



May 2014

Make a Change in a Child's Life

Become a Member of the PTA Executive Board

by Michelle Phipps-Evans

The Maury Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) will host a board election at the PTA meeting on Thursday, May 15, at 6 p.m. Volunteering to become a board member offers an opportunity to work with some dynamic parents, teachers and leaders who continue Maury's tradition of excellence—in all endeavors. For the next election, the PTA seeks candidates for a two-year term for the following positions: President, Treasurer I and Parliamentarian.

Below are their duties:

- The **President** presides at all meetings of the Maury PTA; serves as an ex-officio member of all committees; coordinates work of the officers and committees of the PTA so that the purposes may be promoted; and performs other duties.
- The **Treasurer 1** works with Treasurer 2 to have custody of the funds of the Maury PTA; maintains a full account of the funds of the Maury PTA; makes disbursements as authorized by the president, executive board, or the Maury PTA in accordance with the budget adopted by the Maury Elementary School PTA; and other financially related duties.
- The **Parliamentarian** acts as consultant to the presiding officer on meeting procedure using the Robert's Rule of Order, Newly Revised, and the PTA bylaws; advises on points of procedure; follows parliamentary order that allows the PTA to accomplish goals while protecting members' rights; and other duties.

As an alternative, if you don't feel ready to take on any of these roles, consider heading up one of the PTA's standing committees: membership and public relations committee; room parents; extracurricular support/events; hospitality committee; fundraising committee; audit committee; grants committee; middle school/Ward 6 schools; and academic support.

Should you have an interest in nominating yourself or someone else, please contact parliamentarian, Michelle Phipps-Evans, at (202) 582-1207 or email mbpevans@yahoo.com.

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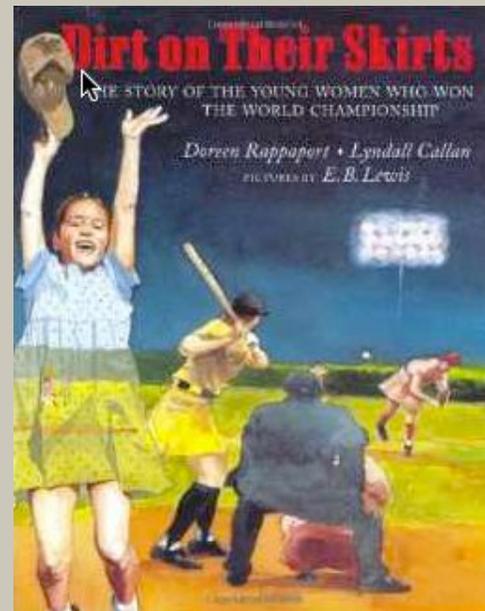


Principal's Book of the Month:

Dirt on Their Skirts

by Doreen Rappaport and Lyndall Callan

You had to be really, really good to play in the 1946 championship game between the Racine Belles and the Rockford Peaches. Sitting in the stands, Margaret thrills to every crack of the bat. Someday she hopes to join her heroes like Sophie "the Flash" Kurys and Betty "Moe" Trezza. As the ball hurtles toward the plate, Margaret can almost feel what it would be like to be in that batter's position, arms tensed, bat held high. As we see this historic game in the annals of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League through the eyes of a fictional young girl, *Dirt on Their Skirts* is a potent reminder that women athletes have inspired young fans throughout the twentieth century. Based on written accounts and on the memories of the players themselves, this exciting story is for all those sandlot sluggers whose hearts beat a little faster whenever they hear the words? "Play ball!"



Library Corner

by Ms. Sweeney



April 18 was Poem in Your Pocket Day, a nationwide celebration of poetry in which people were encouraged to carry a favorite poem in their pockets, and share them with others. The celebration was founded in New York City in 2002, and has been celebrated nationwide since 2008. This was Maury's second year celebrating Poem in Your Pocket Day.

All Kindergarten-5th grade students chose a favorite poem to carry in their pockets all day long. Everyone wore stickers that said "I have a poem in my pocket. Ask me!" and all throughout the day, you could see students and staff members eagerly sharing their poems.

April is National Poetry Month, a celebration of poetry in all of its forms. Maury students have spent the month exploring and checking out books of poetry in the library. Poem in Your Pocket Day was a perfect way for students to share their favorites.

Shall We Gather At The Playground

by George Blackmon

Out of the many lessons our students have learned this year, one lesson has been put to the test over the past few months: patience

Patience as the space where the basketball court was located would be transformed into the playground area; patience as we endured out those multiple snow days; and, patience as the temperatures took their time in getting above 45 degrees.

So when Ms. Albert-Garvey announced at the April PTA meeting that the playground would open after spring break, it was welcomed news.

On the morning of April 22nd, the anticipation reached its peak. After breakfast, the students formed a semi-circle near the gate. They cheered as Ms. Albert-Garvey cut the ribbon. Then those patience of the students finally paid off as they asked several students if it was worth the wait.



in attendance streamed to the new playground area. The slid, climbed, hanged and spun around the new equipment. I All answered yes!



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:

- 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 9, 2014. 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

Upcoming Events

May 2: Professional Development Day -- NO SCHOOL

May 5 -9: Teacher Appreciation Week

May 16: Classroom Sneak Peak

May 22: Maury PTA @ 6pm

May 26: Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL

May 30: Career Day @ 9am - 11am

June 12: Spring Concert @ 6pm



Active Maury DonorsChoose.org Projects

Book Project

– Ms. George (4th Grade)

My students have about thirty minutes of independent reading time every day and they like to try out different types of texts. I know they would love to have new magazines coming in every week. They would practice their nonfiction reading skills and strategies while learning recent news and information.

These subscriptions would help my students get more interested during independent reading time. Please support this project if you can and help out my students. Support kids literacy!(Total cost = \$587)

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