What is MCCS VISION QUEST?
35 families and staff members attended the first MCCS Vision Quest on December 13. A TED TALK by Dave Eggers called “Once upon a school” kicked off the event to help everyone get in the mood for thinking about how to engage students in learning! (2008 Ted Talk Prize for 1,160, 342 views). After this, participants moved from station to station to view as many as 50 innovative education ideas visible in video and/or article format. A large yellow sheet of paper covered the tables in the middle of the multi-purpose room inviting delegates to add questions and comments. On the Monday (December 15th) students in grades 3 to 5 were invited to view share their ideas. The adults and students were all given sticker dots to place on the ideas they liked the most. This rough data was gathered and analyzed to develop the MSSC Vision survey (distributed January 2015).

RESULTS of VISION SURVEY
The following % of respondents indicated they would like to see the following happen in the 2015-2016 year and beyond:

- Character Education – 60%
- Project Based Learning – 70%
- STEAM Programming – 79%
- Digital Citizenship – 56%
- Career-Based Experiences – 45%
- Environmental Stewards – 46%
- Play and Imagination -70%
- Chess – 51%
- Second Language Learning – 90%
- Daily Physical Education -84%
- 6th Grade – 63%
- Pre-Kindergarten – 12%
- Extended Day – 29%

Many thanks to Kevin Hazard and all who helped make this event a success!
**CLASSROOM SERVICE ASSEMBLIES**

Look at Ms. Browning’s Green Grasshoppers Random Acts of Kindness Assembly in January

Our Grade 3-5 students and parents will be creating their own science fair stories to share on Leo Night – Quarter 3. We can’t wait to see what our family scientists will discover!!!! K-2 Family Project - Make your own habitat!

**My Science Fair Story!!!**

When I was in high school I entered the local Sarnia Science Fair. I came in 2nd with a project called: “Does Listerine Really Kill Bad Breath?” I learned how to make agar and pour it into a dozen petri dishes. We took swabs from the mouths of different teachers, and watched bacteria grow, and grow… then we put three dishes aside (as our controls). We then took a swab of Listerine and covered the bacteria in three dishes. We took two other mouthwash brands and swabs six more petri dishes full of ripe bacteria. Then we waited to see if any of mouthwashes killed bacteria. The results were very interesting. While there was no mouthwash that completely killed all the bacterial growth in all the petri dishes, Listerine did do some major damage!

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**SCIENCE FAIR SEEKS JUDGES**

The 34th annual Loudoun County Regional Science and Engineering Fair (RSEF) will be held Thursday, March 19th, at Freedom High School. This annual event involves more than 220 Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) high school students. Once again, the RSEF is seeking support from the community for judges and award sponsors. If you are willing to judge or donate an award, please register using our online registration system, available at the RSEF website listed below. Judges are needed in every category. Many judges have advanced degrees or professional experience in the categories they judge. Judges from businesses and the community, as well as retirees and volunteers who have scientific expertise, are welcome. For online registration and more information about participating in the 2015 Loudoun Regional Science & Engineering Fair, please visit [http://www.lcps.org/rsef](http://www.lcps.org/rsef).

Ms. Wood’s class shared some good rules of citizenship including their plans for raising donations for the Middleburg Humane Foundation during our February Assembly.

**MORE SERVICE FOR MCCS!**

We’d also like to thanks Katie Turner for orchestrating a wondering tribute to Amy Pannebianco. The school is asking families to consider making donations in the form of doggy beds be collected to support the local German Shepherd Rescue group. Chief AJ is aware that there will be a tree planted by the community at our school on Arbor Day to honor Amy, but the doggy beds would be a a warm surprise. Several representatives from the GS rescue will be on hand on April 25th! Fliers will be sent home with more details – but thank you Katie and everyone who gets involved. We’ll try and have a weekly count to get everyone excited about our school-wide project.

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**The Magic of Ms. Thaler’s Art Class**
Thank you to everyone that attended the PTO General Meeting on January 13. The energy, dynamism and involvement of the families at MCCS make our experience here like none other. Heads up that there will only be one more PTO General Meeting before the end of the year where your PTO Board for next school year 2015-2016 will be announced. This is an incredible opportunity to be part of a vibrant and dedicated PTO that supports and supplements activities and education for all of our kids. Be sure to throw your name in the hat. Nominations for the PTO Board positions will be opening up in March.

In January the MCCS After School Activities transitioned over to the PTO. HUGE shout out to Kami Cleary for the incredible research, follow up and scheduling she did to make such a variety of programming available for our kids after school. Also thank you to all the families for signing up. Officially, the After School Enrichment Activities (ASEA) began last week, and will run until the second week of March (snow days will be made up). We plan on offering another ASEA program from April to June during Q4. So gear up for lots of fun and variety…!

We’ve Got Spirit!! Yes WE DO!!! Our “there and back again, a ‘Spirit Chair’s’ tale” – Yvette Jacobs Millard is our Committee Chair one more time. New spirit wear with our dashing new logo, also designed by Susana Calley and Michelle Myers, is being finalized right now. You will see order forms in mid-February, so look out for those, as the orders will be accepted only for a LIMITED TIME! Our vendor, Cheers Sports, will be fulfilling these and sending them to school so there is no excess inventory, waste or confusion.

As we had hoped, the success of Breakfast With Santa, being the biggest fundraiser of the year, now enables the PTO to provide supplemental enrichment and educational programs and field trips for our students. We are looking forward to our K-2 field trip to Washington D.C. and our 3-5 field trip to Richmond. Both field trips are planned for the end of February. Also coming up are Leonardo’s birthday celebration on April 15 and a health and fitness assembly on May 7.

The PTO Gratitude Committee is on a roll with their “Teacher Tuesdays”. Their January’s Chili luncheon was a huge hit on 1/13/15. Thank you Teresa Weis, Chair, and the rest of the Gratitude Committee for doing such a fabulous job. These luncheons would not be successful without the contributions of the parents bringing in the actual food!! So thanks folks – you all ROCK!!

Important Reminders:
* Next "Teacher Tuesday" is soup and salad luncheon on 2/10/15 hosted by Ms. Skelly's class.
* Our next Leo Talk "Parenting in the Digital Age" is on February 24, 2015 @ MCCS. Our speaker will be Mike Foosaner, Board Member of The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Babysitting will be provided for $5.
* The next LEAP meeting is on 2/11 on "Joint MSAAC School Board Town Hall" at the LCPS Admin building in Ashburn.
* Deadline for Box Tops for this school year is in March. So please keep collecting Box Tops for Education and turn into Ellyn Miller.
* The MCCS Variety Show is tentatively scheduled for May 15th. Contact Staci LaRue if you would like to be involved.
* The Country & Western Dance is tentatively scheduled for Friday June 5th. Contact Blythe Shippie if you would like to be involved.
* Yearbooks will be available near the end of the year. Contact Mark Pomeroy or Shannon dePrado if you would like to be involved.
* The MCCS PTO EIN (Tax ID#) is 47-1349316. E-mail receipts for any donations will be sent out over the next couple of weeks summarizing your contributions in 2014. If you have donated to MCCS PTO and have not received a receipt by February 15th, please contact Mark Pomeroy.

Once again, thank you to all the parents for their support and contribution. Remember YOU ARE THE PTO! Contact us at: President@MiddleburgPTO.org, VicePresident@MiddleburgPTO.org, Treasurer@MiddleburgPTO.org or Secretary@MiddleburgPTO.org. We are here to help support you - our families, teachers and above all the children at MCCS have a wonderful school year!
What a wonderful turnout for our quarter 2 Leo Night! The families were treated to an incredible strings performance. In my former school, we contracted teaching services from the National Philharmonic in DC and I can honestly say the sound produced by our grade 3-5 students was comparable to students who practiced daily! The animation added a wonderful touch to our choral numbers as well. The night ended with Mr. Pilarksi’s dance numbers. The energy and love for movement and dance was awesome! Evidence of learning filled the classrooms and hallways…
### FEBRUARY
03   11:00 Ms. Wood’s class leads assembly
10   11-1pm Teacher Tuesday (soup and salad 😊)
16   NO SCHOOL – Holiday
24   Leo Talks - Matt Foosaner (National Center of Missing and Exploited Children)

### MARCH
5     Music Assembly
9-13  Book Fair
13-15 NASA Space Camp Trip (*Contact Kelly Dillon 😊)
10   11-1pm Teacher Tuesday (sandwiches 😊)
12   Leo Night
16-27 Intersession
28-April 5 SPRING BREAK

### APRIL
6     NO SCHOOL - Professional Development Day
14   Teacher Tuesday (Brunch between 11am-1pm)
15   Leonardo DaVinci’s Birthday (*PTO Student Assembly)

### MAY
5     Jump Rope for Heart and Wellness PTO Assembly
15   Tentative Date for PTO Variety Show
25   NO SCHOOL – Holiday

### JUNE
4     Awards Assembly
11   Leo Night (6-8pm)
16   Last Day of School
17   NO SCHOOL – Professional Development Day
18   NO SCHOOL – Professional Development Day

*Please note – Dates will be subject to change. Class field trips will be added for specific classrooms and inclement weather (snow days etc.) may require the school to change events or add more days to the school year.

**Each week, demonstrate school spirit with any of these activities:**
- **Wednesday** – Workout Wednesdays – wear your sports sweaters and/or fitness clothes to salute DaVinci’s focus on the healthy body.
- **Thursday** – LeoBred Thursdays – wear something green/gold to celebrate school spirit!
- **Friday** – Fun Fridays!!! Check the website or your weekly class communication log (K-2) or agenda (grades 3-5) to see what fun theme the Student Council has set for every Friday!!!