



MAURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION



WELCOME PACKET

2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR



MAURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Shannon von Felden, President • Lane McFadden, Vice President • Adam Hais, Treasurer • Britt Stuart, Secretary • Rebecca McGeehan, Parliamentarian

Dear Maury Families,

On behalf of your PTA Executive Board, welcome to the 2017–2018 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 14, 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
- Annual Fund 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. We look forward to hearing from you!

Best,

PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

PTA Committees

Communications

Focuses on internal and external communications at Maury and with the community. CHAIR: Jean Kohanek, jean.m.kohanek@gmail.com

Fundraising

Coordinates and implements events to raise funds for the PTA. CHAIR: Franny Decker, fmmarcucci@hotmail.com

Grants

Identifies and writes grants in collaboration with Maury teachers and staff. CHAIR: Granetta Coleman, gcoleman702@verizon.net

Hospitality

Helps 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: Anne McFadden, anne.newton@gmail.com

Middle Schools

Develops relationships within Maury's feeder middle school to create a smooth transition for Ward 6 students. CHAIR: Kristina Vidal, darthcurlius@yahoo.com

Open Houses

Coordinates school tours for prospective families and community members, led by current Maury parents. Each tour is followed by Q&A with our principal. Tours occur three times per year. CHAIR: Mara Ransom, bigfigmara@yahoo.com

Room Parents

Coordinates matching teachers with room parents to support class activities. Room parents serve as the link between the teacher and parents in each class, and help coordinate class participation in school-wide events. CHAIR: Rebecca McGeehan, becky.mcgeehan@gmail.com

School Improvement

Supports physical school improvement efforts such as greening and Spring and Fall Clean-Up Days. CHAIR: Will Handsfield, willhandsfield@gmail.com



School Modernization

Supports the school renovation and modernization process, coordinating the school's work with DCPS and others. CHAIR: Max Kieba, maxjkieba@gmail.com

Social and Emotional Learning

Builds and formalizes Maury's works as Ashoka Changemakers. CO-CHAIRS: Adrienne Alcantara, adrienne.alcantara@gmail.com; Tara Lonnborg, tlonnberg@gmail.com

School Wellness

Supports healthy activities and wellness during the school year. CHAIR: Danielle Brasure, danielle_brasure@yahoo.com

Teacher Appreciation

Raises funds and arranges events for Teacher Appreciation Week and the Staff Back to School Breakfast. CHAIR: Anne Fletcher, annefletcher30@yahoo.com

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 \$165,000—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 | Saturday, April 21, 2018. This is far and away the biggest Maury social and fundraising event of the year, with a goal this year to raise \$90,000 for the PTA. This fun, adults-only evening features a live auction and silent auction and is a great way to connect with the adults in the Maury community! 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—even families. Many volunteers are already committed, but we still need a chair! Please contact Franny Decker: fmmarcucci@hotmail.com.



Support the Annual Fund. The Annual Fund provides funding for classroom supports, school supplies, and programs such as Mindfulness, Readers and Writers Workshop, and the Literacy Lab. This year, our goal is to raise \$30,000 this year for this initiative—please see the Annual Fund page in this packet.

Maury Yard Sale | Saturday, September 16, 2017. 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 \$10,500!

Dining Out for Maury. The first Tuesday of the month is Maury Night at Tunnichliff's! Tunnichliff's contributes 15% of all sales from 5–9 PM back to Maury. This is a fun way to get together with your children's friends and their families, and support the PTA—and more importantly, not have to cook! We hope to raise \$2,000.

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-Shirts and Other Swag. In the Fall and Spring there are t-shirt sales, along with other Cougar merchandise. We hope to raise \$1,000 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 and more information is available on the school website at: mauryelementary.com/fundraising.

- **Amazon Smile.** Register at Amazon Smile (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's Labels.** 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.
- **Splendid Portraits.** We even get a percentage of what you spend on picture day!
- **Tea Collection Clothing.** Love the brand Tea Collection for your kids? Twice a year we receive a special online shopping code (feel free to share with friends and family!) that gives Maury PTA a percentage back on sales.

Theme Dress Pass Day. This fundraiser started just a few years ago as Pajama Pass Day, but has grown in popularity to four times a year—and not just pajamas! For \$2, students can buy a pass to wear clothes of a theme on a specific day—pajamas, superhero, regular clothes. It's lots of fun, and a great way for everyone to help the school. We expect 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 also 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. Please 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 programing 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 (Grade 1), Tommy (K), and Liddy (PK4)
fmmarcucci@hotmail.com
(202) 215-8259

The Annual Fund

When you support the Annual Fund, you help grow our school.
It's as simple as that.

The Annual Fund is Maury's first fundraiser of the year, raising critical funds to fill the gaps between the school budget and DCPS funds. Our goal for this year is \$30,000.



What is the Annual Fund?

The Maury PTA funds a variety of programs and initiatives throughout the school year that are not provided for in the DCPS budget including classroom aides, Reader's and Writer's Workshop, Mindfulness, and school supplies. The Annual Fund ensures a base of funding for the Maury PTA and strengthens Maury's ability to provide quality programs, hands on learning opportunities, and supportive staff. **Every student from PK3 through Grade 5 benefits from the resources provided by the Annual Fund.**

How can I contribute?

Please select the giving level that is most comfortable for your family. You can pay your pledge all at once or structure any contribution over \$200 into monthly payments (online only). Pledges can be made on the PTA membership form included with this packet, or on our website at:

mauryelementary.com ▶ Support Maury ▶ Annual Fund



Annual Fund Giving Levels

Please pledge your support at any of the following levels:

ACORN	\$50-149
SEEDLING	\$150-299
SAPLING	\$300-499
EVERGREEN	\$500+



We ask that you make a pledge today to support Maury in growing and broadening the reach of our innovative programs!

... or choose another amount that is right for you. To make it easier on family budgets, any annual pledge over \$200 now has the option to be structured into recurring monthly payments (online only).

Questions? Please contact Sarah Hais, sarah.hais@gmail.com.

Promoting Social and Emotional Learning

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and apply the skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, show empathy for others, maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. SEL is vital for student success in school, work, and life!

Maury emphasizes SEL in several different ways:

Ashoka Changemaker School. Since 2013, Maury has been designated by the Ashoka Foundation as a Changemaker School. Through this initiative, we seek to cultivate empathy, teamwork, leadership, and problem solving so both parents and students can become changemakers. One way we do this is by “buddy classes” that pair upper grade and lower grade classes to do academic and social activities together.

Responsive Classroom. This approach to teaching consists of classroom and schoolwide practices for deliberately helping children build academic and social-emotional competencies within a strong and safe school community. Everyone at Maury is expected to treat one another with kindness and respect. Each month, the whole school joins together for a Morning Meeting where different classes take turn leading and students are recognized for being empathy leaders.

Home Visits. In partnership with the Flamboyant Foundation, Maury has implemented home visits near the start of the school year for all grades. These visits allow teachers to meet and learn more about their students, which sets the foundation for a collaborative and trusting relationship to support each student’s learning.

Mindfulness. In partnership with Minds, Inc., the Grade 2 and Grade 3 classes are led in twice-a-week mindfulness sessions over six weeks by a Minds, Inc. teacher. Mindfulness trains participants to pay attention to the present moment through simple breathing and other exercises. It helps students build in a “pause button” to react thoughtfully instead of impulsively.

Roots of Empathy. The Roots of Empathy Program pairs Grade 4 classes with a baby and his/her parent over a nine-week period. Students become attuned to the baby’s needs and emotions. This opens a gateway for the students to learn bigger lessons about taking care of one another and considering others’ feelings.

Second Step. Second Step provides age-appropriate music and videos, take-home activities, and stories to help teachers integrate SEL into their lessons. Skills focus on sparking curiosity, problem-solving, self-regulation, and empathy.

To learn more, please contact the SEL Committee Co-chairs:

Adrienne Alcantara, adrienne.alcantara@gmail.com | Tara Lonnberg, tlonnberg@gmail.com



The Social and Emotional Learning Committee promotes SEL through activities like **Operation: GRAND**, an event to honor our children’s relationships with their elders.

2017–2018 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.

AUGUST 2017

- 19 Early Childhood Meet-and-Greet for PK3/PK4, 10:30 AM–12 PM
- 20 Beautification Day, 7 AM–1 PM
- 21 First day of school for K–Grade 5
Early Childhood Family Visits continue (through August 23)
- 24 First day of school for all PK3, PK4
PK3, PK4 Parent Coffee Meet and Greet, 8:30–9:30 AM
- 31 Back to School Night, 6:30–8 PM

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**—see enclosed form for more information!

SEPTEMBER

- 4 **Labor Day Holiday—no school for students, teachers, staff**
- 7 Room Parent Orientation, 8 AM
- 8 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9–9:30 AM
- 14 PTA Meeting, 6 PM
- 16 Maury Yard Sale, 9 AM–1 PM
- 21 Theme Dress Pass Day
- 22 **Professional Development Day—no school for students**
- 26 In-school Dentist Visit

OCTOBER

- 4 Walk-to-School Day
- 5 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9–9:30 AM
- 9 **Columbus Day Holiday—no school for students, teachers, staff**
- 12 Family Fitness Night, 6–7:30 PM
- 18 Picture Day (individual portraits, no uniform)
- 19 PTA Meeting, 6 PM
- 21 Fall Festival, 10 AM–2 PM
- 23 APTT Meetings (Grades 2, 3)
- 25 APTT Meetings (Grades 4, 5)
- 27 **Professional Development Day/End of Term—no school for students**
- 30 APTT Meetings (Grades 4, 5)
- 31 Book Character Parade, 2:35 PM
- TBD Enrollment Audit Day



NOVEMBER

- 1 APTT Meetings (Grades 2, 3)
- 3 **Parent/Teacher Conferences—
no school for students**
- 7 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9–9:30 AM
- 10 **Veterans Day Holiday (observed)—
no school for students, teachers, staff**
- 16 PTA Meeting, 6 PM (Thanksgiving
basket assembly)
- 22 Theme Dress Pass Day
- 23 **Thanksgiving Day Holiday—no school
for students, teachers, staff**
- 24 **Thanksgiving Friday Holiday—no school
for students, teachers, staff**
- 30 Open House, 9–10:30 AM
- TBD Book Fair

DECEMBER

- 1 **Professional Development Day—
no school for students**
- 2 Literacy Night 6–7:30 PM
- 5 Picture Day Make-ups (individual
portraits, no uniform)
- 6 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9–9:30 AM
- 14 Winter Showcase (Chorus/Orff
Ensemble)—no December PTA Meeting
- 21 Theme Dress Pass Day
- TBD **Moving Day(s)—no school for students**

Winter Break: December 22–January 2

No school for students, teachers

The Move: Maury @ Eliot-Hine

During our current building renovation, Maury will be housed in trailers on the Eliot-Hine Middle School campus at 1830 Constitution Avenue NE. The move may require days off from school for students, as well as schedule changes. Watch the listserv and Tuesday Folder for updates, or visit: mauryelementary.com.

JANUARY 2018

- 3 First day of school after Winter Break—
Maury @ Eliot-Hine
- 4 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9–9:30 AM
- 8 PTA Meeting, 6 PM
- 11 Open House, 9–10:30 AM; 6:15–7:45 PM
- 15 **MLK Jr. Day holiday—no school for
students, teachers, staff**
- 19 **Professional Development Day/
End of Term—no school for students**
- TBD School Spelling Bee (Grades 3–5)

FEBRUARY

- 6 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9–9:30 AM
- 8 Journey Through Time: A Look at
African American Heritage
- 15 PTA Meeting, 6 PM
- 16 **Professional Development Day—
no school for students**
- 19 **Presidents Day Holiday—no school
for students, teachers, staff**
- 21 APTT Meetings (Grades 2, 3)
- 22 Open House, 9–10:30 AM
APTT Meetings (Grades 4, 5)
- 26 APTT Meetings (Grades 4, 5)
- 28 APTT Meetings (Grades 2, 3)
- TBD Black History Program



MARCH

- 1 Talent Show
- 2 Parent/Teacher Conferences—
no school for students
- 7 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9–9:30 AM
- 15 PTA Meeting, 6 PM
- 22 Theme Dress Pass Day
- TBD Mathademics (Grades 3–5)
- TBD Book Fair

Spring Break: March 26–30

No school for students, teachers

APRIL

- 2 First day of school after Spring Break
- 4 Class Picture Day (school uniform,
no individual portraits)
- 5 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9–9:30 AM
- 6 Professional Development Half-Day/
End of Term—dismissal at 12:15 PM
- 12 Early Childhood Orientation Night
for 2018–19 School Year, 6–7 PM
- 16 Emancipation Day Holiday—no school
for students, teachers, staff
- 19 PTA Meeting, 6 PM
(volunteer appreciation)
- 21 Maury at the Market, 7 PM
- 26 Theme Dress Pass Day
- TBD STEM Night Expo
- TBD PARCC Parent Night (Grades 3–5)

PARCC Testing Window: April 10–May 23

Grades 3–5 only • Exact dates TBD

MAY

Staff Appreciation Week: April 30–May 4

- 1 Whole School Morning Meeting, 9–9:30 AM
- 9 Bike-to-School Day
- 11 Operation: GRAND, 6–8 PM
- 14 APTT Meetings (Grades 2, 3)
- 16 APTT Meetings (Grades 4, 5)
- 17 PTA Meeting (elections), 6 PM
- 21 Sneak Peek for PK3–Grade 5
APTT Meetings (Grades 4, 5)
- 22 APTT Meetings (Grades 2, 3)
- 23 Theme Dress Pass Day
International Night, 6 PM
- 24 Parent/Teacher Conferences—
no school for students
- 25 Professional Development Day/
End of Term—no school for students
- 28 Memorial Day Holiday—no school
for students, teachers, staff
- 31 Spring Showcase (Chorus/Orff Ensemble)
- TBD School Play

JUNE

- 6 Field Day (PK3–Grade 1)
Whole School Morning Meeting, 9–9:30 AM
- 7 Field Day (Grades 2–5)
PTA Meeting, 6 PM (last of school year)
- 8 Kindergarten Celebration, 10 AM
- 11 Grade 5 Promotion, 10 AM
- 13 Last day of school! Dismissal at 12:15 PM
- 25 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
- 27 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.

Calendar

View the most current calendar online, or add it onto your desktop or phone to update automatically! How-to at: www.mauryelementary.com/maury-elementary-calendar.

School Listserv

To join, visit: 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.

- **Listsर्व 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.

Maury Messenger

The *Maury Messenger* is our online newsletter that goes deep into daily life at Maury, with stories about classroom activities, school events, PTA initiatives, and more. Story ideas welcome! www.mauryelementary.com/messenger

Social Media

Follow us on Twitter or like us on Facebook to learn more about classroom activities and school events.



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