

# Maple Grove News

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## From the Vice-Principal

The books are piling up in the Maple Grove Library! There are three big reasons for this state of affairs: lots of books still need to be shelved, some books need to be sent to Library Services for processing, and we just purchased a whole whack of new books for our students' use! I am appealing for some help to assist me in getting the Library up and running. Hopefully, I can count on some parents to handle some tasks such as shelving returned books, shelf reading, and preparing books for shipping to Library Services. In addition to these clerical tasks, I would love for parents to get involved in the literacy aspect of the library environment.

Our literacy focus at Maple Grove is on reading for meaning and specifically, we're concentrating our efforts on teaching students to make inferences in texts. Parent volunteers will be encouraged to interact with students in the library, working on specific activities that complement the goals of our Language programs. There is also a bulletin board that is screaming for some attention! Please let me know if you think you might be interested in getting involved in any of these Library activities.

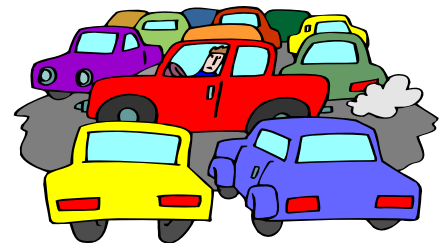
Respectfully,  
Mamie Hurd  
Vice-Principal



## Artfest Parking

A big THANK YOU to the parents and staff who came out to Vineland School to direct, and direct, and direct, and direct cars, and collect parking fees on Sunday Morning:

- Paula Couture**
- Fred Couture**
- Basia Kryzanowski**
- Sue Bijakowski**
- Lucia Presti**
- Greg Aspden**
- Paul Moyer**
- Angela Moyer**
- Art Thomas**
- Mamie Hurd**
- Lorne Gretsinger**
- Dianne Fullerton-Rintjema**



Each year Vineland School essentially donates to Maple Grove and several other area schools, the right to work the parking for Artfest, and to KEEP THE PROCEEDS. The money is used to enrich the education of our kids here at Maple Grove. The total proceeds are often over \$1000.00, so the opportunity is much appreciated.

Next year, five of the parents who regularly help with the parking will no longer be with Maple Grove, so please keep your ears open for next year's arrangements and come out to help! Another way to assist, if you cannot make it out, is to offer to call Maple Grove parents in the few weeks before, to remind them about the event, and ask if they can come out for a few hours. It's actually fun!!! (bring a coffee)

## Reminders

- Sarah's SK/1 Class to the Pumpkin Patch on the Wednesday October 21st.
- Monica Dufault in the 4/5 Class starting October 20th
- Hot Dog Day - October 28th
- Costume Parade October 30th

**Happy Halloween**

# News From the Basement

It will be an exciting couple of weeks in the basement as we have Monica Dufault, a professional actor, director, and drama instructor, working with us on a very interesting project, thanks to the Artists in Education program sponsored by the Ontario Arts Council. Monica has been at Maple Grove a few times before and we're very lucky to have her back again!

We'll also be working away at our Planet Zoo projects which are due on November 2. The detailed instructions were handed out last week; hopefully you've had a chance to look them over. We'll be working on research, paragraphing, and references (formerly known as the bibliography) in class over the next week or so. With this project, we'll be in the home stretch of the Planet Zoo unit. We'll also continue

reading, writing, comparing, ordering, and rounding numbers in Maths.

In Visual Arts, we've begun learning about Amadeo Modigliani and have started a major project based on his work. Because of the Artists in Education work, we won't get too far in it until early November, but the ball is rolling. We will also start LifeBook, albeit a little late. If you have picked up a scrapbook (see last newsletter for more details – we're looking for each student to have an 8 x 8 scrapbook), please send it in so we can get to work!

Thanks to Marjorie, Tracy, and Dianne who have offered their time as volunteers. If you are able to take on a reading group once a week, I could certainly use one or two more. Drop me a line if you'd like to offer your reading expertise!

Happy Autumn!

Jerome



## Paula's Pocket

### Grade 4/5 French

Bonjour tout le monde! We have a slightly unusual schedule over the next two weeks. I understand that a guest will be present in the 4/5 class during the fortnight. Even so, it is my intention for us to complete the unit on pronunciation and commence with a new unit of 'Mon école' or 'My school'.

I have informed the 4s and 5s of their major oral assessment for this term. It is based upon the work we have done in our pronunciation unit. During the assessment, I will ask students to read one of the paragraphs from one of the subcategories e.g. they may be asked to read their choice of paragraph from 'silent h'. They will then be asked a number of questions, in French, regarding the paragraph. The children are expected to answer in French. I have scheduled the assessments for the first week of November. Please encourage your munchkin to practice at home  
Passez deux bonnes semaines!

### Grade 2/3 Social Studies

In the next two weeks, we will examine the Festivals of Navaratri and Dussehra; Ramadan and Eed-ul-Fitr; and of course, Halloween. Only work that is not completed during the period, will be sent home for homework.

Enjoy your fortnight ahead!

### SK and Grade 1 Social Studies

We will continue to consider, scrutinize and practice strategies for coping with criticism. These next two weeks are focused on fair and unfair criticism.

Have a great couple of weeks everyone!



## What's New in Grades Three and Two

Great things are happening in the Grade 2/3 class. Pop in sometime to check out what we have been up to. Thank you to everyone who helped out with Work Day. A belated thank you to everyone who donated food and/or helped in some capacity, with our first Shared Lunch. We will have our first trip to Campden this week, for gym. The students will take the bus over on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Please remember to have your child bring running shoes that day, if they are not already at the school.

Now on to the academics...

In Art, we continue to look at the element of colour. This week, we will create Autumn scenes, looking closely at the warm and cool colours. We will then have a look at the complementary colours, and take a closer look at value. For Drama, we are identifying ways in which our voices can be used to convey thoughts and feelings when playing a role. How we use our voices is often connected to how we - or our characters - are feeling.

We will begin to study Magnets and Magnetism and how they relate to forces and movement. This past week, the students completed an experiment about gravity.

The reading assessments have finally been completed. Our guided reading groups will start in the next week or so. Our focus in Reading, continues to be on using your schema or background knowledge to make sense of what you are reading. We have enjoyed reading "Diary of a Worm," "Diary of a Spider," and "Diary of a Fly," by Doreen Cronin. When reading

these books, our focus was on distinguishing between fact and fiction and recognizing when a statement could have both elements of fact and fiction. We called that "faction." This week, your child will be bringing home a reading/writing assignment which will require him/her to research an animal and create a diary for that animal. The students have just finished writing pieces about their favourite type of bread. For this assignment the students had to add interesting and informative details to basic information about their favourite type of bread. Next, we will be creating written pieces about our favourite things about school, making sure to stay on topic.

In Media Literacy, we are looking at stereotypes. We have looked at how there are many stereotypes in Fairy Tales. The class enjoyed reading "Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude," by Kevin O'Malley. This book had a few stereotypes but also broke some stereotypes. We will now take what we know about stereotypes and examine how advertisers use stereotypes.

I hope students had fun completing their first spelling contract. The second contract will go home Wednesday evening and will be due next Monday.

In Mathematics, we are finishing up our unit on place value. We have worked on modelling 2-digit and 3-digit numbers; comparing and ordering numbers; showing a number in different ways, using base ten blocks; trading ones for tens, tens for ones, and tens for hundreds; representing numbers in standard and expanded

form; as well as recognizing the value of digits.

### Scholastic

Book orders are due on Thursday, October 29th. Please send in orders to Melissa. The previous order should arrive sometime this week. Thanks for your patience!

### Workday

Thank you so much for all those who came out to help for Work Day. We accomplished so much and the school looks amazing! Thanks also to Lorne for supplying lunch and for those who sent in snacks and drinks.

Well, I think that's enough for one newsletter. ☺ We will begin having volunteers in the classroom, this week. Thank you to those of you who expressed an interest in volunteering. Have a great week!

Sincerely,

Melissa ☺



# HALLOWE'EN CELEBRATION



On the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate Hallowe'en at Maple Grove. The children are asked to **wear regular clothes** to school in the morning and then to change into costumes after lunch. Parents and families are welcome to join us for the festivities. The kids start to get changed at 12:45 p.m. after the lunch recess.

At about 1:00 p.m. , we traditionally have a costume parade around the yard, gather in the 2/3 room for some games, sing some spooky songs, go back to our classrooms for activities and then have a shared snack at the end of the day. **This is different than a shared lunch, so your child will need to bring his/her own lunch that day.** Families are asked to send in some spooooky, nut and candy-free snacks such as fruit trays, cookies, muffins, etc.

*See you there....if you dare.... mwahh,hah hah!*

## Cross Country

The season is over and WOW, what a season it has been! Congratulations to the 11-strong team who ventured to Nelles on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Every single child should be proud of their efforts! The placings were as follows:

Atom Girls - Liv Aspden-Milligan	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Victoria Hendriks	5 <sup>th</sup>
Asia Taylor	9 <sup>th</sup>
Zoe Daca	10 <sup>th</sup>
Reese Acres	
Hailey Mercuri	
Atom Boys - Nathaniel Elzinga	6 <sup>th</sup>
Julian Sebeslav	
Peewee Boys - Will Stephenson	13 <sup>th</sup>
Carter Bertrim	25 <sup>th</sup>
Adrian Thomas	



Congratulations girls and boys! A special congratulations to Liv, Victoria and Nathaniel who competed at District. Their Places were 6th, 40th and 89th respectiely.

## Terry Fox Run

The results are in! In addition to running 1066 laps of the back field, the school has raised a total of \$ 945.30 for cancer research! Congratulations, Maple Grove! You've once again shown that a small school like ours can make a big difference!

## Campden Gym

The schedule for the next two weeks is as follows:

Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> - Grade 4/5  
Grade 2/3

Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> - Grade 4/5  
Grade SK/1

## UNICEF

Last week, your child was given a sheet to collect pledges for UNICEF. Money collected goes to help buy integral school supplies for children in Africa. If you are interested in fundraising for this worthwhile cause, please send in your forms by Friday, November 6th.

Thanks in advance for your support!

## NEWS FROM THE K/1 CLASS...

I hope you had a fantastic weekend! Thanks to everyone that came out to help beautify the Grove on Work Day! Together we can make a difference!

In literacy we are continuing our focus on the “Infer” Reading Star Strategy. We will be examining the art and literature of our Artist of the Month, **Chris van Allsburg** to practice inferring, using our imaginations, and making connections to what we already know.

In art, we have been exploring “**Value**”. Colour value is the lightness or darkness of a colour. Last week, we used charcoal to create spooky pictures that included light, medium, and dark sections. Be sure to drop by our classroom to check them out! In drama, we have been taking on roles and responding to various stories by Chris van Allsburg, like *Two Bad Ants*. You would be amazed how different the world can look from the perspective of an ant!

In math, we have been **sorting and collecting data**. We have created class graphs about our shoes, eye colours, favourite seasons, and more! This week we will be creating yes/no

survey questions and asking our friends about their preferences. We will then take the information that we collect and create graphs to show what we discovered.

It’s **science project** time! Each child has chosen his/her favourite season about which to complete a mini-project. We will be working at school on these projects, answering questions such as: What is the weather like during your chosen season? What type of clothing do people wear? What activities do you participate in at that time of year? What special holidays or celebrations take place? The children will be given lots of guidance and support while completing these projects and none of the work will need to be completed at home. When the projects are nearly complete, I will send them home so that you can look them over before they are handed in. This also provides families an opportunity to discuss the project and think about any bonus activities that they may wish to complete together. More information about the projects will be sent home soon. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to

drop me a note.

Don’t forget our trip to the **Bry-Anne Pumpkin Patch** this Wednesday afternoon. I have had an overwhelming response from parent volunteers! Thank-you! Please dress your child appropriately for the weather - pumpkin patches can be very muddy at this time of year! For those who are volunteering and wish to ride the bus with us, we will be leaving the school at 12:20 and will return by 3:00. You are also welcome to drive and meet us there.

This Thursday, we will meet our **Roots of Empathy** baby, Mya! We are very excited to get to know Mya and her mother!

On the afternoon of Friday, October 30, we will celebrate Hallowe’en at Maple Grove. The children should wear their regular clothes to school in the morning and change after lunch for the costume parade. Then at the end of the day we will have a shared snack. Please see the general news section of the newsletter for more information.

***Have a spook-tacular week!***

-Sarah

## A NOTE FROM THE LUNCH LADIES

Hello all. We have some exciting news! We wish to thank **THE PEANUT MILL** (St. Catharines) for graciously supplying the milk for the Wednesday lunches going forward. Organic white milk and chocolate milk will be the milk avail-

able. White rice or soy milk and chocolate rice or soy milk can also be ordered now. Please send a note to the school by Friday, October 23 if there are to be any changes/additions to your child/ren's milk order. Please feel

free to call Nadia Klun Stadler (905-563-5586) or Tania Mercuri (905-562-7611) with any questions you may have.

Cheers!!  
Nadia and Tania

# Discover the magic of reading aloud

For parents of students in primary and junior grades



## Reading is love

You are your child's first and most influential teacher. The parent-child relationship that begins with reading aloud can develop into a lifetime of learning together. Here are some practical tips for making it happen.

## Find a consistent time, or two

Sometimes it takes a little juggling to find

the ideal time to take that reading break with your child. Quality reading requires concentration so think about moving the reading routine to earlier in the evening. The main point is to have a routine that adult and child look forward to. Two shorter reading times could also work.

## Choose the right books together

Parents need to consider their child's interests, but they also have a role to play in choosing books. Choose books for a reason:

- Non-fiction texts build vocabulary and world knowledge
- Rhymes and poems encourage play with language
- Books with predictable patterns give young children the support they need in order to read independently
- Reading to the child just above his reading ability level helps develop reading vocabulary
- Re-reading of familiar books builds confidence
- New versions of old favourites keep the plot lines and characters fresh and interesting

What's too hard to read aloud? Any reading material that is beyond your child's emotional or social maturity level is too hard.

## Learn tricks that add drama

- Believe it or not, reading slowly can be better. Children's authors read their own work slowly and with lots of expression. Check out individual author's websites to hear this for yourself!
- Long descriptions are hard to read aloud. If you own the book, pencil out or bracket these parts and skip them.
- Use toys, food or pictures as props to help read, tell or retell the story.
- Prepare for a second reading with sticky notes beside your favourite parts.
- Sometimes give the fidgety child some paper to draw pictures about the story as you read it.
- You can 'write' yourself and your child into new versions of favourite tales and enjoy performing these together.
- Think big! Take your children beyond the words on the page into the author's world.

## Plan for a lifetime of learning

Young children learning to read on their own need lots of encouragement and benefit from repeated practice with easy books. As children mature, so can the book talks between parent and child. Reading together gives the parent and the older child a shared experience, and talking about the ideas in the book develops the mind. What began as simple language play with babies evolves into a learning connection with adolescents. Great minds don't just happen; they are carefully nurtured within close relationships.