

the Maury Messenger

Monthly Newsletter of the Parent / Teacher Association

Home of the Cougars



Photos: First Day of School, 8/24/15

by Elizabeth Nelson

September 2015



Welcome Back

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Maury Students, Teachers,



Staff, and Parents!!



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Teachers Take Time to Learn Over the Summer!

by Norah Rabiah, Instructional Coach/Lead Coach, Maury ES/DC3 Collaborative for Change

While some of us were lounging at the pool or catching fireflies, Maury teachers were presenting at conferences, enrolled in coursework and writing curriculum. Here are some of the amazing things our teachers did this summer:

- Ms. Marks, our new librarian attended the 2015 ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) Conference held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (June 28-July1, 2015). She participated in two workshops: Simple Resources and Tools and iSTEM Alive! K-5.
- Mr. Rogers completed the third and final Orff Certification Level. This level unpacks the theory and history of Elemental Music, which the first two levels introduced. Along with his classmates, Mr. Rogers pushed himself to develop his movement, recorder, and xylophone skills even further. He cannot wait to use this experience to develop his teaching even further!
- Ms. Macek, our new reading specialist, was enrolled in two reading courses this summer. First, she attended Lindamood-Bell's Seeing Stars program, which uses symbol imagery to support students' phonemic awareness development, sight word recognition, and spelling skills. She also attended a Reading Recovery training, which supports the development of early reading and writing skills for students ages 5-7 by targeting comprehension, fluency, phonemic awareness, phonics, and spelling.
- The Early Childhood Team participated in a Summer Learning Institute this July, presented by the Office of Early Childhood Education. Sessions covered a range of topics, including building a positive classroom climate, developing early writing skills, supporting children with special needs, and planning and presenting powerful read-alouds. Sessions were led by Instructional Specialists, Master Educators, and consultants. They reviewed best practices, as well as learned new information, especially around brain development in young children.
- Dr. Kevin Parker, our new School Psychologist, attended a powerful session called "The Neuropsychology of Reading Disorders: Diagnosis and Intervention." This session discussed literacy rates in the US, the effectiveness of No Child Left Behind, and new innovative assessment tools.
- Ms. Bomba and Mr. Rogers spent long hours writing the new DCPS Cornerstones for Art and Music! Teachers across the district will be teaching the content that they created this year.



New Maury Chinese Language Teacher

By Qinghua Wang

My name is Qinghua Wang and I am the new World Languages teacher at Maury. I have been teaching Chinese language and culture in DC public schools for ten years, most recently at Brent Elementary. Your children call me "Wang Laoshi" or "Teacher Wang."

I was born in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province in China's southwest. It is a beautiful city with a wonderful climate. It is known as the place where all four seasons are like spring! I studied early childhood education and taught in a teachers' college in China before coming to the United States to continue my education. In addition to teaching Chinese language, I especially enjoy introducing students to Chinese geography, art, history, music, and dance. I look forward to launching a Chinese dance and performing arts group at Maury. Participating students will have the opportunity to perform at our school-wide Chinese New Year celebration and at community events.

I am especially pleased to announce that the Maury Chinese program just received a major grant through the Confucius Institute at George Mason University. This will support the purchase of supplies, textbooks, and costumes—and a spectacular school-wide Chinese New Year assembly.

I am thrilled to be part of the Maury community and look forward to introducing your children to Chinese language, customs, and culture!

Prints on View at Hill Center

By Elizabeth Nelson

A display of prints made by Maury students is on view until the end of September at Hill Center, 921 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, in the Young Artists Gallery on the ground floor. The prints were made during the 2013-2014 school year using the intaglio technique. A design is etched into a surface, traditionally a copper plate, using a sharp tool called a burin. For these works a piece of plexi-glass was substituted for the copper. The plate is then covered in ink most of which is subsequently removed leaving only what has settled into the gouges. Heavy paper is soaked in water then placed in the printing press with the plate. The press forces the paper into the lines of the artist's design, grasping the ink, and transferring the image. Students will have an opportunity to explore this technique again this year.



Little Free Library

By Elizabeth Nelson

What is a Little Free Library?

It's a weather-proof box/display case where anyone may stop by and pick up books or drop off books to share. There are several on Capitol Hill, most in front yards, but one of the newest is on the 13th St. side of Maury. It was a going away gift from the Golin-Walder family. Stop by to check it out - drop off books your family has outgrown and choose new ones.

Ms. McMahon's Former 3rd Graders to have Mural Displayed at the Hine

by Lauren Bomba, Art Teacher

Last year, the 3rd graders in Ms. McMahon's class (now 4th graders) created a collaborative mural to be displayed alongside 26 other Hill schools on the construction fence at the site of the old Hine School, corner of 7th and Pennsylvania SE. There will be an opening for this event on Tuesday, September 29, from 5-6:30pm, where all 26 murals will be on display and free ice cream will be available for all!

I'll be anywhere art and free ice cream can be found. Hope to see you there too! Look for our Dr. Seuss inspired mural with the fun quote: "You've got to be ODD to be NUMBER ONE!"

Principal's Book of the Month

by Carolyne Albert-Garvey, Principal

Lizard Tales (Lizzie Walks on the Wild Side) by Rosemary Smith

It's springtime in Louisiana and all the lizards are coming out to play! Sunshine and fun is what Lizzie Lizard wants and she is determined to find it no matter how far she has to go. Little Lizzie is a very curious little girl lizard. Although her strong, handsome Papa and her wise Mama have cautioned her to stay close, she decides to explore beyond the family territory. Just this once is what Lizzie thinks and when she does, she finds out just why her parents set the limits they do. Danger lurks where Lizzie strays, and she learns that not listening to what's best can cause all kinds of problems.

Suggested questions:

1. Who are the characters of the story? Who is the main character? What does the author do to let the reader know, which character in the story is the primary or main character?
2. What is the setting of the story? Where does the story take place?
3. What is the main problem in the story? What is the secondary problem (caused by Lizzie)?
4. How does Lizzie solve her problem?
5. What do you think the author's message is in this story?

