



Fiber Arts Exploration hits Studio Maury this Winter

by Ms. Bomba

Ms. Bomba is beyond excited to kick off a six-week unit of study on textiles and fiber arts with two amazing community members this winter! Elizabeth Nelson, aka Aunt Lizzy, and Ann Barsi (grandmother of a Maury 1st grader), are bringing their passion and expertise of the fiber arts to studiomaury through an in depth look at the artistic process our textiles encounter from sheep to shawl!

Materials, resources and know-how have been accumulating since summertime. Nearly 50 pairs of knitting needles have been donated for Maury 4th and 5th graders, as well as real sheep's wool (dirty, clean, carded, and spun), hand spinners, roving, socks and yarn! Ann, Elizabeth and Ms. Bomba have been expanding the conceptual aspects of the unit and brainstorming ways to make this historic craft media accessible and inspiring to young students.

Piggybacking on the knitting craze that Elizabeth has enlightened our school with, this unit will also draw on the conceptual work of contemporary artist, Mark Newport, who knits life-size "soft" superhero costumes that challenge gender stereotypes. Beyond gaining just a technical

skill, students will be asked to consider what makes a super hero truly heroic and how a costume's material plays into our idea of super powers. Students will be asked to compare handmade, one of a kind objects with mass produced objects from factories and articulate the monetary and sentimental value of both.



The project will result in numerous opportunities to experiment with new materials and processes as well as culminate in the creation of a personal superhero from socks and scrap fibers. Feel free to stop by the studio on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday at 2:20 for a glimpse into our world!

January 2014

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January is National Thank You Month!

Gratitude, or saying "Thank You," has been called one of the 3 most important virtues along with compassion and forgiveness. Say thanks to at least one person each day this month – your children, a teacher, your mailman, your neighbor, a friend ...

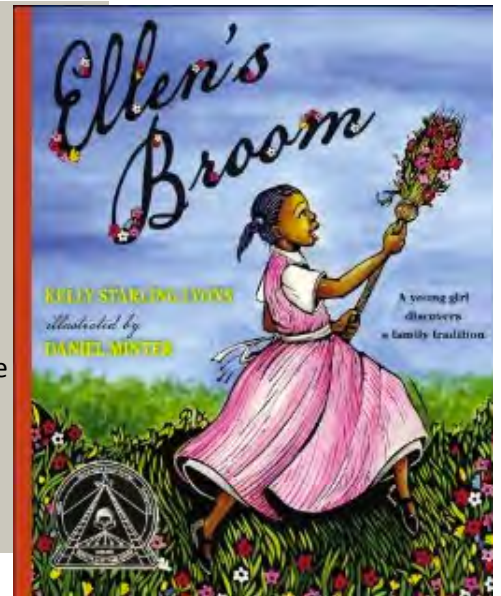


1250 Constitution Ave, NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-698-3838
www.mauryelementary.com

Principal's Book of the Month: Ellen's Broom

by Kelly Starling Lyons

Ellen always knew the broom resting above the hearth was special. But after it's announced in church that the marriages of former slaves will be registered, she hears more about why it matters so much. For her mama and papa, who could be sold away at a master's whim and whose union had no legal protection, jumping the broom was a way to show their commitment to being husband and wife. Now, as the whole family travels to the courthouse dressed in their best, Ellen carries the broom with them. With love, ingenuity and pride, she finds a way to celebrate her parents' right to be legally married and remember their past.



Over \$20,000 Raised by Grants Committee!

By Donny Kirsh

Fall proved to be a successful time for Maury PTA's Grants committee, which collectively raised over \$20,000 from a range of resources. Over half of this money came in the form of a \$13,750 grant from Google Community Grants Fund of Tides Foundation, which is designated for the replacement of the laptops that were stolen back in October.

The Capitol Hill Community Foundation, a steadfast supporter of a range of programs at Maury and other Capitol Hill schools, awarded Maury three grants totally \$6500 to support our Fountas and Pinnell Reading Intervention program, Think Tank Game Design Unit, and much needed library shelving.

And to help fill those new library shelves, we received a \$500 grant to purchase library books from the Friends of the Southeast Library (FOSEL).

Thanks goes not only to our grant writers and funders, but also to the numerous people throughout the Maury community who help identify grant sources and projects to fund, as well as provide the data necessary for the grant forms – often at the last minute.

Dignity Washington Delivers a Little Holiday Cheer!

By Aunt Lizzie

For the third straight year, our very generous friends at Dignity Washington, a Catholic Intentional Community, provided dozens of brightly wrapped presents for families in need of a little extra holiday cheer. Carl Spier, a member of Dignity and a Maury neighbor, delivered the presents himself. The Maury family is most grateful to the kind souls who put such loving care into selecting special gifts for each individual child.



Little Cougar Corner

Bringing in the New Year with Color!

In Spanish class, we are beginning our color unit. We will be learning our colors in Spanish as well as continuing with our numbers. We will be playing Rojo/Verde (our version of red light green light), going on color hunts, and of course, making colorful art! Be on the look out for our beautiful artwork!

They're back!

Elf Owls are invading the early childhood art classes this winter and no one is more excited about the influx of tiny, fluffy, super cute night flyers than Ms. Bomba! Combining life sciences with the visual arts, Ms. Bomba is able to teach our youngest artists about the habitat, predators, prey, and physical characteristics of one of the smallest owls in the world, all while sculpting, painting, and bringing to life these fascinating creatures. Our Elf Owl art unit provides a tangible way to apply knowledge from various

content areas all while developing the fine motor skills needed for sculpting, plastering, and painting our cactus-dwelling birds of prey. Be on the look out for hundreds of tiny owls in the New Year!



How Things Move!

A few weeks ago your child took part in voting for our next Science unit! It was close, but "How Things Move" narrowly beat out "Animals". During the months of January and February your child will be learning all about the ways things MOVE!

We will explore the physical science concept of movement by creating ramps, testing how different size cars and balls roll, making things move in a variety of ways (push, pull, bounce, twist, etc...), singing songs and reading books about movement.

In addition, they will have the chance to work at centers with gears, and Lego constructed simple machines. Stay tuned for a blog post solely focused on our Cubs and all of our exploration. All are welcome anytime to Think Tank (our STEM lab where their class takes place). Just send me an email, or come on in!

Parent/Staff Basketball

by George Blackmon

On December 6th, Maury had its' 3rd Annual Parents vs Staff basketball game. The score was close throughout the game. However, for the second year



in a row, the staff held on for the victory. Final score – Maury Staff 30, Maury parents 26.

Not to be forgotten were the performances of the Pink Divas. During the halftime show, they were joined in a dance battle with the Maury Cheerleading team.

Be on the lookout for the students on the Maury basketball team as their season takes full swing in January.

3rd Annual Think Tank and STEM Expo!

January 23, 2014

Save the Date! The 3rd Annual Think Tank and STEM Expo is coming! This year we have over 15 leading STEM organizations ready to engage you and your child in wonderful activities. The event takes place at Maury Elementary from 6-7:30pm on January 23rd. This event is open to the community as well so please feel free to share the information with neighbors! If you would like to **volunteer for one 45 minute slot**, please email **Vanessa Ford** as soon as possible at vanessa.ford@dc.gov. Thank you!.

3rd ANNUAL MAURY ELEMENTARY THINK TANK AND STEM EXPO



EXPLORE, THINK AND LEARN WITH YOUR CHILD FROM LEADING EXPERTS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN STEM FIELDS!

WHEN: January 23, 2014 from 6:00-7:30pm

WHERE: Maury Elementary School 1250 Constitution Ave NE Washington, DC 20002

WHO: All ages and community members! For more information contact vanessa.ford@dc.gov or visit <http://maurythinktank.blogspot.com>

This year we will welcome representatives from the following Science, Technology, Engineering and Math organizations:



American Institutes of Architects



NSWC Carderock STEM Outreach



K12.COM/DC

STEM Program



National Capitol Astronomers



DC Beekeepers



Data Literacy for the Classroom



Upcoming Events

January 6: Professional Development Day - NO SCHOOL

January 16: PTA Meeting @ 6pm

January 20: Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL

January 22: Maury Open House @ 9am & 6pm

January 23: Think Tank & STEM Expo @ 6pm

January 24: Records Day - EARLY DISMISSAL @ 12:15

Winter Concert Highlights

Check out some highlights from the Winter Concert!

Maury Family Traditions Night Coming Soon – March 6, 2014!

It's time to think about which family tradition you would like to highlight at our 3rd annual Maury Family Traditions Night. Many families highlight traditions from a heritage perspective. They include traditional clothing, food, and more. We would like to expand our event to also include a greater variety of traditions. For example, does your family have an annual family reunion? How about an annual trip to a special place for your family? Does your family have a special holiday meal? Do you have a family storyteller? All of our families have wonderful traditions. Please consider sharing on March 6. More details to come...

Thanks for being the kind of community that makes authentic projects like this a reality for teachers and students!

