

MAP Newsletter



March 2011

MAP Parent Survey

Every year, the MAP Advisory Board administers a survey to all MAP parents requesting feedback about the MAP program. As the district faces severe budget cuts, it is more important than ever to hear from MAP parents about what is working and what could be improved. Please take some time before the last day of school to complete the survey. It is available online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MAPsurvey2011>



MAP Teachers and Parents Express Appreciation for Volunteerism

Some quotes from **MAP parents** about their experience spending time in MAP classrooms:

"Working in the classroom is inspiring and reassuring at the same time. It is a wonderful way to be a part of your child's education."

"I value the sense of teamwork, the compassion I develop for their different learning curves, and being highly engaged, while I build my own skills helping individual students have successful math moments."

"I pick up tips from the teachers on how to teach and manage behaviors."

"It's valuable for the kids to get to meet other parts of their classmates' families, building connection and community."

From the **MAP teachers**;

"Teaching is a challenging, and sometimes exhausting, profession. It can also feel very isolating. Having parents as partners is helpful on a day-to-day basis, but it's also really nice to have another adult in the classroom to share fun (and funny) moments with."

"You are your child's first teacher. We are their second. When a child witnesses collaboration, support and a growing relationship between their own parent and their own teacher; this builds confidence, security and strength within the child. There is nothing more powerful than a child knowing that the learning community they live in is built for them!"

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MANORMAP@YAHOO.COM.

CHECK OUT THE RESULTS OF THE
MAP ELECTIONS ON THE WEB AT

WWW.MANORPTA.ORG

CLASS NEWS

It has been an amazing year! The Care Fair - an idea born in the MAP Advisory Board and brought to life by the incredible MAP teaching team - was a great success. We cannot wait to see what those teachers think up next year!

Ms. Rebecca's K/I Class

Our class loves Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel. It has been fun reading the stories and then creating curriculum around the literature. For example; with the Lost Button story we sorted buttons, added and subtracted buttons, made button patterns, wrote about buttons; describing them with as many adjectives as possible (# of holes, color, thickness, size, etc.)

The special friendship that Frog and Toad have offers opportunities for our children to learn about life lessons that they can apply to their own life experiences.

We are currently becoming experts on.....the rainforest!!! Come check out our classroom, it is transforming into an amazing multi-leveled rainforest. Each child is studying a different creature of the rainforest and we have been writing research reports and poetry, making dioramas, singing songs. We are going wild over the rainforest! We also toured the rainforest exhibit at the Academy of Sciences with our own self-guided booklets. Even the docents who work at the Academy were impressed with how much our students knew about all these amazing creatures and that they were 'taking-notes' all along.

This is a very rich and exciting time in Room 7 and I thank all the parents who have helped our students all year long-it is very rewarding!

Mr. Tim's K/I Class

My parents, as usual, were a huge help making this a successful year. Everyone helped in their own way and each way was important to the class. Some worked weekly in the class, some bought supplies, some helped on the shows, some drove on field trips, some came in on special clean up days, some will help build our parade float and one in particular helped with parent communication. Thank you all!

We are wrapping this year up studying the Central and South American rainforest. Each day a different student reads their animal report and we use that animal as the focus for most of our morning centers.

In one center we might measure how long the animal is or measure how far it can jump. In the art center the kids draw the animal with pastels. In the writing center the kids write a few facts about the animal in their rain forest journals. In the hand writing center they copy sentences about the rain forest trying to use their best handwriting. Later in the day the kids make construction paper animals to add to the room decor, or to add to their own Rain Forest dioramas.

Our original "Care Fair" project did not come to fruition as planned. The flowers we planned to grow and sell to raise funds to buy mosquito nets for people in countries where malaria is widespread didn't grow. But look for our art at an upcoming art show.

I have had a good year with this years students and parents. Even though I have had half the class for two years its going to be hard to say good bye to those first graders.

Ms. Emily's 2/3 Class

The past few months have been full of hard work and exciting learning experiences. The highlight has been our class production of "James and the Giant Peach"—a wonderful book and play written by the beloved storyteller, Roald Dahl. What started off as an engaging read-aloud experience back in the fall turned into a full-scale theatrical production with costumes, sets, lights, and sound. The kids did a simply amazing job practicing their many lines, rehearsing enthusiastically, building a great set with the parents, and finally, performing with gusto in front of their families and friends.

If you were lucky enough to be in the audience for one of the shows, I know you will agree that the kids of Room 5 have a flair for theater, particularly comedic theater. The synergy that was created between the young actors was palpable and awe-inspiring.

I am so thrilled to teach in a program, school, and district that values the arts in education. I am confident that this experience was one of the most important learning experiences my students have had this year. Thank you all for your support. Any ideas for next year's show?

Ms. Erika's 2/3 Class

Have you heard about the Care Fair? It's a catchy name for an event that happened in April in all the MAP classes. Each class chose a service project to work on. Kids had conversations about where our help is needed, and how we could give that help. We chose appropriate projects, based on the age of the students and the ideas floating around amongst the kids. On April 27, members from each class came to all the other classes to share what they had done for their service project.

Mr. Tim's class studied mosquitoes, and the Rain Forest, then learned about people getting malaria. They planted seeds so they could sell the flowers and earn money to buy mosquito nets for people in the Rain Forest. (When the seeds failed, they brainstormed other ways to earn money for their project.)

Ms. Rebecca's class decided to help the Earth by picking up litter around Manor campus. With the help of some 4th and 5th grade friends, they collected, counted, and sorted 1,194 pieces of garbage in just a few hours. Then they presented their work at Wednesday Welcome, and encouraged the Manor School community to reduce the amount of litter.

Both 2/3 classes made crafts out of recycled items: wind chimes made out of old keys, shopping bags made out of old t-shirts, beads made out of magazines and trivets made out of used corks. The money raised from selling the crafts will go to the soup kitchen in San Rafael (Ms. Erika) and split between Earthquake relief for Japan and SmileTrain (Ms. Emily). My class also collected 90 coats and jackets for the Canal Welcome Center

Ms. Chris's class learned about Purple Cake Day which takes place on March 1. Children all over the world bake and sell purple cakes to help rebuild schools in Haiti. (It was inspired by a woman who survived the devastating earthquake but lost her daughter. Her daughter's wish was to have two purple cakes for her 4th birthday which would have been a week after the quake hit) Ms. Chris' kids baked and sold purple cupcakes and sent their proceeds to help with the rebuilding efforts in Haiti.

Ms. Nina's class chose to help a couple groups of people. They sent notes and sweets to service men and women stationed overseas. They also made small pillows and dolls to give to foster kids in need of some extra care.

The Care Fair was the culmination of a lot of thought, care, and time spent to involve our students in concrete projects that help those around them. We identified many others in the world who need our help, and many ways that a child here in our community can go about helping. We are excited about the impact of this new tradition, and hope you will help us in making it a yearly event. Thanks to all of you who helped make it a reality.

MAP Advisory Board Elections

The MAP Advisory Board is a group made up of the Principal, MAP teachers and parents that serves as a guiding force for the MAP program. It is one of the many important ways in which parents can get involved with MAP. See the full slate of candidates elected at www.manorpta.org/map-board.php.

Ms. Chris's 4/5 Class

by Tori Brown

In class we have been learning about the 13 colonies. Each person studied a colony with a partner. We made brochures about our colony trying to persuade people to come to our colony. We learned about the history of all the 13 colonies and how they started by Ms. Chris reading to us the book Making 13 Colonies. For Open House we are going to have a colonial village.

For poetry we had a poet come into our class and help us write poems. She taught us about onomatopoeia, rhyming, alliteration, personification and how to include them in our poems. Also we went to the DeYoung Museum where another poet had us write poems about paintings and sculptures. She showed us ancient sculptures and read poems about them to us to inspire us.

We have been practicing a play called America's Tallest Tales. It is a bunch of tall tales combined to make a bigger tall tale. It is a musical play with adventure and comedy. In class we wrote our own tall tales.

This May, we went on a field trip called the Age of Sail where we spent the night on a ship and pretended it was 1906. There were 5 crews: the galley crew, boat crew, bosun crew, rigger crew and deckhand crew. Each crew had a job on the ship. For example, the galley crew's job was to cook the meals for everyone on the ship. We each were in a crew and had a crew mate who was in charge.

We have had lots of fun this year!

Ms. Nina's 4/5 Class

The reality of Room 16 is always a busy one. As we entered spring, the students left behind the history of explorers and entered our colonial history. Colonies were advertised, we learned about slavery through a simulation and dilemma scenarios. We've been learning through "A History of Us" as well as a wonderful historical fiction novel about Jamestown, called "Blood on the River."

To also get a feel for colonial times, the students have been paired off and are learning a colonial dance, working on the steps, musicality, and posture!

As we were learning about explorers and our founding fathers/mothers, we also explored the world of chemistry, magnetism, and electricity. We now seem to know more than anything else, "Opposites attract!"

The Care Fair we participated in with the MAP program got the kids in room 16 writing letters to soldiers and bringing in items for a care box. They also created crafts, led by student teams (Ella, Angus, Ruby, Rachel, Madison, and Bridget) in order to create something special for children in shelters.

Finally, the class, working from their own interests and passions, have been writing expert essays that blend their research with narrative and opinion writing. When we are not busy working on those, we are writing a lot of poetry and gearing up for our annual Poetry Night cafe, a celebration of these writers and their voices.

MAP Celebrates at Community Meeting

Every year, the May community meeting serves as an opportunity for MAP parents and teachers to gather to celebrate the accomplishments of the year and honor the graduating 5th grade parents. This year's meeting took place on the back patio at the Sleeping Lady and honored the graduating parents, as well as our six awesome teachers, with rocks decorated with three adjectives that described each of them as chosen by the 5th graders. In addition, special gifts of thanks and appreciation were given to the Goebels and the Stanleys who are leaving Manor and MAP after seeing a combined 11 children through the program!