



## Maury Got Game



by George Blackmon

November brought the start of another basketball season for the professional teams and colleges around the country. It also brought the anticipated rematch of the parents versus staff in a fundraising basketball game. On Friday, November 15, these two teams squared off in the multipurpose room that was jammed packed with Maury fans. During the game, the beloved, Pink Divas provided cheers and performed at halftime. It was a fast paced, tight contest. The fourth quarter was pivotal as the staff dug in and held it together for a 43-36 win over the parents.

Even more important than who won, the game raised over \$1,000 dollars for the aftercare program. The funds will be used to support the many programs our students participate in while in the aftercare.

So will there be a part 3 to this battle? Stay tuned.

## Literacy Lab Partners with American University

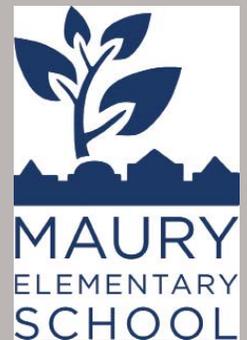
by Tom Dillon

Maury Elementary's partnership with the Literacy Lab continues to bear fruit. With Ms. Rabiah's support, the Literacy Lab is piloting a partnership with American University to bring eight literacy tutors to Maury each week. Trained and supervised by the Literacy Lab,

these tutors are currently providing 24 hours per week of one-on-one tutoring for select students at Maury who will benefit from the individualized support. Maury is excited to have this no-cost academic service this school year and is looking forward to seeing great growth in these students.

### WHAT'S INSIDE

Coat Drive	2
Field Trip	2
Principal's Corner	3
Psychology	3
Announcements	4



1250 Constitution Ave, NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
202-698-3838  
[www.mauryelementary.com](http://www.mauryelementary.com)



# Maury Coat Drive Warms Hearts, Little Bodies

by Besa Pinchotti

If the predictions are correct, we're in for another cold, snowy D.C. winter. Thanks to the generosity of Maury families, dozens of kids in our community now have brand-new winter coats to keep them warm.

Maury kids and siblings needed about 40 coats, and donors covered that need. Families brought in so many coats that there were enough extras for neighboring school children at Ludlow-Taylor.

The school's PTA secretary, Amy Offner, sent a thank you note remarking on Maury's spirit of giving. "It's wonderful when we as a greater Capitol Hill community can work alongside each other and be supportive of one another, cheering each other on towards the greater goal of seeing all our public school children not only well educated, but well loved and cared for, too."

Maury's social worker, Roman Makonnen worked with the PTA's Hospitality Committee to organize the coat drive. "It was really nice to see how the community takes care of itself in a very selfless and humble way. My office was filled. Parents kept bringing in boxes and boxes."

And it wasn't just coats. The Maury community was also able to provide Thanksgiving baskets to 17 families. Teachers and school staff helped identify which families could use the extra help. One family who needed a boost last year asked to be taken off this year's recipient list, and paid it forward by bringing in a coat to help another family in need.

Don't worry if you missed the opportunity to participate this time around. The PTA is accepting donations for Christmas baskets in December and has many other efforts planned for the new year.

# Zarzuelita!

by Elizabeth Nelson

A zarzuela is a Spanish entertainment that incorporates speaking, singing and dancing - a little like an operetta. Mr. Havner's class got to sample the genre at Source Theatre's "Zarzuelita" (or little zarzuela). The cast members took a lot of care to explain the costumes, instruments and the lyrics of the songs, which were sung in Spanish.

It was an interesting experience because most students had not seen that style of dance and were unaccustomed to operatic singing. They took to it right away, in part because it was fun and wildly entertaining, and there was a lot of opportunity for audience participation. Several class members were invited to go on stage and become part of the performance and all of us joined in the singing and foot stamping.



# Principal's Corner

## Singapore Math

One of the most exciting initiatives at Maury is the rollout of Singapore Math as a teaching method all across the school. This year marks the first in which all children will be instructed using its methods, though the lower grades have been using the system for three years now.

Singapore Math distills years of insight garnered in that city-state over the last years into series of small steps and an easy path for students to follow.

It has been shown to be extremely effective in teaching children, particularly if they have the opportunity to work their way up through all levels of the curriculum. Most importantly, it has shown to be extremely effective in teaching math - and both kids and teachers enjoy it.

The implementation at Maury was underwritten for the past three years by the PTA, this year, a PWP grant has allowed us to fast track its use in the higher grades as well.

If you're interested in learning more, you're in luck: Robyn Silbey, who has been teaching math for the past 36 years and has been a strong advocate for the introduction of this new method, will be at the December PTA meeting to report on her findings, as well as answer questions. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about this exciting development.

## Principal's Book of the Month

Your children may have already told you about the books that I select each month for a school-wide read. The book not only is read in every classroom, but Ms. Sweeney provides teaching points to the teachers to help them - and the book is added to each teacher's library.

The idea here is to have at least one school-wide activity each month, and one that is related to something happening that month, if possible.

If you're interested in what book is on tap each month, they are on display at the school. December's book will be "I Have a Little Problem" by Heinz Janosch and Silke Leffler.

# Psychology Awareness

by Jeanette Perry Mitchell

Supportive learning environments help children discover their strengths and share them throughout the school community. Tapping into strengths builds resiliency and ability to meet challenges successfully. This is essential to overall success.

National School Psychology Awareness Week, November 12–16, 2012 was themed "Know Your Own Strengths. Discover Them. Share Them. Celebrate Them." Teachers and school staff led activities that linked student strengths to positive actions in and outside the classroom.

You can help build and celebrate your children's individual strengths!

- Encourage and explore children's strengths; how they may differ from those of others and why they can make a difference.
- Discuss celebrating strengths. Everyone is good at something. Highlight individual strengths of family members.
- Come together for a good cause. Experience the strength of working together as a family\group to help the community.
- Challenge children to use their strengths to help someone, such as teaching a friend to play a sport or helping a classmate with a project.
- Encourage children to connect with others. Being part of positive group experiences, such as after school clubs, faith-based communities, and volunteer organizations, can contribute to a sense of connectedness.
- Connect with me. I would love to talk with you about how we can work together to help your child do his/her best.

School psychologists work with students, teachers, and families to assess learning styles and needs. We lead social skills development sessions, reinforce positive behavior, guide learning strategies and problem solving skills, provide counseling, and help students develop positive self-concepts. Together, we can help our students discover, share, and celebrate their strengths and achieve their goals.



# Announcements

## Upcoming Events

- December 11:** School Picture Make Up Day
- December 12, 9am** Open House for Prospective Students
- December 13, 6pm:** PTA Meeting
- December 14:** Professional Development Day, No School
- December 20, 6pm:** Winter Concert
- December 24 - January 4:** Winter Break

## Fundraisers

**Cards, Calendars:** Support Maury as you order personalized holiday photo cards and calendars through [www.brightdoc.com/mauryelementary](http://www.brightdoc.com/mauryelementary) – look for the Maury logo in the top left corner of the screen.

**Bake Sale:** Support the PTA and check out the bake sale after school every Wednesday.

## Maury Blogs

- Studio Maury: [studiomaury.wordpress.com](http://studiomaury.wordpress.com)
- Maury Library: [maurylibrary.blogspot.com](http://maurylibrary.blogspot.com)
- Think Tank: [maurythinktank.blogspot.com](http://maurythinktank.blogspot.com)
- Maury Music: [maurymusic.wordpress.com](http://maurymusic.wordpress.com)
- Maury P.E.: [maurype.blogspot.com/](http://maurype.blogspot.com/)

### *Literacy Lab Reading Intervention, Enrichment, and Workshops*

**Fact:** Students who read proficiently by 3rd grade are much more likely to graduate from high school.



### *New Recess Physical Activity Coordinator*

**Fact:** Physical activity during recess is associated with improved student cognitive skills, attitudes, and academic behavior.

Literacy + Recess = Success

Give our students the **winning** edge.  
**Contribute to the S.O.S. Fund.**

[www.maurysos.org](http://www.maurysos.org)



Newsletter Submissions? E-mail: [MauryMessenger@gmail.com](mailto:MauryMessenger@gmail.com)