



MAURY  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

**Parent Teacher Association  
Welcome Packet**

2015–2016 School Year



# MAURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

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Elsa Huxley, President • Jonnel Herndon, Vice President • Adam Hais, Treasurer • Jessica Gardner, Secretary • JR Ford, Parliamentarian

Dear Maury Families,

On behalf of your PTA Executive Board, welcome to the 2015–2016 school year at Maury Elementary! The Executive Board and supporting committees have been working throughout the summer to ensure a year filled with wonderful experiences for our children, ways to support academic excellence, and opportunities for all of our parents to make a real and positive impact on our community.

Our PTA is involved in every aspect of the school, enjoying a true partnership with Maury's administration and staff. The participation of every member of our PTA is vital to Maury's success. Please plan on contributing by volunteering your time and talent in addition to financial support. There are opportunities to contribute in every possible way—from home, in the school, and in different ways throughout the year. Every year, we welcome our new and returning families, excited to see the ways our organization grows and develops with your work, talent, and ideas.

PTA meetings are held the third Thursday of each month during the school year (unless a holiday or school event affects the meeting date). **Our first PTA meeting this year will be held on Thursday, September 17, at 6 pm.** We sell pizza and water, and offer free childcare by the Polite Piggy's staff. Please mark your calendars and join us at this important first meeting to hear from your elected officers, meet members of our school community, and attend breakout sessions to find your place in the PTA's work on behalf of our kids and school.

In this welcome packet, you'll find information about the Maury PTA and its activities, including:

- PTA Membership Form—**return to the PTA**
- Volunteer Form—**return to the PTA**
- PTA Committee List
- PTA Fundraising Activities
- S.O.S. Campaign
- Parent Changemakers
- School Calendar of Events
- How to Stay Connected

If you have any questions, comments, or ideas, please feel free to speak with any Executive Committee member in person, drop a note through the PTA mailbox in the school lobby (behind the security desk), or send an e-mail to: [maurypta@yahoo.com](mailto:maurypta@yahoo.com). We look forward to hearing from you!

Best,

PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

# Maury PTA Committees

## **Communications**

Focuses on internal and external communications at Maury and with the community.

CHAIR: Michelle Phipps-Evans, mbpevans@yahoo.com

## **Fundraising**

Coordinates and implements events to raise funds for the PTA.

CHAIR: Franny Decker, fmmarcucci@hotmail.com

## **Grants**

Identify and write grants in collaboration with Maury teachers and staff.

CHAIR: Donny Kirsch, donny.kirsch@gmail.com

## **Hospitality**

Help Maury families in need (as need arises in addition to Thanksgiving Baskets and Coat Drive) and provide refreshments at school-hosted events for outside guests.

CHAIR: Clare Dougherty, cdougherty@pedaids.org

## **Middle Schools**

Develop relationships within Maury's feeder middle school to create a smooth transition for Ward 6 students.

CHAIR: Kristina Vidal, darthcurlius@yahoo.com

## **Open Houses**

Community members and prospective families are taken on a tour of the school led by current Maury parents, followed by Q&A with our principal. Occurs three times per school year.

CHAIR: Max Kieba, maxjkieba@gmail.com

## **Room Parents**

Communication link between teacher and parents. Coordinate class participation in events.

CHAIR: JR Ford, ronmford@gmail.com

## **School Improvement**

Supports physical school improvement efforts such as greening and Spring and Fall Clean Up Days, PTA lead on school renovation project.

CHAIR: Max Kieba, maxjkieba@gmail.com

## **Space Camp Fundraising**

Fundraises for the annual 5th grade trip to Space Camp.

CHAIR: Amy Weedon, amyweedon@verizon.net

## **Teacher Appreciation**

Fundraise and arrange events for Teacher Appreciation Week and the Staff Back to School Breakfast.

CHAIR: Heather Bonome, hp\_long@hotmail.com

# PTA Fundraising Activities

The Maury PTA Fundraising Committee works hard every year to support teachers, aides, and programming for our students and we hope you will join us in helping to raise the resources needed to sustain our vibrant school. This year, the PTA hopes to raise over \$150,000—that's a lot of money and we can't do it without you! Learn more below about what we do, and ways you can get involved.

**Maury PTA Dues.** Annual membership dues are \$15 per member, and are vital to supporting our PTA.

**Maury at the Market (M@M) | Saturday, March 19, 2016.** This is far and away the biggest Maury social and fundraising event of the year, raising about \$80,000 for the PTA. This fun, adults-only evening is held at Eastern Market, and features a live auction and silent auction. There are ways large and small to support the effort: seeking sponsors, collecting items to be auctioned, donating items, hanging posters, or working a shift during the event. There are sponsorship opportunities for companies, corporations, or even families. Work on this important event has already begun; please contact M@M Event Chair Kenyon Weaver at: [kenyons\\_email@yahoo.com](mailto:kenyons_email@yahoo.com).



The Maury Yard Sale always boasts a great collection of books and DVDs for everyone.

**Support our School (S.O.S.) Campaign.** DCPS requires aides in PK3, PK4, and Kindergarten classrooms, but not for Grades 1–5. Since 2009, our community has made a commitment to having aides in every classroom at Maury to assist our teachers and guide our students. This is a \$25,000 initiative—please see our special S.O.S. Campaign page in this packet.

**Maury Yard Sale | Saturday, September 19, 2015.** This annual event is a great way to clean out your closets, find some good bargains, and donate to the PTA. Donations of clean, lightly-used clothing (including uniforms), household items, furniture, books, and toys for every age and interest are welcome. And new this year: a chic boutique of high-end designer clothes. This year we hope to raise \$8,000!

**Dining out for Maury.** There are two great opportunities to dine out to support the Maury PTA! We hope to raise about \$3,500 total from these two recurring events.

- **The Argonaut.** Any and every time you go to the Argonaut, please let them know you are supporting Maury and would like gems. For every \$25 you spend you will get one gem; bring the gem back to Maury and we get \$5 back from the Argonaut.
- **Tunnichliff's.** The first Tuesday of the month is Maury Night at Tunnichliff's. Tunnichliff's contributes 15% of all sales from 5:00–9:00 PM back to Maury. This is a fun way to get together with your students' friends and their families while supporting the PTA.

**Weekly Bake Sale.** Maury hosts a bake sale in the lobby every Wednesday after school. All items are \$1, and all proceeds go to the PTA. You can support this effort by signing up to be a baker, seller, or by sending your student with money to buy an item—or all of the above. The commitment is low, but the rewards are great—we'll raise close to \$8,500 through this effort.

**T-Shirt sales.** In the Fall and Spring there will be t-shirt sales (along with reusable grocery bags, cups, car magnets etc) We hope to raise \$2,800 with this effort.

**Support through shopping.** There are several ways to support Maury PTA through the everyday shopping you will do for your family. These efforts combined will raise about \$3,200. Links are available on the school website at: [mauryelementary.com/2013/11/free-money-for-maury/](http://mauryelementary.com/2013/11/free-money-for-maury/).

- **E-Scrips.** Shop through E-Scrips at stores like Nordstrom, Macy's, Home Depot for special deals and a percentage comes back to Maury. You can also register your credit cards as well as Safeway, Harris Teeter, Target and other loyalty cards for a percentage back to the PTA.
- **Amazon Smile.** Register at Amazon Smile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)) and select Maury as your charity and we'll receive .5% of your purchase back. Please let your friends and family know—they can support Maury, too!
- **Mabel Label's.** Your student will need to have their items labeled for school (and don't forget about summer camps and sports teams so order a lot!) and ordering through Mabel's Labels will give a percentage back to Maury PTA.
- **French Toast.** When ordering your students uniforms check French Toast for some great and durable styles and a percentage of sales comes back to the PTA.
- **Life Touch.** We even get a percentage of what you spend on your photo order on picture day!
- **Tea Collection Clothing.** Love the brand Tea Collection for your kids? Well twice a year we will get a special shopping code you can use online (and feel free to share with friends and family) that we get a percentage back on sales!

**No Uniform Pass Day.** This is a new fundraiser we started last year and we raised over \$500 the first day. For \$2 each students bought a "Pajama Pass" and were allowed to wear their pajamas on a specific day. We think it has the potential to raise over \$2,000.

**Box Tops and Labels for Education.** Remember to save those Box Tops and Labels found on all kinds of grocery products (mainly items like soup, cereal, pasta, prepared and canned items). They are worth 10 cents each and we hope to raise \$500—that's 5,000 tops, so start saving! Box tops and labels are collected all year long, and can be dropped off near the PTA mailbox, behind the security desk.

There are a few other smaller events throughout the year but this is a snapshot of what you can expect. I hope you can see how crucial these events are to the overall fundraising effort. We hope you will consider joining the PTA and supporting these events not only with financial resources but your time and talent. The PTA would not be able to fund the fantastic programming provided to our children without the combined efforts of our Maury Family—we are glad you are part of that family!

Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions, I look forward to meeting you!

**Franny Decker, Maury PTA Fundraising Chair**

Mom to Nora (PK4) and Tommy (PK3)

[fmmarcucci@hotmail.com](mailto:fmmarcucci@hotmail.com) or (202) 215-8259

# Support Our School (S.O.S.) Campaign

Each year, the Maury PTA funds the S.O.S. Campaign to support specific efforts and programming. This year, the funds raised will be used primarily to help to cover the nearly \$80,000 the PTA needs to pay for classroom aides. Our goal for this campaign is \$25,000.

Years ago, the parents of younger children realized that while DCPS covers aides for the early childhood programs, students in Grades 1–5 were in just as much need of an extra adult in the classroom. The PTA voted to raise the funds and since 2009, has funded the salaries for the aides in those grades. We have seen firsthand the positive impact that a caring, qualified classroom assistant can make on student achievement! This year, the PTA-employed aides are:



Grade 4 Aide Mr. McLendon.

**Tiera Lawrence**, Grade 1

**Iris Jefferson**, Grade 2

**Robin Paul**, Grade 3

**Jalen McLendon**, Grade 4 and Recess Monitor

**Angela Caudle**, Grades 4 and 5

In the past, the S.O.S. Campaign has also been used to support literacy programs and other programs such as dance. Popular programs, including some new ones, will continue to be supported by the PTA, but the concentration of the campaign this year will be on covering

these salaries. We love our aides, and you can expect to see more about each of them in promotional materials for S.O.S. over the coming weeks!

To achieve our annual \$25,000 goal for this campaign, we are requesting a donation of \$200 per student. Not all of our families are able to support at this level, but your contribution to this campaign—in any amount—goes directly to funding the salaries of our classroom aides, and makes a positive and lasting impact on every student at Maury.

Payment can be made with PTA dues on the enclosed form, or in a separate check made out to Maury Elementary PTA with “S.O.S.” and your child’s name in the memo line. Every amount helps and if you are able to contribute more, please do so for this important effort.

If you have any questions on the S.O.S. Campaign, please contact Maury PTA Fundraising Chair Franny Decker at: [fmmarcucci@hotmail.com](mailto:fmmarcucci@hotmail.com).

# Maury Parent Changemakers

Maury is an Ashoka Changemaker School. We want to familiarize everyone with Maury's partnership with Ashoka and with the Maury Parent Changemakers initiative.

Ashoka is the largest network of social entrepreneurs worldwide, with nearly 3,000 Ashoka Fellows in 70 countries putting their system-changing ideas into practice on a global scale. Founded in 1980, Ashoka has provided start-up financing, professional support services, and connections to a global network across business and social sectors, and a platform for people dedicated to changing the world.

Ashoka's mission began in catalyzing individual entrepreneurs, but has evolved to enabling an "everyone is a changemaker" world. This means equipping more people—including young people—with a skillset and a connection to purpose, so that they can contribute ideas and effectively solve problems at whatever scale is needed in their family, community, city, workplace, field, industry, country, and beyond. This evolution comes from the realization that, in an increasingly complex and interconnected world, the speed of change is accelerating at an exceptionally rapid pace. Ashoka believes in a true world community, where everyone contributes to change for the good of all.



In 2013, Maury was named an Ashoka Changemaker School. Changemaker Schools are a community of education institutions that prioritize the cultivation of empathy, teamwork, leadership, and changemaking in their students. Maury has chosen to concentrate on the skill of empathy and the school's culture and curriculum is infused with this focus.

The reality is that changemakers are not born—they are shaped by their experiences and most importantly, their influencers. As a Changemaker School, Maury's administration, teachers, and staff are influencers passionate about helping our children understand and show empathy. The classroom, however, is our children's environment for only a portion of their week . . . As parents, the most critical influence in a child's life, we have an incredible opportunity to enable our children to master all of the skills needed to become changemakers of the 21st century.

To that end, the Maury Parent Changemakers initiative is a parent-led effort, formed in partnership with Ashoka. This initiative has the unique opportunity to benefit from the significant research done regarding specific skills consistent in current social and technology changemakers around the world—and specific parenting practices that shaped those changemakers in their youth. Throughout the school year, the Parent Changemakers initiative will share this knowledge through many channels, including the weekly Tuesday Folder, PTA updates, and special events.

Many thanks and I am looking forward to sharing this insightful work with all of you.

**Maureen Shove-Brown, Parent Lead Maury Parent Changemakers Initiative**

Mom to Brigid (Kindergarten)  
maureen@01concept.com

# 2015–2016 Maury School Calendar

There is always something happening at Maury! Use this calendar as a reference for your family, and to think about events for which you may want to volunteer—we need and appreciate everyone’s time and talents.

Please note that this calendar is subject to change based on DCPS administration, testing date changes, or inclement weather. The most updated calendar (and instructions for how to add it to your own electronic calendar) can be found on our website at: [www.mauryelementary.com](http://www.mauryelementary.com).

## August 2015

- 16 Early Childhood Meet-and-Greet for PK3, PK4 (Lincoln Park)
- 22 Kindergarten Meet-and-Greet (Lincoln Park)
- 24 First Day of School for K–5  
Early Childhood Family Visits Begin (through August 26)
- 27 First Day of School for PK3, PK4 (students with last names A–K)
- 28 First Day of School for PK3, PK4 (students with last names L–Z)
- 31 All PK3, PK4 students attend full day

### Volunteer for an Event

Maury PTA runs on the power of volunteers! There are jobs large and small, and many require no more than an hour or two of your time. Please consider volunteering once or twice each quarter.

Use the enclosed Volunteer Form to sign up for a committee or event, or just contact the event chair. Thank you for your support!



## September

- 3 Back to School Night
- 7 Labor Day Holiday—no school for students, teachers, staff
- 11 Babysitting Night (Space Camp Fundraiser)
- 17 PTA Meeting, 6 PM
- 19 Yard Sale
- 30 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9:05 AM

## October

- 5 APTT Meetings (Grades 2, 3)
- 6 APTT Meetings (Grades 4, 5)
- 7 Walk-to-School Day  
APTT Meetings (Grades 2, 3)
- 8 APTT Meetings (Grades 4, 5)
- 9 Professional Development Day—no school for students
- 12 Columbus Day Holiday—no school for students, teachers, staff
- 15 PTA Meeting, 6 PM
- 19 Parent/Teacher Conferences—no school for students
- 21 Family Fitness Night
- 24 Fall Festival (Space Camp Fundraiser)
- 28 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9:05 AM
- 30 Book Character Parade, 10:30 AM  
End of term—students dismissed at 12:15 PM



## November

- 6 Babysitting Night  
(Space Camp Fundraiser)
- 11 **Veterans Day Holiday—no school for students, teachers, staff**
- 19 PTA Meeting, 6 PM  
(Thanksgiving Basket Assembly)
- 25 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9:05 AM
- 26 **Thanksgiving Day Holiday—no school for students, teachers, staff**
- 27 **Thanksgiving Friday Holiday—no school for students, teachers, staff**
- 30 Open House, 9–10:30 AM

## December

- 3 Literacy Night
- 4 **Professional Development Day—no school for students**
- 16 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9:05 AM
- 17 Winter Concert (no December PTA Meeting)

### Winter Break: December 21–January 1

No school for students, teachers



## January 2016

- 4 First Day of School after Winter Break
- 11 Open House, 9–10:30 AM  
Open House, 6:15–7:45 PM
- 14 School Spelling Bee (Grades 3–5)
- 18 **MLK Jr. Day holiday—no school for students, teachers, staff**
- 21 PTA Meeting, 6 PM
- 22 **End of term—students dismissed at 12:15 PM**
- 27 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9:05 AM

## February

- 5 A Journey Through Time (morning)
- 8 Open House, 9–10:30 AM  
APTT Meetings (Grades 2, 3)
- 9 APTT Meetings (Grades 4, 5)
- 10 APTT Meetings (Grades 2, 5)
- 11 Talent Show (Space Camp Fundraiser)
- 12 **Professional Development Day—no school for students**
- 15 **Presidents Day Holiday—no school for students, teachers, staff**
- 18 PTA Meeting, 6 PM
- 22 **Parent/Teacher Conferences—no school for students**
- 24 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9:05 AM
- 26 Black History Program, 9:30 AM

## March

- 17 PTA Meeting, 6 PM
- 19 Maury @ The Market
- 23 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9:05 AM
- 24 Mathademics (Grades 3–5)

### Spring Break: March 28–April 1

No school for students, teachers

## April

- 4 First Day of School after Spring Break
- 8 **End of term—students dismissed at 12:15 PM**
- 14 STEM Night Expo
- 15 **Emancipation Day Holiday—no school for students, teachers, staff**
- 20 Early Childhood Orientation Night for 2016–17 School Year
- 21 PTA Meeting, 6 PM  
(Volunteer Appreciation)
- 27 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9:05 AM

**Testing Window: April 11–May 20**

Grades 3–5 only

Exact dates to be determined

## May

- 2–5 Staff Appreciation Week
- 6 **Professional Development Day—no school for students**
- 10 Sneak Peek for PK3–Grade 1
- 16 APTT Meetings (Grades 2, 3)
- 17 APTT Meetings (Grades 4, 5)
- 18 APTT Meetings (Grades 2, 5)
- 19 PTA Meeting and Elections, 6 PM
- 23 **Parent/Teacher Conferences—no school for students**
- 25 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9:05 AM
- 26 Sneak Peek for Grades 2–5, Q&A with Teachers, 5:30 PM  
Spring Concert
- 30 **Memorial Day Holiday—no school for students, teachers, staff**

## June

- 1–3 Space Camp (Grade 5)
- 7 Career Day
- 9 PTA Meeting, 6 PM  
(last meeting for the school year)
- 10 Field Day
- 14 Grade 5 Promotion, 9:30 AM
- 15 Kindergarten Celebration, 10 AM
- 16 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9:05 AM
- 16 **End of term—Last Day of School! (students dismissed at 12:15 PM)**
- 17 **Professional Development Day—no school for students**
- 27 First Day of Summer School



## July

- 4 **Fourth of July Holiday—no school for students, teachers, staff**  
Capitol Hill Community  
Independence Day Parade, 9 AM
- 29 Last Day of Summer School

# Stay Connected!

## Website

Even when school is closed, the website is open! Information on school policies, staff, upcoming events, and more is available at: [www.mauryelementary.com](http://www.mauryelementary.com).

## Calendar

View the current calendar online or import it onto your desktop or electronic device: [www.mauryelementary.com/maury-elementary-calendar](http://www.mauryelementary.com/maury-elementary-calendar).

## School Listserv

To join, visit: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/maury\\_elementary](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/maury_elementary), and click the **+ Join Group** button.

- **What is a listserv?**  
It's a message board, a problem-solver, a place to ask questions and get answers. Post photos from a class trip, or see photos from the trip you missed. Don't know if the kids need to wear their uniforms on the field trip? Post the question, get the answer. Or, a teacher requests egg cartons—you happen to have them.
- **Is this going to flood my inbox with unwanted e-mail?**  
No, the frequency of the e-mails is under your control. Go to Edit Membership, and under Option #2, you have the choice of individual e-mails (most timely), a daily digest, or no e-mail (you'll have to check the group site to get any information).
- **Can anyone join?**  
No, the listserv is limited to parents, guardians, teachers, staff, and community members with a current and direct link to the school. The wider community stays connected with the school through the website, Facebook, and other means.
- **Listserv etiquette is important**—remember that what you post will be seen widely throughout our community. Before you hit send, check whether your message is going to the individual or to the whole listserv.

## Newsletter

The *Maury Messenger* is a monthly newsletter published by the PTA and sent home with students at the beginning of each month. Submit an item about something interesting or outstanding from your child's class—we want your ideas! The deadline for news and information items is the last Wednesday of the month at 3 PM; please send submissions to: [maurymessenger@yahoo.com](mailto:maurymessenger@yahoo.com).



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