

the Maury Messenger

Monthly Newsletter of the Parent / Teacher Association

Home of the Cougars



Family Literacy Night at Maury

By Linda Marks



Family Literacy Night provided an opportunity for families and their children to experience literacy in English Language Arts through the offerings of Readers' Theatre, dramatic play, gaming with Labyrinth, literacy activities with Lakeshore, story read aloud with grandparents, book marker making, and karaoke.

What an exciting event

this was! The evening began with an "Empathy In Action" activity with our partners from ASHOKA. Through story telling, families and children were given the opportunity to illustrate an event or person in their life who brought them happiness, love, and a feeling of safety; developing understanding of empathy through the concept of unity, and collective work and responsibility.



The evening ended with our traditional cookies and milk. But the highlight was Mrs. Albert-Garvey's rendition of "Starry Night, Hold Me Tight." A joyful evening was had by all!



Holiday Issue
(December 2015/January
2016)

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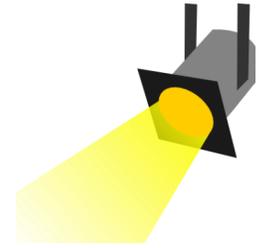


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Spotlight on Instruction



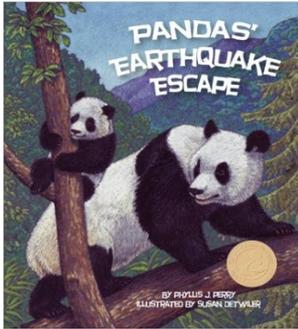
Student-Centered Mathematics at Maury

By Robyn Silbey, Math Consultant

Mathematics at Maury is mighty student-centered. Our overarching question for the year in mathematics is "What is the Student Experience?" Rather than to watch it unfold, we want your children to experience mathematics. Many grade levels will be moving into the areas of measurement and fractions after the New Year. It's perfect timing for some real-life experiences at home! When you are preparing holiday meals and treats, include your children. They can help measure, mix, pour, and set the oven. Talk about what you are doing as you move through the preparation process. In addition to hearing terms (like cup and half) that your children will hear again in school, you will be providing relevance for learning critical concepts. Have a warm and wonderful holiday season!

Robyn is working with Maury teachers in grades K-5 for 20 days during the 2015-16 school year. She is an independent math consultant with 36 years of teaching in Montgomery County, MD.

Principal's Book of the Month



Pandas' Earthquake Escape is a fictional story based on a real-life event. In real life, XiXi, a Giant panda did escape from the destroyed Wolong Panda Reserve when the 7.9 earthquake rocked Northern China on May 12, 2008.

Power to the People

By Elizabeth Nelson



Ms. Bomba's fourth and fifth grade students created individualized Protest Art pieces, advocating for social changes that are important to them. Topics include homelessness, inequality in the justice system, animal rights, vegetarianism, and gun control. The students had a choice of communication media to advocate for their opinions. Some found that traditional protest posters are the most effective way to express their message to a wide audience. Others created street art stencils using x-acto knives and spray paint. A few developed powerful performance pieces. The program, "Becoming", is an extension of a District-wide Cornerstones initiative to provide rigorous learning opportunities for all DCPS students.

Run, Maury, Run

By George Blackmon

How are you maintaining a healthy lifestyle? You know that exercise, such as running, is beneficial. Maury has done its share over the last few weeks.

First, our first Turkey Trot was held on Saturday, November 21st. Headed by Ms. Raymond, many families gathered at Lincoln Park to participate. The group ran down East Capitol Street towards the US Capitol. After a quick stop in front of the Capitol for some photos, the group continued towards the back of the Capitol where the Christmas tree is located before running up the hill and back to the park.



Two weeks later on Sunday, December 6th, Maury's Girls on the Run team participated in a 5K run at Anacostia Park. The 5K was the culminating event for the fall season of Girls on the Run. Over 40 schools in DC participated. Big kudos to the 3rd and 4th grade girls from Maury who took part in the run.

It's going to get cold soon. So how will you stay active?



Maury Snags First Place in Fitness Challenge

By Michelle Phipps Evans

The Fire Up Your Feet challenge is a friendly and healthy "competition" that encourages families, students and schools to work together to create active lifestyles that keep families healthy and help kids improve academic performance. Thanks to Lyndsay Raymond, the leadership of Principal Albert Garvey, and the parents and children of Maury families, we were able to come out on top and won \$1000 in award money!

Fire Up Your Feet is a core program of the Safe Routes to School National Partnership, the family engagement partner for the National PTA and funded in large part by Kaiser Permanente.

Maury School Wellness Committee Launches Blog!

The Maury School Wellness Committee's mission is to create a school environment that promotes and protects children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity in school, in the community, and in life. The Maury School Wellness Committee is comprised of Maury staff and parent volunteers.

The blog provides health recipe ideas and fun family activities, check it out at <https://maurywellnesscommittee.wordpress.com/>

Behind the scenes: LSAT activities

By Erica Martin, LSAT Co-Chair

What can we do to improve learning outcomes for all Maury students? What are the key priorities and concerns of the Maury community that should help guide the decisions made regarding next year's budget? These questions reflect the type of topics that Maury's Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) works with Principal Albert-Garvey to discuss and advise her on. The LSAT is made up of a group of parents, teachers/staff and a community representative (elected annually by their member groups) who meet approximately once per month with Principal Albert-Garvey to review matters that impact our school community.

One of the first tasks that we got underway this school year was to conduct the Fall 2015 Community Survey. The input we received - from 150 people - is instrumental in helping us to understand what Maury is doing well, where we need to grow and improve, and how to align DCPS and PTA resources among these priority issues. The LSAT will report on the full survey results at the January 2016 PTA meeting, and we will use the results to guide us in making decisions about next year's budget.

In addition to the community survey conducted by the LSAT, we have a lot of data about what's happening at Maury that the LSAT reviews to better understand things like student performance, student and teacher/staff satisfaction and school year goals. This year we will work to identify ways that our school can support improved student performance using the recently-released results from the first-ever PARCC assessment.

The focus of the LSAT's work occurs in February and March 2016, when we work with the Principal to advise on the allocation of the School Year 2016/2017 budget. Each year we receive a budget based on Maury's enrollment projections for the following school year. We expect to receive an initial budget allocation the second week of February, and will have three weeks to discuss and review the draft budget before submitting the final version on March 7, 2016. We want to be sure that the Maury community is informed and educated about this annual budgeting process and will share more information about how Maury develops the Annual Budget in the New Year.

If you're interested to learn more about the LSAT, please contact the co-chairs, Erica Martin (ericakmartin@yahoo.com) and Carly Fox (carly.fox@dc.gov). Minutes from each meeting are also posted on the Maury school website at <http://mauryelementary.com/lsat/>.

Annual All-You-Can Eat Pancake Breakfast

The Basketball/Cheerleading Team Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for **Saturday January 9, 2016** from 9:00am-12:00pm.

Yes... it is ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT for \$10 (adults) and \$5 (child), team members eat for \$1 and pre-schoolers eat for free. We also have a family deal available (2 adults/2 children) for \$25. You can even get your pancakes TO-GO for \$7. Breakfast items will include pancakes, bacon, sausage, fruit, juice, and coffee. There will be raffles and door prizes. This is going to be sooooo much fun!

Cougar Family, please come out and support your home teams. This will be a event you do not want to miss!

We also need help advertising the HUGE event. Please contact Coach Chris of Maury's Basketball Team (co_graham2341@yahoo.com) or Coach Ericka of Maury's Cheerleading Team (ebusey1020@gmail.com) if you are able to volunteer your time or have any questions.

Let's get the new year started right!



Upcoming Events

December

- 15 Picture Day (make-up day)
- 16 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9am
- 17 Band and Chorus Showcase, 11am and 6pm
- 18 Pajama Pass Day
- 21-31 Winter Break. No school for students and teachers. Polite Piggy's day camp available except Christmas Day, closes at 3pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

January

- 1 New Year's Day/Winter Break. No school for students, teachers, staff. Polite Piggy's not available.
- 9 Pancake Breakfast
- 11 Maury Open House, 9am and 6:15pm
- 18 Martin Luther King holiday. No school for students, teachers, staff. No Polite Piggy's.
- 22 End of term, early dismissal at 12:15pm. Polite Piggy's available.
- 28 School Spelling Bee

Message from DCPS

DCPS would like to remind you about the importance of regular school attendance. Each day is essential to a student's academic success. As we head into the winter months, we expect cold temperatures and inclement weather. We want to encourage you to prepare your student for the coming months and to commit to your child coming to school each day. We would recommend the following suggestions to prepare you and your child:

1. Make sure your child has appropriate and warm winter clothing. If you need assistance please contact your school attendance designee. We are here to help.
2. Be aware of school closures by visiting the DCPS website or local news channel. Students who are not present when school is open without a valid excuse will accrue unexcused absences.
3. Closely monitor weather-related WMATA schedule and routing changes. Be prepared to leave home a little earlier to ensure timely arrival.
4. Cold, flu and asthma conditions can impair a student's attendance. Please communicate with school attendance staff and provide excuse documentation following all absences.

Best wishes to all for a warm, safe, and healthy holiday season!

