

Specialist Newsletter September 2009

Computer Mr. Tebo



I'm back! We are off to another great year in the computer lab. The 8 kindergarten classes have been using their first piece of software called A to Zap about the letters of the alphabet. The 1st and second graders have been working on their graphic skills in Kidspiration2. All third graders are off to a great start in keyboarding and creating an All about Me with Comic Life software. The 4th and fifth graders have also created All about Me's with a site called wordle. The 4th graders make word clouds about themselves and the fifth graders are using Open Office to build their text and draw skills.

Music Ms. Bailey Mrs. Benischek



All students in grades two through five have been working on singing the Star-Spangled Banner, our National Anthem. In addition students in

grades K-5 have been learning to sing the Maxey School song. Students have been involved in various activities to develop the singing voice and demonstrate beat competency. Kindergarteners have started the year off with lots of singing and partner games. They will be working on finding their singing voices using the "magic ball" for the next few weeks as well as learning how to play rhythm instruments the triangle, hand drum, finger cymbals and woodblock.

1st graders are busy finding the beat! We will be using our hands, feet and rhythm sticks to hear and play the beat throughout September. This will lay the foundation for reading music throughout the rest of the year.

2nd graders are wild about music. We are doing several animal songs including "Kou Ri Lengay" a song from Tanzania Africa about lions and "Fiddle I Fee" an American Folk Song including many animals. We are reviewing rhythms learned last year and playing them on instruments.

3rd graders started the year with silly songs. Ask them to teach you the hand actions for "Ram Sam Sam" from Morocco or the dance to "Old Dan Tucker". We will also be playing ostinatos on the xylophones working on alternating mallets like real percussionists.

Mrs. Benischek is looking forward to another great year at Maxey!

Physical Education
Mr. Armogast
Mr. Kosmicki



This year 4th and 5th graders are being tested and recorded for the Fitness test. The first one we are practicing is the Pacer. Testing will begin by September 15th.

All students have been working on moving in small and large spaces. Dodging and faking has been demonstrated and practiced. Both golf and volleyball units that stress skill development are currently in progress.

Art
Ms. Hergott



Media Center
Mrs. Christen

Preschool

Preschool students come to the Maxey Media Center each week on Thursday afternoons for story time. Students will be able to check out one board book to bring home and share, then return the following Thursday.

Kindergarten

If you have a child in kindergarten, I am hopeful you have heard about tubs full of good books, the fish tank, and the courtyard that connects with the media center! We have practiced choosing books, check out, carrying

our books, check in and have talked about book care. We also talked about a book's best friend--the backpack--to keep books dry, safe from younger siblings and pets, and not lost! In upcoming lessons, we will learn about our guest (coming on September 30), John Archambault and his books. Each visit, students go on a treasure hunt to learn about additional areas of interest, authors, and types of books, in the media center.

Grade 1-5

Students reviewed the procedures for check out and Grades 3-5 have been introduced to our new online cataloging system, TLC (The Library Corporation) replacing our Horizion system. We are excited for the capabilities of the new system and hope you will check it out on the Maxey Media Center website @ <http://media.lps.org/maxey/>

Golden Sower books

K-3 Students will have all ten of the primary Golden Sower titles read to them--I will read to K and Grade 1 students, and classroom teachers will read to Grade 2-3 students. All students will vote for their favorite book after they have heard the stories.

Grade 4-5 students will need to read (or have read to them/with them) 4 of the Intermediate titles to vote for their favorite in the spring. If students read 10 titles, they will be invited to attend the celebration at the end of the year. Due to the length and subject matter of some titles this year, students will have an option to read Golden Sower

nominees from past years for up to two of their ten books. If you have questions about this, just give me a call. I explained it to the students, but would be happy to review the information.

There is also a link to the Golden Sower website from the Maxey Media Center website.

Green Bookmark

Recently your child brought home a green bookmark in their Wednesday folder. This bookmark has passwords, which will help you access websites on the Maxey Media Center webpage at home. PebbleGo is a new site for emerging readers, and Gale is also new with Kids InfoBits for K-5 researchers!

**As always, if you have any questions, please let me know!
Sheri Christen @ schrist@lps.org or
436-1153.**