



Maury PTA Tuesday Tidings

January 5

Happy New Year everyone! Hope everyone had a restful (or somewhat restful) break and is ready to kick off 2021. If you have not already, please remember to submit your [Teacher of the Year / Support Staffer of the Year nominations by Thursday, Jan. 7](#) and [your suggestions for a new name for Maury Elementary School by Friday, Jan. 8](#) (see below for details). Next week, be sure to stop by the school (or send a friend) to pick-up packets for art and gym class (check your email address that receives Canvas notifications for details). Also, in case you missed it, ACPS has shared a tentative [phased reentry timeline](#) for those who opt-in to hybrid instruction.

Don't forget to attend this month's PTA meetings. The Executive Committee will meet [Thursday, January 7 at 8:15am](#) and the General Membership Meeting will be held [Monday, January 11 at 6:15pm](#). Both are open to everyone and will be held over Zoom.

Know a family that is new to Maury? Forward them this email so they can stay connected by [subscribing](#) to Mr. Powell's weekly emails, ACPS updates and this [listserv](#). Get text alerts by sending "@maurypta" to 81010). Like social media? Follow the school on Twitter ([@MauryMariners](#)) and like the [PTA Facebook](#) page.

Warmly, your [PTA Executive Board for 2020-2021](#)

THIS WEEK'S
TOP STORIES

Events This Week and Next

- **January 7 at 8:15am.** PTA EC meeting over [Zoom](#).
- **January 7 at 4pm.** Deadline to nominate your picks for Teacher of the Year / Support Staffer of the Year / Principal of the Year. Instructions on how to submit a nomination are available [here](#) (see below for instructions on Principal of the Year).
- **January 8.** Deadline to submit input on potential new names for Maury Elementary and TC Williams High School. Students are encouraged to participate and submit an essay in support of their suggested name.
Submissions are due by January 8. Please see the following note from ACPS:
 - [The second phase of The Identity Project](#) – the selection of new names – will ensure that students, staff, alumni, families, and the community are all heard. Most importantly, we want to keep the next generation and our students’ voices at the heart of this process. To assist the community with suggested names for both schools, we are inviting students to participate in a student essay/poster campaign to submit names, launching today, for community consideration. As these are student suggestions, our community will also be invited to submit names if they have other names that they would like to be considered as part of the process.
 - [SCHOOL NAME NOMINATION FORM.](#)
- **January 11 at 6:15pm.** PTA General Membership meeting over [Zoom](#).
- **January 11 at 7pm.** TAGAC Meeting over [Zoom](#).
- **January 11 from 9am-12pm and January 14 from 3pm-5pm.** Supply pickup for art class and gym class. Please go to the Door 16 - Campagna doors (the doors at the end of the ramp, near the cafeteria and bike racks.) If these times are not convenient for you, please contact Mr. Powell for an alternative time. Email notifications were also sent through Canvas.

A Note from Principal Powell

Do you receive Mr. Powell’s email updates? Click [here](#) to subscribe. So far this week he has highlighted the following:

- The most recent [phased reentry timeline shared by ACPS](#) indicates it is possible for some students to transition from fully virtual to concurrent instruction in the coming weeks. ACPS’s tentative timeline anticipates that students enrolled in grades K-5 who opt into in-person learning may be able to return by February 9, 2021 (contingent upon staffing, building capacity, and community health metrics).

- Over the next few weeks, MMES will keep families informed by sharing important information to help students and parents as we transition from fully virtual to concurrent instruction. Please keep a look out for information about health and safety, classrooms and hallways, logistics, transportation, schedules, and more. We will send it via newsletter and/or PTA Meetings, etc.
- Important January Dates:
 - January 15th is MLK Jr. Day (No School)
 - January 25th is the last Monday in January
 - January 28th is the End of the Quarter 2
 - January 29th is a Teacher Work Day
- Building updates: At MMES we have had updates with:
 - Fire Alarm System
 - Flooring Replaced
 - Interior Lighting
 - Restroom and Plumbing Updates
 - HVAC replacements

ACPS is Seeking Nominations for Principal of the Year

- Want to nominate an ACPS school leader for Principal of the Year? **Email the assistant principal(s) (in Maury's case, that's [Ms. Hess](#)) with a written statement of support by the deadline of 4 p.m. on Jan. 7.** Principal nominees should meet the following criteria:
 - Manage effectively.
 - Demonstrate and encourage creativity and innovation.
 - Foster cooperation between the school and the community.
 - Maintain a continuing dialogue with students and parents as well as faculty and staff.
 - Keep abreast of developments in the field of education.
 - Encourage team spirit.
 - Demonstrate leadership and exemplify commitment.
 - Continue to play an active role in the classroom.
 - Maintain their position as principal throughout the 2020-21 school year.
- Please note that only those who have been a principal with ACPS for five years or more are eligible. Anyone who has previously won this award is not eligible. Not sure if the person you want to nominate qualifies? Contact the assistant principal.

- An ACPS panel will choose the ACPS Principal of the Year winner, who will be our ACPS nominee for the prestigious Washington Post Principal of the Year Award. This winner will be announced in April, along with The Washington Post winner.

Save the Date: Youth Mental Health Program - "Ending The Silence"

- Please save the date of **January 27th at 7:00pm** when PTAC, Alexandria City Public Schools and the City of Alexandria will be co-sponsoring a presentation of "[Ending the Silence for Parents & Caregivers](#)" - **an educational program from the National Alliance on Mental Illness aimed at parents and caregivers of school-aged children.**
- Participants will learn the warning signs of mental health conditions in children and teens, as well as how to work with school staff, healthcare providers, and your child to get the best support for a child who is exhibiting warning signs.
- The [presentation](#) includes personal stories from NAMI-trained parents and young adults who have experienced a mental health condition while in school. Presenters will take questions from the audience and resources and information will be made available to participants.
- Dr. Kirimi Fuller, Psy.D., Team Leader, Child and Family Behavioral Health Services for the City of Alexandria and Dr. Kynai Johnson, LCSW, LICSW, Director of School Social Work for Alexandria City Public Schools will lead the Q&A.
- Zoom Link to Join: <https://bit.ly/2UDZj26>

Child Care and School Support

- **Are you looking for childcare or help with virtual learning?** Creative Play School asked us to tell parents that their sites on Howard and Windsor have openings. **At Windsor Ave they have a program to assist school age programs with virtual learning.** For more information, view the [website](#) or contact [Diane Smalley](#). **The YMCA asked us to share that it is providing full day care and virtual learning support at [Samuel Tucker Elementary](#) from 7am to 6pm week days. Contact [Tracy Miller](#) for details.**

- ACPS has a list of [Child Care and School Day/After-School Support Options for Families](#). To support our parents/guardians who would like the day program options, the City of Alexandria has been providing options of school day and after school support for all our K-5 students. Contact: kurt.huffman@acps.k12.va.us.
- The Department of Community and Human Services has identified **childcare** for community members who need it. For further information, [click here](#). You may also contact [Mr. Powell](#) or [Ms. Lusk](#) for more information.

Calling all [Potential] Yearbook Photos

- Andrea Klores has stepped up to create the Maury yearbook this year. Please send her photos as she works to fill the talented Nancy Ho Foster's shoes.
- She's looking for any photos related to school or at home learning:
 - first day of school pics
 - distanced meet and greets with teachers at parks, etc.
 - your child on a school zoom call or at their desk working
 - playing at the Maury playground on a lunch break
- Send them to yearbookmaurypta@gmail.com at a high resolution, along with your child's first and last name, grade, homeroom teacher and description.

ACPS is providing FREE meals for EVERYONE

- **Take a break from meal prep and pick up lunch from ACPS. Meals are FREE for ALL CHILDREN** thanks to funding from the USDA. Stop by [ACPS food distribution sites](#) (including TC Williams, Mt. Vernon and Jefferson Houston) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30am-12pm to get free meals for children aged 2-18. This is open to everyone and no registration is needed.

Did someone say spirit wear??

- You asked to show [virtual] spirit, so [spirit wear](#) is here! And this year, it will be available all year long and will be delivered to your home.
- T-shirts are [on sale now](#) and every purchase sends 15% of your purchase price to the PTA to support essential programs.

- Fundraising is more complicated this year, so every dollar you spend will help. Show your Mariner pride and purchase today! Need that link again? [Click here to start shopping!](#)

Volunteer

- You can view minutes from past PTA meetings [here](#).
- The Maury PTA is a group of parent volunteers who are juggling work, life and virtual learning like you, while also taking time to help foster and support our community. Click [here](#) for a list of volunteer opportunities.
- We need volunteers to head PTA subcommittees! If you are interested in working on the [maybe virtual] Gala, Community Partners, or Watch Dogs committees, contact [Fran Boller](#).
- The Alexandria PTA Council just got a request from Volunteer Alexandria to help bag groceries for ALIVE!. All volunteers must register online and be healthy. To sign up, click [here](#) and be sure to review the [COVID-19 volunteer guidelines](#).

Stay Connected

- Make sure you have subscribed to the [Maury community listserv](#) and to [PTA text alerts](#) (it's easy to unsubscribe if you decide you don't want helpful reminders, like log-in on Monday's to avoid being marked absent).
- Feel free to email the [Maury listserv](#) about community related events and questions only (no commercial emails per listserv rules). Please take a minute to **subscribe to the [new list](#) by emailing maury-mariners+subscribe@googlegroups.com**.
- Join the PTA (or renew your membership). It's easy. [Click here!](#) Read more about the PTA on our [website](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **January 18:** No School - MLK Jr. Day
- **January 29:** No School for Students - Teacher Work Day
- **February 15:** No School - Presidents Day
- **February 18-19:** Parent-Teacher Conferences (Half-Days)

[Import our calendar](#)

FREQUENTLY REQUESTED LINKS

- Please [join or renew your membership to the PTA](#) today! This year, more than ever, we need as many voices as possible weighing in as we navigate this school year. Together we can make things happen for our school.
- Stay connected:
 - Make sure you've [subscribed](#) to Mr. Powell's weekly emails and ACPS updates. Follow the school on Twitter ([@MauryMariners](#))
 - Get PTA updates: Text "@maurypta" to 81010 to receive text alerts. Email maury-mariners+subscribe@googlegroups.com to receive emails. Like our [Facebook](#) page.
 - Miss a [Tidings email](#)? Looking for [PTA meeting minutes](#)? Catch up on [our website](#).
- If you are interested in receiving updates from the TAG AC, find ACPS Friends of TAG in [Google Groups](#), click "apply for membership" and "apply to join this group." If you have trouble joining the group, contact [Laura Rose](#).
- Have you signed up for [Amazon Smile](#)? **You can designate the Maury PTA to receive a percentage of every order from Amazon. We also earn rewards for [Box Tops](#) -- which you can now scan in [via a handy app](#).**
- Did someone say SPIRIT WEAR?? You asked to show [virtual] spirit, so [spirit wear](#) is here! And this year, it will be available all year long and will be [delivered to your home](#).
- Need to add school closings to your calendar? Import the [Maury PTA calendar](#).
- Need help with [PowerSchool?](#)
- Virtual PLUS+ technology [help](#)
- Need [internet](#) access?
- Food access and grab and go meal [sites](#)
- [Child care](#) support (ACPS collected information)
- [Apply](#) for or [renew](#) your ACPS volunteer card

THANK YOU

To our Community Partners



THE GOODHART GROUP



Bobi Bomar
Homes of Alexandria

