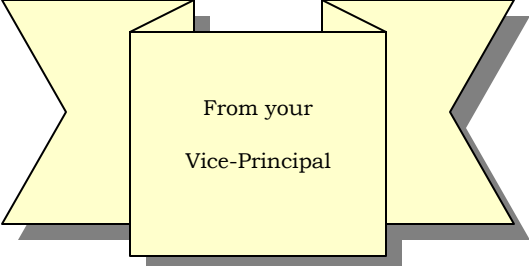


Maple Grove News!



From your
Vice-Principal

Welcome back to another school year full of opportunities for our students at Maple Grove.

We are pleased to be working alongside a very dedicated staff...Kathy, Jerome, Sarah, Melissa and Paula. This year, Lorne and I will both be involved with Maple Grove, however, I will be taking the primary role of administrator at Maple Grove. I look forward to meeting parents at the AGM and the School Council meetings and everyday in the school as we work together for student success. Please keep an eye out for the "Message from the Principal (or the Vice-Principal)" in the newsletters to keep you up to date on issues from the District School Board of Niagara or new Ministry initiatives or issues that are of particular concern to us at Maple Grove. My door is always open (and so is my email Mamie.Hurd@dsbn.edu.on.ca) and I can be reached either at Vineland School (905-562-5211) or at Maple Grove. Lorne and I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new families joining the Maple Grove School Community and we know that your partnership with us will be a very positive one.

Mamie Hurd Vice-Principal

From the office...

I would first like to say welcome back to those who are returning and a big welcome to those who are new to Maple Grove. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Mine was restful and busy at the same time. My family and I did some camping and a few day trips here and there. Still, where did the time go?

This week you will find there are LOTS of forms coming home. If you could please help me and have those filled in and returned as quickly as possible that would be much appreciated.

This year the office is taking part in a 'being green' project. We would like to distribute the newsletter via email. Below there is a space provided for you to fill in your email and family name. Please return this form by October 6th. Thank you for your cooperation.

Email address _____

Family Name _____

Sarah's K/1 class

Welcome to all the new and returning families for another exciting year in the K/1 class! I hope that everyone had a fantastic summer break! This promises to be a busy and fun-filled week as we get to know each other and the routines at Maple Grove. I will be conducting some informal assessments over the next few weeks in order to determine the level at which each child is learning. This will help me to plan activities that will be fun and challenging for the group.

In the first newsletter of each month there will be certain common elements in the K/1 section, such as the **Reading Star Strategy** of the month, **letters/**

sounds of the week, and **word wall words**. I will always include this information so that you can be involved as a family in your child's learning. I suggest that you save the newsletters so that you can refer to them throughout the month.

Each Friday, the children will be quizzed on five word wall words. We will work extensively with these words during the school week and word wall homework will be sent home each Monday, but extra practice at home can't hurt! Practising spelling, chanting, or singing the word wall words, or thinking of words that begin with the sounds of the week are all wonderful

ways that you can help your child to make connections about what we are discussing in class. We will start with word wall words next week.

Our first Reading Star Strategy for September will be "Look at the Pictures". Good readers look at the pictures to help them read and understand the text. While reading, children should be encouraged to think:

Do I see any clues in the picture?

Does this word make sense with the picture?

Why did the illustrator draw this?

<i>For the week of:</i>	SOUNDS	WORD WALL WORDS
<i>Sept. 14 - 18</i>	Ss Aa	a, as, at, sat, and
<i>Sept. 21 - 25</i>	Tt Ii	I, it, if, is, the
<i>Sept. 28 - Oct. 2</i>	Pp Nn	not, to, in, are, them

I look forward to having parent volunteers in the classroom. Your support is so important and valuable for all of the students in the classroom. If you are able to volunteer this year, please drop me a note, or let me know verbally. Some parents who have flexible schedules volunteer for one morning per week, but whenever you can is fine! It would be great if I could get a few parents who can come consistently one morning per week to help with my Guided Reading Program/Reading Groups. I often ask those parents who

can come in less frequently to pull kids out individually to read or work on high-frequency sight words. I ask that parents give us some time alone as a class before they begin volunteering so that we can get organized and get to know each other. I'll contact those parents who are able to volunteer when we're ready for you!

I know that I've said this countless times before...but...**PLEASE** be sure that **ALL** of your child's belongings are clearly labelled with his/her name. Let's try to cut down on the lost and

found items this year! It is also important that everyone has indoor shoes that live at school, even during the warmer weather. Some people choose to make their indoor shoes slippers so that there is no confusion about which pair is meant to be worn outside.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Here's to a groovy year at the Grove!

-Sarah

What's New in Grades Three and Two



Welcome back! I am looking forward to a very exciting year in the grade 2/3 classroom. This year, we have 19 students in our classroom. In grade two we have 11 students and in grade three we have 8 students. We have two new students in our class this year and they are Kayloni Anderson and Autumn Prout. Hello to Alex, Hailey, Simon, Dawnelle, Julian, Maksim, and Dana, who are returning to our class. Welcome to Hayleigh, Julia, Joshua, Kyla, Chloe, Jake, Domingo, Reuben, Isabella, and Clara, who are joining us from Sarah's class.

There are some changes in our classroom this year. Not only has the layout of our classroom changed but our schedule has been slightly altered. Instead of the usual Monday-Friday schedule we have used in the past we will now be on a ten day schedule. This is to accommodate our new Vice Principal's schedule at Maple Grove. Mamie Hurd, our new Vice Principal, will be taking Sarah's class as well as our class for Library and will be teaching in Jerome's class. We are in the final stages of setting up our timetable but once it is completed I will send home a copy for everyone. Paula will continue to take the students for Physical Education, Health and Social Studies and Jerome will teach the children Music. I will be teaching Language, Mathematics, Sci-

ence, Art, Drama and Dance, and Character Education.

In each newsletter, I will try to keep you updated with the academic program in our classroom. I will outline what we are doing in each subject area and will be highlighting some curriculum expectations as well.

For the first few weeks of September, we will be getting to know new friends and reacquainting ourselves with old friends. We will be concentrating on establishing rules and routines of the classroom. While there will be a focus on academics we really want to set the tone for the school year, in the next few weeks.

Academically, our focus will be as follows :

MATHAMATICS

For the first term we will be working on Number Sense and Numeration, Patterning and Algebra and Data Management.

LANGUAGE

Our Language plans this year will include the 6+1 Traits of Writing, Text Forms in Reading and Writing, Working with Words, and the Star Strategies for Reading. Each month we will focus on one or two sections of each of the categories listed above. Reading assessments will take place closer to the end of September. Our Guided Reading groups will begin once the reading assessments have taken place. We will also be focusing on Oral Communication and Media Literacy.

SCIENCE

During the first term, we will study Forces Causing Movement.

ART

We will be studying a broad range of forms, genres, and styles of art this year. The elements we will be looking at are: line, shape and form, space, colour, texture, and value. The principles we will focus on are; contrast, repetition and rhythm, variety, emphasis, proportion, balance, unity and harmony, and movement. We will look to incorporate literacy, numeracy and inquiry into the Arts as well.

DRAMA AND DANCE

Students will be introduced to some of the elements, conventions, and forms of drama that will allow them to shape and communicate their thoughts, feelings, and ideas. We will explore a variety of texts and students will be able to represent their understanding in multiple ways. Throughout the year, students will participate in various dance experiences which will focus on the elements of dance, such as, body, space, time, energy, and relationship.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

There are eight traits of character that we will look at this year. They are; Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Caring, Optimism, Perseverance, Courage and Cooperation. For the month of September and October our focus will be on Responsibility. We will look at self-discipline, self-control, reliability, accountability in our choices, words and actions, and how we take care of others and the environment.



Dance and Drama

Dance and Drama

2/3's continued...

Homework

Homework is a part of school which can sometimes be challenging for both students and parents. My belief is that while homework is sometimes necessary it shouldn't take a great deal of time. Spending time with family is very important and homework should not interfere with family time. If students are unable to finish assignments in class time then the work is usually sent home. There will be other times when there will be projects and activities sent home that will reinforce concepts taught in class. Students will also have Word Wall activities on a weekly basis. These activities should not take any longer than 10-15 minutes a week. If your child is spending more than 15-20 minutes on homework in an evening, then that is too long and we will need to discuss the homework situation.

Volunteers

Volunteers are an integral part of our classroom. If you are interested in volunteering in the classroom or there are some things you could do at home, such as, cutting out materials, or creating some resources for the classroom, please let me know. We usually start having volunteers in the classroom, in October.

Agendas/Homework book

Please make sure that your child brings a binder that has a folder section, at the front/back. We use the binders to keep our agendas and the folder section keeps any notes or homework. I read the agendas on a daily basis and my hope is that you will read and sign them on a daily basis as well.

Lunches/Snacks

Please remember to send your child's lunch in reusable containers. Don't forget we are a peanut free school.

Outdoor/Indoor shoes

Your child should have a pair of indoor shoes to keep at school. I will let you know which days we have Gym, the first week back to school.

Belongings

Please label your child's belongings. We have had many items go to Lost and Found because they were not labeled.

Our Day

Our day begins promptly at **8:45 a.m.** Students are encouraged to arrive between 8:30

a.m. and 8:45 a.m. During this time we will be working on Bell work, which is an important part of your child's day. Our lunch time is **11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.** We will go outside at 3:00 p.m. and I ask that your child be picked up by **3:15 p.m.** I know there are times when it may be difficult to adhere to these timelines but in order to cause minimal disruption to our day, I ask that you try as best as possible to assist me in having your child ready to begin the school day on time.

Communication

If you ever have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at the school. You may also write a note in the agenda and I will try to respond as quickly as possible. I think it is important to keep the lines of communication open.

I hope I have not forgotten anything! I promise the next newsletter won't be as long. I'm happy about beginning the new school year and look forward to working together with you to help your child's experience in grade two or three be a successful and enjoyable one.

Sincerely, Melissa



Terry Fox Run

Once again, we will start off a new year by supporting others! Our annual Terry Fox Run will take place on the afternoon of **Friday, September 25** (three months before Christmas, might I add). This is one of the opportunities we will have to make a difference beyond our school community. Watch for more details in the next newsletter.



Jerome's News from the Basement...

Welcome to another school year at Maple Grove or, as I like to call it, another Magical Learning Adventure. (What? That doesn't work for you?) There's a lot happening at the school and in the basement this year, so we'll get the ball rolling straight away.

The year will be getting started with some organizational house-keeping types of duties, and then we'll jump into a Language mini-unit called *2 B Me*. Those who have had older siblings come through the basement may recall *What it Means to Be Me*, which has been updated and expanded to create this new mini-unit. It's a great way for me to get to know everyone better as we look at our own lives as well the lives of other young people. This will lead into some short biography writing later on.

In Mathematics, we'll kick things off with a focus on Graphing and Data Management (with a smattering of other things, like Patterning, tossed into the mix). Our first Science unit, *PlanetZoo* will also get started, with our focus being on the elements of habitats and communities. I think the class, including me, will enjoy the new spin I'm planning to put on the topic.

All of this, and *The Ember Project* (see the attached details) will undoubtedly keep us busy for the first few weeks!

If you are planning to volunteer in the 4/5 class, be sure to let me know as soon as possible with some written note. My mind seems to have lost its drainage plug these days. Let me know what days and times you are interested

in offering your talents. Volunteers often lead Reading Groups, work with small groups in Maths, or spend some time reading or working with students one-on-one. After we're settled in and organized, I'll be ready for volunteers to start.

As one final note, with no bus arriving in the morning and other changes to the schedule of things in the class, I'm urging families to work diligently to arrive ready for our 8:45 start. As many of you know, the basement is a busy place with much to accomplish each day, and ensuring that we can be productive straight away will be more important than ever.

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer and that we'll all have just as wonderful a school year! Happy September, all!

Perfectly Paula...

Welcome back to the oldies and just plain old welcome to the newbies! It looks like it is going to be a full-on, exciting time ahead. I hope you all have a wonderful and productive year with many successes!

Grade 4/5 French

We will spend the first month learning greetings, the calendar, numbers, and basic instructions. While I'm expecting the Grade 5s have these topics well-learned, revision never hurts.

New for this year is something called 'Mon dictionnaire' or my dictionary. There are common French words inside this folder. The children will be asked to illustrate the words in order to assist them with comprehension. The 4s and 5s will be expected to add and illustrate their unfamiliar words as they come across them.

There is homework for the first week, but it won't be anything too arduous. Due on Friday, the children need to complete a title page 'Français', for their main book. As well as this, they will need to do a title page for 'Mon dictionnaire'. Bonne deux semaines!

Grade 2/3 Social Studies

We commence our year with a unit on 'Traditions and Celebrations'. There are so many amazing celebrations and traditions to study, that this unit will take us through to March. As a culminating activity, the children will create their own tradition or celebration. That, however, is a quite a distance away.

Over the next two weeks, the 2s and 3s will examine what traditions and celebrations are. Each student will share specific traditions and/or celebrations special to their particular family. From there, we take a look at Labour day and the International Day of Peace. Enjoy the next fortnight!

SK and Grade 1 Social Studies

New to me this year, is SK and Grade 1 Social Studies. I'm a little nervous, so I will probably need to call upon the Grade 1s to guide me through the first week! Needless to say, I am very happy to be able to spend a little more time with the Ks and 1s this year.

To begin the year, we take a look at a unit on Relationships, Rules and Responsibilities. These are all very important factors in our

everyday lives.

Over these first few days, we examine the meaning of relationships, rules and responsibilities. What are they exactly? Where do these occur? Do they ever change, or do they stay the same forever? Once we have uncovered the mystery, we will consider, scrutinize and practice strategies for coping with criticism.

P.E

Parents, please remind your children to bring appropriate footwear for P.E. Because we do not have a gym, our P.E days are reliant on the weather and are therefore, interchangeable. Subsequently, it is advisable for the children to have their gym shoes here at all times.

Starting October (after Thanksgiving), we will all travel to Campden for gym. At Campden, children still require proper footwear. If the do not have this vital piece of equipment, they will not be able to participate in the program on that day. This is a board policy and is for the children's safety.

-Paula-

Parent Council News...

Happy first day of school!! The beginning of the school year always holds more excitement for me than the beginning of the calendar year. It's a chance for a new start and new goals. I'm anticipating a wonderful year at Maple Grove, with a new school musical to work towards, a exceptional new staff member (Mamie Hurd, our new VP) to join our other wonderful teachers, and all our kids moving on to the next level of learning. Since you've recently read my letter in the August mail out, I'll just keep this brief and say that I hope to see you all at our first big MG event, our annual meeting on **September 22 at 6:30**. Also, we will be

looking for volunteers who can work the parking lot at the Vineland craft show on **Sunday, October 11** from 9:15 to 1:15. Time to help out and then get home to get the Thanksgiving meal ready! Please let me or Kathy in the office know if you can assist on that day.

Have a great week!

Marjorie Hewitt

School Council Chair

905-563-0254

Please note, we can also be found on the web, check us out

<http://www.dsbns.edu.on.ca/Schools/Maplegrove/>

All the newsletters, calendars and council minutes can be found here, just follow the links. Please continually check the website for any changes that could be made last minute on the calendar. Thank you.

