

# MoCo Monday Minute

**Monday, March 13, 2017**

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*Camargo's A Night at the Wax Museum featuring Dr. Sally Ride.*

***Quote of the Week*** – “I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But I can’t accept not trying.” – Michael Jordan

***No School Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>*** – School will be closed Friday for a KEA Day.

***March of Dimes “Dime War”*** – Thank you all so much for supporting the March of Dimes the past two weeks. Montgomery County Schools raised \$2,338.27! The top school was McNabb, which raised \$509.04. MCIS came in second with \$456.99.

***A Night at the Wax Museum*** – Camargo Elementary students participated in a “live” Wax Museum last week. Students had to research and portray a person who made a significant contribution to society. They showcased this information through a self-designed board along with a brief presentation. It was a fun night to stroll through the past and meet some very important people.

***To live is to dance ... to dance is to live!*** – Last week, two members of the Arthur Murray Studio (Lexington) visited Mapleton students. Bobby Docherty, a professional dance instructor, and his partner Suzanne Davis, a native of Montgomery County, are currently training for a competition in the spring.



Students learned about Ballroom Dancing including special equipment (shoes, outfits, jewelry), two different dance types (smooth and rhythm), and a little history about each dance. Smooth dances include Waltz, Fox Trot and Tango. Rhythm dances include Cha Cha, Rumba, Swing (Jitter Bug) and Merengue. After watching examples of each dance, students were taught the Merengue.

Mapleton received a grant to have special guest Lakshmi Sriraman, an accomplished Bharatanatyam performer and teacher based in Lexington, present to third and fourth grade students on Friday. Her dance is marked by lithesome grace, clear lines and crisp footwork. Students were taught different moves of Bharatanatyam dance. Siblings Driti and Krish Patel performed Bollywood dance for kindergarten, first and second grade students. Driti is a freshman at MCHS and Krish is a sixth grader at MCIS.



***March Madness*** – Friday afternoon Camargo students, with perfect attendance from January 2<sup>nd</sup> - March 3<sup>rd</sup>, were rewarded with a March Madness Celebration. Players from MCHS Boys' and Girls' Varsity Basketball teams, as well as varsity cheerleaders joined the group for afternoon fun in the gym. Students enjoyed learning tips and tricks from the MCHS varsity teams.

***Oh Say Can You See*** – One of MCHS's National Anthem Quartets was chosen via an audition process (which included submitting a recording) to sing at the Girls' Sweet 16 Tournament (Final Four) this past Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, at Northern Kentucky University. Mr. Ashley Tyree shared, "You may have heard them singing at one of several MCHS Athletic Events in the last two years and I know you will agree with me that



the honor is well deserved.” The members are seniors, Roman Wood (Bass), Jesse Cole (Tenor), Emily Spradling (Alto), and Victoria Toy (Soprano).

***A Rock-Solid Addition to Gym Class*** – MSE offered rock climbing to students during PE classes the past five weeks. Students learned climbing basics and soon challenged themselves to see how many times they could climb all four sides of the wall. Their hands were red, but they insisted on continuing the climb. Throughout the five weeks, obstacles such as pool noodles were attached to the wall and students had to maneuver around them.



***Student Attendance*** – Mapleton came through with the highest one day attendance on Thursday with 96.88%. MCIS claimed the weekly high attendance with 94.38%.

***LivingWell Health Insurance Completion Days*** – KEHP members who chose a LivingWell health insurance plan agreed to complete an online Go365 Health Assessment or a biometric screening from January 1 through July 1, 2017. If you have a cross-reference payment option, you and your spouse both must complete the HA or the biometric screening. If you elect a LivingWell plan option and fail to fulfill the LivingWell Promise, you will not receive the monthly premium discount in 2018. **(Note: This is an example of why it is important for every employee to regularly check email. Supervisors, please ensure that employees check email and are aware of these dates.)** For additional insurance support contact Wellness Information Go365 – 1-855-478-1623.

***Dates:***

- Mar. 13 – Camargo PTO Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- Mar. 14 – Blood Drive, 3:30 – 7:30 p.m., Mapleton Gym
- Mar. 14 – Mapleton SBDM Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- Mar. 15 – Mapleton PTO Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- Mar. 16 – Beta Club Blood Drive, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., MCHS JROTC Room
- Mar. 16 – Round 2 of Quick Recall Academic Tournament, Mapleton
- Mar. 16 – MCHS SBDM Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- **Mar. 17 – No School – KEA Day**
- Mar. 18 – McNabb Chess Team State Championship, Louisville, KY
- Mar. 18 – MSE Honors Chorus
- Mar. 21 – Sophomore ASVAB Assessment, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Clay Community Center

- Mar. 21-29 – Mapleton Book Fair
- Mar. 22 – Drive 4UR School Fundraising Event for After Prom, 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., MCHS Parking Lot
- Mar. 25 – Gelbvieh Cattle Sale, 12:00 p.m., Chenault Agriculture Center
- Mar. 25 – MCIS Science Fair
- Mar. 27 – Born Learning Parent Workshop, ELC
- Mar. 28 – Sophomore Work Ethics Seal Program, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Clay Community Center
- Mar. 28 – Mapleton AR Night and Spring Book Fair, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
- Mar. 28 – Second Grade Mickey Mouse Musical, 9:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m., Mapleton Gym
- Mar. 28 – Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., MCHS Cafeteria
- Mar. 30 – Science Engineering/Energy Workshop Day – Student Science Projects Judged, Mapleton

## ***Continuous Learning through Professional Literature***

### **Teachers' Impact on Students' Academic and Non-Academic Outcomes**

In this *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis* article, David Blazar (Harvard University) and Matthew Kraft (Brown University) report on their study of four classroom variables in upper-elementary math classrooms:

- Emotional support of students;
- Classroom organization (discipline and maximizing instructional time);
- Ambitious math instruction;
- Teachers' mathematical errors and imprecision in the presentation of content.

Blazar and Kraft correlated data in those areas with the gains students made in five areas:

- Scores on high-stakes math tests;
- Score on low-stakes math tests;
- Students' self-efficacy in math;
- Students' happiness in class;
- Students' behavior in class.

What emerged were (a) quite strong correlations between teachers' emotional support of students and classroom organization and students' self-efficacy in math, happiness in class, and classroom behavior; (b) quite strong correlations between the quality of teachers' math pedagogy and students' test scores and math self-efficacy; and (c) wide variations in different teachers' impact on students' academic versus non-academic outcomes – in other

words, some teachers were successful at getting high test scores but were less successful producing students who were happy and well-behaved in school. The social-emotional variables, needless to say, are very important to students' future success.

The researchers were also intrigued by the fact that some teachers who were effective in classroom organization had students who were well-behaved and happy in class, while other teachers with similarly high ratings in classroom organization had students who were unhappy in class. This suggests that different discipline methods affect non-academic results in very different ways. The authors describe themselves as “on the hunt” for classroom techniques that result in constructive classroom behavior *and* happy students.

What are the implications of this study? Blazar and Kraft believe their findings mean that schools should take advantage of the new ESSA accountability requirement to incorporate a nonacademic indicator that includes data on student attitudes and behaviors. This, they say, “could serve as a strong signal that schools and educators should value and attend to developing these skills in the classroom.” However, they caution against attaching high stakes to those non-academic data because (a) the science of measuring students' attitudes is not highly developed, and (b) high stakes can distort and possibly corrupt the process.

Blazar and Kraft say their findings also have implications for teacher training and the stage in the K-8 sequence where math departmentalization should be introduced. A final observation: they believe classroom observations and subsequent rubric-scoring of teachers should contain all the rubric elements to provide data for coaching and professional development. Presenting teacher ratings as domain averages or numerical composites “oversimplifies the complex nature of teaching,” say the authors. “For example, a teacher who excels at developing students' math content knowledge but struggles to promote joy in learning or students' own self-efficacy in math is a very different teacher than one who is middling across all three measures. Looking at these two teachers' composite scores would suggest they are similarly effective. A single overall evaluation score lends itself to a systematized process for making binary decisions such as whether to grant teacher tenure, but such decisions would be better informed by recognizing and considering the full complexity of classroom practice.”

“Teacher and Teaching Effects on Students' Attitudes and Behaviors” by David Blazar and Matthew Kraft in *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, March 2017 (Vol. 39. #1, p. 146-170), <http://bit.ly/2lgpFmV>; the authors can be reached at [david\\_blazar@gse.harvard.edu](mailto:david_blazar@gse.harvard.edu) and [mkraft@brown.edu](mailto:mkraft@brown.edu).

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Be sure to notify the designated person at your school if you have calendar information that should be added to your website calendar.

***Thank you so much for your effort and commitment to children. If you have questions about any of the information contained in this issue of The MoCo Monday Minute, please contact me at [matthew.thompson@montgomery.kyschools.us](mailto:matthew.thompson@montgomery.kyschools.us).***