

the Maury Messenger

Monthly Newsletter of the Parent / Teacher Association

Home of the Cougars



Think Tank Happenings

By Vanessa Ford

With so many grade levels and events happening at Maury, it's hard to keep up with what is happening in Think Tank! Take a look at what each grade level is working on. For more, go to <http://maurythinktank.blogspot.com/>

ECE: Preschool and PreK students are studying the ocean. They are exploring various kinds of life that live in the ocean and using dramatic play to experience what it would be like to discover sunken ships, or the ocean floor.



Kinder: Students in kindergarten are going to be exploring what plants need to survive. They will be growing Wisconsin Fast Plants as well as some other surprise items (think celery and avocado) and recording their results.

1st Grade: This group is starting an engineering design challenge where they are asking the questions "Who can we protect kids from heat and UV Rays at recess?" They will be creating model playgrounds that we will test using UV beads. These will be on display at the end of February in the main lobby.

2nd Grade: Students are working with students from GW and a AAAS Volunteer to explore the fun world of MATTER! They are learning about how different phases of matter and how they interact with each other.

3rd Grade: Students will be venturing into the world of environmental science. They will be various environmental problems, look at solutions and evaluate their merits. They will then work to create their own solutions to present to the City Council.

4th Grade: Can you feel the ENERGY? 4th Grade will begin their energy unit. They will explore the many kinds of energy, how they are transferred and complete an awesome Engineering is Elementary Unit on Solar Ovens.

5th Grade: These students just finished a unit on energy transfer in collisions. They worked to create a restraint device that would save their egg! Using the engineering design process, students imagined, planned, created and improved designs... and were successful!

February 2016

WHAT'S INSIDE

Think Tank Happenings	1
Second Grade Historians Study Technology	2
Snowed In? Why Not Write a Book	2
Jump Rope for Heart	3
Parent Staff Basketball Game Save the Date	3
Winter Season Brings Sports Success	3
Principal's Book of the Month	4
Stay Calm and Substitute	4
Holiday Thanks	4
Spelling bee winners	4
Upcoming Events	5



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Second Grade Historians Study Changing Technologies

By Rebecca Higgs and Carly Fox

This advisory, all second graders had an opportunity to study how technology has changed throughout history, as a part of our "Cornerstones" project. We started this project by reading about life in the past and how different technologies made life easier. For example, we learned about technology in our homes, such as refrigerators, washing and drying machines and talked about how these appliances improved people's lives. We looked at different versions of a type of technology over time and observed how each version built upon the last, with additional helpful features.



Next, each student selected a type of technology to research. Students were put into groups to study the following technologies: planes, cars, bikes, telephones, and computers. In these groups, students read articles and books about their topic and created a trifold poster to teach others about their technology and how it has changed over time. This work presented many new challenges for our second graders! These historians learned to pull out research from nonfiction sources, plan and organize information for research, write introductory and

conclusion statements, and present research in an "eye-catching" visual display. In a final gallery walk, each group shared their research with classmates. It was exciting to learn from each other about changing technologies in our

Snowed In? Why Not Write a Book!

By Lauren Bomba

While the Maury community was hunkered down in DC, enduring both the excitement and repetition of a storm like Snowzilla, Ms. Bomba was away in Salt Lake City, Utah embarking on an adventure of another kind. She, along with 8 other Ashoka Changemaker school representatives, was given the distinguished honor to co-author a book about Changemaker Education in just 4 short days!



The Book Sprint, a model designed to bring together a group of experts to produce a finished book in 3-5 days without any advance preparation and the gentle guidance of a facilitator, created a loose foundation for this group of educators to exhaust and illuminate the challenges and solutions to issues facing young people in an ever-changing world. They worked into the wee hours of the morning brainstorming ways to share their ideas with other educators about how our education systems can keep up and ensure that our children grow up with the skills to succeed, the confidence to lead and innovate, and the empathy to shape our world for the better. Yup! No relaxing snow days for Ms. Bomba.

The process was grueling but also rewarding. After sleepless nights and countless revisions, Ms. Bomba is pleased to report that the sharing of ideas, perspectives and passions resulted in an actual book! Stay tuned for news about the publication hitting the shelves in the future and be proud to know that your student attends Maury Elementary, a school full of dedicated educators and future Changemakers!

For further reading about the Book Sprint, check out Ms. Bomba's roommate's blog post about the adventure: <http://lyonideas.com/2016/02/when-we-wrote-a-book-in-4-days/>

Jump Rope for Heart

By Lindsay Raymond

The Jump Rope for Heart "Event" will take place during Physical Education classes during the week of March 7-11th. Your child will participate in a variety of cardiovascular (heart <3) exercise stations! By planning this event during the school day in PE, every single one of our students will be involved.



Jump Rope for Heart is a fundraising and physical activity program based around jump roping and basketball (and cardiovascular exercises). It teaches children how to keep fit and healthy, while having fun and raising vital funds for heart disease research and education. You can help the American Heart Association by helping your child make a web page. Visit www.heart.org/jump and click on "Students Sign Up" to get started.

Heart disease is our nation's #1 leading cause of death in both men and women. Partnering with the American Heart Association will be a wonderful opportunity for our children to learn about heart health and advocating for cause that matters to us all!. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Ms. Raymond, lindsay.raymond@dc.gov.

SAVE THE DATE!

Parent vs Teacher Basketball Game—Friday, February 26, 2016

Mark your calendar for the Annual Parents Vs. Teacher Basketball game, sponsored by your very own Maury Cheerleaders and Basketball Team. Game will start at 6:15pm with a halftime show you do not want to miss! Adults: \$5, Students: \$2



This year, we will have a DJ, a special guest commentator, and color gadgets to support your team! There will be hot dogs, snacks and drinks for sale also.

This fundraiser will go toward the Basketball Teams End of the Year trip and the Maury Cheerleading Team's Championship Competition in April in Virginia Beach, VA.

We are looking for both parents and teachers to play! Please sign up by February 12 via email to Coach Ericka, ebusey1020@gmail.com. Do not miss this exciting experience!

Winter Season Brings Sports Success

By George Blackmon

The athletic scene at Maury has been an exciting one this winter. Here is a brief recap of what has taken place.

First, the Maury Cougars basketball team has been on a hot streak by starting the season 4-1. They are working to make it back to the playoffs this year. Their success on the court has brought lots of cheers from the Maury fans.

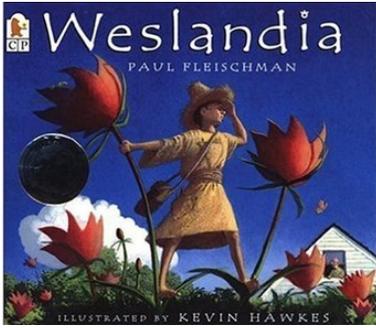
Continuing on the cheers theme, the Maury Cougars cheerleading team had their first competition of the year in mid-January. Their performance was good enough to earn two awards, first place in the Elementary Division and best spirit.

Maury is doing well in outdoor activities too. The Ski Club went to Ski Liberty on two occasions. For some, this was their first time skiing while others showed their mastery of the slopes. On the second trip, students had the opportunity to qualify for the DCIAA ski championship which will take place in early March. Currently, Maury is the defending two-time champion and looks to have a strong showing this time around.

Who said you cannot have academic and athletic success? Go Cougars!!!



Principal's Book of the Month



The main character, Wesley, is an “outcast from the civilization around him.” He decides to use the knowledge he’s obtained during the school year to create his own civilization as a summer project. He creates a culture, which includes staple crop, clothes, sun dial, numeric system based on 8 numbers, games, language, etc., and calls his civilization, “Weslandia.” Wesley draws attention from his classmates, who once made fun of him, and eventually becomes their friend when he returns to school in the fall.

Stay Calm and Substitute

From the Capitol Hill Public Schools Parent Organization (CHPSPO)

On any given day, DCPS needs between 200 to 300 substitute teachers to help with classrooms when a teacher has to be out for professional development, due to sickness, or for personal reasons. DCPS has a substitute pool of about 900 people, and is able to fill about 90% of the substitute requests on any given day.



DCPS is always looking for qualified substitutes. For people who have flexibility in their schedule, substituting can be a rewarding part-time opportunity. In order to become a substitute, you have to have a Bachelor’s degree. The process of becoming a substitute is fairly easy. You have to submit an application to DCPS, be fingerprinted and take a TB and drug test. You also have to obtain an Educator License issued by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). Substitutes are paid \$60/half day and \$120/full day. Full day substitute teaching jobs are from 8 am to 3:30 pm. While many jobs are daily, some may extend for several days or weeks.

Many schools have a pool of substitutes they rely on when a teacher is out, and it is possible to identify specific schools where you want to substitute teach. While Tyler needs substitutes in all of its programs, there is a special need for substitutes in the dual language program. Substituting is a great way to help the school when a teacher has to be out on leave.

For more information about being a substitute teacher for DCPS, see <http://dcps.dc.gov/page/substitute>.

Holiday Thanks

By Elizabeth Nelson

Yet again, our very generous friends at Dignity Washington, a Catholic Intentional Community, filled the Parent Resource room with stacks of brightly wrapped packages for families who could use a little extra holiday cheer. Carl Spier and Tom Hardy, members of Dignity and Maury neighbors, delivered the presents on behalf of the congregation. The Maury family is most grateful to the kind souls who put thought and care into selecting special gifts for each individual child.



Upcoming Events

February

- 11 Talent show, 6pm
- 12 Professional development day, no school for students. Polite Piggy's available.
- 15 Presidents' Day holiday, no school for students, teachers, staff
- 17 Chinese New Year Celebration, 1:40-3:00pm
- 18 PTA meeting, 6pm
- 22 Parent Teacher Conference day, no school for students
- 26 Parents vs Staff Basketball game, 6:15pm

March

- 4 Maury Potluck and Babysitting Night, 6-9:30pm
- 19 Maury at the Market, 7pm

Spelling Bee Winners



Congratulations to our spellers for another great spelling bee at Maury! The bee went for over 20 rounds and ended in a nail-biting third-place spell off. The winners of the school bee are:

- 1st place - Oliver Paterson (3rd)
- 2nd place - Benjamin Klein (5th)
- 3rd place - Kingston Stephen (4th) & Talan Manago (5th)

Benjamin and Kingston will move on to the DCPS cluster bee on February 23 (with Talan as their alternate).