

the Maury Messenger

Monthly Newsletter of the Parent / Teacher Association

Home of the Cougars



October 2015

Fantastic Finds and Delicious Desserts Raised Money for Maury

By Shannon von Felden

Maury's annual yard sale, held this year on Saturday, September 19th, broke last year's sales record by topping \$10,000. Led by Brooke Jamison and Shannon von Felden, shoppers found great deals on clothes, toys, books, sports equipment, home decor, furniture, and more. This year's yard sale featured the brand new Couture Corner, which carried designer purses and sunglasses, new and gently used clothing, and baby equipment. The Couture Corner was very successful and raised over \$1,500. In addition, Community Gift Cards were pre-sold and distributed by the Healthy Babies Project to families in their program so they could shop at our yard sale.

The delicious bake sale, led by Anne McFadden, continued the tradition of selling loaves of bread, pies, cookies, brownies, and more homemade items in front of Maury. Thank you to all the bakers, the bake sale alone raised \$900!

These funds will benefit the many important programs at Maury Elementary School supported by the Maury PTA. Thank you to everyone who donated items, volunteered, and shopped at the Maury yard and bake sale! Maurice Cook, founder of Serve Your City, also says "Thank you" to the Maury community for allowing him to take the children's clothing leftover from the yard sale to the families living at the DC General shelter.

If you are interested in leading the yard sale next year, please contact Franny Decker at fmmarcucci@hotmail.com.

Chancellor Henderson Observes Cornerstone Biking Lesson

By Elizabeth Nelson

Maury students are learning bicycle skills and safety under Ms. Raymond's direction and self-developed curriculum. DCPS Chancellor Kaya Henderson visited the school to observe the program in Ms. Fox's second grade class. The session began with a discussion of proper clothing and footwear. Students conducted inspections of their bicycle and the fit of their



helmet before heading out to the playground for a "hands on" experience. They practiced turn signals, stopping and tight turns. The course will conclude with a bike ride through the community.

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Spotlight on Instruction

Singapore Math

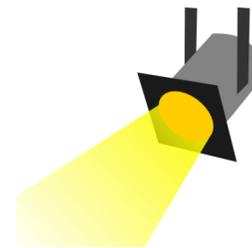
By Robyn Silbey

Over the past seven years, Maury teachers have been working hard to understand and implement Singapore Math, the premier math curriculum of Singapore. One of our goals at Maury is for your children to have a deep understanding of the mathematics they learn. We have chosen Singapore Math as our primary text resource because of its highly effective approach to mathematics—it ranks first in the world in the TIMSS international assessment measure (the US ranked 11th in the 2011 administration; http://nces.ed.gov/timss/table11_2.asp).

Singapore Math features a concrete-pictorial-abstract process for learning concepts. Your children use concrete models such as blocks, cubes, or counters to represent a concept such as place value or division. They learn how to represent those models pictorially, and then relate the pictures to the traditional algorithm that may be familiar from our childhoods. In addition, your children are frequently asked to discuss how they found an answer, why it makes sense, and identify other possible pathways to that same solution. The verbal articulation paired with the concrete, pictorial, and abstract representations ensure that all learners develop thorough conceptual understanding of the mathematics they learn.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions about Singapore Math at Maury via email: robyn@robysilbey.com.

Robyn Silbey is an independent math consultant from Montgomery County. She will be working with Maury teachers throughout this year on using the Singapore Math approach in our classrooms.



Mobile Making at the Atlas

By Lauren Bomba

Maury 4th and 5th graders rounded out a high-flying partnership with artist Kevin Reese of School Sculptures this past September. The collaboration began in the spring of last year and culminated in a grand opening of a show called *Mobilizing Our Community* at The Atlas during the H Street Festival.

Maury students and citizens of the Capitol Hill community collaborated to create over 50 mobiles for the big event! Students created their own unique mobile maquettes of various shapes and colors in order to learn the skill of balancing from the bottom up—a technique mastered by mobile artist, Alexander Calder. Students spent an entire day at The Atlas, helping Kevin and his team with the many stages of the installation process. They sanded, added fire retardant, painted, and attached pieces of wood to help ensure all 50 unique mobiles would be moving above the crowds of attendees the day of the opening. Be sure to stop by the lobby of the Atlas theater before these whimsical works of art find their permanent homes throughout the community!



Maury Receives Cambodian Ministry of Education Delegation

By Amber Gove

Maury welcomed visitors from the Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports along with USAID's Mitch Kirby as part of a study tour of school reform. The delegation was led by the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Education His Excellency, Dr. Im Koch, and accompanied by His Excellency, Mr. Put Samith, Director General of Education and Mr. Hak Thomada, Officer of Minister office.



The delegation first visited Maury where they had the opportunity to see school reform in action and to meet D.C. Public Schools Chancellor Kaya Henderson. They learned about what is required to turn around a school from being nearly shuttered to becoming a high performing public school. Meetings with school Principal Carolyne Albert-Garvey and staff offered new perspectives on the importance of great teachers, effective school leadership, assessment, communication, feedback loops, and ongoing practice.

The delegation observed early childhood classes deeply engaged in Ms Bomba's art class, dropped in on Ms. Battle's Kindergarten working through shapes and stencils, and were enthralled by the second grade bicycle lesson delivered by

Ms. Raymond. Second grade teacher Ms. Fox also stopped by the conference room to share details of our Ashoka Changemaker, parent and community engagement programs.



Does your child have what it takes to be a Maury Cheerleader?

I'm sure he or she does! No experience is necessary. We are looking for 2nd through 5th graders to join the Maury Spirit and Competition team.

TRY-OUTS will take place over two days (applicants **MUST** attend both days)

October 9, 5:15PM—6:00PM & October 10, 12PM—2PM

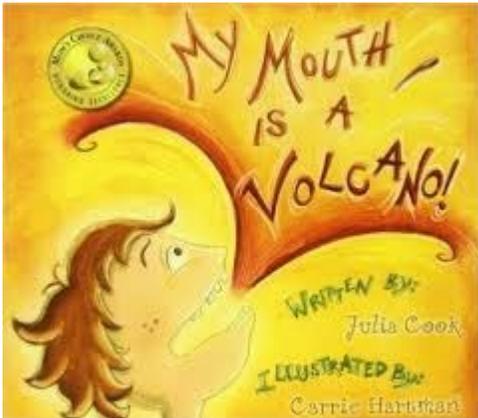
Try-out application forms must be filled out by October 9. Forms are available in the main office and through Polite Piggy's.

Weekly practices will be held on Tuesdays and Fridays from 5:15PM—6:00PM

For more information, please contact Ericka Busey, ebusey1020@gmail.com.

Principal's Book of the Month

by Carolyne Albert-Garvey, Principal



My Mouth is a Volcano by Julia Cook

Louis always interrupts! All of his thoughts are very important to him and when he has something to say, his words rumble and grumble in his tummy, they wiggle and jiggle on his tongue, and press firmly against his teeth, right before he ERUPTS (or interrupts). His mouth is a volcano! But when others begin to interrupt Louis, he learns how to respectfully wait for his turn to talk. Told from Louis' perspective, this story takes an empathetic approach to the habit of interrupting and teaches children a witty technique to help them manage their rambunctious thoughts and words.

Tea Collection Fall Fundraiser

Maury is Participating in the Tea Collection Fall Fundraiser which will run from October 13th-October 20th. New this year, there are NO promo codes needed to shop and we get to shop Tea at 15% off!

Tell your friends and family to shop at TeaSchoolDays.com (NOT TeaCollection.com) between October 13th-October 20th and choose Maury from the dropdown menu at checkout. They will receive Tea Collection items at a 15% discount with FREE shipping and 15% of your total sale will be donated back to Maury!

Upcoming Events

- Oct 12—Columbus Day (no school for students, teachers, staff)
- Oct 15—PTA Meeting, 6pm
- Oct 19—Parent/Teacher conference day (no school for students)
- Oct 21—Family Fitness Night, 6-7:30pm
- Oct 24—Fall Festival Space Camp Fundraiser
- Oct 29—Enrollment Audit Day
- Oct 30—Character Parade, 10:30am
Recordkeeping Day, Early Dismissal 12:15pm

