



January 2013

Forest Service Partners with Art Classes for International Exploration

by Ms. Bomba

An awesome team of experts, from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) International Programs of the US Forest Service (USFS), has begun a unique partnership with Ms. Bomba and her art students this year.

In addition to promoting monarch conservation, the USFS has been looking to strengthen community-level connections in the Washington, DC area.

Maury's participation in the monarch-based professional development trainings at the University of Minnesota created the foundation for the partnership.

Once the USFA-IP team caught wind that Ms. Bomba and her students would be traveling the world exploring the art and folk traditions of many diverse cultures, all agreed that the opportunity for cross disciplinary collaboration was undeniable.

Once a month, members of the MENA team co-teach a lesson with Ms. Bomba pertaining to the continent students are visiting.

This fall, first graders were introduced to Fernando Llort, a colorful artist from El Salvador who depicts the rural landscapes of his homeland. Students looked closely at the geography and lifestyles experienced in El Salvador (not to mention the delicious foods of the region!)

Next, they created their own original artwork by depicting collaged



landscapes of DC. Where Llort may include bulls and chickens in his art, our students brainstormed unique items from our DC landscape like the metro and Lincoln Park.

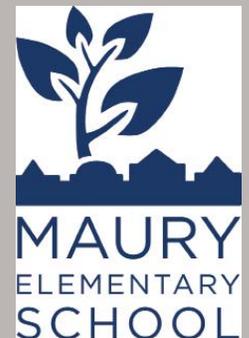
The MENA Team is active in a number of countries, including Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, the West Bank, and Qatar.

In January, the MENA team will be fresh off a trip from India, which makes for perfect timing, as all Maury artists will be setting sail to study the art of Asia soon!

Ms. Bomba and the team are actively working on putting together a culminating show of student artwork to display in the USFS building at the conclusion of the school year.

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Congratulations to Rejean Lawton

by Rashelle Henderson

Rejean Lawton, a fourth grader here, was invited to the White House to view President Obama sign the Education Bill and to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

Rejean, along with Jendaya Washington a fifth grader at Ludlow-Taylor Elementary, was selected from over 500 students to witness the signing. Both students actively participated in the Metro Warriors Youth Organization Robotics Design and Build STEM Program. The youth program's mission is to enhance the lives of youth by eliminating youth violence, stimulate self-esteem and preventing youth delinquency.

Maury DCPS Afterschool program offers the robotics program that made this wonderful opportunity possible.

Great job Rejean!



Capitol Hill Foundation Grants

by Donny Kirsch

For more than two decades, the Capitol Hill Community Foundation has supported activities, projects, and organizations that enrich the lives of the Capitol Hill community, funding initiatives ranging from the Folger Library's Shakespeare at School project to renovation of Eastern Market following the 2007 fire to Capitol Hill Group Ministry's services for those in need.

Capitol Hill schools, Maury included, have long been among the beneficiaries of CHCF funding. This fall was no exception.

CHCF awarded Maury a total of \$7500 to fund six projects. With Maury's growth in student population, it became necessary to provide additional resources both inside and outside the classroom.

The grants will go to a number of efforts including:

- Books to support the new third grade classroom's library;

- Classroom rugs;
- Recess programs, specifically, the purchase of sports equipment and the CHOICES project, which allows students to participate in non-sports related activities during recess;
- A top notch K-5 science curriculum, which will greatly enhance our students' classroom experience; and,
- Professional development for our blossoming music program.

Special thanks goes out to the grant team members who submitted the grants including Rachel Klein, Anya Zmudzka, Vanessa Ford, Elizabeth Festa, Anne Phelps, Heather Schoell, and Donny Kirsch! Way to go Grants Committee!

Principal's Corner

Happy New Year Maury Families!

We have about 100 days of school between now and June 20. Students will be working on literacy skills from learning letters of the alphabet in early child classrooms to determining the theme of a poem by using details found in the text in fourth and fifth grade. Numeracy skills range from identifying numbers one to ten using equivalent fractions as a strategy to add and subtract fractions.

Social Studies topics include understanding the concept of location, interpreting maps, explaining governmental institutions, and identifying prominent people and movements for social justice in the United States.

Science and Think Tank classes are keeping kids engaged with topics such as motion, animal life, matter, electricity and magnetism! Our special subject teachers keep our families informed with their blogs! Please check them out on our school Web site www.mauryelementary.com. They always have lots to share.

Students work hard at school everyday. There's so much to learn! Students also need your support. Please check over your child's homework. Ask them a few questions, too. Carve out time in your busy schedule to read to your children or to discuss a book your child is reading (Ex: Who are the characters and how do they relate to each other? What kind of person does your character seem to be? How is the setting important in this story?)

FIRST IN MATH FEVER has reached Maury! All Kindergarten – 5th grade students have access to the FIRST IN MATH site. Ms. Amber Scott's third grade class won the "Class of the Week" December 17-21 by completing the most math problems. I know Miss Kelly and Miss Hanni's classes were not far behind! Contact your child's teacher if your child does not have login information.

Communication between the school and parents is so very important. Do you get my robo-calls? Do the calls go to the preferred phone? If not, please contact Ms. Coleman immediately to make the change. The Yahoo listserv is also a very effective way for the school to reach parents quickly. Please sign up as soon as possible.

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/maury_elementary/

We will all feel better if 100% of our families receive the calls and emails. Please make this one of your New Year resolutions.

Check out the Maury calendar on the website or Yahoo listserv. Think Tank Night is in January, our African American program (day time only) is in February, Mathedemics is in March, and much more.

Happy New Year! May 2013 bring happiness, good cheer and sweet surprises...

Principal's Book of the Month

Dolphin Baby by Nicola Davies

Readers are invited to join the baby calf as he follows his mom and discovers all there is to know about life under the sea, from catching his first fish to learning how to say his name with his very own whistle. Nicola Davies's lyrical narrative and intriguing facts are accompanied by Brita Granström's colorful illustrations, pulsing with the energy and movement of dolphins in their natural habitat.



Maury Friends Deliver Gifts



For the second year running, our very generous friends at Dignity Washington, a Catholic Intentional Community, provided dozens of brightly wrapped presents for families in need of a little extra holiday cheer. Carl Spier and Tom Hardy who both take a special interest in Maury - in part, because Tom attended Maury himself, delivered the presents. The Maury family is most grateful to the kind souls who put such loving care into selecting the gifts for each child. They have truly “made our spirits bright.”
(Submitted by Elizabeth Nelson)

Winter Concert Brings Fa-la-las, Lots of Applause

by Besa Pinchotti

Oh there’s no place like Maury for the holidays!

That has never been more evident than at this year’s Winter Concert, which took place the Thursday before Winter Break. Maury music teacher, Mr. Rogers, led each grade in a series of holiday songs. The stage was turned into a winter wonderland as the kids donned their holiday-best and sang the songs they’ve been practicing since August.

Their hard work definitely paid off: the kids had the choreography down, and some added extra moves of their own. There were songs in English and Spanish; songs about Christmas and about Hanukkah; performed a capella, others were accompanied by the Maury band.

Maury families and friends filled every seat in the school cafeteria, and many had to stand in the back to catch a glimpse of their little performers.



Principal Carolyn Albert-Garvey says she’s never seen more people at any school event since she came to Maury.

If you missed the Winter Concert, mark your calendars now for the Spring show, scheduled for May **23**.

Valuing the Many Ways Children are Smart

by Ms. Ford

I recently told a story to each of your children about a little girl who didn't feel very smart. She couldn't read when her friends could and got pulled out of class for special help in first and second grade. She had a special plan (504) that allowed her extra time on tests because the ideas in her head just couldn't make it the paper easily.

She was, however, an excellent friend. She could tell when those around her were happy and felt their sadness when they were sad. She also played an instrument and was an athlete. Her parents told her how smart she was, but still she didn't feel it because in her mind, the only way to be smart was to be academically strong. That little girl turned into a teacher--me!

One of the reasons I find focusing on Multiple Intelligences each year is because I want to make sure that we celebrate the many strengths children bring to their classes. They are able to see the diversity of strengths in their class while knowing that each of the intelligences—Word, Math, Body, Music, Picture, Nature, People, Self—are equally important.

I encourage you to continue the conversation with your children at home. Take a Multiple Intelligence quiz together, engage in some of the activities listed below and continue to encourage their unique interests and strengths, while building on others. Have fun and enjoy your SMART child!

Run, Maury, Run

by George Blackmon

You may have noticed some of our young ladies running twice a week during the fall months. Under the leadership of Ms. Amber Scott, several students participated in Girls on the Run. The organization emphasizes healthy lifestyles and promotes self-esteem in young girls.

After a ten week period, the Maury team was ready for an exciting task...running a 5K race. On Sunday, December 2nd, they joined with over 2,000 runners from various public, private and charter schools in DC in a non-competitive race. The Girls On The Run was not alone, as several members of the Maury Running Club ran the course with them. Family members and spectators were on hand to cheer everyone on. Keep running Maury Cougars.

Maury Part of Smithsonian



Artifacts from Maury's Shad project last school year are now a part of Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum year-long exhibition "Reclaiming the Edge: Urban Waterways & Civic Engagement." You can tell your kids that they are in the Smithsonian! The exhibit runs through August 2013 so visit soon! (Submitted by Ms. Ford)

Announcements

Upcoming Events

January 16, 9a and 615p: Maury Open House
January 17, 6p: PTA Meeting
January 21: No School
January 24, 6p: Think Tank Night
January 25, 1215p: Early Dismissal
January 26, 8-11a: Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast
January 30, 930a: Spelling Bee, Grades 3-5

Fundraisers

Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast: Maury Cub Scout Pack 3838 will host its second annual pancake breakfast on Saturday, January 26, 8 -11 am, in the multi-purpose room. Tickets: \$10/adult, \$5/child (under 3/ free). Advance tickets and reservations: maury_cubs@yahoo.com. Drop-ins welcome, as space allows and supplies last!

Maury at the Market: Mark your calendar for Maury at the Market on the evening of March 16 in Eastern Market's North Hall. Last year we raised over \$60,000. These funds pay for aides to the upper grades and other enrichment programs. Featuring a live and silent auctions, a raffle with fabulous prizes, open bar and delicious catered food, this adults-only evening is a popular and packed event. Email Elsa Huxley (elsa@elsahuxley.com) and Linda Samuel (lindabsamuel@yahoo.com) with any questions.

Newsletter Submissions? E-mail:
MauryMessenger@gmail.com

Smart Child Chart

Intelligence	Common characteristics	What can we do at home?	What can I have at home to support this intelligence?
Linguistic (Word)	Expanded vocabulary, like to tell jokes, riddles or puns; read, write tell stories and play words games	Encourage your child to describe and record exactly what he or she is doing during projects. To help understand non-reading concepts (such as counting) have them write or tell a story where a main character has to count items.	Paper Writing materials Different books Tape recorder
Logical-Mathematical (Number)	Can handle chains of reasoning and recognize patterns and order. They enjoy working with numbers, want to know how things work, ask lots of questions and collect and keep track of items.	To make picture books more enticing, have your child classify different items he or she sees. To connect to music, ask your child to compare different instruments' sounds and tones. Play logic puzzles.	Puzzles Blocks Manipulates to count with Logic games
Bodily-Kinesthetic (Body)	Ability to use the body skillfully and to handle objects with dexterity. Use body language, loves to be physically active. May love to act, dance, play sports or mime.	Children with this intelligence learn well through movement and acting out situations. Add movement into academic work. For example, play hopscotch to help with addition, measure distance that your child can throw a ball and have dress-up clothes to act out main characters in stories.	Dress up clothes Age-appropriate sports equipment Bean bags
Musical (Music)	Sensitivity to pitch, melody, rhythm and ton. They love to listen to and play music, sing, hum, move to the rhythm and create and replicate tunes.	Make up or sing songs about content your child is studying. To help your musical learning with math concepts, have him count drumbeats or make musical patterns with an instrument.	Instruments or materials to make sounds and rhythm from household items Music
Spatial (Picture/Art)	Ability to perceive the world accurately and to recreate or transform aspects of that world. They doodle, paint, draw, build, enjoy looking at maps and doing puzzles and mazes. They can take things apart and put them back together.	Use pictures or images when introducing something new to your child (a trip, a food, an extracurricular activity) more than verbal explanations. Have child draw observations or illustrate stories. Routine charts with pictures may be helpful.	Books with illustration and bold graphics Art materials Puzzles Maps
Naturalist (Nature)	Recognizing and classifying aspects of the environment. Spend time outdoors observing plants, collecting rocks, catching insects. They "get" relationships in nature and care about and for the environment.	Use photos and books about animals and the natural world to explain topics when possible. Observe cause and effect using nature as example.	Terrarium Microscope Bird feeder Pet Books about nature
Interpersonal (People)	Understand people and relationships. These children have many friends and tend to mediate between them and be excellent team players.	Whenever possible, involve your child in group games and discussions. Turn normally individual activities into group ones (reading, painting, hiking).	Puppets Dolls Figurines
Intrapersonal (Self)	Ability to use one's emotional life as a means to understand oneself and others. These children can control their own feelings and moods and often observe and listen. They do best working alone.	Encourage your child to think about how new experiences make her feel and offer her plenty of chances to explore the topic on her own. Involve an intrapersonal learning in a science project and ask him to describe his experiences and emotions.	Camera Drawing pad Blank journal Quiet space for child to work alone