Hello all,

Can you believe we are in the final quarter of our 14th year? Together with staff, students and parents, MACS continues to be a great school choice in the City of Pittsburgh.

We can look forward to a busy spring and could use everyone’s support and commitment in making it a successful one! Please check your calendars and let us know when you are able to come into school and help out.

GO PITT!
BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT MACS

This year, MACS celebrated Black History Month in many different ways. From art projects to special guest speakers to hands-on activities, students learned about the many positive contributions African-Americans have made throughout history and the ways that they can make a difference, too.

Students and teachers both participated in a variety of school-wide activities, including a daily trivia competition, a door decorating contest, and a school-wide Quiz Bowl (see article by London Greer).

Each grade also celebrated Black History Month with unique activities inside their classrooms. Students in middle school read and analyzed the famous African-American anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Third graders designed postage stamps to represent famous African-Americans throughout history. First and second grade combined forces to study black inventors.

Students received a special surprise on February 28th when Pittsburgh Steeler Max Starks visited the school to speak about the importance of education and perseverance.

First Grade Studies Firsts in African American History

To celebrate Black History Month, Ms. Sampson's first grade class studied notable firsts in African American history. We displayed portraits of groundbreaking African-American individuals for the school door-decorating contest, including the first President, first Miss America, first Tag Team Champions, and many more! Our door included pictures, descriptions and student comments for each first. We linked these examples to our social studies lessons, where students were learning about citizenship. Studying great firsts in history, they gained an understanding of how being a good citizen can be put to practice and an appreciation for how African-Americans of the past have helped shape our country today.

Throughout the month, students and teachers stopped by our door to read our display. We are very happy that others joined in on our learning experience as well, and excited that we won first prize with our Door of Firsts!

Mrs. Paladin, First Grade Teaching Assistant

May 2    Elementary Spring Concert at CCAC Auditorium, 6:30pm
May 9    Nat. Junior Honor Soc. Induction, 6:30
May 17   Book Fair Begins (Ends May 23) What I Learned Night, 6:00pm
May 25   Vacation Day - School Closed
May 28   Memorial Day - School Closed
May 31   Eighth Grade Trip (Return June 1)

Our Supporters

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their generous support of Manchester Academic Charter School.

Mr. James & Mrs. Noel Browne
The Perkins Hunter Foundation of the Chicago Community Trust
Urban Youth Action
Dick's Sporting Goods Foundation
Mrs. Robyn Frances
Mr. Jason Farmakis
Dr. Margaret & Mr. David McKeown
Street Law/Mock Trial Program
Mrs. Clare Horner
Mr. Gary and Mrs. Maribel Hunt
Rosen Louik & Perry, PC
were going to be asked.

Our 7th grade team consisted of Daesiah Latimer, Jason Bottoms and myself. The 8th grade team was Precious Tucker and Jaylyn Hammond and the 6th grade team was Paul Morris, DeVaughntae Ponton, Michael Kisner and Tawaan Thomas.

The game was set up like Jeopardy, with 3 rounds of questions. I felt pretty good after the first round. I almost knew all the answers to the questions. I made it to the second round where we used the iPads to write down our answers. I had a lot of virtual money by the end of the round.

I made it to the final round, to compete against Precious, Jaylyn, Michael, and DeVaughntae. The final round was competitive and Jaylyn was in the lead, however Michael ultimately won because he wagered all his virtual money in Final Jeopardy to take the lead. Jaylyn came in second; I came in third place.

I really enjoyed participating in the competition. I won a Terrible Towel signed by Max Starks and 20 MACS bucks.

By London Greer, MACS Student

LEGAL EDUCATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

More than a year ago I wrote an article on the middle school Street Law program at MACS. Back when we established Street Law, we hoped that it would help students develop their critical thinking capabilities and spark a sense of citizenship that would empower them to make a difference in their communities.

A lot has changed in a year. Street Law has been very successful, but we realize that studying law alone will not equip today’s students for the social, political and economic problems of tomorrow. Future lawyers must be business-savvy first and legal experts second, so we are expanding Street Law to include a business studies component, and renamed it the Legal Education and Entrepreneurship Program, or LEEP.

In LEEP, we teach our students business and legal skills, and how to market their talents. We also educate them on how to create and sustain a business, whether it is a service or product they are selling to the public. To deliver this unique type of education, we are in the process of acquiring a law/business office located in Manchester, just a couple of blocks from the school. We hope to launch LEEP in the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year.

By Carl Cooper, Esq., MACS Board Member

DONORSCHOICE.ORG HELPS TEACHERS GET CLASSROOM SUPPLIES

When they need extra supplies, MACS teachers turn to DonorsChoose.org. This unique website lets educators post classroom projects and request donations from individuals and organizations all around the country. To date, MACS teachers have had over 10 projects funded through DonorsChoose.org, totaling almost $10,000!

To see which MACS teachers currently have projects on DonorsChoose.org, go to www.macsk8.org and look for the DonorsChoose link.

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The MACS Blog: macsk8.wordpress.com
MACS on YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/MACSCharterSchool
MACS on Facebook: search for MACS Pittsburgh
**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.

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