MACS celebrated Junior Achievement (JA) Day on Monday, September 30. Thirteen volunteers from ALCOA spent the full school day in classrooms educating the K-8 students about economic success. Numerous lessons and hands-on activities were taught and led by our ALCOA volunteers.

Some examples of JA Day classroom activities included students distinguishing the difference between needs and wants, identifying the roles individuals and workers play in our communities, exploring future career opportunities, and learning about the global economy and marketplace.

We welcomed ALCOA CEO Klaus Kleinfeld for a visit into Mrs. Paladin’s second grade classroom. Mr. Kleinfeld was greeted with twenty smiling faces and inquisitive minds. He was able to ask the class a few questions and share more about what ALCOA does and what his role is for the organization. Visit Fox Business News on the web to watch a clip of Mr. Kleinfeld at MACS!


Thank you to Mrs. Butler for organizing this exciting day! We look forward to more activities and visits with ALCOA.

Sarah Heinz House
During the 2013-2014 school year, the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students are visiting the Sarah Heinz House every other Friday from 9am – 2pm. Students are divided into four groups and rotate with their groups between four classes in the morning before lunch time. Each group has students from each of the three grades and each class is taught by a pair of middle school teachers. The classes engage students in math, reading, science, and social studies using collaborative project based learning activities.

After lunch, students can choose to spend their afternoon at the pool, in the game room, playing kickball or basketball, in dance class, or in study hall. Each week they can choose something different. MACS is extremely appreciative to the Sarah Heinz House for allowing us to utilize their space and facilities. Many of our students would not otherwise be able to engage in such activities on their own outside of school.

Specialty Classes
Every middle school student is enrolled in two special classes each day, both of their choosing. A block of classes are offered in the mornings and a separate block of classes are offered in the afternoons. Morning specials include Gym, Technology, Art, Music, Spanish, or Chinese. Afternoon specials are a little different. External organizations and community members come to MACS to teach special classes in addition to MACS staff. For example, Mrs. Walker teaches Poetry, Mrs. Rose teaches Yoga, and Mr. Scoumis teaches Pseudo Science. Other classes students can choose from include Sewing taught by Mrs. Coleman, Chess taught by Mr. Young, and Band taught by Mr. Mahoney. Groups of students also travel to the Craftsman Guild for Ceramics and Design.

We strive to provide numerous outlets for our students to engage in activities they enjoy and want to learn more about. Our students have a wide array of interests and talents, and we believe it is our responsibility to foster their creativity and offer each student the resources and opportunities they need to grow and succeed. (Continued on page 5)
Chinese Classes for MACS

At MACS two language classes are offered to our students. Students in grades K-3 have Chinese class once a week and Spanish class once a week. Our fourth and fifth graders have Spanish once a week. The sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students choose between Spanish and Chinese for a special language class, also once a week. Joyce Krall is the part-time MACS Chinese teacher. She graciously travels around MACS on Mondays and Wednesdays to teach using stories, songs, and pictures. We are extremely grateful to have her and give our students the opportunity to learn multiple languages!

Transition to High School Fair

Six area high schools visited MACS on Thursday, September 26, for a Transition to High School Fair to meet and talk with the middle school students about life after MACS. Thank you to the following schools for attending:

- Propel Schools
- FAME Academy
- City Charter High School
- Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic
- Neighborhood Academy
- Sewickley Academy

MACS was full of buzz and chatter as students and parents learned more about what each high school has to offer, made new connections and networked, and discovered what school is best for the needs and interests of each student. We were pleased to see many of our middle school students attend in addition to several MACS alumni who stopped by for a visit to promote their high schools. It is never too early to start planning for the future!

Student Teacher: Latoyia Clark

“Mrs. Clark” – 3rd Grade, Ms. Jochum

1. What college/university do you attend? When will you be graduating, and with what degree? I attend the University of Phoenix. In January 2014 I will be completing my Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education.

2. What is/was your favorite part of student teaching at MACS? Being at MACS has been great. It is really hard to choose a favorite part as there are so many positive experiences. The students and staff have been a pleasure to work with! My students and cooperating teacher, Ms. Jochum, have made this last phase of my learning very pleasant and comfortable.

3. What skills and tools have you gained from MACS to use in your own classroom post-graduation? With their patience, I have learned how to implement and use various technology tools in instruction. I didn’t know how to use an iPad prior to MACS. In addition to that, I have learned multiple classroom management strategies that I would use in my own classroom. Student teaching at MACS has been an experience I will never forget!
A Day in the Life of a First Grader

7:30 am: Dropped off at school. I walk in, hang up my jacket and backpack, eat breakfast, talk to my friends, and go to Ms. Tabor’s room until school starts.

8:00 am: Ms. Bush or Ms. VanBeek pick me up from Ms. Tabor’s classroom. We all walk upstairs to Ms. Lavrinc’s room or Ms. Jackson’s room. I sharpen my pencils, copy my homework in my planner, and read or color until morning meeting.

8:15 am: Morning meeting. I may sing a song with my class, talk about my weekend plans, or say good morning to a few of my friends. I listen to see if I have a job for the day and talk about what the date is and how many days we have been in school.

8:30 am: Math class. Sometimes I use cubes, a balance, or a ten frame to count and add. There is a big number line on the wall and a small number line on my nametag that I use to count too.

9:10 am: Lunch and recess. My favorite part of the day!

10:00 am: Writing class. I write stories and draw pictures in my journal.

1:00 pm: Specialty class: Music, Library/Technology, Art, Gym, or Spanish. Sometimes I leave the classroom and sometimes I stay in the classroom.

2:00 pm: Science or Social Studies class. I love Science with Ms. Bush! We learn about animals and our families.

3:00 pm: No more school for the day! I wait for my teacher to dismiss me. I say “See you tomorrow!”

Spanish Pen Pals

Senorita Castillo’s 5th grade, Spanish 1, Spanish 2 and Spanish 3 classes have pen pals in Spain! MACS is working with the 6th grade class at Colegio Publico Miguel de Unamuno in Madrid for the year. MACS students will write their letters in Spanish and receive letters in English from their pen pals. They can exchange information about themselves, their families and friends, popular sports or food in their city and country, and more about their culture and customs. Both groups of students are excited to connect with people around their age in a different part of the world. Not only will they practice their oral and written Spanish or English, they will gain new friends and a new understanding of another culture.

Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>MS BBall at Northgate, 3:30pm</td>
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<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>Elem BBall at Weil, 3:30pm</td>
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<td>Feb 5</td>
<td>MS BBall at Butler, 3:30pm</td>
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<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>Element BBall at Sto-Rox, 3:30pm</td>
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<td>Feb 7</td>
<td>Barnes &amp; Noble Family Event, 6pm</td>
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<td>Feb 8</td>
<td>Elem BBall vs W. Liberty, 3:30pm</td>
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<td>Feb 9</td>
<td>MS BBall at N. Hills, 3:30pm</td>
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<td>Feb 10</td>
<td>MS (6th) BBall vs Montour, 5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>PTO Meeting, 6pm</td>
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<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>Elem BBall vs W. Liberty, 3:30pm</td>
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<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>Elem BBall at Beechwood, 3:30pm</td>
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<td>Feb 14</td>
<td>Board Meeting, 5:30pm</td>
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<td>Feb 15</td>
<td>Math Counts Competition, TBA</td>
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<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>Elem BBall at Langley, 3:30pm</td>
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<td>Feb 22</td>
<td>Father-Daughter Dance, 6pm</td>
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<td>Feb 24</td>
<td>RIF Book Distribution Begins, 3:30pm</td>
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<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>Elem BBall at Concord, 3:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>Elem BBall vs Allegheny, 3:30pm</td>
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<td>Feb 28</td>
<td>Student Early Dismissal, 12noon</td>
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Oreo Day

The second grade’s Oreo Day was a big success this year! The students from both Ms. Davis and Mrs. Paladin’s classes mixed it up on Friday, September 27, to practice concepts and skills using Oreos. Second graders created a giant picture graph of the best way to eat an Oreo, practiced balance and stability to build an Oreo tower, measured in feet and inches how far they rolled an Oreo down a ramp, predicted and calculated how much weight different types of Oreos could hold, created a story called If You Give a MACS Mustang an Oreo Cookie, and made beautiful Oreo sculptures. Congratulations to Evan Oaks for the farthest Oreo roll of 24 feet! Special thanks to all the families who supported the second grade classes by sending in Oreos, and also to Ms. Williams, Ms. McClain, and Ms. McKnight for volunteering to help us out on Oreo Day!
SCIENCE NIGHT

See more pictures at www.macsk8.org.

MACS AT PPG PLACE

SCIENCE CENTER FIELD TRIP
Entrepreneurs I-Own Program
MACS Entrepreneurs I-Own Program is an opportunity for seventh and eighth grade students to develop and market business plans of their choosing. These young entrepreneurs participate in a five week summer camp to prepare them for competitions and events to showcase their work and market their services or products. In the fall and spring on the weekends and select days after school, entrepreneurs can meet with their mentors and teachers to revamp, alter, and enhance their existing plans.

Two students have been recognized for their innovative and effective business plans. Noriah’s Fabulous Jewels won the National Entrepreneur Award, and Shane’s Baked Goods won the Run Morris E-ward for Entrepreneurial Excellence. Congratulations to these star students!

Future City
The sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students will participate in the Future City Competition during National Engineers Week. This competition challenges middle school students to resolve urban sustainability issues. Together the students will complete five phases:

1. Design a virtual city using Sim City software.
2. Write a research paper addressing the issue of the year, “Tomorrow’s Transit.”
3. Write a second paper explaining the ins and outs of the city 150 years from now.
4. Create a scale model of a portion of their city.
5. Present their city and ideas to a panel of judges at Carnegie Music Hall in January.

Each city must meet specific requirements, such as a certain population, level of pollution, and air quality.

This will be the third year the middle school students will participate in the Future City Competition. In the 2012-2013 school year, MACS placed sixth out of forty-eight teams and won the Research Essay Award, Best Use of Recycled Materials Award, and the Transportation Award. MACS partners with ALCOA who offer their support and skills to assist the students. Parents are encouraged to get involved. Visit www.futurecity.org/parents for more details.

1. What college/university do you attend? When will you graduate, and with what degree? I attend Penn State University and have completed 5 1/2 years of college. I will finally be graduating in December (just a few days before Christmas) with a BA in Art Education.

2. What is/was your favorite part of student teaching at MACS? My favorite part about teaching at MACS was getting to know the students and getting over my nerves about working with young children. I had focused on middle school while at college and always thought I would be overwhelmed teaching any age younger. After getting to know the younger grades, I found that curiosity and discovery resonated within the art classroom and made for an unforgettable experience.

3. What skills and tools have you gained from MACS to use in your own classroom post-graduation? I learned that relationships are most important whether it is with students or faculty. Getting to know my students and showing them that I actually wanted to get to know them led to some successful teacher-student relationships. Without these foundations, I don't think the experience would have been as enjoyable. Also, collaborating with several other teachers helped me realize how interconnected a school can be and how important it is to work together to achieve student success.

Special Thanks

Thanks to your help, we have raised $2,650 for participating in the Duquesne Light School Energy Pledge Program! A total of 106 families from MACS received conservation kits and have pledged to save 43,884 kWh in energy consumption. Thank you all for your support and participation!

MACS would like to thank the Highmark Foundation for the $5,000 grant we received to help build a playground for our students! We also thank the ALCOA Foundation for the $15,000 grant received to hire a Math Specialist for the 2014-2015 school year!

MACS Is Going Green!

To receive your future MACS newsletters via e-mail, please e-mail kvanbeek@macsk8.org with your name and e-mail address.
Our Mission:
We foster the dreams of all children by providing an outstanding and dynamic education in a nurturing environment.

Our Vision:
We will continue to be an educational center of excellence and become a community pillar of support where students excel, families are engaged, teachers are empowered, and alumni flourish.