

Feb. 28, 2020

Maurice Hawk Elementary School Weekly Update

PTA News

Our **International Fair** is coming up next month, **Friday, Mar. 20, 7 p.m.!** The event features multicultural performances, a family cultural "parade of nations," and a reception featuring country projects prepared by students. The reception will have food and beverages for sale. All event proceeds will benefit our PTA.

International Fair Tickets: Please note that this is a ticketed event with limited space. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. **Online registration closes on Sunday, Mar. 15** at 11:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person (over age 2).

http://hawkpta.org/machform/view.php?id=22345_ Please see our website for the signup for country poster presentations, a slot to help volunteer, details on the event day, poster templates and parade guidelines:

<http://www.hawkpta.org/2020-hawk-international-fair/>

Box Tops Contest Winner: Our Box Tops contest raised more than \$220! Thanks to all of the children and parents who participated. Special thanks to the third grade winners who collected nearly 300 Box Tops!

The winners for each grade are noted below:

- Kindergarten - **Holleran PM**
- 1st grade - **Russo**
- 2nd grade - **Piergrossi**
- 3rd grade - **Skau**

We will coordinate with each class for their ice pop and PJ party prize!

Thank you for your support,
Maurice Hawk PTA Executive Board

Useful links: This is your PTA and we want to hear from you. Reach out to us with any comments or questions.

[Website](#) | [Email](#) | [PTA Calendar](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Donation Information](#)

SEPTSA Events & Notices

- Contact Kathleen (Kkz4@verizon.net) for questions. Visit our website www.WWP-SEPTSA.org to become a member and find out more about SEPTSA.
- **Saturday, Feb. 29 - Lego Buddies - 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.**, West Windsor Library - Join our information gathering of elementary students with IEPs or 504s to socialize through Lego play. Please RSVP by Friday, Feb. 28 at 10 p.m. to Kathleen (Kkz4@verizon.net).
- **Accepting Volunteers for Next Year** – Further to our announcement at the last SEPTSA meeting, we are accepting nominations for those interested to help in an officer capacity until Mar. 1. We welcome offers to help in any capacity throughout the year. For officer nominations, contact Sophie Hanstveit (mjwannabe829@yahoo.com) and for other volunteer inquiries contact Kathleen (Kkz4@verizon.net).

Links: [WW-P SEPTSA Facebook](#) | [WW-P SEPTSA Website](#) | [Membership Form](#)

School News

Maurice Hawk welcomed 24 juniors from The College of New Jersey this week. These students will be learning from our talented Hawk staff and students. We love to share our learning!

Mrs. Davison's class read the story, **Teacup**, and loved the book so much that they decided to write to the author and illustrator. The author and illustrator wrote back to the class. Thank you to Mrs. Mulhall and Mrs. Davison for this experience. Please enjoy the letters below:

3rd Grade Letter to the Author and Illustrator of Teacup

Dear Ms. Young and Mr. Ottley,

We are a third-grade class at Maurice Hawk in West Windsor, New Jersey and your book Teacup has really spoken to us. Both the pictures and the words in the story work so well together to help us understand the story. After many reads and discussions, the

message we get from the book is that sometimes you will have to journey alone, but there is always a happy place and people where you can make a new beginning.

Some ideas we had about the book were:

- Maybe the stronger roots of the boy's tree represent that he is home and the girl's tree on the beach with no roots in the ground means that she is still looking for her place?
- We think the footprint part of the illustration on the last page might be drawn to look like the sign language sign for I love you.
- The last page illustration with the pear and the apple, seems like symbols or a message that shows the boy and girl's friendship.
- We thought a lot about the page with the animals changing into clouds. We felt like memories might be fading away. Maybe things he had in his old life were disappearing?

We did have a couple of questions about the book and your writing process:

1. Was the story originally a poem that you made into a book?
2. How were you paired together as author/illustrator?
3. Why did you write this story? Did you put your lives into the story and illustrations?

As you can see, we have done a lot of big thinking about the story and we hope you can help us continue our discussion.

Sincerely,

Ms. Davison's Third Graders

Author, Rebecca Young's Response

Dear Ms Davison and your amazing Maurice Hawk 3rd grade class,

What a lovely email you sent, I am grinning from ear to ear! I am blown away by hearing from readers all the way over in New Jersey, USA . . . and then to find such beautiful, thoughtful and insightful comments! My heart is bursting! Thank you so much for your tender reading of Teacup, and for sending us your thoughts . . . over vast and wild blue seas.

I will write some notes and email again very soon.

Many thanks,
Rebecca

Illustrator, Matt Ottley's Response

Dear Ms Davison and the Third Graders,

Please forgive me for taking so long to respond - I have been traveling and very busy with all sorts of other things including new books and music. Thank you for your wonderful questions, and the lovely statements from the third graders. I was very touched by your email. (He included detailed responses to the questions).

Thank you so very much for your questions, it is such an honour to know that people on the other side of the world are reading and loving our work. I've attached a photo of me that my wife took while I was working on the cover/1st illustration painting for Teacup.

My very best wishes to all of you,
Matt Ottley

Around the District:

- **WW-P presents... spring theater!** [Click here for additional details](#) and ticket information regarding High School North's *Mary Poppins* (Feb. 27-29 and Mar. 1), High School South's *Guys and Dolls* (Mar. 5-7), Grover Middle School's *Freaky Friday* (Mar. 13-14) and Community Middle School's *Dorothy in Wonderland* (Mar. 19-21).
- Check out the district [academic calendar](#) for important upcoming dates. The 2020-2021 School Year Calendar is posted on the [district website](#) as is the 2021-2022 School Year Calendar that was approved by the WW-P Board of Education at the Feb. 25, 2020 meeting.

District Updates

- [District Website](#) | [Academic Calendars](#) | [Event Calendar](#)

Athletics

- Check out the [WW-P Athletics monthly newsletter](#) with information on spring sports registration, exciting upcoming competitions, and honors achieved by our student athletes.

Counseling and Wellness

- **Parent University:** The next Parent University event will be held Thursday, Mar. 26, 7 p.m. at CMS. The topic is "Understanding Child and Adolescent Anxiety." Click [here](#) to review this year's previous Parent University presentations.
- With rising concern over the new coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak that is currently centered in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, WW-P continues to carefully monitor the situation and heed guidance that has been provided by state and national health organizations. For more information, please click [here](#).

Community Education

- Registration for **Spring After-School Enrichment** is now open. [Spring after-school programs](#) are here and spaces fill fast. Do not delay registration! Registration closes Tuesday, Mar. 24, 2020.
- **Extended Day Program** registration is ongoing throughout the school year. [Sign up by clicking here.](#)
- Space is available in the morning and afternoon **Kindergarten Extension!** [Register by clicking here.](#)
- **Upcoming SAT Programs** - Community Education sponsored classes through [Kaplan](#), [Princeton Review](#), and [Lentz & Lentz](#) are offered throughout the school year at High School North and South.

Community Events

- The Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office presents "[A Parent's Guide to Your Child's Cellphone.](#)" A free and informative presentation that aims to educate parents about internet safety and the dangers of certain phone applications. The presentation will be held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy (1001 Fire Academy Dr., Sayreville, NJ 08872), **Wednesday, Mar. 11 at 6 p.m.**
- In mid-March, homes will begin receiving invitations to complete the **US Census**. Responses may be submitted online, by phone, or via mail. Results will impact the federal funds our communities and our schools receive. For

more information on why this census is so important for WW-P children, check out the Advocates for Children of New Jersey's [Census 2020 NJ website](#).

- Are you looking for programs, clubs and things to do around WW-P? Check out the [community events section](#) on the district's website!

Food Services

- Download the [Sodexo's So Happy app](#) to view nutritional information, allergens, [menus](#) and more.

WW-P Education Foundation

- [Innovation Fair 2020](#): The Foundation's Youth Committee will hold auditions for **WW-P's Got Talent** at the HS South Playhouse, from Mar. 5 - 7. The district-wide talent show will be held May 16, 2020, and is a fabulous forum for kids to show off their talents. Acts may include individuals, groups and bands and is open to students in grades K-12! [Click here](#) to register to audition.

WW-P Board of Education

- Check out the upcoming [Board of Education Meeting](#) dates. Agenda and materials for Board meetings are published after 3:30 p.m. the Friday prior to the meeting.

Make sure to follow the district on WW-P's official social media pages.

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Youtube](#)