

Maple Grove School



We Can Make a Difference

Maple Grove Public School  
3991 Regional Road #81  
Beamsville, On. L0R1B1  
905-562-5151  
[www.dsbns.org/Schools/MapleGrove](http://www.dsbns.org/Schools/MapleGrove)



## NOVEMBER 29, 2011 NEWSLETTER

### **From the office....**

I would like to thank the staff and families for a very warm welcome to Maple Grove. I am very lucky to be at such a wonderful school. I am looking forward to a wonderful holiday season and all the traditions that Maple Grove has. Please look for more information coming home about the Community Care Collection and the Holiday Gathering.

~ Tamara



### **Upcoming Dates to Remember**

Dec.6-9<sup>th</sup> Community Care Donations

Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>- Sub Day

Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>- Holiday Electives 9-11:30am, Holiday Gathering 6:30pm

Dec.21<sup>st</sup> – Pizza Day

Dec.22<sup>nd</sup>- Holiday Electives 9-11:30am

Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Last Day of School, Shared Lunch, Secret Santa Exchange



## **Maple Grove's traditional Holiday Electives! aka Clubs..**

On Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will run Holiday Electives (previously known as clubs) in the mornings. These mornings provide a chance for students to choose fun activities and for parents to come in and share some time with students, leading an activity. In the past, we've had parents make crafts and small gifts, lead outdoor games, give mini-lessons in dance, make cards, and many other activities. If you are willing and able to lead an activity, please complete the attached form and return it by Friday, December 9. This will allow us to organize the groups, sign children up, and notify leaders of their numbers. Please complete the form even if you indicated your interest in leading a group at September's AGM! The more volunteers we have, the more options students will have to celebrate the upcoming holidays!



## **Collection for Community Care**

Maple Grove will be participating again this year in collecting highly needed items for the families in our community that are less fortunate. It is the time of year to give—let's pull together and show them how much we care! We will be collecting items throughout the week of December 5<sup>th</sup>. Similar to last year, we will have themed days to help you come up with ideas on what to bring in. Below is simply a guideline you can follow for ideas, feel free to bring in what you chose!

### **Item Schedule:**

**Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> "MACARONI MONDAY"** (anything pertaining to pasta meal—spaghetti sauce, macaroni, spaghetti, spices etc...)



**Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> "TOY TUESDAY"** (it doesn't have to be an expensive toy— unused toys for any age group)



**Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> "WASH IT UP WEDNESDAY"** (personal items we are told are highly needed—shampoo, conditioner; laundry soap, disinfectant, towels, dish cloths)

**Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> "THIRSTY THURSDAY"** (Juice Boxes, baby formula, bottled water)

**Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> "FREEZING FRIDAY"** (socks, mittens, hats, scarves, coats, sweaters)



## **Holiday Gathering**



Our Holiday Gathering will be held on Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. More information will follow in our next newsletter.

## News from the Basement.....



It's so hard to believe that we're heading into December already! Things are hectic in our class, but there's a lot of exciting learning going on. Many parents expressed appreciation for that note that came home last week in agendas about Math and Spelling. I appreciate everyone who's putting in just ten or twenty minutes each night to help their whippets gain skill and confidence in these areas. This week's spelling unit is Unit 9, and then next week's Unit 10 will be a review of the spelling patterns and rules we've addressed so far in Units 1 to 9. The "Lemon Group", in particular, has been doing a lot around dropping the silent e (when making *rake* into *raking*, for example) and when to double the consonant (when making *slip* into *slipping*, for example).

Jamillynn has been leading the class through a wonderful unit about Fairy Tales and students have been working hard to become experts on a folk or fairy tale and are currently creating a cool diorama project which is due on Friday. The teamwork has been wonderful to see as partners work to describe the elements of narrative (characters, plot, and setting) and to choose an important scene to show inside their dioramas. We'll be sure to keep them for a few days in a classroom gallery once they're done, so feel free to drop in and take a look when you're around the school early next week.

In Mathematics, we're continuing to explore addition and subtraction strategies. Many students have become much more comfortable using "up-and-down" methods and also using mental math strategies. Knowing how to solve different types of problems by choosing an appropriate strategy (or strategies, in some cases) has been quite interesting and challenging. What's the use of knowing how to add or subtract if you never know when to use them?

The grade fives have been working with Jamillynn on their unit about Canada, *Beaver Trails*, and are currently working on posters about the trade between regions of the country. Soon they will start becoming an expert about a specific province or territory. Which provinces are of interest to your young Canadian?



As we head into the holiday season, we'll work towards our performance for the holiday gathering and will start to sneak some holiday spirit into the day, as well. Elsewhere in the newsletter, you'll find information about some of our Maple Grove traditions, like Holiday Electives (a.k.a. Clubs) and the Secret Santa exchange. Remember that these Secret Santa gifts are small thoughtful gifts to celebrate our class and the season, not a pair of diamond earrings or a sports car. It truly is the thought that counts, so be sure to include your young Santa in choosing something to give.

Happy December!

Jerome (and Jamillynn)



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

Well, our Fairy Tale Ball is fast approaching! If you can, please join us for the festivities on Wednesday, November 30th from 10:30 to 11:45. Families are more than welcome! The grade two students will be performing a retelling of their chosen Fairy Tale and we will have yummy snacks as well! Grown-ups please feel free to wear your ball gowns and crowns too, if the mood strikes you! :)

The Fairy Tale projects for the 1/2 students will be coming home for the week. **Please ensure that they are returned to school on Friday, December 2nd.** *I will not assign any word wall homework that week, so that the children will have ample time to work on their projects and retellings.* I have included the rubric that I will be using for assessment. It is bright green - you can't miss it. Please encourage your child to check over his/her work and strive for level three or four work. As a class, we have talked extensively about what level 4 work looks like. Also, if any of the pages are incomplete or need to be redone, please ask for a new sheet. Please remember that grade one students are expected to complete at least one extra activity, while grade twos will do at least two. I can't wait to see what everyone comes up with! The bonus work I've seen already is absolutely fantastic!

**In mathematics**, we have started to look at patterning. The Ks and 1s are building patterns with manipulatives. They are learning to recognize the core and label patterns. The grade twos (with a few 1s) are working on number patterns and recognizing patterns when adding. Please continue to work on addition/subtraction facts at home. Our "Mad 5 Minutes" will continue...some kids are getting really quick with their facts!

**In art**, we had fun sketching outdoors and have used watercolour paints to capture landscapes. We have also created landscapes with pastels. Our focus on the Group of Seven will continue throughout the rest of November. December will be a very busy month, so we will not have a new artist until the new year.

Have a wonderful week!

-Sarah



## **Grade 4/5 French**

Bonjour,

In French, we have been learning the parts of the body (les parties du corps), animals (les animaux), the verbs to be (être) and to have (avoir), colours and adjectives. With the vocabulary, verbs and adjectives learned, students now have the ability to form complete sentences (Je suis un lapin blanc. J'ai deux oreilles longs.) With this knowledge and their creativity, they are creating puppet plays. I am excited to see their enthusiasm, as well as, their ability to apply all the French they have learned in the past few months. I am looking forward to seeing the final presentations.

As you know, I will no longer be teaching the French at Maple Grove, but I'll find a way to come and view the final presentations.

I have enjoyed my short time at Maple Grove and will continue to be part of the community. Can't wait to see the production, The Pack!!

Thank you for all your support and making me feels so welcome.

I will miss the students greatly but promise to visit whenever I can.

Sincerely,

Tonia

## **NEWS FROM DENISE...**

### **SPIRIT DAYS ARE HERE**

To help build school spirit, we are planning a series of Spirit Days where children get to "buy out" of class and join in for some fun and raise money for a great cause. This year all money raised from our spirit days will go towards the SPREAD THE NET campaign. This campaign is a yearly highlight on the Rick Mercer Report TV show. Rick challenges schools from all across Canada to fundraise to help buy bug nets for families in Africa, which in turn saves the lives of many children and their families. For each \$10 raised, one family is given a bug net.

### **WHAT ARE BED NETS?**

Since malaria carrying mosquitoes bite at night while families are sleeping, insecticide-treated bed nets are the most effective and inexpensive way to prevent transmission of malaria.

Not only do they provide a physical barrier to mosquitoes, reducing the chances of being bitten, the bed nets are treated with insecticide so the mosquitoes are killed on contact.

The use of these nets has been shown to reduce mortality in children under the age of five by up to 25 per cent. One bed net can protect an African child for up to five years. Thousands of lives could be saved every year if all children under the age of five in Africa slept under a bed net. To read more about how this campaign has saved lives you may visit: [www.spreadthenet.org](http://www.spreadthenet.org)



### **OUR FIRST SPIRIT DAY**

Our first Spirit day will be held on the last Friday, December 23rd, in the afternoon. Children are invited to dress up in their most festive / red-green / Christmas attire. For a donation of a loonie or toonie, kids can spend the afternoon eating popcorn and watching a fun movie. For families wishing to donate more than a loonie or toonie, they can send in the cash or go to [www.spreadthenet.org](http://www.spreadthenet.org) and sponsor our school. Receipts will be given for donations of \$10.00 or more.



### **Secret Santa Exchange ....Shhh**



Your child will be bringing home the name of a classmate for a "Secret Santa Exchange" that will be held in the morning of Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. This means that your child should buy this classmate a small present costing no more than \$5.00 (check the dollar stores for ideas.) Wrap the present with the receiver's name on the package, but don't write your child's name.... remember.... It's a surprise!!

*As always, if you would rather your child not participate, please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible so that alternate arrangements can be made.*

## **ILLNESS AT SCHOOL**



To prevent the spread of germs, we encourage all children to wash their hands frequently during the school day. If your child is not feeling well in the morning, please do not send him/her to school. Normally, we call home to parents regarding an illness if a child has a fever or is throwing up. Here are some helpful guidelines to consider when deciding whether to send your child to school. It is advisable to keep your child at home if.....

- ✓ he/she has been up during the night due to illness and, as a result, has not had adequate sleep
- ✓ your child has had a fever or was throwing up the night before
- ✓ he/she has gone home from school the day before with a fever or other illness
- ✓ he/she has an unidentified rash not yet seen by a physician
- ✓ your child may pass on an illness or virus to another classmate or staff member
- ✓ your child is unable to participate in the regular activities of the day such as physical education, regular classroom assignments or outdoor recess
- ✓ your child has an untreated case of head lice or has nits remaining in his/her hair



## **EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING**

Please make sure you have an emergency plan in place, that your child is aware of, should it be necessary to close the schools for inclement weather. Here are some very important things to remember...

Listen to local radio stations for information concerning the District School Board of Niagara school closings:  
105.7 FM St. Catharines  
610 AM St. Catharines  
1120 AM St. Catharines  
CHCH TV Hamilton



- follow the **In Case of Emergency** link on the Maple Grove School website for up to date information.
- make an Emergency Action Plan with your children to ensure a common understanding for arrangements in the event that schools close early
- please do not call the school for information nor expect your child to call home. All our phone lines will be necessary as we will not dismiss a student until we have contacted either a parent or an emergency contact.
- please remember that there may be times when the DSNB cancels transportation only to schools. Unless you hear otherwise, schools will remain open when transportation is not available to students living in bussed areas.

**The final decision as to whether or not to send your children to school during severe weather conditions is ultimately yours! However, if you do choose to keep your children at home, please remember to call the school and let us know; our answering machine is on 24/7.**



## **Holiday Electives....**

Are you interested in leading a Holiday Elective? Show off your talents by facilitating a session of your choice to Maple Grove students! If you have an elective you would like to organize and participate in with a group of students please complete this form below and hand it in to the office by December 9<sup>th</sup>.

These Elective groups will be held on the mornings of Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The first session will be 9:00-10:00 and the second session 10:30-11:30 each day.

Depending on the amount of time you need for your workshop, you can chose to facilitate a double session (meaning you would keep the same group for the entire morning.)

Examples of an Elective group are: scrap booking, cooking, arts & craft, hiking, dancing, gift making, outdoor games etc...

***PLEASE RETURN THE FORM BELOW BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>. THIS WILL HELP US TO GET ALL THE GROUPS ORGANIZED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE~ THANK YOU!***



**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>- 9 am –or– 10:30 am** (circle time you wish—if you would like to run 2 separate sessions circle both individually. If you require a double session due to the length of your session make one big circle around the times.)

**Description of your Club Topic/Project:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Max. # of Children:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> - 9 am –or– 10:30 am** (circle time you wish—if you would like to run 2 separate sessions circle both individually. I you require a double session due to the length of your session make one big circle around the times.)

**Description of your Club Topic/Project:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Max # of Children:** \_\_\_\_\_



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