendars with your own photos (like on snapfish) and all proceeds go to Maury

o Maury at the Market Silent Auction will be in Eastern Market North Hall as usual and will need lots of help.

o First Fundraising cmt mtg is Wed, Oct 3 at Tunnicliffs at 6:00 pm. If interested in joining the cmt contact Elsa (elsahuxley at gmail dot com)

· Grants Cmt: Rachel Klein and Donny Kirsch. Can help with this work all over email.

· Hospitality cmt: Jen Smoker

o Organizes thanksgiving baskets, winter coat drive for Maury families in need.

o Organizes Teacher/staff Appreciation week.

· International Walk to School Day: George Blackmon is organizing Maury participants. It takes place at Lincoln Park with events starting at 7:45 am. See George’s handout at link above.

· Communications cmt: Shauna Steele and Michelle Phipps-Evans. This used to be the PR/Membership committee and has been repurposed. Goal is to improve school wide communications about what is going on at Maury from clubs to bake sales to fall festival and other fun events.

o They need volunteers to help out with the Maury website. If interested contact Shauna (shauna.steele789 at gmail dot com)

· Events cmt: Amber Scott. This committee will support the clubs helping them to organize and fundraise at Maury events like Fall Festival.

· PTA Newsletter: Kristine Kilmister, Editor. If you would like to submit an article about something going on at Maury for the newsletter contact Kristine (kristine.kilmister at me dot com)

· Academic Support: Diane Douglas and Emily Paterson. Reaches out to the teachers about their needs and organizes academic school events.

o Literacy Night – October 4th

o Mathademics 3-5th graders prep for the DCCCAS

o Think Tank, Weather Bug – make learning fun

· School Improvement Cmt: Ms Vanessa Ford and Anya Zmudzka. Focused on the school grounds right now and waiting on some government grants to come through.

· Room Parent Coordinator: Courtney Schlisserman. We have a full set of room parents now signed up to help out in all the classes and for the specials teachers.

o Room parent orientation now set for Tuesday, Oct. 2 at 8:15 a.m in the Maury Library