



April 2013

Maury Loses Title I Status

by Principal Albert-Garvey

Maury Elementary School will no longer be a Title I school for the 2013-2014 school year. Less than 35 percent of our school population (31 percent) has qualified for free and reduced meals this year.

We will no longer be eligible to receive additional federal funding to provide our school with DCPS Out-of-school Time Aftercare, Head Start resources for pre-school/pre-kindergarten students and teachers, and supplemental literacy instruction with the Literacy Lab during the school day.

Losing the DCPS aftercare program has been a concern for our community since last year and planning has been ongoing.

We will continue to offer Polite Piggy and Havner Care after school programs. Cost will be based on household income. DCPS will fund the Academic Power Hour for next year to assist with this transition. I must emphasize that the funding is for one year only. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch will have priority seats for the Power Hour.

Basketball and cheerleading will not be impacted. They are managed by the DCPS Athletic Department. In addition, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girls on the Run, Maury Running Club (and more), which are facilitated by parent, staff, and community volunteers, will remain an important part of our programming.

Please see Principal Albert-Garvey directly if you have questions.

Who Will Be My Child's Teacher Next Year?

by Principal Albert-Garvey

Each spring, there is considerable discussion about placing children in classes for the next school year. This is a matter that we do not take lightly at Maury.

The teachers and principal will spend many hours forming well-balanced classes in which all children will have an opportunity to learn and to grow in their academic and social skills. We hope that

a frank review of our procedures for class placement of students will reduce the need for parents to make requests for specific teachers. When classes are structured, we follow a clear set of guidelines.

Classes are formed into deliberate heterogeneous groups with the following in mind:

--continued on page 5



WHAT'S INSIDE

Think Tank	2
Library Corner	2
Mathademics	3
Maury Market	3
Maury Clubs	4
Enrollment	5
Diversity Night	6
Announcements	6



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Think Tank Corner

by Ms. Ford

JetToy Traveling Team is Announced

Congratulations to Taja White, Xavier Hill, Robert McFarlane and Shaylah Jackson for qualifying to represent Maury Elementary at the 7th Annual JetToy Competition in Detroit in April. They will travel with Ms. Sweeney and Mr. Ludes to compete against teams from around the world. This opportunity is available thanks to the wonderful grant from the Society for Automobile Engineers and GM. Check out their training area on the first floor by the nurse's suite. If you see these students, wish them luck!

Thriving with the Hive!

Maury parent Jason Sanders and staff husband Ron Ford attended a two-day beekeeping workshop in preparation to bring beehives to Maury.

For the first year, our hives will be housed at Walker-Jones Farm. On March 27, five Maury third graders attended the first of a series of "Junior Beekeeper" trainings where they populated the hives with new bees and learned about taking care of these amazing creatures. Stay tuned for pictures and invitations for additional opportunities to get involved.

Mrs. Ford's Leave of Absence

As many of you know, I had back surgery on April 1. The decision to have this surgery now was not an easy one to make and I want to publicly thank the

many families who have already sent me well wishes and given me such kind words of support. I am so thankful to be part of such a great community!

I will be in the hospital at Georgetown for the initial days post-operatively and then recovering at home. My goal is to return to Maury by June 3. In my absence, Ms. Redick will conduct Science/Think Tank with all Pre-school and Pre-Kindergarten classes. She is a veteran teacher with a great passion for education and will do a wonderful job with our youngest groups.

While the K-5 classes will not have their regularly scheduled Think Tank times, I am working with classroom teachers to ensure they have full access to all of my science, engineering and Think Tank materials while I am out.

The Lending Library will not be open during its regularly scheduled times after school, but teachers will have the ability to sign out games for their students at scheduled times.

When I return, the Lending Library will re-open fully. While this surgery and recovery will not be easy, I am confident that it will allow me to be a stronger, more active mom, wife and part of this community when I heal. Thank you again for the continued support!

Library Corner

by Ms. Sweeney

At this point in the year, all Maury students are checking books out from the library. (Preschool and Pre-K students keep them in their classrooms.) But did you know that parents and other caregivers can check books out as well?

The Maury library is open for all members of our community! Whether you need bedtime stories, audio books to share, or just want to re-read a childhood favorite, the library has something for everyone. The library is open Monday-Thursday from 8:15-9:00 a.m.

and Friday afternoons from 3:15-4:30 p.m. Setting up a parent borrower account takes only a few minutes, and you can search the catalog from home by visiting destiny.dcps.dc.gov and selecting Maury ES from the list.

Come in with your kids and let them show you their favorite sections of the library, and their favorite reading spots. Or, come in after drop-off for some solo browsing. Our library is here to serve our entire community, and I look forward to your visit!



Maury Mathademics 2013



In Mathademics, Maury's annual nail-biting math tournament of epic proportion, 5 teams of 5 (Math Wizards, Fast Facts, Math Geniuses, Math Dragons, and the Calculating Nerds) went head to head to solve math problems. Third, fourth, and fifth graders on each mixed team worked together to solve multi-step word puzzles, area challenges, and measurement questions, culminating in a wager of team points, and ending spectacularly with the winning team of Math Dragons taking home the grand prize of Labyrinth gift cards. Mathademics winners, the Math Dragons: (l to r) Luke M., Robert M., Kerry M., Gabriela G., Milo S., coached by Ms. Hunt. (Submitted by Heather Schoell)

Maury at the Market 2013: A Resounding Success

by Elsa Husley

Maury at the Market, our annual flagship fundraiser held on March 16 at Eastern Market raised \$71,221. After expenses, we will have raised approximately \$66,594 for our vital needs. So many people worked leading up to and during the event, space prohibits us from listing them all here. We thank our title sponsor, National Capital Bank and our other sponsors, which can be found on www.mauryatthemarket.org, and will be featured in our ad in the next Hill Rag.

We thank Tunnicliffs for the open bar, and Nando's, the Argonaut, Mama Lucia, and Capitol Hill Cake Mom for the food and desserts! Copy General provided the programs and other printing work. We are so appreciative of the many parents (and grandparents) who donated and solicited terrific auction items. Thanks also to the room parents who coordinated the gorgeous class gifts.

A very special thanks to our amazing teachers and Principal Albert-Garvey! Their donations were some of the highest bids in on Saturday night and their creative ideas and generous contributions of their time and talents are so very much appreciated. Lastly, thanks to the supportive Maury family for volunteering and also coming out and being such a fun crowd. Please consider joining the Fundraising Committee and being part of next year's success.



Maury on the slopes



Winter is ski club time for Maury. Fourth and fifth graders traveled to Ski Liberty with Mrs. Cooper to participate in a ski program in February. The program includes lessons for students and time to practice new skills or improve on them (in the case of veteran skiers). Skiers return to qualify for the yearly championship where ten students from each school earn a spot on their school's ski team based on the fastest times.

This year, eight elementary schools participated in the 2013 DCIAA Alpine Skiing Championship on the first of March. Maury students gave their best efforts and were great sports. Fifth grader Robert McFarlane won fourth place in the advanced category. Fourth grader Luke Morton won first place in the novice category. Way to go!

Maury's Ski Team

Students pictured with Mrs. Cooper and Ms. Fietze from left to right, Front row: Andrew Yokum, Luke Morton, Robert McFarlane, Joel Simpson, Isaac Smoker. Middle row: Xia Garner (alt.), Ravyn Tyree, Taja White. Back row: Xavier Hill, Anna Robinson, Olivia Schoell (Submitted by Kim Fietze)

Maury Considers Spelling Club

Does your child know how to spell the words, gladiolus or syllepsis? Maybe he or she is better with luge or knack? Regardless of his or her spelling acumen, please support the Maury PTA as it considers the creation of the Maury Spelling Club. The club is open to all Maury students who know how to spell well and those who want to get better. The club expected to take shape in the 2013-2014 school year, and it will serve as the lead in Maury's efforts and participation in the Scripps National Spelling Bee competition.

Any questions, please contact Maury mom and PTA parliamentarian, Michelle Phipps-Evans, at mbpevans@yahoo.com or (202) 582-1207 or Maury's instructional coach, Norah Rabiah, at norah.rabiah@dc.gov or (202) 271-7829.

Teacher cont'd from page 1

- An even gender and racial balance;
- A full range of aptitudes within each class;
- An even proportion of achievement levels and learning styles across the classes at each grade level; and,
- An equal number of students in each class on a grade level.

Once these factors have been considered, teachers begin to build classes of children who show promise of working well together. Attempts are made to match pupil and teacher personality and style.

Quite understandably, these decisions are based upon observations made by the teachers during the course of the year. While we review additional input about your child's individual learning needs, such as your

observations shared at parent-teacher conferences, any such input will be considered in the context of the guidelines above.

Additional comments are entirely optional, but if submitted to principal, they must be written via email and received no later than May 18.

We also trust that you will understand that parents' comments constitute one of the many factors that we consider in forming classes. The final decision on class placements resides with the principal.

Principal's Email Address: carolyne.albert-garvey@dc.gov

Verifying Residency for Enrollment

by Principal Albert-Garvey

How do I prove my residency in the District of Columbia so I can enroll my student?

Proving where you live, also called "verifying residency," is a critical part of the enrollment process. Only residents of the District of Columbia are eligible to receive a free public education in the District. In fairness to that policy, all parents are required to verify residency. Normally, this will be done at the school during the enrollment process. All parents must verify residency prior to the start of school. Maryland and Virginia residents will need to complete a DCPS Nonresident Tuition Payment Commitment Form and pay tuition for students attending Maury.

Please note that only the parent and/or legal guardian of a student may enroll that student in school. The parent and/or legal guardian must be the individual listed on any/all of the requested residency documents.

Please consult the following list to see which documents will be needed to verify residency.

Any two (2) of these documents:

- Current District of Columbia-issued Driver's License or non-driver's identification, displaying your name and current address;

- Lease or rental agreement, displaying your name and current address, with a payment receipt for a period within 2 months;
- Utility bill, displaying your name and current address, with a separate receipt or payment print-out. (Bill showing "CR" is not acceptable).
- DC Vehicle Registration, displaying your name and current address.

You may also use any one (1) of these documents:

- A pay stub showing DC tax withholdings, displaying your name and current address;
- Proof of financial assistance (i.e. TANF, Medicare, SCHIP, Housing, etc.) issued within the past 12 months, displaying your name and current address;
- SSI (Supplemental Security Income) annual benefits notification; issued within the past 12 months, displaying your name and current address;
- Official military housing orders, displaying your name and current address;
- Proof child is a ward of the District of Columbia; or
- Embassy letter, dated April 1, 2013 or later.

If parents have additional questions or concerns about proving residency, please contact the DCPS Residency Office at (202) 442-5215.



Announcements

Upcoming Events

- April 15:** Professional Development, No School
- April 16:** Emancipation Day, No School
- April 18:** Poem in Your Pocket
- April 18, 6p:** PTA Meeting
- April 19:** DCCAS Pep Rally
- April 19:** Report Cards Issued
- April 23-30:** DCCAS Grades 2-5
- May 1:** School Enrollment Forms due for Pre-S, Pre-K and Out of Boundary
- May 3, 6p:** Sock Hop
- May 6-10:** Staff Appreciation Week

April 17-19 is Spirit Week for Grades 2-5

Wednesday, April 17

Thinking Cap Day- Students wear crazy hats

Thursday, April 18

Focus Day- Students wear crazy sunglasses

Friday, April 19

Pep Rally

Maury Diversity Night: It's a Small World After All ...

by Besa Pinchotti

What do you get when you mix Armenians with Russians and Belizeans and then add in Canadians, Albanians and Norwegians? Maury Elementary School Diversity Night, of course.

The annual event took place right before Spring Break in the school cafeteria. Maury families set up tables showcasing their diversity with flags, photographs, books and food. From Indian samosas to Filipino lumpia, Diversity Night tickled the taste buds.

Some kids wore costumes from their native lands, while others dressed up in costumes provided by preschool teacher, Janine Levin, who organized the event.

Ms. Levin said everything came together easily thanks to Cougar parents. "They were so eager to share cultures and traditions and celebrate the many kinds of diversity in our Maury community."

The Buddhism and Brownies hands-on activity kept the kids engaged, and one family brought a display of Jewish Passover items.

"We want children to identify their similarities and differences from everyone else," said Ms. Levin. "They can learn about holidays from other cultures,



and be reminded that everyone deserves respect."

Kids and parents went from table to table asking questions, looking at maps and getting to know more about the people who make up Maury Elementary.

Diversity Night has become an annual tradition, so if you missed your opportunity to participate, you can always look forward to next year.