
Introductions

PTA Welcome from President Shannon von Felden and Introductions to guest speaker Emily Goldhammer.

Playworks Program at Maury

Emily Goldhammer from Playworks serves as the Maury site Coordinator presented.

Playworks is a non-profit which believes in using the power of play to bring out the best in every kid. Playworks aims to reduce bullying and increase inclusion by creating a generation of kinder, empathetic kids. It helps students stay active and build valuable social and emotional skills through play.

This year as Maury has a split space for recess, Maury has engaged Playworks to assist with curriculum. The PTA has funded a recess coach (Coach Bell) who coordinates recess on the baseball field and at other locations. One week a month playworks provides a staff member at the school to assist with planning, training and implementation of recess strategies. The elements of the program are:

Recess-Coach Bell offers facilitated games which are voluntary. They include an inclusive play model for engagement and empowerment of the students. There is an opening and closing for guidance and feedback.

Class Game Time- Playworks coaches establish a weekly schedule of class game time activities, providing an inclusive, consciously cooperative approach to introducing sports and physical activity to children.

Junior Coaches-The 4th and 5th grades students who are serving as role models and mentors and on the playground.

School Support—Recess Coach, Recess manager, teachers faculty and Junior Coaches, Playworks site coordinator who is at the school for a week every month for continued training and guidance.

The program helps by making the school population more active, more cooperative; studies have shown that students who feel engaged and are more likely to use conflict resolution, there is less bullying and less disciplinary referrals.

Q: Have you started?

A: Yes. We conducted professional development before the school year started. Emily has been on site for each of the months so far. Coach Bell has kids at Maury and is coordinating recess using an opening, closing and shout out. Participation by the kids is voluntary.

Q: What is the strategy to bring the skills to the classroom?

A: We use class room game time where teachers are present. There was also staff training at the beginning of the year.

Q: Is there an expectation that the staff will go on to implement the program?

A: Principal PC: Yes, the model for the program is that the schools are self-sustaining within 2-3 years.

Q: How do you keep this from being another PE Class?

A: These are organized games which are optional. There is always the choice and option to do free play.

We always say: Be Safe, Be Kind, Have Fun. Those are the only requirements.

Q: Who is Coach Bill?

A: He is the recess Coach here at Maury. He is also a Maury parent x3. He runs the games and programming. This is a new PTA funded position. He is one of the PTA funded aides.

Principal's Update

Principal PC: We have just finished beginning of the year assessments for students. We are using flexible grouping in the class room and working on settings goals. You will be hearing about Parent Teacher conference soon. The official date for the conferences is November 6th. Some teachers schedule conference outside of that date. There will also be APPT meetings for those in the upper grades. If a teacher has a certain percentage of the conferences done before the 6th, the teacher is able to not be here that whole day.

The testing done has indicated that the majority of our student are at grade level. The grade level testing is done in grades 1-5. There is no formal "testing" in kindergarten or below. There is still an achievement gap in both race and gender that is shown by the data gathered. The Administration and staff at Maury aware and using multiple strategies to address the gap; we are working with individual students based on their needed.

On Tuesday there was another meeting regarding the school namesake. If you have questions or comments please reach out via email to the LSAT. Sean Dillon is the point of contact and has posted serval times on the Listserve. DCPS advised that LSAT as the elected policy making body comprised of both parents and school staff should be the contact for this decision. DCPS is not involved until the school community has made a decision.

Q: Is there a timeline? How serious is this process? Who are they considering?

A: The possibility of a name change is under review. LSAT is gathering information and listening to the community on what it as a whole wants to do. There will need to be follow-up for the process to move forward. There has been discussion about a sending out a survey. The LSAT put a notice about the last meeting in the local paper to try and reach out to the wider community and some community members came to the meeting and participated. If you are interested, email Sean Dillion to be involved.

Celebration of Principal's Month: The PTA presented Principal PC with flowers and a thank you gift for jumping right into Maury and starting off strong. She is truly appreciated!!

Committee and Teacher Announcements

Fundraising:

Stephanie Gregorian gave a big Thank You! for those who participated in the Primary and Tea Collection fundraising sales.

Sunday Stephanie is hosting a Stella and Dot Trunk Sale where 20% of proceeds go to the PTA. See the Listserv for details.

Maury at the Market: Our yearly event held at Eastern Market is the largest source of funding for our aides and other school support. We still need some chairs and co-chairs for:

Gifts

Event Design

Volunteer Coordinator

Live Auction Coordinator

Please let Stephan or Julie Aaronson know if you can help!

Look on the listserv soon for the opportunity bid on our newest fundraiser **to buy an engraved brick at the new Maury building**. The sale will go live in early November.

November 20, 2018, is the first No Uniform Pass Day for the year. Buy a pass on the 19 or 20th for \$2.00 and your student can participate. Details about the theme will be forthcoming.

Solar Solutions Fundraiser. See the Listserv or Maury website for details. On Monday bidding will open for a new Solar Panel System for your home which will raise money for Maury. You can contact Kenyon Weaver for details, but essentially you contact Solar Solutions and get an estimate, from that estimate you then bid. If you win, the amount bid goes to the school and you get a great solar panel system. If you get an estimate and don't win, Solar Solutions will still donate \$500 to the school for every system that goes under contract through this auction.

T-shirts are for sale after the meeting.

Keep bringing in Box Tops; each one brings in 10 cents for Maury and they really add up! There is a box in the main office where you can drop them off any school day.

Information will be circulated about Amazon Smile and other similar store programs where Maury receives funding for purchases made by our community and supporters.

SEL:

There is an upcoming workshop on setting firm and friendly boundaries conducted by PEP (Parent Encouragement Program). Please email the SEL if you are able to attend for an accurate head count. There will be free child care provided by Polite Piggy's. Pizza will be available for \$1 a slice. RSVP at mauryelementarysel@gmail.com

SIT:

The contractors are on track to finish on time July 2019. During 2019's winter, the exterior will be complete and in spring/summer the contractors will be working on the interior of the building.

There have been preliminary talks about the pickup and drop off plans for the new building. It is on the radar and being discussed. There should be an update about the playground plans coming soon.

Remember that all SIT meetings are public meeting, the next one is November 1 and will be on the Listserve. You are always welcome to come and join in.

Hospitality:

Thank you for all the donations for our coat drive. We are almost finished and the community was very generous.

Upcoming there will be a notice coming on the Listserv about the Thanksgiving Basket Drive. The Maury GS Troop will be assisting and assembling the baskets. These are designed to support families within the Maury community with the essentials for a Thanksgiving meal including dessert.

Join us for coffee before each next school morning meeting to talk with your fellow parents!

Photos:

We are home ore volunteer slot open on school picture day from 11:00 to 11:30 please email Tanya tanyad717@gmail.com if you are interested.

Fall Festival:

5th Grade Fall Festival is this Saturday! The 5th graders have a great fun time planned to raise money for space camp.

Next Meeting

11/15/2016 6:00 PM, Maury Multipurpose Room