



## Hopes & Dreams

by Lauren Bomba

The walls, ceilings, and windows of Maury Elementary School are brightly adorned with the Hopes & Dreams for the year ahead. Every student was asked to reflect on their own Hopes & Dreams during the first weeks of school. Envisioning Hopes & Dreams is a clever way to teach children to set high goals for themselves and build the skills necessary to accomplish them.

Once a goal, hope, or dream, is established, the real work begins by asking students to take responsibility for their learning and recognize what they must do in order to reach such aspirations. In setting Hopes & Dreams, classes work together to create

stronger culture and communities. They learn that they must work together to make wise decisions about their actions, behaviors, and work ethics.

Visit <http://studiomaury.wordpress.com>



these skills in students. Schools in the network share best practices with each other and benefit from opportunities to collaborate with other schools, connect with Ashoka's partners, present at conferences, and more.

Our teachers and staff have launched many initiatives to focus on changemaker skills. The school committee – Lauren Conley, Caroline Hunt, Lauren Bomba, Mamie Vick, Jeanette Perry, Joe Ludes, Val Jones, Vanessa Ford, Kim Vaugeois, and CAG) have created a framework to explore changemaker skills through the lens of building community, diversity, service and environment. A BLOG managed by Ms. Hunt will be ready soon! A link will be available on the Maury Web site as soon as it goes live.

You can also visit The Ashoka Start Empathy Web site: <http://startempathy.org/about/changemaker-schools>

## What Would You Like The World To Look Like?

How Maury Elementary is shaping the world one student at a time.

by Principal Albert-Garvey

Last year, Maury was selected to join the Ashoka Changemaker Schools Network. Ashoka strives to make empathy, teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving (what they call changemaker skills) as valued in education as traditional academic skills, so that all students find their voices and can make a positive impact on the world.

In order to achieve this goal, they created the Changemaker Schools Network, a national community of leading elementary schools that serve as models for cultivating

October 2013

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# Principal's Book of the Month: Bebop Express

This rockin', rhythmic railroad adventure celebrates the uniqueness of America and the beboppin', doo-woppin' sound of jazz, from jammin' New York City all the way to New Orleans. With bold, powerful art by the "New York Times" best-selling team of Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher, H. L. Panahi's text comes alive with a pulse and beat all its own.

## Library Corner

by Kate Sweeney

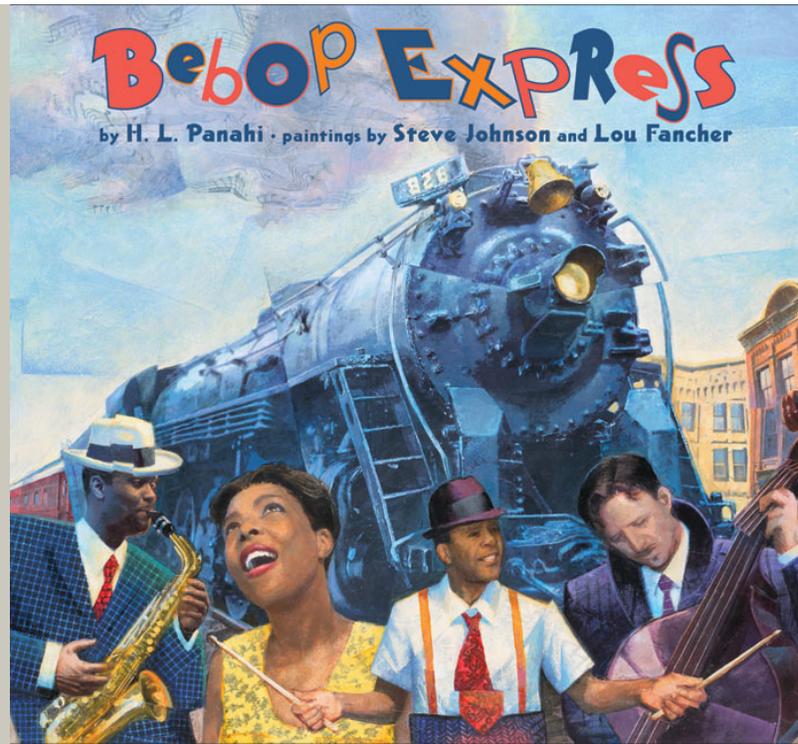
### Cougars are Readers!

Every year, Maury students show how much they love to read in our exciting reading initiative! For four months, kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade will record the amount of time they spend reading, and as they do something musical will happen!

You've probably noticed the music staves posted outside each classroom door. These are our extra-special reading trackers. As classes read, they'll add musical notes to their staves. Each time a class earns a note, Mr. Rogers will visit during Morning Meeting with an instrument to play the notes they've accumulated. What song are they building with their reading minutes? Only Mr. Rogers and Ms. Sweeney know for sure. (Here's a hint: It's guaranteed to bring a smile to the face of the adults in the building just as much as the kids!)

We launched the initiative on September 30 with our first Principal's Book of the Month: *Bebop Express* by H.L. Panahi.

We know that your children are excited to participate, and you'll be hearing lots more about the program in the next couple of months. For now, just remember: read, read, read, and make sure you record your minutes.



## Annual Maury Yard & Bake Sale!

**Saturday, October 5  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm**

It's time for the legendary Maury Elementary Yard & Bake Sale!

Score Huge Bargains! Fantastic Bake Sale! Support your School! Come to Maury early for the first pick of the merchandise, then come back after 1:00 pm for the fabulous "All-You-Can-Stuff" Maury shopping bag bargain.

Start cleaning out those closets - donations will be welcome on the stage in the Multi-Purpose Room beginning on Monday, September 23. Volunteers are needed in the weeks leading up to the event to help spread the word, tame the donation pile, and also at the sale itself to help with set up/cash box/clean up, etc. This is a fun day to get together with the Maury community and find some great bargains.

Keep an eye on the listserve for more information about this fun day and volunteer opportunities.

## GARDEN CLUB

by Vanessa Ford

Under the guidance of Joe Ludes, one of our Special Education teachers, we have started a garden club for interested 3rd-5th grade students. Mr. Ludes happens to be a Master Gardener and runs the Hyattsville Urban Growers. He is leading the planting and education surrounding our new edible garden space in the front. Watch it as it transforms! If you are interested in being a "Parent Garden Ambassador" please contact Mrs. Ford at [vanessa.ford@dc.gov](mailto:vanessa.ford@dc.gov).



*MauryElementary.com*



# Buddy Classes @ Maury

by Lauren Conley

"Empathy is about finding echoes of another person in yourself" - Mohsin Hamid

Every class in our school has chosen to pair up with another class from a different grade level. Although the design is simple, the connections and opportunities to learn are unlimited. Already teachers have begun planning exciting events and learning opportunities for their classes to collaborate.

There will be picnics and lessons, performances and crafts. Stay tuned for more pictures and updates about this exciting program! Kids from across grade levels will begin a partnership to promote leadership, teamwork, and empathy. Activities may include: reading together, teaching/practicing a new skill, perform for each other, and write letters to each other.

The buddy classes are:

Vaugeois (5th) - Ms. Battle (K)

Duckett (4th) – Spurlock (pre-K 4)

George (4th) – Scott (pre K 3)

Scott (3rd) – Dorsey (1st)

Donnelly (3rd) – Cooper (1st)

Fox (2nd) – Timmons (pre K 3/4)

Havner (2nd) – Levin (pre K 3)

Vick (K) – Mitchell (pre K 4)

## Cub Scouts

by Sonja Walti

Maury Cub Scout Pack 3838 welcomes two new Den Leaders, Dwylyene Garcia and Chris McIntire, both Maury parents with previous experience in scouting. Alastair McFarlane, also a Maury parent, will continue to be the Cubmaster and also head up a den.

Pack 3838 is actively recruiting youth (Grades 1-5) and additional adult volunteers. It is gearing up for its beloved annual pancake breakfast on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8-11 pm. Interested cub scouts and parents should feel free to explore by attending a weekly pack meeting, on Mondays, 5-6 pm, starting September 16<sup>th</sup>. Contact and registration: [maury\\_cubs@yahoo.com](mailto:maury_cubs@yahoo.com)



## Science Corner

by Vanessa Ford

We have had a great start in Think Tank this year! Central to my program is ensuring that students get the opportunity to use many of their Multiple Intelligences and strengthen their Habits of Mind. So far this year, all challenges have been about using our Picture and People Smarts.

**Picture Smarts** are officially known as Visual/Spatial Intelligences. This intelligence is about learning visually and organizing ideas spatially. Students see concepts in action in order to understand them. Working with these "smarts" allows students the ability to "see" things in one's mind in planning to create a product or solve a problem.

**People Smarts** are officially known as Interpersonal Intelligences. Using these smarts, students learn through

interaction with others and promote collaboration and working cooperatively with others. Our main Habits of Mind focus so far has been "Contribute Positively to the Group and Inspire Teamwork." Through engineering-based challenges, students explicitly work to say and do things that foster collaboration.

In addition, our Monarch larvae arrived September 12th! Look for the **Maury Monarch Madness** display on the first floor to track how all our larvae are doing. You'll see when they pupate (form their chrysalis) and when they emerge as Monarchs! We will release class Monarchs as they emerge so stay tuned to information from your child's class for dates.

For the most up-to-date info on Think Tank and Science at Maury, please follow @Maurythinktank on Twitter or go to my blog <http://maurythinktank.blogspot.com>

## Remember...Walk to School Day!

How do you get to school each day? Drive? Metrobus? Walk? A reminder that International Walk To School Day takes place on Wednesday, **October 9th at Lincoln Park** starting at 7:30am. The event promotes the benefits of walking and healthy lifestyles. Come out and join several Capitol Hill schools prior to the school day. Light breakfast will be served along with guest speakers, exercise and school performances. Time to hit the pavement.



*MauryElementary.com*

# Maury Teachers Fundraise through DonorsChoose.org

by Antonia Herzog

## Active Maury Projects

### “Drums!”

– *Mr. Rogers (Music)*

My students need 4 tubano drums to accompany themselves during music. These drums are perfect because they combine the characteristics of several other world drums. (Total cost = \$1048)

### “Multiplication and Division Fluency”

– *Ms. George (4<sup>th</sup>)*

My students need multiplication and division flash cards and dry erase markers to help become fluent in their math facts. (Total cost = \$322)

### “Research-based Reading Intervention!”

– *Ms. George (for 1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>)*

My students need a research-based reading comprehension intervention system in order to support our students grades 1-5. We are requesting the Fountas and Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention program. The program includes leveled books, take-home books, lesson guides and prompting guides for teachers to use. (Total cost = \$3688)

Many of our Maury teachers have been actively fundraising for various fun and educational class projects through the [www.DonorsChoose.org](http://www.DonorsChoose.org) website.

This special website allows public school teachers from all over the country to post classroom project requests on their site. These projects can range from something as simple as pencils to write poetry to scientific equipment like microscopes to study mitochondria. The neat part is that anyone from anywhere can donate any amount to whatever project seems most interesting and inspiring to them. So the Maury projects are not just being funded by Maury families and friends but, in fact, mostly by generous donors from all over the country.

Thirteen Maury teachers have posted projects on the DonorChoose.org website over the last several years, including: Ms. Bomba, Ms. Conley, Ms. Donnelly, Ms. Dorsey, Mrs. Ford, Ms. George, Ms. Hanni, Mr. Harding, Ms. Jones, Ms. Nesper, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Scott, Ms. Sweeney, and Mrs. Wright-Spurlock. Their projects have so far raised a total of \$26,766 from 368 supporters for Maury students!

For example, Ms. Donnelly, our new third grade teacher, just got a project fully funded to buy every third grader their very own copy of the magazine "Time for Kids" every week for the full school year. They will be using the magazine articles in class to promote vocabulary development, knowledge of current events, reading comprehension and discussion skills. They will also have access to all of the "Time for Kids" online resources, games, and interactive learning.

To donate or see latest active Maury projects to to: <http://www.donorschoose.org/school/maury-elementary-school/28253/?active=true>

## Recommended Reading

### Growing up Global

Growing Up Global is a book that parents, grandparents, and teachers can turn to again and again for inspiration and motivation as they strive to open the minds of children everywhere.

In today's increasingly interconnected world, how do we prepare our children to succeed and to become happy, informed global citizens? A mother of three, Homa Sabet Tavangar has spent her career helping governments develop globally oriented programs and advising businesses on how to thrive abroad. In *Growing Up Global*, Tavangar shares with all of us her "parenting toolbox" to help give our children a vital global perspective.

Whether you're mastering a greeting in ten different languages, throwing an internationally themed birthday

party, or celebrating a newfound holiday, *Growing Up Global* provides parents and children with a rich, exciting background for exploring and connecting with far-flung nations they may have only heard about on television. Inside you'll discover

- fun activities, games, and suggestions for movies, music, books, magazines, service activities, and websites for expanding your family's worldview
- simple explanations that will help your children grasp the diversity of world faiths
- creative ways to gain geography literacy
- handy lists of celebrations and customs that offer a fascinating look at how people from different cultures around the world live everyday life

## Upcoming Events

**October 5:** Yard Sale

**October 9:** Walk to School Day

**October 9:** ANET1 Testing Reading Gr 2-5

**October 10:** ANET1 Testing Math Gr 2-5

**October 10:** 6pm Family Fitness Night

**October 14:** No School / Columbus Day

**October 17:** 6pm PTA Meeting

**October 18:** No School / Professional Dev

**October 21:** No School / Parent-Teacher Conf

**October 21-25:** Book Fair

**October 26:** Fall Fair

**October 31:** Book Character Parade

