



March 2013

## Mean Girls: Stand Up to Bullying

by Ms. Makonnen

Over the past decade, bullying has become the focus of several school based research studies and nationwide intervention programs. Bullying is defined as unwanted, repeated aggressive behavior among school aged children that involve a real or perceived power imbalance. This may typically involve teasing, hitting/punching, intimidation etc and can often result in low self-esteem, depression, anxiety and various acting out behaviors.

Amongst girls, however, these behaviors may look very different. "Relational Aggression," as it has more specifically been termed, involves behavior that is intended to harm someone by damaging or manipulating his or her relationships with others or by injuring one's feelings of social acceptance. These behaviors tend to be quieter and more subtle, but they are nonetheless just as painful. Girls may "bully" by excluding/purposefully ignoring, spreading rumors and malicious gossip, alliance building (telling others not to play with a certain classmate), or covert physical aggression (staring, sticking tongue out).

What motivates these behaviors can vary - girls may seek a path to popularity, a sense of belonging and very often experience insecurity and will participate in fear of being rejected or becoming the next target.

What can we do as parents and teachers? Relational Aggression is much more difficult to observe than typical bullying and may go undetected. One of the best ways to stop this form of bullying is for the girls who see it or who are stuck in the middle to speak up and say that it is not okay. Unfortunately, only 15% of girls speak up, usually because they're afraid the bully will turn on them next. Parents and other adults can help girls beat bullying by teaching them how to stand up for themselves

and talk to a trusted adult. Here are a few things to remember:

- Focus on the child - be supportive and offer a listening ear. Ask open-ended questions to find out more about the situation.
- Help the child stay in touch with her feelings by opening dialogue such as, "Wow, it must be hard not to be invited to your friends party." This helps girls identify and express feelings appropriately and not by ignoring a classmate or spreading rumors.
- Role-play and brainstorm with the child ways for her to handle situations. This will instill confidence and emotional intelligence - important skills towards healthy conflict resolution.
- Tell girls they are special, and point out why. Talk to them about their friends, what they do together, and how they treat each other. Ask them what makes a good friend, and whether their friends have these qualities.

• Help girls get involved in activities outside of school so they can make friends in different social circles. Don't push girls to be in the "right" class or on the "right" sports team. Let them choose what to play and with whom.

- Be a good example. Don't gossip or make fun of others in front of young girls.

These approaches help teach girls to be resilient, which is an essential part of dealing with bullying. The long term lesson isn't that a child will never have problems - that's not realistic. Our goal is to teach them to be emotionally intact in order to manage them.

### WHAT'S INSIDE

Think Tank	2
Library Corner	2
Basketball	3
Architects	3
Field Trips	4
100th Day	5
Int'l Competition	5
Cub Scouts	5
Announcements	6
Maury Market	6
Mathademics	6



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# Maury is a 'World in Motion'

by Ms. Ford

Engineering is in full swing here at Maury. Classes are exploring force and motion through a number of exciting, inquiry-based projects.

While these units are based in science content, equally important are the Habits of Mind students are strengthening when completing these challenges.

The Habits of Mind focus for this month will be "Ask Questions and Posing Problems." Successful people know how to ask meaningful questions and pose problems to groups. These units will allow students to practice these skills.

For information on the "A World in Motion" units your child is completing, please visit the Think Tank blog at <http://maurythinktank.blogspot.com>.



# Library Corner

by Ms. Sweeney

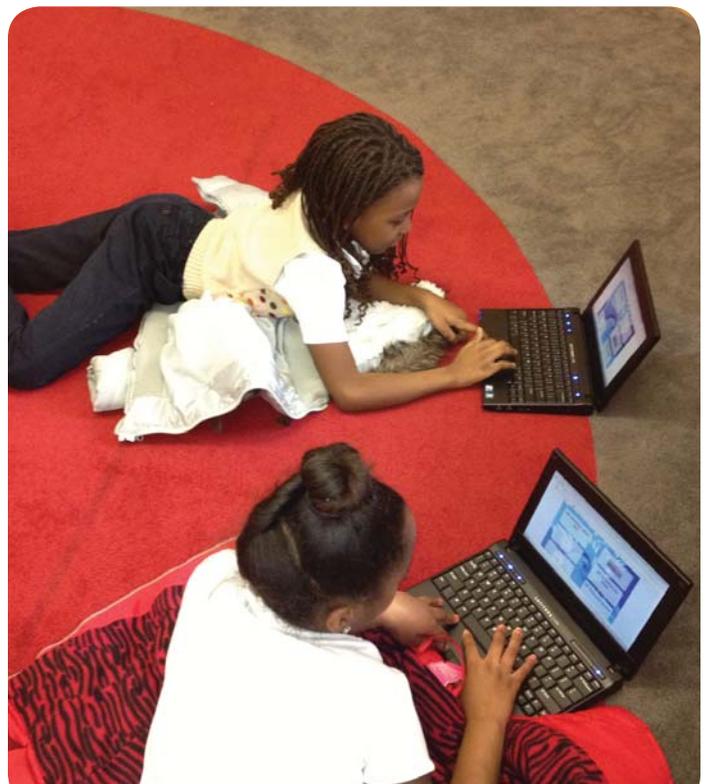
The library has been open during recess for third through fifth graders since the beginning of the year, so I'm used to students coming in to read or check out books, do research or use the computers. But over the past few weeks, I've been hearing a familiar refrain:

"Ms. Sweeney, can I play First In Math?"

Math has taken over the library, and it's a wonderful thing. Stop by the library during recess, and you'll still see kids reading and doing research. You'll also see that every single computer is in use. The desktop computers in the back of the library are full. Kids are tucked into comfortable corners with laptops and lots and lots of math. What's more, they're helping each other. When a student calls me over for computer help, I rarely make it to their side before another student has helped them figure out how to fix the problem.

The students are really enthusiastic about First In Math, and I'm so glad the library can play host to them!

[www.mauryelementary.com](http://www.mauryelementary.com)



# Cougar Basketball

by Kim Frieze



One of the more exciting winter traditions and events at Maury is basketball season and home games. Fourth and fifth graders earn the few coveted spots on the team each year at tryouts in the Fall. Ability is important of course, but so are conduct and keeping up with schoolwork. Coach Chris Graham and Jalen McLendon, both Maury basketball alumni (class of '01 and '05 respectively), spent two afternoons a week for several weeks training and encouraging the team. This hard work paid off with Maury making it to a playoff game. While they lost, it was not due to lack of effort. The students gave it their all and showed amazing sportsmanship throughout the season. Way to go Maury Cougars!

Front Row (left to right) Robert McFarlane, Anniya Branch, Sean Robinson, Luke Morton, Issac Smoker. Back Row (left to right) Xavier Hill, Anna Robinson, Nina Anderson, Rejean Lawton, Jalil Brodie

## Students Today, Architects Tomorrow

by George Blackmon

This fall, the fourth graders took part in an eight-week program called Architecture in the School. Maury, along with nine other schools, participated in the program which focused on project based learning and research. You may have recalled seeing their works in the lobby. Under the guidance of Mike Binder and Christina Hayunga, the students worked in teams to create their architectural concepts.

On Jan. 4 at the District Architecture Center, the culminating reception was held. Several of our fourth graders along with Ms. Ford presented and explained their project. It is possible that some of the creative ideas the students came up with can be integrated with the future greening and modernization plans for Maury.



# Field Trips ...

## Rosedale Library



Do you know how to protect your family heirlooms from water, pest or light damage? If you need help, just ask a fifth grader. On Feb. 1, the fifth grade walked to the Rosedale Public Library to participate in a program, Mission: Preservation, presented by the Smithsonian National Museum of African-American History and Culture. The museum won't open until 2015, but curators are working hard to get the collections ready for the thousands of visitors who will pour in to see them.

The fifth graders got the chance to handle artifacts and assess and record the damage. They each donned a pair of white cotton gloves to protect the artifacts from the oils in their skin. They learned about the types of damage objects can sustain, and also learned about the best way to preserve their own family heirlooms to make sure that they'll last for many generations in the future. The artifacts--a silver teapot, a hat, an army wallet, a camera, a first aid kit, and a copy of the Green Book, which helped African-American travelers find businesses that would serve them during segregation--gave the students a unique look into life in the past. (Submitted by Ms. Sweeney)

## The Capitol



The Maury Second Graders visited the Capitol on Feb. 11. They were invited to Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton's office. Norton was busy elsewhere, so her legislative director and chief of staff welcomed the classes. After a tour through the offices and its fine pictures, the classes went to the Capitol Visitor Center, where they took the tour through the rotunda. At the conclusion of their tour they had an opportunity to observe models of the Capitol as it changed over the years. (Submitted by Robert Pohl)

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# Kindergarten Celebrates 100th Day of School

by Elizabeth Herron

The 100th day of school was celebrated in great style at Maury today! Ms. Battle and Ms. Vick organized a variety of activities, and both classes rotated through each classroom to participate.

Starting in their “home” classroom, Ms. Vick’s students learned new words to the pop song by Cool and the Gang as “Celebrate Good Times” was translated into “Celebrate good readers, come on!” Students in both classrooms who wrote 50 books reports by the 100th day of school were celebrated.

When students visited Ms. Battle’s class, they learned ten different dance/fitness moves to repeat ten times each. Students shouted out, “That makes 100!” When in Ms. Vick’s classroom, students counted out fruit-flavored Cheerios onto hearts in patterns, to make ten rows of ten. Students celebrated (and ate), while they made 100. Finally, both classes read Wolf’s Chicken Stew by Keiko Kasza. In this delightful tale, a wolf is making 100 scrumptious pancakes, 100 doughnuts and a



100-pound cake to fatten up a chicken for his stew. What he doesn’t realize is that he is feeding mama chicken and her 100 baby chicks. When he delivers the cake, he is met with chick kisses, thanking him for his kindness. He goes home and makes the little chicks 100 cookies, and has something else for dinner. Students helped mama chicken find her 100 missing chicks as a part of today’s celebration.

## Maury Students Chosen for International Competition

by Ms. Ford

The GM Foundation and the Society for Automobile Engineers have funded a trip for four Maury fifth graders to the 7th Annual International Jet Toy Competition in Detroit.

Our students will travel with two adults to compete with other teams from around the world April 16-17. Until then, students will work to perfect the designs of their “Jet Toys” (balloon powered cars). The names of the four on the “traveling team” will be announced in the coming weeks.

## Cub Scout Happenings

by Sonja Walti

The Maury Cub Scouts held their Pinewood Derby car race on March 4, where they race their hand-crafted miniature derby cars down Pack 3838’s own derby race track in the multipurpose room.

On Jan. 26, the Maury Cub Scouts hosted parents, friends, and neighbors at its annual pancake breakfast that served over 160 and raised almost \$1,000 for Maury’s scouting activities.

Other recent activities include a hike and camp fire in Rock Creek Park on Dec. 15 and a trip to the Trinidad Fire House – know as Engine Co.-10 & Truck Co.-13 – led by Cub Scout parent and first responder Alan Trimble.

Enjoy additional information and photos at: <http://pack3838.weebly.com>.



# Announcements

## Upcoming Events

**March 13, 6p:** Mathademics  
**March 16, 7p:** Maury at the Market  
**March 20-21:** ANET Testing, Grades 2-5  
**March 21, 6p:** PTA Meeting  
**March 27, 6p:** New Pre-K 3/4 Family Orientation  
**March 28, 6p:** Family Traditions Showcase  
**March 29, 1215p:** Records Day, Early Dismissal  
**April 1-5:** Spring Break

## Newsletter Submissions?

**E-mail: [MauryMessenger@gmail.com](mailto:MauryMessenger@gmail.com)**

## Maury on the Web

- Studio Maury: [studiomaury.wordpress.com](http://studiomaury.wordpress.com)
- Maury Library: [maurylibrary.blogspot.com](http://maurylibrary.blogspot.com)
- Think Tank: [maurythinktank.blogspot.com](http://maurythinktank.blogspot.com)
- Maury Music: [maurymusic.wordpress.com](http://maurymusic.wordpress.com)
- Maury P.E.: [maurype.blogspot.com/](http://maurype.blogspot.com/)
- Maury Website: [mauryelementary.com](http://mauryelementary.com)

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## Maury at the Market

by Besa Pinchotti

Maury at the Market is less than two weeks away! This annual event is a great opportunity to get to know people you normally only see at pickup and drop-off—all while supporting your child's school!

If that's not exciting enough, some of the auction items may grab your attention. You can bid on summer camp sessions, stays at vacation homes, a wine tasting, tickets to sporting events, outings with Principal Carolyn Albert-Garvey, and creative projects produced by each Maury class.

Maury at the Market takes place March 16 from 7-10pm at the North Hall of Eastern Market. Buy your discounted tickets now at [www.mauryatthemarket.org](http://www.mauryatthemarket.org), or pay full price at the door on the night of the event. Polite Piggies is offering childcare for a fee. Check the Maury listserv or your child's Tuesday Folder for details.

Proceeds from past Maury at the Markets have helped fund the Back to Basics literacy program, paid for part-time aides for teachers and bought materials for music, art and PE.

Don't miss this exciting event.

## Mathademics Rules

by Heather Schoell

If you haven't witnessed Mathademics, the nail-biting mathematics face-off between the minds of third to fifth graders, your opportunity will come March 13 at 6pm in the multi-purpose room. Five teams of five students per team, evenly distributed by grade and gender, will race to ring in first with correct answers to problems, or risk losing points if incorrect. Content is broken down into fast facts, the 4 operations, fractions, geometric measurement, and time. Each round will focus on a different content area, culminating with a final thrilling round.

Coaches and teams are:

1. Ms. Perry and the Math Geniuses - Xavier, Shaun R., Xia, Isabel, Julian
2. CAG and the Fast Fact Team - Kianna, Joel, David, Stella, Dylan
3. Ms. Hunt and the Math Dragons - Robert, Kerry, Luke, Milo, Gabby
4. Ms. Makonnen and the Math Wizards - Olivia, Caden, Ivan, Isaac, Sumaya
5. Ms. Rabiah and the Calculating Nerds - Shaylah, Marquette, Clara, Andrew, Martin

May the quickest and most accurate team win!

