

# the Maury Messenger

Monthly Newsletter of the Parent / Teacher Association

Home of the Cougars



June 2016

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## Maury Students Hit the Yellow Brick Road

By Nathaniel Rogers

The Polite Piggy's Musical was a rousing success! On Wednesday, May 25, and Friday May 27, some of our after school students came together to show off our rendition of "The Wizard of Oz." This production had some unique factors that made it perfect for our school. Even though the cast of characters is not terribly long, many of our main roles had several actors playing them, creating opportunities for many of our bright stars to take center stage.



The cast members also carried instruments with them to provide sound effects and musical accompaniment for many of the scenes. This gave us the chance to use our many resources from the Music room, as well as show off some of what we have learned in Music class during the school year!

Thanks to the ingenuity of our costume department, our supporting cast members were able to do double duty as both Munchkins (or Trees) and Flying Monkeys! These characters really stole the show, providing some comic relief, as well as helping to move the story along. The Polite Piggy's Musical is always so fun to direct. I cannot wait to see what we come up with next year!



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ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

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## Catch the Summer Reading Bug

By VanNessa Duckett & Abby Sparrow

Summer is a time to forget about school and learning; JUST KIDDING! During summer, we all need a time to let our hair down, relax by the pool with a frosty lemonade, chase fireflies and swat mosquitoes. One thing you don't want to let happen is to be



bitten by the reading loss bug. While we understand summer is a more relaxed time; it can't be a time to change reading routines for very serious reasons. Each year, students return and a great number see regression in their reading level. When children regress, we spend weeks bringing them back to the level they left on instead of moving them past the level they left on which can be a shock to the child and family. Who would think eight weeks could mean so much? Imagine a school year where we don't have to go backwards first!

In SY 2016-2017, it is our goal to have every student come back on the level they left on or higher. What does it take to do this? Children should continue to read books on their level or slightly higher for 30 minutes or more per night. Families can invest time reading together or enjoy "Drop Everything and Read" time as a family so that your child sees a cross generational culture of literacy in your home. Host read-a-thons with your child and their friends to see who can clock the most hours for popsicles or extra time at the pool. The sky is the limit and if you think of something creative post it on the school listserv.

Also, don't forget about DC Public Library's summer reading program which is free, open to all, and provides great incentives. This year's theme is "Every Hero Has A Story". Any child ages 6-12 who reads at least eight hours this summer will receive two free tickets to a Nationals baseball game and a free Chipotle burrito! Don't get bitten this summer by the reading loss bug.

## International Fulbright Students Visit Maury

By Carolyne Albert-Garvey

Principal Albert-Garvey was a speaker on a panel at the 2016 Fulbright Enrichment Seminar, Educational Justice: Overcoming Barriers to Quality Education in the 21st Century at George Washington University on April 30.

The Seminar brought 100 international Fulbright students from around the U.S. to Washington D.C. from April 27 to May 1. The topic of the seminar was "Policy and Practice in Pursuit of Educational Justice: The Case of the U.S." The panelists introduced Fulbright participants to ways in which educational justice has been pursued in the U.S. from the perspective of different levels/stakeholders involved in education. Principal Albert-Garvey presented information on the impact of federal and local policy on equity at the school level.

Twenty Fulbright students spent the afternoon of April 29 visiting Maury – representing countries from all over the world including Korea, Chili, Brazil, Greece, Spain, and Burkina Faso.



## Celebrating with International Flair

*By George Blackmon*

How many ways can you say Good Morning...Bonjour, Buenas Dias, Guten Tag...

Maury is fortunate to have many families who represent different cultures from around the world. This was evident in the International Night event that took place on Friday, May 20th.

During the event, the audience was treated to dance performances that students learned in Chinese class as well as through Joy of Motion. Several families took part in the fashion show and walked the runway in attire worn in different countries. Not to be missed was the sampling of delicious food.

As many of you know, DCPS has placed an increased its focus to expose students to world languages. We have seen from having Chinese this school year the benefits of learning another language. Until next time, Hasta luego!



## Maury Cougars Roar to the Top



Congratulations to our own Maury Cheerleaders for being the US Champions of the US Finals!

Thank you to the Maury Community for all your support!

# “POWER TO THE PEOPLE: The Art of Protest”



Maury ES fourth and fifth grade students have created a series of individualized Protest Art pieces, advocating for social changes that are important to them. Topics include homelessness, inequality in the justice system, animal rights, adoption, environmental issues, vegetarianism, and gun control. The students were given free rein in identifying a cause that resonates with them and choosing communication media to advocate for their opinions. Many found that traditional protest posters are the most effective way to express their message to a wide audience. Others created street art or T-shirts using spray paint and stencils cut with x-acto knives. A few developed powerful performance pieces including dance, raps and skits.

A selection of posters is currently on view through the end of August in the Young Artists Gallery at Hill Center.

**Consider these questions:**  
“What is something you would be willing to stand up for? What if you were afraid it was dangerous, would you still speak out? What are some of the other ways to spread truth and knowledge about an important issue?” And come see this thought provoking show.



**Young Artists Gallery at Hill Center**

**HILL CENTER ★ GALLERIES**

*at the OLD NAVAL HOSPITAL*

921 Pennsylvania Avenue SE 1 block to the Eastern Market Metro [hillcenterdc.org](http://hillcenterdc.org)

The Galleries are open to the general public Monday through Friday 10am to 7pm. Saturday 10:00am to 5pm. Sunday 12 Noon to 5pm.

## Staffing Updates and New Staff Bios, SY 2016-2017

By Carolyne Albert-Garvey

Vanessa Ford, Rebecca Hipps, MaryEllen Macek, and Nellie Jaikaran will be starting new adventures. Thank you for your dedication to Maury! You will be greatly missed!

*It is with a heavy heart that I announce I will not be returning to Maury next year. This has been an incredible community and I can honestly say I am a better teacher and person because of all of you! I have grown more as an educator in the two years I have been at Maury than in the five years I spent elsewhere! Thank you all for your drive and commitment to education. You inspire me!*

*My husband graduates this month from University of Maryland and has accepted a job in Clarksburg, MD. In an effort to avoid a nasty commute, it makes sense for us to live closer to his job. I have accepted a 1st grade position at a school in Maryland, the Washington Waldorf School.*

*It is so hard to leave this amazing community. I will miss you all, but won't be too far! I have made so many friendships here that I hope will be lifelong! Thank you all for the ongoing love and support. ~ Rebecca Hipps*

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*After 14 years as a teacher, I have decided that it is time to make a shift in my career that will allow me more time to focus on my family. I have accepted the role of Director of Training and Curriculum Development with Real School Gardens, a national non-profit ([www.realschoolgardens.org](http://www.realschoolgardens.org)). While it might seem like a strange fit given the fact that our own garden failed this year, my role will be to expand already strong national program and work with them to develop exemplary curricular materials that support experiential learning of all kinds. I will be training teachers and working with their partner schools so I'll stay connected to many schools right here in DC.*

*When I came to Maury it was truly through the support of all of the staff and families where I found my STEM calling. Think Tank has been my "baby" and the only reason it has thrived is because of the incredible support from my colleagues, administration and families. It will be sad to leave the classroom, but I'm confident that the person taking over Think Tank will make it uniquely theirs. I am confident it will grow and be just as wonderful a space for our children-- if not more so!*

*Thank you to all of you, my colleagues, students, families and community members for your support of my work, and my family the past 5 years. There are few schools that feel like a second "home" and I've been so proud to be a teacher as part of the Maury family. Thank you for your support and I look forward to remaining part of the Maury community as a parent and perhaps partner in future endeavors. ~ Vanessa Ford*

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*With the arrival of baby Robin, Chris and I have decided that I will stay home with him next year. I feel so lucky to have been a part of the Maury community, and look forward to continuing to see everyone as Robin and I are out and about in the neighborhood. Thank you for all of your support and kind words over the last two years - you are all so special and incredible! ~ Nellie Jaikaran*

—

*It is with much sadness that I announce I will not be returning to Maury ES next year. I love everything about the school, especially its strong sense of identity as a community. This year has been one of tremendous growth in my educational practice and I am blessed to have been so supported by colleagues and CAG to make sure that all readers have the supports they need. I have accepted a unique position within DCPS at Hearst ES where I will be serving as a special education instructional coach focusing on improving inclusive efforts within their school community. This is a belief so near and dear to my heart and I am so fortunate that the Maury community has been so incredibly supportive of me following my passion. I will miss the students and staff, especially as they roll out Foundations (my other passion!) in K-2 next school year!!! -- MaryEllen*



## Staffing Updates and New Staff Bios (2)

GRADE LEVEL CHANGES FOR TEACHERS: Mamie Vick—PS3, Tess Bertonneau—Grade 2, Shanna Williams-Carr—Grade 3 Math/Science

CONTENT CHANGES: Abby Sparrow—Grade 4 ELA/Social Studies, VanNessa Duckett—Grade 4 Math/Science, Lindsay Bowers—Grade 3 ELA/Social Studies, Becca Sanghvi—Reading Teacher

### 5th Grade: Erin Thesing

Erin Thesing is thrilled to join the Maury community as a fifth grade teacher for the 2016-2017 school year. She is passionate about creating authentic learning experiences that engage children in creating and advocating both in the classroom and in their communities. As a Fund for Teachers Fellow, Erin traveled to Kenya and Tanzania, staying with Maasai families to conduct research to develop a project-based social studies curriculum through which her students cooked, built shelters, and made clothing. Erin is dedicated to growing her practice as a reading and writing workshop teacher and has spent two summers at the Reading and Writing Institutes at Teachers College at Columbia University. Erin has her M.S. Ed in Urban Education from the University of Pennsylvania and a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of New Hampshire. Erin has taught Kindergarten through second grade in schools in Philadelphia and in Washington, D.C. where she also coached Girls on the Run and led hiking and canoeing trips with her students.

When she's not at school, you can find Erin running, reading, and cooking. As someone who calls New Hampshire home, Erin tries to find a way to hike most weekends. She is often plotting her next trip to a country where she can continue to stumble through ordering ice cream and negotiating taxi fares in French.

### Think Tank: Amanda Mentzer

I am a Maury mom who is thrilled to be back in a classroom working with your children after staying at home several years to take care of mine. Before becoming a parent I taught math, science, and language arts to 7th and 8th grade students in California and Maine. Before that, I was a civil engineer. This past year, I've been working with Ms. Wolfe with the K-1 split class. I can't wait to bring all this experience together to run Maury's think tank. I look forward to continuing the tradition of providing our students with engaging science and engineering challenges.

### Kindergarten: Amadi Hemphill

Hello, Maury! I am very excited to be coming back to the Maury family as a Kindergarten lead teacher. I was born and raised in Washington, DC and am a proud product of DCPS. I attended the University of Pittsburgh from 2008 to 2012 and received my Bachelors degree in English with a Spanish minor. I am working on my Masters in Education from Trinity University.

Currently, I am a part of the Inspired Teaching program where we believe that every child possesses the ability to think critically, learn and understand information, and solve complex problems. As an Inspired Teaching Fellow I was in a year-long teaching residency with support from a mentor and master teacher.

Teaching has been in my family for years and I am excited to be carrying on that legacy.



## Maury's New Leadership Team

Norah Rabiah and Patrick Koontz will be going from part-time to full-time and we will have a new Assistant Principal of Mathematics.

### **David Friebele, M.Ed:** Assistant Principal of Mathematics

With thirteen years of educational leadership experience in Washington DC, David Friebele is a native of the area and is extreme loyalty to the children of this city. He is passionate about providing students with the best education possible, and extremely excited to join the Maury Elementary School family.

David received his Masters Degree in the Art of Teaching with a focus on Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment from Marygrove College, and his Bachelor's Degree in History and International Studies with a Minor in Spanish from Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina. After graduating college, he returned to the DC area and began his educational career in DCPS elementary schools as an AmeriCorps member through the Latin American Youth Center. Over the next six years, David experienced great results in the classroom and decided to pursue administrative leadership. In 2005, he became a middle school mathematics teacher and served as the middle school team lead at the Sacred Heart School in Columbia Heights. Three years later, he accepted a teaching position as a middle school mathematics educator and served as the social studies curriculum development leader with Center City Public Charter Schools. In 2014, he became a Master Educator with the District of Columbia Public Schools. In this role, David conducted countless instructional evaluations in elementary and middle school literacy and mathematics classrooms. This position afforded him the opportunity to build rapport, provide professional development, and guide teachers to implement specific strategies to improve their practice through detailed and evidence-based reports, one-on-one conferences, and continued individual support.

As David enters this next chapter in his educational career by joining the Maury family, he is excited to serve the students, teachers, faculty, and parents, of the school community. He is passionate about providing a rich, meaningful, and exciting learning experience in mathematics and plans to bring the content to life in collaboration with the wonderful faculty and staff of Maury Elementary School.

His responsibilities will include:

#### *Leading Instruction*

- Articulating a clear instructional vision alongside the principal with a school-wide focus on teaching and learning that is data-driven, standards-aligned and rooted in a belief that all students can achieve at high levels.
- Content Specialist for teaching of Mathematics.

#### *Leading Operations*

- Aligning human resources to school needs, setting high expectations and effectively managing all or a subset of school employees to meet school goals.
- Conducting performance reviews.
- Managing school culture projects and student discipline.

#### *Leading for Increased Effectiveness*

- Focusing on evidence-based growth and results to drive the school towards annual and long-term goals.
- Engaging school community members effectively to ensure all stakeholders are included in school improvement efforts.
- Listening to and communicating with all the school's stakeholders; building successful interpersonal relationships with faculty, staff members, family and community members and students.
- Managing the change process with the principal, including making tough decisions when necessary to move the school and students forward.
- Engaging in constant personal learning, including the need to learn and adapt when faced with challenges and successes.



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Norah Rabiah and Patrick Koontz will be going from part-time to full-time and we will have a new Assistant Principal of Mathematics.

**Norah Rabiah:** Instructional Coach, Literacy

Norah Rabiah has been an Instructional Coach at Maury Elementary since 2011. Prior to 2011, she was the Assistant Principal and a classroom teacher at Murch Elementary and in Michigan. Norah has a M.A. in Education from the University of Michigan and received her Educational Leadership and Administration certificate from George Washington University. Norah is from Ann Arbor, MI and is an avid college sports fan. During her free time she likes to spend time with her husband and kids and travel the world.

Her responsibilities will include:

- Facilitates teachers' understanding and implementation of the Common Core State Standards and the DCPS Teaching and Learning Framework by developing and executing Collaborative and Individual Learning Cycles.
- Creates detailed coaching plans, which include focused goals and measures of success, to drive learning cycles.
- Supports teachers' achievement of goals by using coaching strategies that gradually release responsibility for implementing instructional practices to the teacher (for example, co-planning, modeling, co-teaching, side-by-side coaching, and observing).
- Consistently analyzes teacher practice through ongoing classroom observations, data analysis, and examination of student work.
- Provides clear and direct feedback to teachers based on analysis of practice.
- Tracks student and teacher progress to assess the effectiveness of coaching.
- Develops teachers' capacity to collect and analyze multiple sources of data to improve student learning.
- Leads grade level student data teams.
- Fosters collaboration and teacher leadership.
- Participates actively on the school's Academic Leadership Team.
- Attends professional development meetings, trainings, and all events led by the DCPS Instructional Coaching Program.
- Manages the Response to Intervention Team



## Maury's New Leadership Team

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### **Patrick Koontz** : Manager of Strategy & Logistics

Patrick has a Master's degree in social work backed by fifteen years of professional experience in the financial industry. In his previous life at Fannie Mae, he advanced through the ranks to a director level position in operations and was responsible for three unique teams. He managed a multi-million dollar budget and worked with a diverse community from small mortgage lenders to the major players on Wall Street. His job was to do everything operations to settle a billion dollar book of business on a monthly basis. Patrick had been a parent in the foster system for several years which helped him shift his career and pursue a graduate degree from Howard University. The unique blending of a strong operations background and his education in social work make him a perfect candidate to launch this new position at Maury!

His responsibilities will include:

#### *Finance and Purchasing*

- Functions of the Business Manager
- Evaluating information and consulting with others to ensure a realistic and balanced budget.
- Managing school-based purchasing and looks for cost-savings.

#### *Technology*

- Supports with the purchase and maintenance of technology equipment and implementation of technology training.
- Assists with school-based technology in an effort to monitor instructional technology, prepare for testing, and ensure technology supports instruction.
- Serves as a point of contact for the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO).

#### *Facilities and Property*

- Serves as a point of contact for School Operations Specialists from DCPS central office.
- Monitors the school facilities for cleanliness, physical condition, and safety matters.
- Helps ensure books, materials, furniture, and equipment are properly stored and accessible when needed.
- Assists in planning for the school's Emergency Response Team.

#### *Student Information Systems*

- Supports the student enrollment and audit processes.
- Monitors student transcript requests, teacher recommendations, and other records requests.
- Human Resources Management
- Monitors timekeeping and payroll process for all school staff.
- Manages substitute teachers and class coverage.
- Ensures everyone has clear understanding of DCPS and school-specific policies/procedures.

#### *Logistics and Scheduling*

- Monitors the Building Use Agreements and ensures established protocols are met.
- Manages logistics of student field trips, ensuring transportation services and food are provided.

#### *External Relations*

- Participates in follow up communications with potential and current external stakeholders.
- Maintains DCPS volunteer protocols and procedures per established guidelines by DCPS central office.
- Health and Safety
- Collaborates with school security to ensure student safety.
- Ensures that documentation for all drills and safety test are maintained (specifically on the Emergency and Safety Alliance website).
- Serves as point of contact to health and safety agencies, particularly in the case of an emergency.

#### *Other*

- Staffs the main office when other staff members are unavailable and ensures the smooth operation of the main office.



## **New PTA Executive Board**

**President:** Sharon Von Felden

**Vice President:** Elsa Huxley

**Treasurer:** Adam Hais

**Parliamentarian:** Becky McGeehan

**Secretary:** Britt Stuart

## **New LSAT Representatives**

Amber Gove

Erica Martin

David Anspacher

Susan Wall

# **Upcoming Events**

## **June**

- 14 5th Grade Promotion, 9:30am
- 15 Kindergarten Celebration, 10:00am
- 16 Last day of Polite Piggy's
- 17 Whole School Morning Meeting  
Last day of school-Half day
- 27 First day of summer school

## **July**

- 4 Fourth of July Holiday Capitol Hill Community Independence Day Parade, 9am,  
gather at/near the bridge near 8th & I SE
- 29 Last day of summer school

## **August**

- 22 First day of school, K-5
- 25 First day of school, PK3 & PK4

## **September**

- 1 Back to school night, 6:30pm (no childcare)