



Director Report
May 2016

“Micro” Moment:

There is a 2nd grade girl who... struggles. She struggles socially, behaviorally, academically, etc. At her previous Micro job, she had a history of wandering off, and she hadn't gotten a particularly good employee review.

It was hiring time for our second round of businesses in Micro City, and she was one of the last students left without a job. There were a couple of crafty ventures offering her a position, but she said she wasn't interested. Our Coordinator walked throughout the building with her, trying to help her find something available that she wanted to do. Then, she pointed to the warehouse and said, "There. I want to work there." Our Coordinator did a mental "gulp." As the warehouse facilitator, she wasn't sure she wanted to take on that challenge... but thought the girl at least deserved a chance.

Well, boy did she show her! Not only did she stay on task, but she helped redirect some of the other employees. The second week on the job, she really wanted to count the cash in the register at the end of Micro (she's not a cashier, but she wanted to help out). Basic addition was a struggle for her, so she wasn't sure how accurate her total would be, but thought she could give it a try. The girl sat there, painstakingly counting out every bill until she said, "\$56!" Sure enough, there were exactly \$56 dollars in the register. She was proud, our Coordinator was proud, we were all proud! And when the Coordinator mentioned the event to her classroom teacher a few days later, the teacher told her she had been asking for extra math work in class lately. Now that's what we call success!

Upcoming/Recent Happenings at MACS:

4th grade students are currently taking the state NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program) Science test. Testing will take place the week of May 9th-13th.

Amy has received approval for the Title IIB grant which is specifically for professional development. The grant is worth approximately \$3000. As a result, Amy has registered 5

teachers, herself and Susannah for the MicroSociety Inc. Conference in Hartford, CT June 26th-28th. In the meanwhile, we are close to securing about \$9000 in Title I funding to run a Title 1 camp this summer for students who qualify. Based on criteria approved by the DOE, students who are working below grade level and are in need of some extra instruction to help close the gap will be invited to a 3 week reading and math camp at MACS. Weeks of the camp will run M-Th from August 8th- August 25th. Invitations to children that qualify will be going home shortly. Kate Dagianis and Kate Tocci will be our teachers for the program.

Summer Camps are slowly being registered for. If we do not receive 10 registrations per weekly session, we will need to cancel the camps. Families have till the end of the month to register. You can pay and find registration forms online at www.macsnh.org.

There does seem to be enough interest for an after school program next year, but not enough to run a morning program. Amy is working on registration forms to go home to current and incoming families to sign up. Once there is enough, she will hire staff. We will need 10 full-time students to run the program after school.

We are also excited to announce that we received two more anonymous donations from Fidelity Charitable totalling \$10,000 each! There are no restrictions to this grant money. So this will help go to the greatest areas of need as decided on by the board at a later date. We also received a parent donation in the amount of \$600! Thank you!!

Amy has formed a interview committee and has received almost 100 applications for open positions available in the 2016-17 school year. Interviews will occur on Wed, May 11 and Friday May 13th, second round interviews, if needed will be the following week. She hopes to have new hires wrapped up for nomination at the June board meeting.

MicroSociety Update:

Sylvia Sanchez from MicroSociety Inc. was at MACS working with staff on May 3rd-5th. Teachers had the opportunity to meet individually and in small groups around all things Micro, including learning about some more concrete ways to tie micro in during academic periods. We were also able to meet with her as a whole staff and worked on best practices for closing out Marketplace and end of the year data collection so we can start to focus on goals for next year. We look forward to her two visits to MACS in the upcoming school year!

Friends of MACS Update:

The auction at the Nashua Country Club planning is in full swing! We have over 100 donations so far. We also have 3 local bakeries entered into a contest for most aesthetically looking cake, which we will be served at the end of the night. We have games planned with prizes including an Ipad mini and a Kindle. There are also many other fun auction events such as the green and gold auction (which is like a penny can sale), silent and live auctions and a book signing. Ticket sales for the early bird special have been extended through May 13th. Families and friends can purchase tickets online at www.macsnh.org via paypal. There will also be babysitting available

at the school on the night of the event. A pizza and two movie offerings for only \$5per student.Siblings of MACS students are welcomed as long as they are 4 years of age Thank you to board member Lauren Giardina for running this event. It is hard to believe May 20th is right around the corner!

And a big congratulations to Tennille Huxley who was voted in as the Friends of MACS President for the 2016-17 school year. The committee is planning one more meeting this year in June and will be extending an invite to incoming MACS parents as well. They hope to set the school year calendar of events so families can be prepared and help on the committees initiatives!

And a HUGE thank you to all the families that made Teacher Appreciation Week so special. We had meals and goodies delivered to the school and it surely brightened everyone's day.

Building / School Budget Status

The playground equipment has been ordered! There will be a play structure, stepping stumps and balance logs as part of the package. It takes 4-5 weeks for delivery, so we are hopeful to have a playground installed by the end of the month! Thanks to Friends of MACS and all their fundraising efforts this year....it has paid off! Our landscaper will be helping with the mulch and installation of the equipment.

On Monday, May 9th, All Clean Cleaners will start cleaning the facility nightly. They will also work with Amy regarding summer projects, including stripping and waxing the floors and perhaps some painting projects.

The facilities committee has been working on getting roof quotes. We continue to have leaks throughout the building. The committee will present the quotes received for board discussion.

Thank you to Dr. Dagianis wife, Ann Dobbins, and their granddaughters who planted the wonderful flower garden and bird feeder at the main entrance. Thank you for helping make MACS a welcoming environment for all who come through the doors!

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Bottomley, Director