

Maple Grove

November 14, 2011

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Parent Council Meeting Monday, Nov. 14th at 6:30pm. It will take place at Karen Muhl's house.



Greetings,

We are moving quickly through November. Hard to believe we are preparing for the winter! I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that the progress reports are coming home Tuesday this week. We are hoping each of you will come for an interview and meet with the teaching staff at Maple Grove to talk about your child's progress. Please contact the school to arrange an appointment.

Sincerely,

James Willms

Parent engagement matters. Study after study has shown that student achievement improves when parents play an active role in their children's education, and that good schools become even better schools when parents are involved. It is recognized that parent engagement is a key factor in the enhancement of student achievement and well-being.

Students are more likely to be motivated, to earn higher grades, to have better behaviour and social skills, and to continue their education to a higher level when their parents are actively engaged in supporting their success at school.

It is equally important to recognize that parent involvement takes many forms.

- Serving on school councils and Parent Involvement Committees (PICs)
- Volunteering for field trips and school activities
- Making sure there is a quiet place set aside to do homework
- Helping with the homework
- Meeting with the teachers
- Talking to your child about their day at school.



Scholastic Book Orders



You'll notice the book order forms coming home today. Orders are due no later than next Monday so we can be sure everything will be here in plenty of time for the holidays. Perhaps a little holiday reading is in order! Always remember to check the Ontario price column when ordering. Happy reading!

Dates to Remember:

- ◆ Nov. 15th— Progress Reports go home
- ◆ Nov. 16th, Nov. 22nd & Nov. 30th—Gym Days
- ◆ Nov. 23rd—Pizza Day & Parent/Teacher Interviews after school



Science with Denise

100 Popcorn Party Points! They Did It!

Each day, when the children come to science or health class, they have the opportunity to earn popcorn party points. These points are earned by individual and group efforts such as completing assignments quietly, displaying great effort during seat work and excellent behavior during instruction. Once the points are earned, they cannot be taken away. The classes have been earning the points since September and I am proud to say that both classes have finally earned 100 points. So now what? It's party time! Popcorn! Drinks! A Science Movie! Oh the fun! Bravo kids! I am so proud of you!



So what are we studying this week in Science and Social Studies?

The grades 1/2 students have finished the Air, Temperature and Water unit and are beginning a Social Studies Unit on Communities. Last week they were working on making maps... pirate treasure maps... bedroom maps ... classroom maps. If you



want some fun at home, make a map of your home and hide a treasure with an X marking the spot of the treasure. Use a compass rose to help find your way around the map. This week we started learning about community helpers. I am hoping that a few parents with interesting jobs will be able to come talk to the kids during the week of November 21-25. You don't need to be a parent of a grade 1/2 student. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to come and talk, please fill out the form at the end of the page. Thank you.

The grades 3/4 students are working on research projects on *Endangered Animals*. A note went home last week and the projects are due on Monday November 21. Presentations can be in any format, (oral, video, 3D, written) so be creative. While time is provided at school, children will need to work at home to complete it. I encourage you to help your child, but please remember that we want the children to do the project. It should look like a child did it. That means that you can guide your child but please don't do the project for them. Each child has an evaluation page to help them understand what is required to get high marks. Please review it with them before handing in the project on Monday.

Thank you.

Scholastic Book Orders

Please don't forget that these are due Monday, November 21st



COMMUNITY HELPER VISIT FORM

I would like to come in and talk to the grade 1/2 class about my job in the community. I will be prepared to answer questions such as

- Where do you work?
- Who helps you do your job?
- What tools do you need for your job? (bring some tools if you can)
- When are you busiest?
- Why did you choose this job?
- ...and many more questions.

Please check off all the times you are available. I will send you an email to confirm which time slot we would like you to come in.

Mon. Nov. 21 from 1.30-2.15

Wed. Nov. 23 from 2.15 - 3.00

Thurs. Nov. 24 from 2.15 - 3.00

Fri. Nov. 25 from 2.15 - 3.00

I can't come at one of the above times but I can come on _____ from _____.

Parent Name: _____

Email Address: _____

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

Our Fairy Tale unit is well underway! Hopefully your child has been coming home and talking about all of the wonderful tales and retellings we've explored in class! In order to wrap up our unit, the Grade 1 and 2 students will be completing a Fairy Tale Project. They are required to choose one favourite fairy tale for the project. At school, we will complete information pages about the characters, setting, problem, and solution. At home, your child completes the "bonus work". This is a chance for your child to show his/her learning in a creative and motivational way.

Some ideas we came up with as a class for bonus projects include:

- make a diorama showing where the fairy tale takes place

- write a retelling of your fairy tale

- make a "Wanted" poster for the evil character

- write a song/poem

- paint a picture

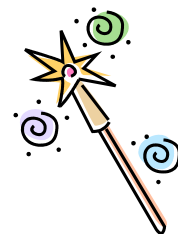
- create a survey

The Grade Ones must complete at least one extra activity, the grade twos should complete at least two. Please note that your child is not limited to 1 or 2, but remember that two carefully completed, quality pieces are better than multiple pieces that are quickly thrown together. The assessment criteria as well as the work that has been completed in class will come home before being submitted to me so that you can look it over as a family. The projects will be our main

focus over the next few weeks. A final due date will be sent home soon.

Please note that the SK students are not required to complete a project to be graded. However, if your child is excited about completing some bonus work about their favourite fairy tale at home, please feel free to send it in for sharing! :)

If you have any questions about the project, please make a note in your child's agenda or catch me before/after school. Thanks in advance for your support!



In mathematics...

In mathematics, we have been focusing on various ways to make 10. Thanks to the Mumford clan, we are now able to run "Math Groups" on Thursday mornings where students can receive extra attention at their skill level. Last week, some children were working on addition facts to ten, while others worked into the hundreds and thousands while exploring place value concepts (e.g., 2 hundreds + 7 tens + 8 ones = 278).

In Art....

Our Artists of the Month for November will be Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven. This famous group of artists focused on capturing the beauty of the landscapes of the Canadian north. We will be trying our hand at outdoor sketching (weather permitting) and painting landscapes this month.



Just a reminder to continue to sign and return the agendas each day. This really helps your child to develop a sense of responsibility and is an important communication tool between home and school. Also, if your child's indoor shoes no longer fit, it may be time for a new pair. The wet, slushy season is upon us and we must all have dry, warm shoes for indoor time.

Have a wonderful week!

NEWS FROM THE BASEMENT...

If there was any doubt that fall had arrived, it's gone out the window! Please be sure that your whippet is ready for the unpredictable and cool weather each day.

I'll pass things over to Jamilynn, our great new student teacher, to update you on things in our class.

I would like to take this time to introduce myself to you. My name is Jamilynn Knelsen. I have already had the privilege of meeting some of you but not all. I have been participating in your child's 3/4/5 classroom as a Teacher Candidate for the past two weeks and will continue until the middle of December. I am a Teacher Candidate in the Teacher Education program at Niagara University and am working towards my Masters of Science in Education degree. I began working alongside Jerome **on** October 26th of this year. **During** my first couple **of** weeks **at** Maple Grove, I spent my time observing classroom procedures and routines, as well as **getting acquainted** with the children. This past week I have had the opportunity to step into the shoes of the teacher. I will be teaching your child a magical language arts unit on Fairy Tales, a math unit on Number Sense and Numeration, and a Social Science unit on Canada to the grade five students.

In the Fairy Tale unit we have already examined the elements of a fairy tale story, and have written letters **from the perspective** of a fairy tale character. We will move forward with our unit and **introduce** other forms of creative writing tasks.

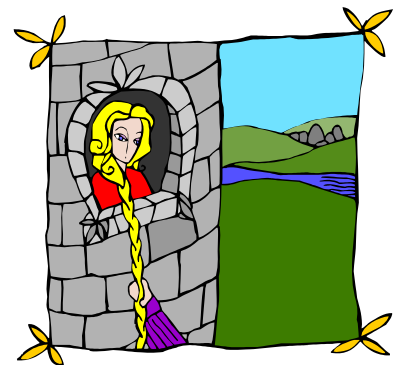
In Math we are just polishing **up** our addition strategies and will be moving **forward** with subtraction, and then multiplication. The number sense and numeration unit will also **involve** working with addition and subtraction of decimals using money. You **could assist your child by having him/her** practise at home using actual money.

With the grade fives we **have** just started our unit on Canada. We have learned our Provinces, Territories and Capital Cities. We have just **begun** short, individual research projects **about** the regions of Canada, each student being assigned a different region. They will be sharing their **research knowledge** with their peers by presenting their **projects**.

Jerome will be supervising my teaching throughout my time here, and will be helping me along as I plan, develop and carry out activities and lessons that are effective. He has arranged everything so that I will be gradually teaching more with each successive week. In the coming weeks, I hope to teach a variety of different subjects and topics to your child to help prepare me, as much as possible, for the career **path** I have chosen.

Please feel free to contact me or visit me at the school if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with your child throughout the coming weeks.

Sincerely,
Jamilynn



M&M MEAT SHOPS

&

Maple Grove School

Invite you to a Special Shop Day

Where: 36 Main St. Grimsby

When: Monday, November 21, 2011

Between 9:00 a.m 8:00 p.m

Maple Grove School will receive a 10% rebate
on the total purchases made during this special day.

Additional Special Bonus Offer

Meatballs (1lb size)

With this invitation & a minimum \$40 purchase

Feel free to share this special invitation with family, friends & neighbours

Green Team wants a green Christmas!

Over the next six monday mornings we will be working with a different group each week (instead of the same six kids for three weeks in a row) so that everyone has an opportunity to create their own environmentally friendly gift bag. Your child(ren) can bring whatever they want to decorate their own fabric bag. We will have lots of our own stuff on hand, but it's a great opportunity to collect old buttons, ribbon or jewellery and have them bring it in. We start this monday with our first group, but bring items in whenever you want. We'll have a bin in the library. Be sure to mark your child's name on anything they are to use specifically.

Thanks!

Katie and Laura

