

Maple Grove School



Maple Grove Public School

3991 Regional Road #81 Beamsville, On. LOR1B1

905-562-5151

www.dsbnschools.org/Schools/MapleGrove

We Can Make a Difference

JANUARY 17, 2012 NEWSLETTER

FROM MR. GRETSINGER & MR. WILLMS

Happy New Year,

Welcome back! We hope each of you had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break. We just wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that students in SK, gr 3 and gr 4 are now able to register for French Immersion starting in gr. 1, gr.4 and gr. 5 next year. French Immersion for our area is hosted at the Central/Lakeview P.S. sites, depending on the number of students enrolled and which grade they are in.

We are pleased to announce the roll-out of the new Provincial Early Learning Kindergarten Program for JK/SK at Vineland/Maple Grove School for September 2012. The program will take place at the Vineland School site.

As well, Kindergarten registration begins February 2nd and we will be hosting an Open House at Vineland P.S.

Sincerely,
Lorne Gretsing
James Willms



FROM THE OFFICE

A few things I would like to mention: You may notice that when you phone Maple Grove Public School myself or Jennifer Reid will answer Vineland Public School. There are many times when I am working at Vineland Public School. I have our phones forwarded to Vineland when I am not here, in case of any family emergencies, or changes in pickups or drop-offs. I can contact Jerome and Sarah if I am not coming back to Maple Grove. If you have any questions please give me a call or email me at Tamara.Lockhart@dsbn.org.

Check out our website! It is up to date and you can get all the school information that you need there. Calendar, Newsletters, and any forms that are due can be printed off. Also, this is a useful tool for parents and students. Under Resources you will find lots of parenting tips, website safety sites and learning resources.

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed., Jan. 11 th –	Pizza Day
Fri., Jan. 13 th –	Skating 2-3pm
Wed., Jan. 18 th –	Soup Day
Fri., Jan. 20 th –	PA Day~ No classes today
Wed. Jan. 25 th –	“Here To Hear” Carousel Players Primary Students going to Vineland 1:30pm
Wed. Jan. 25 th –	Sub Day
Fri. Jan. 27 th –	Skating 2-3pm
Mon. Jan. 30 th –	Parent Council Meeting 6:30pm

NEWS FROM DENISE

The grade 1 and 2 students have just started a mini Social Studies unit on Traditions and Celebrations. This will be fun unit considering we just finished the most exciting holiday of the year. The students will begin making a Traditions Book that will be continued throughout the rest of the year. One of the big projects in this unit will be the making of a paper quilt. Be sure to drop by and see the beautiful artwork quilt made by the grade 1 and 2 students.



The grade 3 and 4 students are continuing to work on their Urban and Rural Communities unit. Each day, the students will be looking at a different type of community, be it mining, fishing agricultural or other. To extend this work at home, you can go online to Google maps and take a look at the satellite view of different communities in Canada and try to find similarities and differences.

VACCINES AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Niagara Region Public Health is conducting an annual review of vaccination records for all elementary school children in the Niagara region. **If the vaccination information we have on file for your child is NOT complete, you will receive a letter and questionnaire from us in the mail later this month (January, 2012).**

- Please follow the instructions for reporting your child's vaccinations to us, as outlined in the letter. Various options for reporting are available.
- If your child is overdue for one or more vaccinations, you will need to make an appointment with your child's doctor to get your child vaccinated. You can also make an appointment for your child at one of Public Health's General Immunization Clinics by calling 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.
- If you are a parent/guardian not wishing to vaccinate your child, you will need to provide Niagara Region Public Health with an original legal exemption document.

Students under 18 years of age attending Ontario schools must have proof of immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella (German measles). We are required to have this information by law (*Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1990*). **Please provide us with your child's missing vaccination information by March 8, 2012 or your child may be suspended from school.**

For more information, please call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.

NEWS FROM THE K/1/2 CLASS...

The next few weeks will be exciting and busy in our classroom! We are so lucky to have a very special guest, Linda Carson visiting with us for two weeks. Linda is a former Maple Grove parent, actor, playwright, and teacher extraordinaire! She has come to our classroom to "collect stories" which we will use to create a class book for her "Firefly Project". Along the way, the kids will be immersed in language, drama, and movement activities. As a wrap up to Linda's time with us, next Thursday morning we will have a "book launch" celebration. The launch will occur between 10:45 am - 11:45 am and parents are welcome to attend! Linda will lead the festivities and the children will share some of the activities/stories they have been working on over the past two weeks.



In media studies, we will be examining the advertising on cereal boxes. If you have any cereal boxes at home, please send them in over the next week. Thanks!

In mathematics, we are working on telling time. We have created practice clocks that the children can use at home. Parents, you can help by calling attention to any other analogue clocks you may have in your house and working on recognizing hour and half hour time (for SKs and Grade Ones) and quarter hour times (for Grade Two students). Some of the students are ready to explore more specific times as well. If this is the case for your child, please challenge him/her to show times such as 10:47, 8:23, etc. on his/her practice clock.

We will not have a specific Artist of the Month for January as our arts focus is so drama/dance heavy at this time. In visual arts, we will look at printmaking over the next few weeks. If you have any clean, styrofoam trays please send them into school.

As the weather gets cold and sloppy, please ensure that your child is appropriately dressed to play for extended periods outdoors. Mittens, hats, and scarves can look extremely similar, so in order to avoid mix-ups please label every item that your child wears to school. Indoor shoes that fit well are also important. Thanks so much!



Have a super week!
-Sarah



P.A DAY FRIDAY, JANUARY 20th ~ THERE WILL BE NO CLASSES FOR STUDENTS ON THIS DAY AS STAFF WILL BE INVOLVED IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITES.

NEWS FROM THE BASEMENT

With the new year upon us, there's a lot of fresh learning taking place in the 3/4/5 class!

Sprinkled over the next two weeks, the grade threes will be completing the mid-year assessment in Reading and Writing. This is modelled after the EQAO assessment which takes place later in the year and will introduce students to the types of questions they will encounter then. At the same time, the fours and fives will complete a CASI reading task and we'll see whether our work on summarizing and "big ideas" has taken root. Elsewhere in Language, we will continue our mini-focus on apostrophes. Did you know that almost 1/3 of the class thought "she'd" meant "she did"? Talk with your children about the expanded versions of contractions we use every day.

While you're at it, ask where those spelling cards are for home practice! The kids who most consistently avoid home practise are the kids who need it most. **Think about it.** If your son or daughter is doing fine, it takes mere minutes for them to prove it with you. If your son or daughter is struggling with spelling, the practice is needed more than ever. Avoiding practice feeds a cycle of difficulty.

In Maths, we are working in the area of Geometry. To start with, we will review and refine our knowledge of two-dimensional figures. Based on some preassessment work we've done, they seem to have a good amount of background knowledge of these shapes already, which will allow us to get into some interesting work with angles and sides. We'll work on congruency and similarity (mathematical similarity, that is) in the coming days.

The grade five students wrap up their Social Studies unit, *Beaver Trails*, this week and will share their province projects with the class on Wednesday morning. Next up, one of my favourite Science units ever, all about light and sound. This is a great chance to get in there and test out how light and sound behave and to apply that scientific process in some great hands-on activities.

Finally, we're working to start the new year with a focus on character and goal-setting. We're currently zooming in on *humility* and on *gratitude*. Both of these traits aim at helping us look outward rather than inward, recognizing and appreciating both what we have and what others have to offer.

Have a wonderful January: Part II.

Jerome



Reminder: Campden Gym Days are: Thursday, January 26th, Wednesday, February 1st & Thursday, February 9th. Please make sure that your child has indoor running shoes at school for gym.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

DRESSED FOR THE WEATHER

Your children are outside for 2 fitness breaks throughout the day. Please make sure that your child comes to school warmly dressed for the winter weather! Students should have **boots, warm coats, hats, mittens, and scarves** to keep them warm during outside recess. We strongly encourage to send an extra pair of socks and mittens as they get wet playing out in the snow and don't have time to dry between breaks. Please ensure your child has clean/dry running shoes for gym days.



FLU AND COLD SEASON



The flu and cold season is upon us. Please help us to lessen the germs being spread around by having your child wash his/her hands throughout the day and by using tissues. The main way that illnesses like colds and flu are spread is from person to person in the form of coughs and sneezes. Sometimes germs also spread when a person touches surfaces like a desk or doorknob that has been in contact with someone with a cold or flu, and then touches his or her own eyes, mouth and nose before washing their hands. Viruses and bacteria can live two hours or longer on these surfaces. Stopping the spread of these germs is as easy as ***covering your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough and washing your hands often!*** If your child is not feeling well, the best place for them to be is at home getting rest and taking liquids.



THE PACK: A MUSICAL

Mark your calendars! ***The Pack*** will be performed on ***April 17, 18, and 19!*** In the meantime, we will be working on costumes, props, and sets and will need lots of help! Watch for further information about ways to help out with costumes, sets, props, after-school workshops, and more!

REPORT CARD ENVELOPES

In preparation for Term 1 Report Cards, please return your child's report card envelope to school as soon as possible.



SKATING REMINDERS



Skating will be starting this Friday, January 13th. Please ensure all students are equipped with skates and HELMETS. **Students will not be permitted on the ice without either!** If your child is not coming back to the school please advise the office in the morning. If another parent is taking your child we need written permission from yourself, otherwise the child will return on the bus. If you are picking up your child at the arena please be there by 2:45pm. Thank you for your co-operation.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS

Book order forms will come home tomorrow. Please return them by Friday if you're ordering! Happy Reading!



FAMILY LITERACY DAY

January 27, 2012 is Family Literacy Day in Canada. Family Literacy Day is a national awareness initiative created by ABC Life Literacy Canada in 1999 and held annually on January 27 to raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. More than 1.5 million Canadians have already participated in the initiative since its debut. Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development. Even just 15 minutes a day can improve a child's literacy skills dramatically, and can help a parent improve their skills as well. Read more about the importance of [family literacy](#).



*District School Board of Niagara
Expanding French Immersion for 2012*

The District School Board of Niagara is pleased to now offer French Immersion beginning at the Grade 4 level across the system. In addition, as of September 2012, we will be implementing a Grade One French Immersion Pilot at 5 locations. As well as the new grade 4 entry, Grade 5 entry will continue across the Board for the 2012-2013 school year (Grade 7 entry will continue in St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake).

Information re: entry levels and the application process is on the DSNB website www.dsbn.org. Click on the Parent Tab, under Programs, click on French and International Languages, click on French Immersion Registration. Applications for Grades 1, 4, 5 and 7 (at select schools) will be online. Application packages will also be available at your child’s school starting January 9, 2012. Further program information will be sent home with your child in January.

“The ability to communicate in French is a valuable skill, because French is **one** of Canada’s two official languages and because it is a language used widely around the world. Research confirms that knowledge of a second language strengthens first-language skills and that the ability to speak two or more languages generally enhances reasoning and problem solving skills, as well as creative-thinking skills. Learning a second language not only strengthens students’ ability to communicate, but also develops their capacity to understand and respect other cultures. In this way, second-language learning prepares students to participate more effectively in the workplace and in the global economy, and provides them with a distinct advantage in a number of careers, both in Canada and internationally.” (pg 3 of the E.F./F.I. Curriculum Document (C.D.) 2001)

Parent Information Evenings will take place during the weeks of January 30 – February 10th. If you wish to find out more details about the French Immersion program, please attend one of the Information Evenings listed below or call your school.

Central	January 30, 2012 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Alexandra	January 30, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Parliament Oak	January 31, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Dalewood	January 31, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
McKay	January 31, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Prince Philip (Niagara Falls)	February 1, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Sheridan Park	February 1, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Gordon	February 6, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Princess Elizabeth	February 6, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Oakridge	February 6, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Briardale	February 7, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Queen Mary	February 7, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
John Marshall	February 8, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Bienvenue