



June 2014

Capitol Hill Community Foundation Awarding Maury \$4,900 in Grants!

by Donny Kirsch

May brought some wonderful news today from the Capitol Hill Community Foundation.

They will be awarding Maury

\$4900 in grants for the spring session. I'd like to take a few moments to thank our grant writers – Becky McGeehan, Greg Michaels, Anne Phelps, and Christina Porche. Thanks also goes to staff members Mr. Scott, Ms. Rabiah, Mr. Rogers, and Principal Albert-Garvey who submitted proposals and helped supply the necessary details, along with our PTA board members who are always helpful in helping to supplying last minute information. And we cannot forget the Capitol Hill Community Foundation, which does so much for our school and community.

The specifics for the grants are as follows:

1. \$1000 towards the purchase of books and resources that will allow our early childhood teachers to offer a bigger variety of studies for their students and help ensure that preschool and PreK are unique experiences for our students.
2. \$2000 to purchase a variety of informational texts for each grade level band to give students access to texts for independent reading time, high-quality hardcopy and online texts with multiple layers of comprehension and understanding for teachers to guide whole-class and small group instruction using close reading models, and high-quality mentor texts so that teachers can create new reading and writing units of study to align with Common Core Standards.
3. \$900 to send Mr. Rogers to the Level Two Orff Schulwerk course that teaches an active approach to music and movement education. Mr. Rogers took the first installment of this course last year, and we have seen the seeds planted blossom throughout the year in our children's classrooms and in their school-wide performances and can look forward to even more growth in the years to come.
4. \$1000 to support the amazing Roots of Empathy program.



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PTA Election Results

Congratulations to our new:

President - Elsa Huxley
Treasurer - Adam Hais
Parliamentarian - Ron Ford

Many thanks to our outgoing:

President, Amy Weedon;
Treasurer, Jason Kowalski; and
Parliamentarian, Michelle Evans

For their service on our PTA Executive Board and all they have done to support Maury over the last 2 years and more!



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Library Corner

by Ms. Sweeney

We are using the DCPL summer reading program as our program again--Several K-4 classes are going to the public library in the next 2 weeks to get signed up (look for a permission slip soon!) and there will be a party at the beginning of next school year for all of the K-5 kids who participate. More information will be coming in next week's Tuesday folder!

Learn more at <http://www.dclibrary.org/summerreading>.

Science Corner

by Ms. Ford

Next time you walk through the main lobby, check out two projects on display! The first are the final models built by our 4th grade architects as part of the Architects in the Schools program. Both 4th grade classes worked for 8 weeks with architects to learn about the field and then applied their knowledge to designing a dream early childhood classroom! Each group was given one section of the class (dramatic play, table toys etc). Each unique piece fits with others so when they are all put together the model is complete. Our students also presented at The District Architecture Center on May 26th about all they learned.

Next to these models you will see grow lights. PS-K are planting Wisconsin Fast Plants to help them observe the plant life cycle. These special seeds grow through their entire life cycle in 40 days so look at them each day to see how they are changing! More information on the Fast Plants program can be found at www.fastplants.org.

As all of the grades finish up their end of the year projects in Think Tank stay tuned to my blog for a wrap-up and lots of pictures!



Complete model with all group pieces arranged together, forming one dream early childhood classroom.

A Year In Review

By George Blackmon

Tick...tock...tick...tock

The sound of another school year winding down. As much as everyone is ready for its conclusion, it would be safe to say this has been a memorable school year.

Maury has had many examples of being recognized for achievement. From staff receiving high awards for their work to students reaching heights in academics and athletics.

While the recognition maybe icing on the cake, students and staff alike would say it took and continues to take a lot of work for success. If you really think it over, it was really the small successes that led to bigger things. Examples like that student who perfected tying his shoes, finally got their multiplication tables correct or went a week without a meltdown were common. These small acts of significance caused us to say "good job" or "you did it" even "thank you".

So as we depart from each other in a few weeks, be encouraged to continue those upward strides during summer vacation.



Cougar Cub Corner

Ms. Levin's PS4



The Bella Birds have been studying "Flowers." We have created an environment and a culture in our classroom that supports and encourages children to be young naturalists.

The classroom conveys the excitement and wonder of observing and learning about living things. It is a place in which children are asked to think about the needs of living things and how they are met. Outdoors this means disturbing the environment as little as possible; indoors this means creating mini-environments in which living things are in as natural an environment as possible.

Bella Bird students ask questions, observe closely over time, and think about what their observations tell them. Our classroom environment encourages children to ask questions and find answers. The children are encouraged to share their observations and ideas through small and large group discussions, and they have learned to listen to what others have to say. They also spend time documenting what we see – using careful sketches, written words, and names. In a recent trip to the US Botanic Gardens, students carried small clipboards and pencils to capture their impressions of the flowers. **Ms.**

Timmons' PS4

What a wonderful year we have had thus far learning, exploring, and growing in knowledge from the various studies we have done in Mrs. Timmons' class. In the beginning, learning about insects was all the buzz! We became creative builders and architects with our study about buildings. We had a ball learning about balls and what makes things bounce and roll. We became great observers of nature learning about flowers and plants. And now we are having a blast as we learn about water and how all living things need water. Our studies have been so fun and engaging that it has brought such an excitement for learning whether it is through classroom activities or outdoor excursions. If you ask our friends in Mrs. Timmons class' if they have fun learning, they will say (or sing) "yes, indeed, yes, indeed!"



Mr. Scott's PS4

Since the middle of May, the students have been engaged in a study about rocks since they made the discovery that our very own playground also has rocks! Now they are learning more about the different kinds of rocks, where rocks are found, what they are made of, and how they are used. Students are helping to collect different rocks they see outside the school and be using thinking skills to make predictions, investigate, and solve problems.

It's very hard to believe the end of year is coming up, which also means needing to start transitioning the students for experiences next year. In the last month or so students have come to the realization they won't be in Mr. Scott's class forever and will be in a new class, a new teacher and in some cases new friends next year. There have been a range of interesting reactions from some appearing to be taking it very well and excited about being in a bigger kid class to others being in complete denial.

Mrs. Wright-Spurlock PK

Mrs. Wright-Spurlock's class recently finished up their study of wheels. They celebrated with a culminating activity of riding the MARC train to Baltimore! They are now "digging deep" into the study of flowers. They are learning everything they can about flowers. The Dramatic Play center has been transformed into a flower shop and the kids are looking forward to a flower-arranging day.

Mrs. Mitchell's PK

Mrs. Mitchell's prekindergarten class has been welcoming the arrival of spring with a study of flowers. The kids have turned their Dramatic Play center into a bustling "Happy Kids Flower Shop." They are taking turns being florist, cashier, and customer and have learned how to make their own floral arrangements. Mrs. Mitchell says, "It's amazing to hear the conversations of the children engaging in meaningful pretend play." Additionally, the students took turns measuring each other and then designed a flower their own size - these colorful "flowers my size" line the wall across from the classroom entrance. On a smaller scale, for another project, the kids used felt pieces to cut out the parts of a flower and then labeled those parts. And this week, the class will finish interesting study will include field trips to a flower



planting sunflowers. The culmination of this fun and shop and the Botanical Gardens.

A Warm Welcome to Some New (& Returning) Faces...



Mr. Ayinde Spradley will be joining Maury as our new assistant principal. We are thrilled that he'll be coming back to Maury. Mr. Spradley is a native New Yorker and has been exposed to education his entire life coming from a family of teachers and principals. He started his career in education as a substitute teacher in Brooklyn, New York. Once leaving New York City, Mr. Spradley relocated to Maryland where he taught second and fourth grade. He began working for the District of Columbia Public Schools as a second grade and third grade teacher at Maury Elementary. After his tenure in the classroom, Mr. Spradley joined the Office of Professional Development as a Teacher Mentor, and has served as Assistant Principal at Davis Elementary School, and Eastern SHS.

Mr. Spradley has a Bachelor's degree in Social Science from the College of New Rochelle and a Master's degree in Educational Administration from Trinity University, Washington, DC. Assistant Principal Spradley is married and has a five year old daughter. He enjoys traveling, collecting sports memorabilia and music.

Carolyn Setash will begin her fifth year teaching at Maury in 2014. She will be joining Ms. VanNessa Duckett at 4th grade. She previously taught first through third grade at C.W. Harris Elementary School in Southeast Washington, D.C. While there, Ms. Setash received the Rubenstein Award for Highly Effective Teaching in 2013. She also led the school's family engagement practices with their partnership with the Flamboyant Foundation. Ms. Setash is passionate about closing the achievement gap and is most excited about creating a classroom climate in which every student is able to feel confident, take risks, and meet their goals.

Ms. Setash holds a B.S. in elementary education with a minor in special education from the University of Maryland, College Park. In her spare time, Ms. Setash loves playing with her two dogs Annie and Pepper, fixing up her new home in D.C., and rock climbing at the local climbing gym. She is thrilled to join the fourth grade team at Maury and looks forward to meeting all of her students and families.

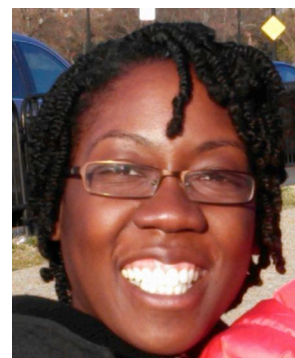


Rebecca Hipps will be entering her sixth year of teaching in the 2014-15 school year. She will be joining Carly Fox at 2nd grade. She has taught in a variety of grade levels and has most recently worked as the literacy coach at Washington Latin PCS. Mrs. Hipps received a BA in Elementary Education and an MA in Literacy Curriculum and Instruction from Arizona State University. She has wanted to be a teacher since she was a little girl. In fact, she can remember making seating charts and lesson plans for her stuffed animals. She is passionate about reading and writing and loves to talk about books with anyone who will listen.

Mrs. Hipps moved to the DC area from Arizona, with her husband Zach, two years ago, and loves living on the East Coast. During the warmer months, she enjoys being outside. Whether she is hiking, camping, or biking, Mrs. Hipps loves to spend her weekends exploring the many national parks in the area. In addition, the arts have always been an important part of Mrs. Hipps' life. She enjoys singing, playing the piano, drawing and knitting.

Shanna Williams-Carr will be joining Maury as our new part-time math resource teacher. For ten years Mrs. Carr has worked at Smothers ES in NE Washington DC as a classroom room teacher and an instructional coach. This year Mrs. Carr will join the Maury staff as a Math Resource teacher. Mrs. Carr loves technology and all that it can do to enhance the education of children.

Mrs. Carr came from the Bronx in New York City to attend University of Maryland- College Park. She received a BS in Elementary Education and is currently completing her MEd in Teacher Leadership with an emphasis in Mathematics Education. In her spare time, Mrs. Carr loves to go the beach and spend time with her two girls.



Mr. Adam Roach will be joining Maury as our new Librarian. Mr. Roach received a Master's in Education from Hollins University, a Bachelor's in English from Roanoke College, and is currently pursuing a Master's in Library & Information Science through Catholic University. A licensed educator of Language Arts, he taught grades five through seven in Virginia for six years before going on to work in various library and technical support positions throughout DC. An avid reader of all genres, his favorite authors include Ray Bradbury, Terry Pratchett, and Gary Paulsen. In addition to English, Mr. Roach has led programs on

film-making, theater, robotics, and forensic science. He is very excited about being a part of the library program at Maury Elementary and is looking forward to working with all the students, teachers, and staff.



DC3 Annual Spelling Bee

By Michelle Phipps-Evans

It was an exciting night as our Maury spellers competed against other spellers of the DC3--Hyde Addison, Janney, Mann, Miner, Orr, Smothers, and Wheatley--at the DC3 Annual Spelling Bee.

Our spellers were:

Third Grade: Ethan and Kevin. (alt) Cooper

Fourth Grade: Milo, Isabel and Taleyah. (alt) Samantha

Fifth Grade: Isaac, Shaun and Marquette (alt) Gabby

They were separated into 3th and 4th grades; and 5th through 8th grades. All our spellers fared well--going to at least the third round for all before elimination.

Our highest-placed winner was Isabel who placed 2nd among the 3rd-4th graders. Congrats to Isabel.

For the last year, I've worked as a spelling coach with your spellers in the spelling club on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Thank you so much for allowing me to work with them. Your children are awesome. I'm really proud that Milo and Isaac went all the way to NBC4 in the national Scripps Spelling Bee back in April, and that one of our spellers placed within the top 3 in the DC3.

One of my highlights last night was when the 3rd-4th grade spellers were entering the fifth round, Maury had four out of the 13 spellers on stage. Proud moment.

Thank you so much to Ms. Rabiah for coordinating the children, getting them out of class, and keeping parents informed. And thanks to Ms. Hairston and Ms. Coleman for making those announcements over the intercom for me. And especially a big thanks to the teachers in third, fourth and fifth grades, who allowed their children to be part of the club, and especially to principal Albert Garvey for your support of Maury's participation in the spelling bees. Most important, thank you to the parents who encouraged and cajoled the children at home to keep practicing and studying the words. They couldn't accomplish what they did without you.

I am looking forward to being able to carry on the club next year when all our spellers will be "winners taking all."



Maury 5th Graders Take a Step Back and Remember

By Jen Smoker

Fifteen Maury students will be promoted on Tuesday, June 17 at 10:00 am. We gave them a chance to reflect on their years at Maury and share some of their thoughts.

“The things I appreciate in school are the field trips and the new playground and how the teachers worked hard to get it for us kids. We thank them a lot and I thank the coaches for letting kids play flag football and basketball.” **Malik Hinton (Maury since Kindergarten)**

“I’m grateful for the teachers and staff for teaching me math and ELA and helping me play board games like Racko. I’m also grateful for Ms. Washington for keeping us safe from each other.” **Marquette T. Ellis (Maury since Pre School)**

“What I’m grateful for is a Ms. Iris. She is nice and funny. She comes upstairs to see me. We sometimes play Blokus and once she had me hold a toy for her son. I like to help her because she is so nice and she is my friend.” **Christian Johnson (First year at Maury)**

“I’m thankful for Maury because of all the activities and money that they used for the children at this school and all the discipline that the teachers have – especially the English Language Arts teachers. I love all the teachers that have taught me everything I know over the past 4 years. Some students think school is bad (for many reasons) but school is actually fun.” **Gabby Giannelli (Maury since 3rd grade)**

“At Maury I’m grateful for my friends and my teachers. One of the best days was when we were in 3rd grade and we went to a marsh. We put on boots to go in the mud. As soon as we got in, everybody started falling and some people couldn’t move. We were supposed to be planting plants but instead everybody was throwing mud at each other.” **Nina Anderson (Maury since 3rd grade)**

“I’m grateful that Maury is preparing us for 6th grade. I like that we get badges with our faces on them (Metro cards) because when we get to 6th grade we will already have an idea of what it will be like. I also like the playground because we were waiting for it to open and when it was done we were all excited. I like the slides and the green spinning thing.” **Ravyn Tyree (Maury since Kindergarten)**

“What I like about Maury is learning, the field trips we take, and the things we do at recess. The thing I like most about Maury is our basketball and football teams because you get to be active. The people I will never forget are Ms. George (Fitzpatrick) and Mrs. Cooper.” **Anthony Augburn (Maury since 3rd grade)**

“Some things that made me happy throughout my years at Maury include having the best teachers in the world, learning everything we can, having the best principal in the world and all the people who helped me pass grades and helped me along all the way through elementary school. Coach Chris and Coach Jalen helped me not just in sports but in learning skills too (like how to control my anger). All of these teachers are very disciplined and are great teachers. They made sure I learned everything and was prepared for the next grade. When I first stepped foot in this school I felt nervous but the teachers made it feel like a new home to me.” **Shaun Robinson (Maury since PreK)**

“I am grateful for Mr. Havner and Mrs. Albert-Garvey because they let us go to the pool. They helped me become a good person and a good learner. Mr. Havner helped this little kid with Spanish and Mrs. Albert-Garvey helped me with math.” **Brittany Quintero (Maury since Kindergarten)**

“I’m grateful for Mrs. Cooper who took us skiing because Marquette, Anthony, Shaun R, Isaac and I went down the Oopsie Daisy slope. I ran into a lady when I tried to stop and I slipped and fell and my skis popped off!” **Shaun Walton (Maury since Kindergarten)**

“I’m grateful for all the things I learned because if I didn’t, I wouldn’t know anything. For all the teachers who taught me and all the friends I’ve made and for Mrs. Albert-Garvey because these things made me the person I am today and I’m grateful for that.” **Jahaad Coates (Maury since 1st grade)**

“I’m grateful for the teachers that gave me more math time and who helped me, including Ms. Hariston, Mr. Havner, Ms. Vaugeois, Mrs. Albert-Garvey and last but not least Mrs. Cooper. Mrs. Rabiah helped me by showing me an easy way to do fractions.” **Asha Pernell (Maury since Kindergarten)**



"My best memory of Maury was the first day of Kindergarten. I woke up early and every two minutes asked, "Can we go to school yet?" Finally we did and I practically danced my way to school. When we got there it hit me - this wasn't in any of the 'let's go to school books', it seemed so dark and old and all of a sudden I felt lonely but when I saw the loving face of my teacher Mrs. Battle, I felt much better." **Isaac Smoker (Maury since Kindergarten)**

"Of all my time at Maury, I'm grateful for the teachers who showed me I could learn how to read and write and the principals who know that I am a good kid even when I was being bad and those teachers that pushed my intelligence, that made me think and that told me knowledge is the key. I appreciate the teachers that taught me what my ancestors lived through and inspired me to work at STEM when I grow up." **Daivon Taylor (Maury since Kindergarten)**

Upcoming Events

June 2-6: Book Fair

June 5: PTA Meeting @ 6pm

June 6: Volunteer Breakfast

June 12: Spring Concert @ 9:30am Maury & 6:30pm Eliot-Hine

June 13: Field Day

June 17: Grade 5 Promotion @ 10:00am

June 18: Kindergarten Promotion @ 10:00am

June 20: Last Day of School!

June 30: Summer School Begins

Volunteers Needed for the Spring Concert & Field Day!!

PLEASE sign up for one of the two big events we have this week!

Thursday, June 12th **SPRING CONCERT:** Sign-up in the front lobby or email nathaniel.rogers@dc.gov for:

- * 3:30pm meet at Maury to bring instruments to Elliot-Hine (2 pp with large cars)
- * 7:30pm bring instruments back to Maury (2 pp with large cars)
- * Sit with class at evening event (2 per class)
- * Hand out programs at event- 6:30pm (4 total)

Friday, June 13th **FIELD DAY:** New and exciting day of activities. LOTS and LOTS of volunteers needed to make happen.

Sign up: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pKFiaQxRzUMoZsUpxjhin9PwbTAta4T4Ed5fLEH7PUQ/viewform>.

