



Positive Paws: Invaluable Chance to Reflect

February 2013

by The Special Subjects Team

You may have heard word on the street about a thing called Positive Paws. Perhaps your student came home boasting about earning all fours in one of his or her special subject classes, or maybe they were bummed about an off day resulting in lower class scores. Whichever the case, it is important that families are informed about the way the Special Subject teachers are utilizing this tool for reflection, meeting high expectations, and inspiring leadership and creative risk taking at Maury.

Positive Paws is a tool that allows students to reflect on the social, technical, and emotional aspects of learning. At the end of each class period, students vote from one (few students achieving the goal) to four (ALL students achieving the goal) on how they believe they worked as a class to meet our well-established expectations. Though we are quick to encourage your students to strive for all fours, we also remind them that threes are still a job well done. Scores from twelve to sixteen show that daily goals are being met. Positive Paws helps

promote. We are looking for examples of when students worked in collaboration to ensure a successful day for a classmate. We set high expectations for proper technique and care demonstrated with equipment, instruments, books and art supplies. We discuss the classroom culture. Lastly, we reflect on ways that students' exhibit confidence and creative risk taking within our learning spaces.

"Positive Paws promotes leadership and teaches kind and positive communication skills within the group. It teaches students to keep a more positive tone when helping to redirect peers. Positive Paws reiterates expectations within the school. It helps kids to generalize good behavior because they are held to the same expectation in different environments," said Ms. George, Maury third grade teacher.

We hope that through this worthwhile reflection time our students leave more confident, reflective, and ready to demonstrate what it takes to be a leader at Maury Elementary School

Think Tank and Science Expo a Success

by Ms. Ford

Thank you to the over 30 parent volunteers and 200 people who attended the 2nd Annual Think Tank and Science Expo on January 24! Our partner organizations had glowing things to say about how inquisitive and engaged our students were. For pictures from the event or information on our exhibitors, go to maurythinktank.blogspot.com.



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Announcements

Upcoming Events

February 6, 6p: DC CAS Parent Night, Grades 2-5
February 8, 930a: Journey Through Time -- African American Heritage Presentation
February 13: Cub Scout Derby
February 14, 6p: Maury Loves Disco
February 15: Professional Development Day, No School
February 18: Presidents Day, No School
February 19: NAEP, Grade 4
February 19-22: Jump Rope for Heart Week
February 20, 9a: Open House for Prospective Students
February 21, 6p: PTA Meeting
February 25: Parent/Teacher Conference Day, No School

Fundraisers

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

Maury Blogs

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

Maury at the Market

by Linda Samuel

Hope your calendars are marked for Saturday, March 16 from 7pm-10pm for our largest annual fundraiser, the fun and eventful Maury at the Market Live and Silent Auction in the North Hall at Eastern Market! Book your sitter, or watch Tuesday folders and the listserv for information about Polite Piggys-provided care during the event.

Also, watch the listserv for emails on sponsorship and item solicitations. We need your help to ask your business contacts and friends for their support. This event succeeds because of all our efforts.

And on that note, we are still in need of more volunteers to help us pull the event together. Please email Elsa Huxley (elsa@elsahuxley.com) or Linda Samuel (lindabsamuel@yahoo.com) to find out how you can help in this crucial fundraiser for our kids and our school.

See you at the Market!

Book of the Month

SHOW WAY by Jacqueline Woodson

Soonie's great-grandma was just seven years old when she was sold to a big plantation without her ma and pa, and with only some fabric and needles to call her own. She pieced together bright patches with names like North Star and Crossroads, patches with secret meanings made into quilts called Show Ways -- maps for slaves to follow to freedom. When she grew up and had a little girl, she passed on this knowledge. And generations later, Soonie -- who was born free -- taught her own daughter how to sew beautiful quilts to be sold at market and how to read.

From slavery to freedom, through segregation, freedom marches and the fight for literacy, the tradition they called Show Way has been passed down by the women in Jacqueline Woodson's family as a way to remember the past and celebrate the possibilities of the future. Beautifully rendered in Hudson Talbott's luminous art, this moving, lyrical account pays tribute to women whose strength and knowledge illuminate their daughters' lives.

Newsletter Submissions? E-mail: MauryMessenger@gmail.com

