



Maple Grove News

District School Board of Niagara

Attendance to be taken at ANNUAL AUTUMN GATHERING...

Honestly, NO. Attendance will not be taken, BUT, I encourage everyone to make it a priority to be at our ANNUAL AUTUMN GATHERING on Tuesday, September 22nd at 6:30 here at Maple Grove.

Parent, community and whole family involvement has been the cornerstone of the Maple Grove experience.

Marjorie, the whole School Council, and staff have planned to make this a very different gathering than in the past to re-ignite some of that creativity and connection to support student learning in our school. What is remarkable about this community is its desire to connect and support EVERY student. Mamie and I look forward to our roles in making these meaningful connections even more rich. What role would you like to take in our school? How do your own talents or interests connect with our students? Now is the perfect time to immerse

A Fond Farewell

Our whole community sends its thanks to Kathy Woelk for her warmth, caring, and connection to Maple Grove as our Secretary. We know that she brings Maple Grove and our children with her to her new position at Governor Simcoe Secondary School. Kathy's heart will be remembered by all.

yourself with ANY time, talent or offering.

So, I apologize for the startling headline, but if it got you to think about unimagined possibilities, I am still smiling.

Please welcome Sue Bijakowski in

the office as our interim secretary until the replacement posting process is finished.

Thank you for everything you do to make Maple Grove a magical place to learn.

Lorne (and Mamie)

A Huge Thanks! A Huge Thanks!

I would like to express my greatest appreciation to the Maple Grove community. Everyone has made me feel welcome and loved since my first day here.

I will truly miss each and everyone of you!

As Lorne said, I will bring "Maple Grove" with me, as Maple Grove will always be in my heart.

Volume 1, Issue 2

September 21, 2009

Special points of interest:

- Levy (donation) forms
- Teachers thoughts
- Annual Autumn Gathering
- Website
- Terry Fox
- September 25th Early Release Day

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NEWS FROM THE K/1 CLASS...

Wow! We're nearly through September already! Things are really hopping in the K/1 class! During our literacy time, we have been focussing on the Reading Star Strategies "**Look at the Pictures**" and "**Infer**". We have examined wordless books like "Pancakes, Pancakes" and "Changes, Changes" and have created our own stories without words. We have inferred while reading as a group and while looking at art and pictures. I am sending home the "**Look at the Pictures**" star

today. You may wish to hang the star on the wall or fridge in order to reinforce the concepts that we're working on at school. Over the course of the year I will send home all of the Reading Stars so that you can extend your child's learning at home.

In mathematics, we have extended and created patterns. We used manipulatives, crayons, instruments, and our bodies to make patterns, and have spotted patterns all around our classroom. Our next focus in math will be combinations that make

10 (e.g., 2 + 8, 3 + 7, etc). We will use number lines, 10 frames, our fingers, manipulatives, and "Rekenreks" (sort of like a mini abacus) to develop a robust understanding of the number 10.

In science, we have started a unit about Daily and Seasonal Cycles. Over the first term, we will read books, watch videos, and complete a mini project about Seasons. We have already worked in groups of 4 to create posters showing weather and activities that take place during winter, spring, summer, and fall. Be sure to check them out if you're visiting.

Mark on your calendar...

Just a head's up...I have booked a trip to **Bry-Anne Farms Pumpkin Patch** on Wednesday, October 21st in the afternoon. We will need several parent volunteers for this trip. Permission forms will be sent home in a future newsletter. Speaking of volunteers, thank-you to everyone who has expressed an interest in volunteering in the K/1 room. Let's start volunteering the week of October 5th. Ideally, I would love to have parent volunteers help out with guided reading, either by taking children out of the classroom to read individually or by leading a small reading group.



As a final note, I would like to encourage everyone, especially the families who are new to Maple Grove, to attend our **Annual Autumn Gathering** on September 22nd. It is a great time to meet other families, ask questions, and learn all about what makes the Grove the special place that it is! Hope to see you there!

Have a lovely week!

-Sarah.

What's new in Grades three and two...

We have had a great start to the new school year! The students have settled in to the routines of our classroom and are generally working well. I will send home our timetable and schedule on Tuesday or Wednesday of this week. Please remember to sign the agenda each evening and help your child remember to have indoor shoes, running shoes for Gym, and a litter less lunch. Thanks.

For the next two weeks our Word Wall words are: again, because, could, favourite, have,

into, off, people, said, they, until, very, want, and who. In the next week or so, I will be sending home some activities that will help reinforce the learning of the Word Wall words.

Our focus in Reading, this month, has been on inferring and looking at the pictures to help make sense of a text when we read. We have looked at articles in magazines to help us gather information that is obvious, in the text. This will help us become more attune with

gathering information that is obvious, in the text. This will help us become more attune with gathering information which is not so obvious and will help us in making inferences. When reading at home with your child, ask questions which will help your child infer what is happening in the story. Good inferring questions usually involve 'how' or 'why'.

In writing, we have been looking at the trait of ideas. Our focus has been on choosing a good topic which is clear, interesting and specific.





We will be looking at adding details and staying on topic, over the next few weeks. We will also be focusing on conventions.

We have been working with a hundred number chart this week, in Mathematics. We have looked at patterns and have discovered various ways the hundred number chart helps us in Math. Over the next few weeks we will be looking at number lines and learning about place value.

In Science, we watched a movie about forces. We learned that a force is a push or a pull. The students will be studying forces and movement over the next month and a half. Next week, we will watch a "Magic School House" movie about forces. We have been looking at the element of colour, in Art. We looked at the works of Piet Mondrian and created colour blocks. Our focus will be on complementary colours next week. For

Drama, we are looking at identifying and correctly using drama vocabulary. We are looking at being "out of role" and being "in role".

Thank you for supporting your child with the grade two/three program. It can be challenging at times but challenging ourselves is how we are going to grow and learn this year.

Have a great week!

Melissa

MAPLE GROVE RECOMMENDED DONATION

(Formerly Called Maple Grove Levy)

The Maple Grove Levy has long been used as an alternative to fundraising. The Levy provides a parent-friendly method of paying for incidental school expenses such as trips and other extra-curricular items that enhance the educational experience. For income tax reasons, the school council is no longer allowed to call our "levy" a Levy. The school council urges each family to contribute the recommended amount.

The recommended donation is due each year on the first day of school. This amount is \$125.00 per student, to a maximum of \$250.00 per family. The amount consists of two parts:

1. \$60 of the \$125 is used to pay for such extra-curricular things such as school trips, the musical, sports teams & equipment and club supplies.
2. \$65 of the \$125 is deposited to our charitable account. This money is used to pay for such things as gymnastics & other sports programs, the library books, playground equipment and curriculum supplies.

Payment Options

Payment may be made either in whole on the first day of school or by post-dated cheques received on the first day of school. Please note that we will accept any number of post-dated cheques so you could:

1. pay the full amount on September 8, 2009 (\$125 per student or \$250 per family)
2. pay in two equal installments, the first on September 8, 2009 and the second by post-dated cheque dated January 2, 2010 (each cheque \$62.50/student or \$125/family)
3. pay in four equal installments by cheques dated: September 8, 2009, November 1, 2009, February 1, 2010 and April 1, 2010 (each cheque \$31.50/student \$62.50/family)
4. pay in 10 equal installments by cheques dated the first of each month from September 8, 2010 through June 2010 (each cheque \$12.50/student or \$25/per family)

Alternate payment plans will certainly be considered.

Post-dated cheques are requested to avoid the time consuming and unpleasant task of reminding families that installments are due.

Cheques should be made out to Maple Grove.

Charitable Receipts

The Maple Grove Parent Council is a registered charity and can issue charitable receipts. A charitable receipt of \$65/student or \$130/family will be issued when the donation has been made. As a registered charity, The Maple Grove Parent Council can accept donations at any time and will issue receipts for all donations. Please think of Maple Grove when planning your charitable donations!

Budget and Financial Statements

The budget will be presented for approval at the Annual General Meeting in September. Financial statements are prepared on a monthly basis. The financial records can be reviewed by any member of the Maple Grove community - just ask the treasurer.





News From the Basement...

Wow! It's nearly October! Yikes!

Things are definitely underway in the 4/5 class at this point. We're working away at the *2 B Me* unit in language and will move into some "Day-in-the-Life" reading and writing as well as short biographies. In Mathematics, we are continuing to learn more about different styles of graphs and tables, as well as finding the mean, mode, and median – all ways to describe "typical". In Science, the *Planet Zoo* unit is also underway. In the next week or two, we'll be getting into the fascinating worlds of food chains and of human effects on natural habitats. In the next week or so, I'll also be spending some time talking with kids about reading, as I

get ready to kick off the Reading Group program for the year. If you've offered to volunteer (or are about to volunteer), I should be ready for you next week. I'll be sure to send a quick note home to confirm your times and days so I can plan accordingly.

Thanks to everyone who has been helping to start the kids off building the homework folder (agenda) routine. Keeping up-to-date is an important part of the Junior division and your kids will thank you in the end!

Have a wonderful week!

Jerome

Terry Fox Run

This Friday, Maple Grove will participate in the annual Terry Fox Run to help raise money for cancer research. Last year, our school raised a record-breaking \$969.99! If we can add just \$30.01 to that total, we'll reach \$1000! Not bad for a wee school like ours! Clearly we can make a difference!

Our run will take place at 11:00 am, just before everyone heads home for the early release day. Attached to the newsletter, you will find sponsorship forms so your child can speak with friends, neighbours, and family members to invite them to contribute to this important cause. Please bring these pledge sheets along with funds next Monday so we can tally everything up and submit it to the Terry Fox Foundation promptly. In addition to this, I will once again personally sponsor each student a nickel per lap of the back field.

WANTED

Jerome is looking for old, unwanted 3.5 inch floppy disks. If you're cleaning out the computer area of your home and are going to toss them into landfill, why not send them to me instead? If the disks contain sensitive information, feel free to erase/format them if you wish. In reality, they won't be getting loaded onto any computers, but will be used for a project of a very different kind as I prepare for the year's musical!





Perfectly Paula...

Grade 4/5 French

Bonjour tout le monde! During the fortnight ahead, the 4s and 5s continue with their introductory unit on 'Le calendrier'. **There is a unit quiz on Tuesday, September 29th.**

After the quiz, we will spend some time examining l' alphabet (the alphabet). For the week of September 28th to October 2nd, the children will focus on a (ah), silent s and silent h.

Passez deux bonnes semaines!

Grade 2/3 Social Studies

I must apologize to the poor wee souls in grade 2 (and their, probably, nervous parents). No, the children were not to take their Social Studies home and complete the whole book. Something that was said in passing was taken quite literally by some of the little sausages. If your child is still

working through the book at home, PLEASE STOP!

Over the next two weeks (in class), we examine the importance of Labour Day and the International Day of Peace. 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.

Have a great couple of weeks everyone!

P.E

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE help your child to remember to bring appropriate footwear to school for P.E. It isn't fun or useful for the children to sit out during the gym period.

Soccer Tournament

As I am writing this, I still have no further information about the tournament. I can only reiterate that it is an all day competition on Wednesday, 23rd of September (rain date 24th). I have no schedule, so I cannot tell you what time it begins or finishes, or when the games are. As I receive information, I will feed it to your children and send notes home. Thank you for your patience.

-Paula-



Maple Grove on the Web

<http://www.dsbn.edu.on.ca/Schools/Maplegrovel>