MACS Newsletter
Volume No. 2, Issue 1
Fall 2011

Welcome from Mr. Scoumis

Happy school year everyone!

I am looking forward to another great year at MACS filled with lots of learning and excitement. As many of you know, MACS is growing. We added a second 1st grade classroom this year and will continue expanding each year until we have two classes in every grade. We also recently had our charter renewal approved by the Pittsburgh Board of Education.

We have many other reasons to pat ourselves on the back:

 In the 2010-2011 school year, MACS’ achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) our PSSA test scores for the ninth year in a row!
 We are in our fourth year as a federal Blue Ribbon School.
 MACS Athletics is beginning its second year as a member of the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) – Go Mustangs!

One of the things that makes MACS special is our exceptional level of parental involvement. Learning starts at home and we could not succeed without the efforts of our students’ parents, grandparents and other family members. So please continue to remain an active part of your child’s education. Here are some great ways for parents to get involved:

 Attend Family Nights. Family Nights are the third Thursday of every month from 6:00PM to 7:30PM. September’s Family Night will be “Meet the Teacher Night” on September 8th. Siblings and other family members are always welcome at Family Night. Please see Ms. McCandless’s article to find out the themes of this year’s Family Nights.
 Join the PTO. The PTO is always looking for new members. The PTO President will be at Meet the Teacher Night to answer any questions and sign up parents.
 Volunteer in your child’s classroom or for a special event. Ask your child’s teacher how you can help out or contact Dennis Henderson (dhenderson@macsk8.org or 412-322-0585) to find out about school-wide volunteer opportunities.
 Talk to your children about what they are doing at school and where they need help. Keeping the lines of communication open is very important!

Communication between home and school is also important. My office is always open if you have any concerns, questions or comments. Please feel free to stop by anytime to speak with me. You can also reach me on my cell phone (412-996-6505) or via email (vscoumis@macsk8.org).

GO PITT!
**Family Nights**

**Back to school means time for Family Night!**

Family Night is an exciting way for MACS students to share what they are learning during the school day. Each Family Night is focused on a different theme from the curriculum and includes activities for kids and adults as well as information on related community resources.

Family Nights are normally held on the third Thursday of every month from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Dates can change, so check the website or ask someone at school. There is no Family Night in December.

**By Stacy McCandless,**
Special Education Teacher

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**2011-2012 Family Nights:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Meet the Teacher Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Math Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Reading Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>NO FAMILY NIGHT</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Science Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>PSSA Night</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Social Studies Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>What I Learned Night</td>
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**New Teacher Profile: Britni Sampson, 1st Grade Teacher**

Greetings families, and welcome back to another school year at MACS! My name is Britni Sampson and I have the pleasure of teaching the school’s new first grade classroom this year.

While a second first grade classroom may be a new addition to MACS, I am not so new to the school. Some of you may remember me from last school year, when I was a teaching assistant in kindergarten alongside Mrs. Robinson. You may even remember my pregnant belly—I gave birth to a healthy baby boy in January.

Prior to working at MACS, I received a Masters degree in teaching from the University of Pittsburgh. Following my graduate studies, I worked in the Wilkinsburg School District as a substitute teacher for grades K - 6 and as a first grade summer school teacher.

I look forward to an exciting new year, not only working with the first grade but all of the students and families here at MACS.

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**MACS Athletics**

It’s almost time for fall athletics to begin – and the Mustangs need your support!

Boys and girls basketball schedules will be coming out soon and I hope you will consider attending our games. Final schedules will be posted on the website and

The Athletic Department is also starting a fundraising campaign to upgrade our sports equipment and get supplies for new athletic activities. Our goal is $5,000 by the end of 2011 – please consider making a small donation. Donations can be mailed in to the school or dropped off at the front desk. All donations are tax-deductible.

**By Philip Braxton, Athletic Director**
The Allegheny Region Assets District (ARAD) provides financial support to cultural and recreational institutions in Allegheny County—libraries, parks, stadiums and much more. In the past 15 years, they’ve given out over $2.3 billion to important organizations using just a small portion of our sales tax.

Many of the RAD-funded organizations are kid-friendly, and every fall, they each offer one day of free admission and special programming as a thank-you to the public for their support.

Here is one RADical Day I am looking forward to attending: The Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium will have free admission all day on Sunday, October 9th. I hope you will consider visiting too!

For a list of all the other upcoming RADical Days go to www.radworkshere.org and click on RADical Days under What’s Happening menu.

By Adina Castillo, Spanish Teacher
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