

# the Maury Messenger

Monthly Newsletter of the Parent / Teacher Association

Home of the Cougars



June 2015

## Rocking the Runway

by Elizabeth Nelson

On May 21, Maury's fifth grade students, under the direction of Ms. Bomba, "rocked the runway" at Trashion Fashion - a District-wide fashion show at Brookland MS featuring garments constructed from trash.

Maury fielded the largest contingent and captured the attention of an appreciative audience.

Both the models and the designers can be justly proud of their efforts. Their costumes were fashionable, attractive, and made very creative use of available materials.

They all did a wonderful job under Ms. Bomba's direction!



Ms. Bomba with Kanye



The design team of Garrick, Julian and Martin strut their stuff

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# Maury Sock Super Hero Show at Hill Center

by Elizabeth Nelson

Fourth grade students have been exploring the various properties of fibers and where they come from in Ms. Bomba's class.

They're concluding this fiber arts unit with the study of knitter, print-maker, and performance artist Mark Newport. Newport is best known for his life-size, hand-knit costumes representing both traditional super heroes and those of his own creation.

The kids are applying their learning in the development of their own personal super heroes made from socks and found materials. These "avatars" incorporate the students' ideas about their own best qualities – what makes each of them "super". Their work will be on view in the ground floor gallery at Hill Center throughout June; an opening reception will be held June 8.

The Hill Rag ran an article about this show in the [current \(June\) issue](#), page 115 in the Arts section.

The Hill Center staff and Ms. Bomba and I hope many members of the Maury family will be able to attend the reception. If you can't make the reception, no worries, the show will hang around at least through the end of June so you'll have ample opportunity to stop by and see the Super Heroes in person. The gallery is on the ground floor, east of the staircase.



## Bake Sale Report & Thank-you

by Elizabeth Nelson

Antonia Herzog and Elizabeth Nelson would like to thank all the bakers, shoppers and customers for making this year's bake sale a success. It's a risky business thanking individuals - it's so easy to miss someone - but Sheri Johnson, Jim Roberts and Beth Dougherty were enormously helpful in running the weekly sales, which were too much of a mad-rush to be handled by a single salesperson. Special thanks also to Ann Barsi, who baked cupcakes weekly.

So far this year, we've raised almost \$8,000, well ahead of where we were this time last year. With sales averaging \$225 per week and three weeks to go, we project that total will be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$8,500.

Antonia is "passing the baton" to Anne Newton McFadden, who will be organizing the bakers, but you'll see Elizabeth at her post behind the goodies table when school resumes in the fall.



# Year-End Notes and Welcome, New Maury Staff!

by Carolyne Albert-Garvey, Principal

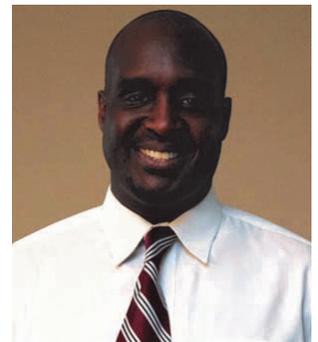
**Parents Make a Difference:** We launched a few new initiatives this year and all of them were a success because of you and our dedicated staff. The home visits came first to help our staff and families to build a positive relationship at the beginning of the school year. We exceeded our year 1 goal by 30%. Parents in grades 2 and 4 participated in the Academic Parent Teacher Team (APTT) group conferences. Over 80% of the families attended these group sessions. Other grade level teachers used a new and improved way of conferencing with parents that included goal setting in an academic area for the student. Again, over 80% of our families participated in parent-teacher conferences. We have our partner Flamboyan to thank for these more effective ways of communicating with families.

**Reading logs** were submitted weekly by 60 to 70 percent of our kindergarten through 5th grade families. Some classes were as low as 10% while others reached 100%. Even though we did not meet our goal of 80%, many parents did tell me that the logs raised their level of awareness about how much time their child was reading at home, what kind of books they preferred to read, and more. Those were great conversations. Third grade gets a special shout-out because 90-100% of them submitted signed reading logs each week for the entire school year. Congrats!

**Relationships amongst students** are critically important as our school grows. We implemented our monthly whole school morning meeting and continued to have buddy classes. Student and staff Empathy Leaders and Changemakers were highlighted during those meetings.

**Thanks for another great year!** While you enjoy the summer break, please welcome the incoming Maury staff—many of their bios are listed below.

**Kevin Parker** has more than fifteen years' experience as a **School Psychologist**. A native Washingtonian, Kevin is the product of Montessori schools and is a graduate of St. John's College High School in upper northwest Washington. Kevin earned his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD and earned his Master's Degree in Educational Psychology from American International College in Springfield, MA. Kevin began his career as a School Psychologist in DC Public Schools in 2002 at Garfield Elementary. In 2009, Kevin founded Parker Diagnostic Solutions, an educational consulting firm that represented students with disabilities. In 2013, Kevin returned to the DC public school system. In his free time, Kevin enjoys coaching little league football and is an avid sports fan. He also enjoys watching historical documentaries and designing web sites. Kevin is a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated.



**Laura White**, Maury's new **Mixed-aged Class Teacher**, is passionate about early childhood education. Prior to joining the Maury community, Laura was Ashoka's U.S. Changemaker Schools Manager, which allowed her to learn from schools across the country that excel in building empathy in children. Most recently, Laura was a preschool autism teacher for Strong Start DC Early Intervention Program. Laura graduated from Tulane University with a BA in political economy and will graduate from The George Washington University with her master's in early childhood special education in August 2015. In her free time, Laura enjoys reading, cooking, and volunteering at the National Museum of Natural History.



**Desiree McClure**, new Maury **Social Worker**, is a native New Orleanian who has lived in the DC area since 1989. Desi was a Business Administration major at Dillard University in New Orleans and received her Master's Degree in Social Work from Howard University. She has worked in DCPS as a school social worker for 13 years; loves to sing gospel music and seeing the potential in people, and is an avid Saints fan.



# More New Maury Staff

**MaryEllen Macek**, Maury's new **Reading Teacher**, is thrilled to be joining our staff and community as the reading specialist for SY 2015-16. MaryEllen was born and raised in Worcester, Massachusetts and attended public school for grades PK through 12, enjoying diverse, challenging, and rich experiences. She attended Villanova University in Villanova, Pennsylvania and participated in various activities including playing field hockey, tutoring students with and without disabilities, and volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. She graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and in Political Science. Her journey to Washington, DC began after graduation. She enrolled at The George Washington University to study Early Childhood Special Education; at the same time, she began her teaching career as a Special Education Teacher at Murch ES. Most recently, she has been a special education teacher at Hyde-Addison ES working with students and teachers in grades PK through 5. In 2014, MaryEllen completed her Education Specialist certificate in Educational Leadership and Administration with a focus on Special Education, also from the GWU. In her spare time, she enjoys Washington DC, is an avid baseball and football fan, and spends time outside hiking the Billy Goat Trail in Maryland and reading on the beach. She loves to visit exhibits at the Smithsonian Museums; the Air and Space Museum, the Museum of American History, and the Portrait Gallery are her favorites. She looks forward to meeting each and every one of you next school year!



**Qinghua Wang**, the new Maury **Chinese Teacher**, is in her tenth year teaching Chinese to DC elementary school students. As a member of the DC World Languages Committee, Qinghua (pronounced Ching Wah) helped develop the current DCPS Foreign Language Standards. Ms. Wang also wrote the curriculum for the DCPS Chinese language program. She has a Master's degree in early childhood education from Cambridge College in Massachusetts. She is from Kunming, capital of Yunnan (literally "South of the Clouds") Province in the far southwest of China. Ms. Wang graduated from Southwest University in Chongqing China and did advanced work at Beijing Normal Education University. Coming to the US as a visiting scholar at George Washington University, she remained to become a US citizen. She is married and has a daughter, Ma Li. Qinghua loves to read, to teach, and to travel.



**Rebecca Sanghvi**, new **Grade 3 Teacher**, is starting her sixth year of teaching in the 2015-16 school year. Becca has taught first and second grade at KIPP DC, DC Bilingual Public Charter School, and a San Francisco public school. She holds a BA in creative writing from University of Pittsburgh, a MA in elementary education from American University, and a MA in literacy from Teachers College Columbia University. She lives in Petworth with her husband. Becca is very excited to be joining the Maury community!



**Stefanie Gordon**, a new Maury **Special Education Teacher**, will begin her fourth year of teaching in the 2015-16 school year. Stef comes from a family of educators (both grandmothers, mother, and two younger sisters,) so it was only natural she would become a teacher. Prior to Maury, Stef taught second grade at a charter school in DC as well as Special Education in DCPS. She studied Psychology and Theatre at Knox College and holds a dual Master's degree from Lesley University in General Education and Special Education.



**Maria Zambrano**, also a new Maury **Special Education Teacher**, is originally from Florida, where she received a certificate in Speech and Language Pathology at Florida International University. Maria moved to DC and earned a Master's degree in Early Childhood Special Education at The George Washington University. She began her career as a preschool teacher with Arlington Public Schools, and recently joined DCPS as a first grade Special Education Inclusion Teacher. Maria is passionate about teaching and feels fortunate to be part of a student's learning experience. She enjoys seeing the progress students make as the year passes by and has fun each and every day that she gets to teach. When not teaching, Maria enjoys running, traveling, being outdoors, and eating delicious food. She is excited to be part of such a great community and joining the Maury family!



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## Exec Board Update

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**Election.** Voting took place until 6:30pm for vice president and secretary. Nathaniel Rogers and Jonnel Herdon were candidates for VP. Jessica Gardner ran for secretary unopposed. Jonnel Herndon was elected Vice President.

**Budget.** Adam Hais presented the working Budget for next year. We upped a few fundraising goals. We increased funding for the aides by about 6K. The other major change is 10K for supplies since that was cut in the DCPS budget. [a copy of the budget is available upon request]

**The Budget will be voted on at the June meeting.**

**Bylaws.** A copy of the proposed new bylaws was uploaded to the listserv and distributed to those attending the meeting (available upon request). The changes are as follows:

- The Board is changed permanently to five members (removing the position of second treasurer).
- The Board will submit to background checks
- A Volunteer Code of Ethics will be added to PTA Membership form and will be maintained by the Secretary
- Additional guidelines for handling cash and writing checks
- Description of Parliamentary duties

### Q&A on Bylaws

Q: Are background checks for board members standard on PTA bylaws.

A: No, but it was something our auditor suggested.

The amendments are open for comment and will be voted on at the June meeting.

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## Announcements

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**LSAT Update:** We will need to elect new LSAT representatives in June. Please let JR Ford know if you have an interest in running no later than Wednesday, May 27. The election will be at the June 11 PTA meeting. The LSAT is comprised of 4 parent representatives, 4 teacher reps, and a community member. The LSAT meets a minimum of 5 times-( this year we met more because of the big budget decisions). The biggest time commitment comes at budget time. Key areas of discussion include:

- Allocation of school resources
- Organization of school
- Curriculum options
- Budget decisions
- Monitoring student progress
- Priorities and considerations for staffing patterns and the selection of personnel
- School culture
- Family engagement

Priorities:

- Conduct the community survey
- Ongoing and continued education efforts to advise and inform the community about the budget process and decisions to be made.



## Announcements (continued)

**Ashoka Parents Group:** A few months ago a bill was introduced by senator Rubio to strip DC of gun control laws. This is particularly frustrating as the bill is written/ supported by officials we, as DC residents, have not elected. The Ashoka group has drafted a letter to congress. Our goal is to get all DC PTA presidents (and as many parents as possible) to sign the letter to send a strong message that DC residents take our responsibility as parents and citizens seriously. If you have questions (or if you'd like to sign it), please see Ben Powell (or Ron or Donnie). We'd like to get as much community participation as possible.

**Grants:** Good news from Capitol Hill Community Foundation. We received 2 of the 3 grants we applied for. The first (\$2,500) is for new a curriculum for our writing program. It's in line with common core and age/grade appropriate. The second is a grant for music. We also received a grant for our future Chinese program which is coming next year. 20K came in in the official grant. Every year after will get 10K.

**Fundraising:** So far this year, we've raised about \$103K. Thank you for all of your support.

- **PJ Days** were a huge success. We raised a thousand dollars total! We'd like to do about 3 or 4 next year with different themes (we'll call it no uniform pass day)
- **Maury at Market** We are looking for someone to chair the event next year. We'd like to have a Chair and rising chair (to shadow for next year, but commit to the following year).
- **Dining Out for Maury.** Don't forget to collect your gems at Argonaut. The next Maury night at Tunicliff's is Tuesday, June 2nd.
- **Box Tops** The next collection will be this Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Take a minute to see if you have any at home.
- **Mabels Labels** sale is going on right now. Use this link, and 20% of your purchase will go to Maury! <https://www.mabelsfundraising.com/campaigns/14607-maurys-mabels-labels>
- **Maury Tshirt:** You can get them through the website.
- **WINE Sale!** The owners of Schneiders put together a special wine sale. 1/2 cases of wine (that could retail around \$400) for \$149 and they will give \$50 back to Maury. Tell friends and neighbors as this is a great way to get a great deal on good wine and also make a lot of money for the school. Just ask for the Maury 6-pack. Not limited to Maury families so spread the word! My goal is to sell 50 cases.

Monday June 8th will be the next fundraising committee meeting. Please join us.



## Principal's Update

**Vacancies.** We are still looking for 4th and 5th special ed teacher with opportunity for management.

Mr Ludes is leaving as he got his dream job so we are looking for a lead parent gardening volunteer. Usually we would need you one or two days a week around lunch.

**The Whole School Morning Meeting** will be tomorrow (Friday) at 9:05. Elmer's parade will be right after and kids don't have to wear uniforms.

**Spring Concert.** 2pm show Thursday the 28th and evening show at 6:15 at Maury.

I've received noticed that I've been reappointed, and the Chancelor offered a three year contract. (Yay)

**Technology.** We had a lot of tech glitches with PARCC so we met with someone about it and received 24 new laptops today, an additional 9k for more technology. Plus 2 free laptop carts.

**Renovation Budget.** We are meeting with architects to figure out realistically what we can do with the 5.8 million the city is giving us (our original addition plans would cost more like 11 million). Thank you for all your advocacy with the Budget.

## In Attendance

Elsa Huxley, Emily Paterson, Jessica Gardner, Adam Hais, JR Ford, Principal Albert-Garvey, Amy Weedon, Joe Weedon, Ben Powell, Maureen Shove Brown, Eri Shimomukai, Jonnel Herndon, Patricia Koontz, Matthew O'Hara, Vincent Erfe, Kristen Erfe, Max Kieba, Courtney Kieba, Ailena Mayo-Mills, Daniel Mullins, Vanessa Ford, Nathaniel Rogers, Franny Decker, Erica Martin, Cody Rice, Heather Bonome, Sarah Alcorn, David Bibo, Shauna Steele

## Next Meeting

6/11/2015 6:00 PM, Maury Multipurpose Room



The graphic is a calendar-style board with a red top and five silver binder rings. The title 'Upcoming Events' is centered in a large, bold, black serif font. Below the title, two columns of text list various school events with their dates and times. The text is in a black serif font.

Upcoming Events	
June 8 — 4th Grade Art Show Opening @ Hill Center 6:00pm	June 15 — Grade 5 Promotion 9:30am
June 8 & 9 — APTT Grade 4	June 16 — Kindergarten Celebration 10:00am
June 10 — Grade 5 Trip (evening) to Medieval Times	June 19 — Last Day of School, Dismissal 12:15
June 11 — PTA Meeting plus elections for LSAT	June 29 — Summer School Begins
June 12 — Field Day	Note: CAG will be away most of July for vacation and grad school

