

Maple Grove Annual Gathering
September 22nd, 2009

Call to order – 6:30 pm

Those in attendance gathered in the K/1 room for snacks and drinks beforehand.

Chair Marjorie Hewitt began the meeting by introducing herself, and then asked each person to introduce his or herself in turn. Marjorie explained that, if they wish, people may add further information about how the family came to choose Maple Grove.

Nancy Christie: Guest speaker and former Maple Grove parent of five, Nancy Christie, spoke to the gathering about how Maple Grove's tradition of family involvement has enriched the lives of her and her children. She explained that the opportunity to be involved in child's education is not only rare, but also invaluable. Marjorie presented Nancy with a gift of flowers to thank her on behalf of the school.

Lorne Gretsinger: Lorne spoke about his experience when he first arrived at Maple Grove, and how he has come to understand and value its uniqueness. He explained that Maple Grove is rich with tradition and encouraged those in attendance to look at the archives that were consolidated for last year's 175th Anniversary. Lorne closed by offering that he and Vice Principal Mamie Hurd have an open door policy and welcomes any dialogue from the Maple Grove community.

Tracy Mumford: Tracy, Maple Grove's treasurer explained the recommended donation (formerly the levy) and added that this year there is less money because there are less students. Tracy will print out a statement explaining where the levy money goes. It will be in the office for anyone to view.

Jerome Black: Jerome showed the gathering a humorous PowerPoint presentation outlining the following:

- Ways of volunteering
- Introduction of Paula, as the French Teacher, Gym teacher and Librarian. In the past, parents have organized sports teams during lunch time. (yoga, dance)
- Introduction of Melissa, 2/3 teacher. Parents may get involved by helping in Melissa's class with the All Star Reading Program.
- Holiday Electives (formerly clubs). Parents may choose a special activity to lead children in one day during the Christmas season.
- Work Day, a Maple Grove community tradition, is to be held October 17th.
- Shared Lunch (to be October 8th) was explained as a potluck lunch. Parents are needed to organize, clean up. Parents need to be careful and remember nut allergies.
- The presentation ended with a discussion about the school play that Jerome is working on. A PowerPoint presentation was shown giving hints about the content, and the name was revealed: "Gifts". Jerome also outlined ways in which parents can get involved in the play (set construction, costumes etc).

Janey Schellenberg: Janey briefly explained the wonderful work that she and Janice Keca have done with the green team for a ½ hour every Monday morning for the last few years. A group of children joined together on a rotating basis and, with Janice and Janey, brainstormed ways to promote environmental awareness. Because Janice's family has moved on from Maple Grove, Janey is in need of a Green Team partner.

Marjorie Hewitt: Marjorie explained that there are 8 positions on Maple Grove's parent council. One position has yet to be filled. Meetings are held once a month usually on a mutually convenient evening, held at a member's home on a rotating basis.

Marjorie also explained that Maple Grove has a candy-free lunch rule.

Nadia: Nadia spoke about the work that she and Tania have done for lunch days last year, and will continue with this year. Lunch days will be held every 2nd and fourth Wednesday of the month. Subs, hot dogs, and spaghetti may be on the menu, and some new meals will be tried this year (homemade soup). Order forms will be sent home each time there is a choice of meals. Standing orders are welcome. Receipts will be given to each child who hands in an order form so that parents know that the order was received.

* A parent suggested having the cleaning staff wipe down all common surfaces (door knobs etc) with a disinfectant in order to help control the spread of H1N1. Lorne agreed to look into this.

The door prize (\$125.00 toward the levy) was drawn.

Adjourn: 7:25 p.m.