



## Maury at the Market...a Roaring Success!

by Heather Schoell

Maury at the Market gets bigger and better every year! M@M 2014 grossed over \$76,000! We saw the addition of a photo booth and a cork pull, plus the additional space of the South Hall of Eastern Market. We had new software that streamlined the handling of donated items and ticket sales. We had more sponsors (thank you, sponsors!). But the main event was YOU. Thank you for volunteering, for spreading the word, for buying raffle tickets, for bidding, and for coming.

This year we raised funds to continue paying our paraprofessionals (classroom parent assistants who aid in teaching our children, opening their lunches, and keeping an eye out for them at recess), for paying Mr. Franklin (he makes recess work!), and for Literacy Lab (an awesome program for all students' reading fluency). Last year's M@M funded technology. This year we're focused on a fund for field trips. You make this happen, and we thank you!

Thank you to Elsa Huxley and Linda Samuel for their focus and work to make this happen. We are already looking toward next year -- who can take this on and put their own stamp on M@M 2015?

**Maury Elementary School** thanks our sponsors for making the 2014 "Maury at the Market" fundraiser a huge success!

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April 2014

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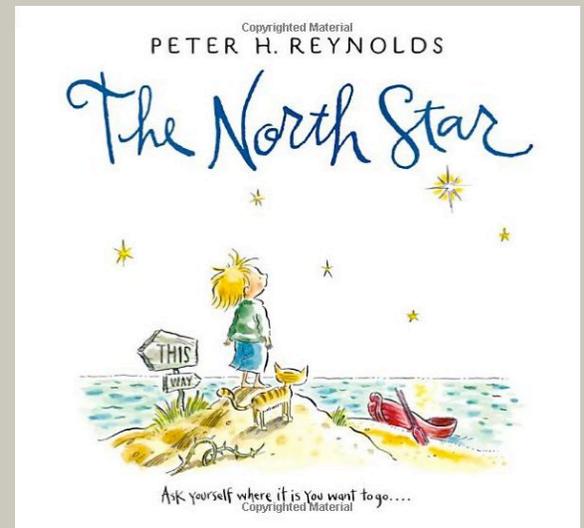
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# Principal's Book of the Month: The North Star

by Peter Reynolds

It is often said that life is a journey, and it's true. But sometimes it's hard to know which path to follow when signs point in so many directions. In this beautifully illustrated book, Peter H. Reynolds once again encourages readers to observe, to wonder, and to consider diverging from the well-worn path to pursue their dreams. Originally published more than ten years ago, THE NORTH STAR has had a profound effect on its many readers. This edition, featuring all new art, celebrates the book's own voyage connecting people around the world. It has inspired classroom activities, a musical, and countless thoughtful journeys.



## Who Will Be My Child's Teacher Next Year?

By Principal Albert-Garvey

Each spring, there is considerable discussion about placing children in classes for the next school year. This is a matter that we do not take lightly at Maury. The teachers and principal will spend many hours forming well-balanced classes in which all children will have an opportunity to learn and to grow in their academic and social skills. We hope that a frank review of our procedures for class placement of students will reduce the need for parents to make requests for specific teachers. When classes are structured, we follow a clear set of guidelines.

Classes are formed into deliberate heterogeneous groups with the following in mind:

- An even gender and racial balance;
- A full range of aptitudes within each class;
- An even proportion of achievement levels and learning styles across the classes at each grade level; and,
- An equal number of students in each class on a grade level.

Once these factors have been considered, teachers begin to build classes of children who show promise of working well together. Attempts are made to match pupil and teacher personality and style. Quite understandably, these decisions are based upon observations made by the teachers during the course of the year. While we review additional input about your child's individual learning needs, such as your observations shared at parent-teacher conferences, any such input will be considered in the context of the guidelines above. Additional comments are entirely optional, but if submitted to principal, they must be written via email and received no later than May 9, 2014. We also trust that you will understand that parents' comments constitute one of the many factors that we consider in forming classes. The final decision on class placements resides with the principal.

Principal's Email Address: [carolyne.albert-garvey@dc.gov](mailto:carolyne.albert-garvey@dc.gov)

## Spring Garden Day – April 5th

Mark your calendars and join the Maury community for the Spring Garden Day on Saturday, April 5 from 10-1. Plan to come for as much of the time as you are able and bring the kids!

Ever wanted to install a green roof? We're excited that our friends at DC Greenworks will be on hand to install green roofs on the sheds out back - a nice educational opportunity for the community, so come watch and learn!



*MauryElementary.com*



# Little Cougar Corner

Check out what our cubs are working on in PE, Think Tank, Library, and Art.

## PE with Ms. Hunt

The Pre-K 3 and 4 classes have moved from working with their feet to learning how to coordinate movement with their hands. We are learning how to toss and catch while working on strengthening their sense of proprioception- the body's ability to adapt to incoming information- and eye-hand coordination. Students are encouraged to practice tossing and catching at home. When brainstorming which items would be best to toss and catch, the students decided socks or small pillows would be safest.

## Think Tank with Ms. Ford

Cougar Cubs voted recently on what they would like to learn about next in science! After brainstorming many ideas, the final three categories were "space", "animals" and "plants". While there were many votes for the animals and plants, space was the overwhelming winner! You can see how your child voted in the main hallway where all voting sheets are displayed. Please stop by the Think Tank to see how we are working to transform the classroom into space including blackout shades, hanging planets, rocket ships,

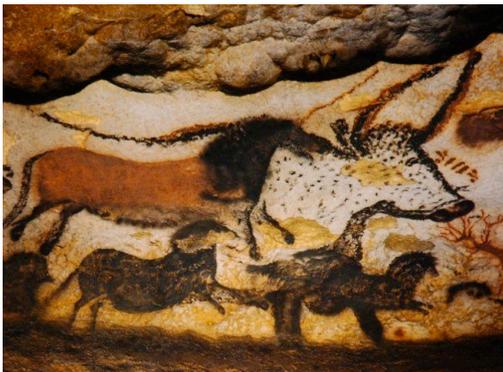
## Library with Ms. Sweeney

TPS and PK just started a Lois Ehlert author study in the library. This week, we read *Color Zoo* and used the Promethean board and an art center to create things out of shapes like she did in the book.

## Art with Ms. Bomba

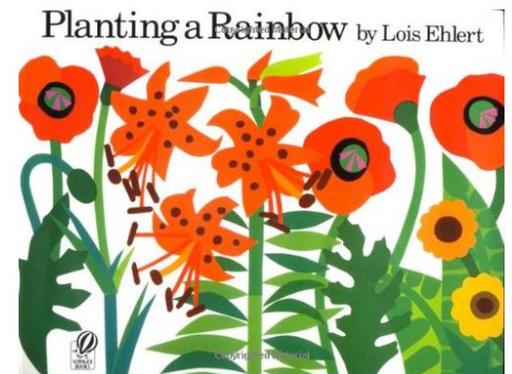
Has anyone seen the art studio lately? Maury artists, PS-2nd grade, have embraced their adventurous sides and used homemade binoculars to take a look deep into our artistic past to the very first examples of art ever made--cave art! Our prehistoric art unit has dropped us at the caves of Lascaux, France where students have taken the idea of experiential learning to a whole new level.

Crawling through the mouth of our "student-made" cave, guided by the light of our lantern, we enter our cold, dark, studio each week and experience life just as the Neanderthal and Cro Magnon people did tens of thousands of years ago. We've made our own cave paint from earth and animal fat (OK, it's really just Crisco but shhh, don't tell the kids), created pictographs on textured surfaces with oil and chalk pastels, and taken a virtual tour through the tunnels of Lascaux to experience what the French boys and their dog, Robot, must have felt like when venturing into the spooky caves back in 1940 when they accidentally



stumbled across one of the most important artistic discoveries of all time.

We are using prehistoric tools to create textured cave walls from clay that we will soon carve our own petroglyphic messages into as a means to communicate what we value most about our modern society. We have also had some pretty heated debates about art conservation and whether or not it's fair that Lascaux is now closed to the public after the wear and tear of thousands of visitors led to the deterioration of these International treasures. Take a break from your busy day and transport yourself to France along with us!



# Maury Student Art Exhibition on Display at the Hill Center

by Ms. Bomba

As many of you already know, our 4th and 5th grade students studied the Pop Art of Andy Warhol this fall and took inspiration from our school-wide food drive to create their own designs for eye-catching packaging in the Warhol style. With the knowledge gained from Ms. Hunt's health class, students were able to highlight a nutritional fun fact, in a creative manner, to help recipients of the donated food know what to look for when planning a healthy diet.

Ms. Bomba is beyond proud to announce that with the tremendous help of our dear Elizabeth Nelson, we were able to secure a most wonderful location to display our student's work! The Hill Center (aka Old Naval Hospital) at 921 Pennsylvania Ave SE agreed to stage a show of these works in conjunction with a larger, juried show already scheduled.

The entire Maury family was invited to the opening reception on Wednesday, March 19 from 6-8 p.m. Maury's work is hanging in a corridor on the ground floor, on the eastern side of the building and is available for viewing during regular gallery hours.

The Hill Center staff has been most helpful at making this opportunity a reality for our students, as well as the fantastic community of parents and volunteers that support Maury everyday. Congratulate a 4th or 5th grader next time you see them in the halls of Maury on this tremendous milestone in their artistic careers.



## Maury Cougars: 2014 DCIAA Elementary Ski Champions!

by Ms. Bomba

In case you haven't heard yet, the Maury Ski Team took home the Championship on Friday in the DCIAA Elementary School Division!

The school champions were determined by taking the average times of all TEN team members after three runs down steep terrain and through official racing gates. Every Maury racer contributed to our success on the mountain. The Maury ski team exhibited athleticism, sportsmanship, and team spirit all season long and made their coaches and school community proud.

In addition to winning the team competition at Liberty Mountain, Maury swept the individual competition as well. Fourth grader, Julian Gutierrez took home first place in the advanced category, followed by fourth graders Martin Michaels placing second, and Dani Michaels placing third. These kids are speed demons!

Fifth grader, Isaac Smoker, held it down for Maury by placing in the Intermediate category while fellow fifth grader Shaun Robinson took home gold in the Beginner competition. Marquette Ellis (5th) as well as Caden Kowalski (4th), and Stella Drager (4th) also medaled in the Beginner competition. Taleyah Evans and Samantha Garcia also competed fiercely in the championships and helped contribute to our team victory on the slopes!

Although many of us will not be sad to see the cold weather go, the snow has been good to the skiers out there this winter season and Liberty Mountain has been a most gracious host. Look for the Maury Ski Team next year as the Cougars go for gold and put their skills to the test as they strive to defend their championship!



# Proving What's Possible Grant

by Donny Klein

As the winter chill refused to loosen its clutch, Chancellor Kaya Henderson offered a ray of sunshine with the announcement in late February that DCPS was offering the opportunity for all DCPS schools to apply for "Proving What's Possible" grants. These funds, which would amount to up to \$100 per student based on projected enrollment in 2014-2015, were to focus on increasing student satisfaction at our schools.

In the short turnaround time allotted for the grants (about two weeks from the announcement to the time for submission), a plan was put in place. In consultation with Principal Albert-Garvey, her leadership team, members of the Maury faculty, and the LSAT, a decision was made to focus on performance arts.

The specific plan calls for Maury's award of \$36,200 to be divided into five areas. Approximately one third of the money will be allotted towards upgrading our audio-visual equipment in the auditorium. Tentatively, this will include upgrading our sound system (and making it portable) and obtaining a lighting system, an LCD projector, and a remote control screen.

The second area of focus will be on increasing our students' access to performances. In addition to bringing performances to Maury, money will also be set aside to hire busses for Maury family nights that will take us to programs such as those offered nightly at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage.

The third area will be to bring groups in to Maury to offer classes and seminars to our students during the school day.

The fourth area of focus will be to provide supplementary funds to our after school program that will bring in similar classes from off-site providers and also support our 2015 spring musical.

The fifth and final portion of the funds will go towards purchasing instruments to be used in our music specials.

Now if that isn't enough to bring a little sunshine to your day, you'll have to get up an hour earlier.

## Teacher Profile: Kim Vaugeois, 5th Grade

I grew up in Albany, NY and came to DC to go to college at GW. I'm the oldest of 6 kids (the first 5 of us were born within 6 years). I lived in a neighborhood where everyone had big families (6-12 kids) so there were always lots of kids to play with. We lived in houses with front lawns and would play huge kickball games for hours. It was one of my favorite things to do. I also liked riding my bike and playing outside with my friends. I loved to ice skate and ski, and we could walk to a nearby pond to skate on. My father took us skiing on weekends. In the summer I liked to swim. I was always a big reader and loved to go to the library and get books to read - Laura Ingalls Wilder books were favorites. My sister and I are one year apart and we liked to read the same books (we still do sometimes).

We had a cat and a dog when I was growing up, and also had turtles, fish, guinea pigs and gerbils at different times. I have always had cats but my cat died in November. I am planning to get two rescue cats or kittens soon.

I have two children, Christophe and Melissa. My son got married in September and now I have a daughter-in-law named Sarah. They live in DC right across the street from me. My daughter turned 30 this week and we had a big birthday party in New York where she lives and works.

I love teaching, and one of my favorite times of day is reading aloud to my class. I love how they really get into the stories and share great insights into the characters and story. My students often look at things in a different way than I had when I first read the book. I love to hear their ideas.

I really love all the people at Maury. I think the whole staff is wonderful - they've all been so welcoming and helpful and everyone really works well together. I'm especially enjoying my class's partnership with Ms. Battle's class. I love seeing my students read with their kindergarten buddies. I definitely want to continue the partnership next year. I like the diversity at Maury among staff and students and how supportive everyone is of each other.



# Think Tank Corner

by Ms. Ford

There has been so much going on in Think Tank that I don't even know where to begin! Unlike school-wide units, many grade levels are completing their own, unique studies. Stay tuned for a blog post with pictures and more info about each of these units!

Preschool and Pre-k, along with Kindergarten voted to begin their study of Space! Come visit the Think Tank to see our lunar rover, stars and lay beneath the night sky in our very own planetarium.

1st Graders are going to become agricultural engineers, learning about hand pollinators and applying this knowledge through a study of plants. The unit is through the Boston Museum of Science's "Engineering is Elementary" program. These classes are also now seeing me weekly and will be part of the Anacostia Watershed Society's "Junior Rice Rangers" program starting March 28th! AWS loves Maury so much that this is the first time they are extending this program to our younger learners!

2nd Graders have been taking part in a partnership with the National Forest Service. They are learning about bats, will see REAL bats, learn about birdcalls and then have a visit from the amazing Jo Santiago and her Birds of Prey! In between they too are becoming engineers--- aerospace engineers! They are studying how helicopters work and how technologies are inspired by the world around them. They started by studying seeds and will apply this knowledge to their helicopter models.



3rd grade has been in the middle of an intensive EiE Environmental Engineering unit where they learn about the important of pH on ecosystems and design their own models to clean up oil spills. They were also visited by the Executive Director of the National Science Teacher's Association for one of their lessons--- a major honor! Both classes have truly been making me proud with the way they have thrown themselves into this unit, exploring, asking questions and solving real-world problems!

4th grade is finishing up an incredible partnership with the District Architecture Center's "Architects in the Schools" program. Their work with the architecture team has been amazing! Please see my most recent blog post for more information.

5th grade just began their study of Green Engineering, specifically the need to harness solar power in Sub-Saharan Africa to cook. The students have jumped into

this immediately with a passion and interest that is infectious. They will learn about thermo-dynamics and apply that knowledge to creating their own working solar ovens!

As you can see, our learning in Think Tank is FULL so volunteers are always welcome! If there is an area of interest, even if it isn't a grade-level that you child is in, please know you are welcome. Please just email me at [Vanessa.ford@dc.gov](mailto:Vanessa.ford@dc.gov) and follow our learning on Twitter @maurythinktank and <http://maurythinktank.blogspot.com>.



Students measure each chair to see how the dimensions change as they get larger.





The next Eliot-Hine Open House is:

May 6 @ 9am - 10:30am  
& 5:30pm- 6:30pm

## Finally, A Disco!

by George Blackmon

On March 14th the much anticipated Maury Loves Disco event finally occurred. Students got into the mood by wearing outfits reminiscent of the 1980s. The DJ played a variety of songs from that era as well as some of the more recent hits. Students and adults alike were seen dancing to the hits. In addition, there was a special performance by Class Act.

By far, this year's disco was the best!

## Upcoming Events

**March 31 - April 4:** Week 1 of DCCAS Testing for grades 3-5

**April 5:** Spring Garden Day @ 10am - 1pm

**April 7 - 10:** Week 2 of DCCAS Testing for grades 3-5

**April 9:** Literacy Lab Parent Workshop @ 5-6pm (PS, PK & K)

**April 10:** PTA Meeting @ 6pm

**April 14 - 21:** Spring Break -- NO SCHOOL

**May 2:** Professional Development Day -- NO SCHOOL



## Active Maury DonorsChoose.org Projects

### Book Project

– Ms. George (4th Grade)

My students have about thirty minutes of independent reading time every day and they like to try out different types of texts. I know they would love to have new magazines coming in every week. They would practice their nonfiction reading skills and strategies while learning recent news and information.

These subscriptions would help my students get more interested during independent reading time. Please support this project if you can and help out my students. Support kids literacy!(Total cost = \$587 )

To donate or see latest active Maury projects to to: <http://www.donorschoose.org/school/maury-elementary-school/28253/?active=true>

