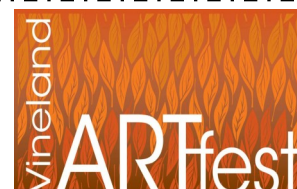


Maple Grove

October 21st, 2011

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Maple Grove Artfest Parking Team,

Thank-you to those of you who volunteered and worked as a parking team at Artfest on the Thanksgiving weekend. It is a great fundraising opportunity for our school. Lorne says, "the Maple Grove parking team application for next year is already approved" as you were very organized and had enough people to make it run smoothly. Thank-you!

James

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Maple Grove's Halloween Celebration

On the afternoon of Monday, October 31st, we will celebrate Hallowe'en at Maple Grove. The children are asked to wear regular clothes to school in the morning. Please send their costumes in a labeled bag! They will change into their costumes after lunch. Parents and families are welcome to join us for the festivities. At 1:00 p.m. we traditionally have a costume parade around the yard, gather in the assembly room for some activities, sing spooky songs, return to our classrooms for more activities and then have a shared snack at the end of the day. Children are required to bring their lunch as this is only a Shared Snack day. Families are asked to send in spooooooky, nut and candy-free snacks such as fruit trays, cookies, muffins, etc...



See you there...if you dare... mwahh, hah hah!

Science with Denise

October 21st, 2011

Scholastic Book Orders

*Please don't forget
that these are due
Tuesday,
October 26th*



Considering all the smiles I see in Science class, I think the kids are enjoying themselves quite a bit. The grades 1&2 students have moved on from studying air to water. Thanks to all the parents who helped estimate their water usage. It really helped in our discussion about water conservation. When the children noticed that a lot of water was used by showers and baths, several children suggested that they could conserve water by taking fewer baths or showers. Wow! What a great way of getting out of taking a bath. "My teacher said I have to use less water so no bath for me!"...Trust me, I told them that was not a good excuse. Maybe a shorter shower or a shallower bath, but no skipping baths to save water. This week we are studying pollution, looking at the recent oil spill of New Zealand. We will be trying to clean up mini oil spills in the classroom using a variety of materials... popcorn,

hair, straw, etc. Who knows what will work best.

In the grade 3-4 class we have continued our study of animals and their habitats. For one week, the students pretended to be expert scientists as they created new creatures to survive on the imaginary planet Gork. The task was to take a creature from Earth and make adaptations to it so it could survive on this new planet. I will post some examples of these creatures in the next newsletter. Next week we will take what we learned about adaptations and apply it to plants and animals in our own world.

-Denise-



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

Happy Hallowe'en! We will continue with our spooky-themed activities this week by creating an **"I Can Dance... Hallowe'en"** class book. We are having fun using our bodies to move like bats, pumpkins, zombies, and ghosts! In drama we'll continue to work on getting into (*and staying in*) role. Please

read the section of the newsletter regarding our festivities and shared snack scheduled for Hallowe'en day.

Reading groups and Spelling groups have been coming along nicely. Thank-you once again to my dedicated volunteers. Please let me know as soon as possible if you will

not be able to attend on your scheduled day. We really do depend on you. Elly has been joining us on Wednesday mornings to help with the individualized **"Raz-Kids"** on-line reading program. Please feel free to log-on at home for some extra practice!

In mathematics...

We have been working on learning our **doubles facts** (e.g., $1+1$, $2+2$, $3+3$, etc. to $12+12$). When doubles facts can be automatically recalled, kids can use them to help solve other addition problems efficiently. For example, when asked $8+9$, one could think of it as $8+8$ and then 1 more. Parents, please help your children to master these facts. You could practice in the car, before bed, across the dinner table, whenever you have a spare minute. You'll be surprised at the results! Next, we will be looking at different ways to compose and decompose numbers. In particular, we will be examining ways to make 10 (e.g., $1+9$, $2+8$, $3+7$, etc). For extra practice at home, you could play **"What's Under My Cup?"** For this game you'll need an opaque cup and 10 small objects (beans, pennies, etc). Take some of the small objects and hide them under the cup, leaving others visible. Ask your child to predict how many are hiding. For example, if 5 beans were showing 5 more must be hiding under the cup because $5+5=10$.

In language ...

we have been focusing on **"activating our schemas"**. Before attending our trip to the Pumpkin Patch, the kids were asked to create a web describing things they already knew about pumpkin patches. When we activate our schema, we **think about what we already know** about a topic. By activating our schema about the topic **before** we read a book, it helps us to understand and make connections to the story when we read it. We use our schemas all the time in everyday life and our schemas can change as we gather new information. Have a wonderful week and enjoy Hallowe'en night!

-Sarah

In art...

we have been looking at **Pablo Picasso**. We have created cubist "Picasso Pumpkins" with crazy, mixed up faces. Also, we have been examining **Picasso's blue and rose periods**. During his blue period, Picasso was very sad - his best friend had died and nobody wanted to buy his art. The colours and themes of his paintings during this time reflect his blue mood. Then, Picasso fell in love! Thus began his rose period. He was much happier and began to paint a lot of circus performers and their animals during this time. We have created blue and rose pieces ourselves that will be on display in our classroom next week.



NEWS FROM THE BASEMENT...

After that beautiful Thanksgiving weekend, it appears that fall is back in its usual form. Of course, that's not entirely a bad thing!

Did you know that each week starts with kids in the Lemon and Lime spelling groups receiving a set of letter and sound cards used to build different words? Did you know that they're to take them home to practice building words and spelling during the week? If you haven't seen these yet, perhaps your child isn't bringing them home to you! (Members of the Mango group receive a set of words. This is new this past week.) Ask your whippet what's happening with their spelling!

In Mathematics, we've been looking at reading, writing, comparing, and rounding numbers to the nearest ten and hundred. We'll do a tiny bit more of these skills and have a check-up quiz next week. Help your child prepare by reading and writing numbers at home. (Pay special attention to numbers with a zero that holds a place!) Try <http://www.aaamath.com/est27a-rounding.html> or <http://www.free-training-tutorial.com/rounding/rounding-spaceships.html> for some simple online rounding practice activities. (You can just cut-and-paste those addresses into your browser's address bar.) Watch to see if your son or daughter is guessing or thinking it through! Estimation rules! In the coming weeks, we'll also be working on strategies for addition and subtraction both with paper and with our brains! What strategies does your child use? Fingers can only take us so far!

In Language, we've been working on various levels of summarizing texts. "In a Nutshell" is my nickname for a super-brief "What's it about?" description, using only one or two sentences. A Summary gives the main details only. Retelling gives lots of details and covers the whole story or article in the students' own words. Retelling a story sounds like a story. Retelling an article sounds like reading a new article with the same information. We'll continue working on these skills in the next week or so. As always, we're also working on getting those capitals, periods, and complete sentences out of the writers in the room!

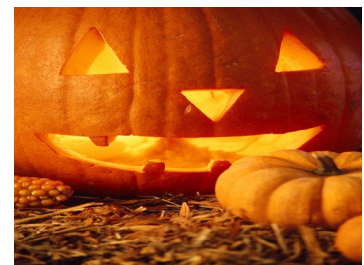
The grade fives are wrapping up their unit about undersea creatures. Reports and Dioramas are due to me no later than Thursday, October 27. On that day, we will hold our Gallery Tour and be taught about the animals by the in-class experts. This work is being done in class time, and students have been working well so far to use their time wisely, for the most part. After that, we'll begin our next unit of study, *Coast to Coast to Coast*, a unit about Canada!

Thanks to the parents (and sisters) who have offered their time and talents to volunteering this year. Things are off to a great start with Kate Bezanson on Mondays, Tracy, Sydney, and Sophie Mumford on Tuesdays, Paula Couture and Elly Jenkins on Wednesdays, Jill Laycock on Thursdays, and Pilar Chapman and Rachel alternating on Fridays. It's been years since I had so much amazing parent support, so I'm very grateful! (If I've missed anyone, I apologize. Call me on it!)

Next week, we'll have a new face in the classroom. Jami Lynn Knelfen will be a student teacher with us for the next month or so. We look forward to having her and giving her a warm Maple Grove welcome! Be sure to say hello when you see her!

Have a wonderful Hallowe'en!

Jerome



**DSBN STUDENT FAMILIES IN
ST. CATHARINES AND SMITHVILLE
ARE INVITED TO PROVIDE A ONE-MONTH HOMESTAY
FOR AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT**

International students are participating in
The District School Board of Niagara's
KOREAN WORLD CLASSROOM PROGRAM

International students in participating schools
in St. Catharines are in Grades 7 & 8
International students in participating schools
in Smithville are in Grades 4-6

The homestay timeframe is Jan 11–Feb 7, 2012

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION BEING HELD

Wednesday, November 9 @ 6:30 – 7:30 .pm.

at the DSBN Education Centre
191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines

- open to families in St. Catharines who ideally have a Grade 7 or 8 child themselves (other ages may be considered)
- open to families in Smithville who ideally have a Grade 4-6 child themselves (other ages may be considered)
- your child will build intercultural awareness and leadership skills as a host buddy



Registration for the information session is not required
**Please direct inquiries to:

Ligia Tobon
Canadian English Scholar Program
ligia_tobon@hotmail.com
905-354-6916

Supporting the Young Mathematician at Home

Success is in the journey, not the destination!

Young mathematicians should be provided with opportunities to explore mathematics throughout their day. Share the times when you are using mathematics in your day so that they see and understand the importance of math in their world. Support them as they begin to grapple with mathematical ideas. Help them understand that success lies not in getting the right answer, but rather in the challenge of solving the problem. Also, let them know that you think math is important, exciting & even creative!

There are many times when mathematical thinking could be discovered while at home or out with the family. Here are a few examples. Be sure to keep it fun!

At home:

Daily chores: How long will it take us to clean the dishes? Let's time it and see if we were close.

Cooking: Measure out the flour for this recipe. What if we double the recipe?

Reading stories: How many elephants are there? How many feet would there be?

Budgeting: How much will you need to save to be able to buy that bike you want to get?

Puzzles: How did you know that piece didn't fit there?

Card Games: What number is that? Is that number bigger than mine?

Board Games: What roll do you want to get? What are the chances of that happening?

Video Games: How much is your team winning by?

I spy with my little eye, something that is smaller than a shoe box...



Grocery store:

Please pick out 5 apples for the family.

I have \$20. Will that be enough to buy what we have in the shopping cart?

That's a lot of pop cases. I wonder if there are more than 100 cases?

Should we buy the smaller bag or the bigger bag? Which is the better deal?

I spy with my little eye, something that is more expensive than a loaf of bread..., and to use mathematics to navigate their world. Making connections between school math and the math they encounter in the real world will support this learning.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE CONFERENCE

21st Century Learners: Where Parents Fit In

The DSBN Parent Involvement Committee invites you to join us for an evening of learning, sharing and networking with a focus on ideas to make your School Council bigger and better as you support student learning.

All parents are invited to attend.

Wednesday, November 2, 2011

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Eden High School

535 Lake St., St. Catharines

Free registration includes a light supper and child care.

Register online at: www.dsbns.org > parents > click on the

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports for students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 will be sent home on November 15th, 2011.

Please contact your child's teacher for an interview.



Halloween Safety

Some pointers to keep the trick or treaters safe.

Children under nine years of age should go out with an adult or responsible older child.

Be sure your child stops at all curbs, looks left, right and left again to check for traffic. Remind children to cross at crosswalks, street corners or intersections. It is important they walk on the sidewalk, or walk facing the traffic if there is no sidewalk.

Bright coloured costumes make your child easier to see. You can use reflective tape on a costume to make your child more visible. Face paint instead of a mask helps them to see well. Have your child carry a flashlight.

When they get home, check all of their treats carefully. Throw out any treats that aren't wrapped, if the wrapping is torn or loose, or if the wrapper has a hole. Remember that small treats can cause your child to choke.

You might want to offer an alternative to sugar based treats. Stickers or multicoloured pencils can be a nice surprise in place of, or in addition to, traditional treats.



Upcoming dates to remember:

- ⇒ Tuesday, October 25 & November 2nd — Campden Gym
- ⇒ Thursday, October 26th is Pizza Day
- ⇒ Monday, October 31st is shared snack
- ⇒ Wednesday, November 9th — Pizza Day