



Maple Grove News

OCTOBER 7, 2011

DISTRICT SCHOOL
BOARD OF NIAGARA

From your V.P. James...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Update from Denise 2
- News from the Green Team 2
- Terry Fox Run 3
- From the Basement 3
- The SK/1/2 class 4
- What's up in French? 5
- Hallowe'en 5
- Immunization clinics 6

Just a reminder that our physical education classes will be taking place in the gym at Campden Public School starting Tuesday, October 11. It is important that students dress appropriately for physical activities. (layered clothing, wear shorts under skirts, etc.)



Each student will also require a pair of clean indoor running shoes (they can be the same indoor shoes worn at Maple Grove) as we will not be allowed to wear boots or outdoor shoes in the gymnasium. Since we are guests, we want to leave the facilities in the same condition we find them.

October Schedule: Tues 11th, Wed 19th, Tues 25th

-James-



Parent Council Meeting - Location TBD
Monday, October 17th at 6:30 p.m.



Sub Day - Wednesday, October 12th

Lincoln Fire Rescue & Emergency— The Great Canadian Fire Drill
October 13th here at Maple Grove in the afternoon!



Thurs, Oct 20th the SK/1/2 class will be visiting the Great Pumpkin Patch at
Bry-Anne Farms



An update on science from Denise...

This week we have been studying water. To start off, I read the class one of the Magic School Bus books. In the book, one of the boys had to go into the girl's bathroom to collect water for a science experiment... and a girl caught him in there. All of the grade 1 & 2 students thought that part of the book was funny. But the real funny part was the next day when I invited the class to help me with a water experiment. I told them that we all needed to gather around a sink but wasn't sure where we could find a sink in our school with room for 16 children. I suggested that we try what was done in the Magic School Bus book....if you could only see the expressions on their faces as it dawned on class what I was suggesting. Needless to say, we made it down to the girl's bathroom in the basement and conducted our water experiments.

Did you know that brushing your teeth with the water running uses over 6 times more water than



if you turned the tap off? As we returned upstairs, we predicted the water usage of many other items in our homes. Next week we will be looking at how much water is used each week by our families. On the PD day or over this weekend, please help your child calculate your family's water usage on the assigned homework page.



Adults can do all the writing and math, as long as the children are a part of the discussion and help count how many times each task is completed.

Next week we will be discovering ways to reduce our water usage.

Grade 3/4 Science

Have you noticed any new visitors in your home? In Science class, the children have been pretending to be some of the top Canadian scientists who have gathered here to help create new animal species to help populate the recently discovered Planet Gork, a desert like planet where it rains only once a month, and the daily temperatures range from -10 to +30 degrees Celsius. Their task has been to make adaptations to a creature from planet Earth so that it could survive on this new planet. The one criteria was that the students had to explain why they made the changes and how it will help their creature survive on planet Gork. Most of the students were so excited that they brought home posters to illustrate their new creatures. While the posters are not homework, the children are welcome to bring them back school as a part of their submission in the quest to find the best creatures for our new planet.



-Denise-

A note from the Green Team...

As most of you have seen by now, the eco garden has been transformed into a butterfly garden. (Huge thanks to Mat for his work on that!) We want the garden to be something the kids can learn from and enjoy. We planted butterfly friendly plants and put down mulch so they can get right in. This Green Team group has been learning about which plants attract butterflies and what to look out for this spring. It will be a great tie in to habitat studies in science.

The next group will be talking trash! Oct 17-21st is waste reduction week and I enrolled Maple Grove in the Waste Free Lunch Challenge. We will encourage the kids to reduce at home and at school... and to spot areas where we can all improve. Even though Maple Grove already has a litter less lunch policy, this challenge will make them aware of how well they are already doing compared to the rest of the province, and give them the incentive to do better. We want them to be aware of why we must reduce, as well as how to do it.

Go Green! *-Katie Boychuk-*

The Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research



Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Terry Fox Run! We raised more than \$950 for cancer research! That's amazing for a school our size! (We're still waiting for our final numbers to find out if we've beat our all-time record. Stay tuned!) In the end, the kids ran/walked/strolled a total of 146 km! (We really need to build some stam-

ina in the kids of Maple Grove, though, so everyone can move vigorously for more than two minutes at a time! Yikes!) Congratulations to everyone who showed that we can make a difference! Well done!

-Jerome-

News From the Basement...

October is here already? That's amazing!

Things are moving along nicely in the basement these days. We've been doing lots of writing (I have a lot of reading to do as a result) and will continue with the second half of *What it Means to Be Me* in the coming two weeks. We'll also put greater focus on reading as we engage in some whole-class lessons and activities and begin our small group reading.

In Maths, we've begun looking at large numbers (into the thousands, ten thousands, hundred thousands, and beyond). We'll spend some time reading, writing, pulling apart, comparing, and ordering these numbers in the coming days. Work at home to read and write numbers that you encounter in your daily life. Watch game shows, read signs and flyers, and talk a lot about the big numbers you encounter. Go and visit car dealerships and read labels! Anything can bring Math to life!

The grade fives are well under way with their research projects, having completed the first drafts of written reports about underwater animals. Next week we'll also begin the diorama projects. There will also be a quiz next Friday on the major ideas from the unit. Watch for a study guide to come home early in the week.

This week, we will do our first **LifeBook project**. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, your whippet should bring in an 8-inch x 8-inch (preferably) scrapbook for this. The kind with clear plastic pockets works best for keeping and protecting the students' work. Those who have already been in the class for a year will likely want to bring in their existing LifeBook and add to it. I know that Walmart has these scrapbooks/memory books for under \$15.

Thanks to those who have offered to volunteer. Many have started already. If I haven't confirmed a day of the week with you, please let me know. I might have forgotten to get you on my list! It's not a slight, I assure you!

Have a wonderful and brisk fall!

-Jerome-

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

Thank-you to all of the volunteers who helped out with the Shared Lunch and Hike on Thursday. Lucia, your pasta was a hit, once again!

This month in the K/1/2 class we will complete some spooktacular Hallowe'en themed activities! Don't forget about our upcoming trip to the **Bry-Anne Pumpkin Patch on Thursday, Oct. 20th**.

Reading Groups on Tuesdays and **Spelling Groups on Thursdays** are coming along well. I so appreciate the help of my volunteers. With such a wide range of ability levels in the class, it is integral that we are able to work in small groups on a regular basis. I really would not be able to provide the same level of differentiation without you! Again, if you are unable to make it on your volunteer day, please let me know as soon as possible so I can try to make other arrangements. On Wednesday, we started back up with the "Raz Kids" computer reading program. *Thanks to Elly who helped to get us all logged in!* Raz Kids is an excellent online program that Sean started with the primary kids last year. Some of you are already very familiar with it and have been busy on the site over the summer! Great reading! On Wednesday, your child should have brought home a little card that had the website address, login, and their password printed on it. If you are unsure about this or don't think you received it, let me know and I can print out a new copy. If you go onto a search engine and type in **Raz Kids**, you will be directed to the login page. The class name is MapleGroveK3. Your child's name will show up in a class list. He/she then needs to type in his/her password. It might be a word or a symbol. Your child likely knows his/her own password. SK children and Jonnie do not need to enter a password. Once he/she is logged in, your child can choose from a selection of books that are at his/her reading level. He/she can listen to the books or read them independently. Afterwards, he/she can take a quiz that helps to determine whether or not he/she understood what was read. By doing all of this reading work, your child is earning "stars" that are spendable in the Raz Rocket section of the website. He/she can decorate his/her rocket with cool stuff like aliens, space plants, glow-in-the-dark thingies, etc. It is very motivational and an excellent way to encourage your child to read at home. Please feel free to use it any time! If you have any questions, please let me know.

In mathematics, we have been focusing strongly on building **Number Sense**. We have been discussing **addition strategies** and tools that we can use to help us add numbers efficiently. Your child may come home talking about manipulative, rekenreks, and hundred charts. It may sound like a strange new language to some of you! Be sure to ask your child what these things are and how they are useful for solving problems. Parents, you can help at home by giving your child number problems to solve (e.g., There are 7 pairs of shoes at our door. How many individual shoes is that? How did you figure it out?). Math is everywhere!

Our new Artist of the Month for October is **Pablo Picasso**. We will be looking at his artwork and creating Picasso Pumpkins in his crazy cubist style! In drama, we are working on taking on characters and staying in role. You may see our "I Can Dance My Lunch" class book in your child's backpack soon. We have started to send it home with each student for one night. Please read it as a family and feel free to comment on the back page.

Have a great weekend and Happy Thanksgiving!

-Sarah-

FRENCH CLASS UPDATE

Salut, tout le monde!

It's amazing how much French the students have learned in just a month. Most have mastered the alphabet and can spell their name in French. They can count to thirty-one, and some can actually count to a thousand. We are going to continue to work on the days of the week and the months of the year so that each student will be able to say the date in French. Our focus is on oral language, mostly asking and answering simple questions such as, What is your name?, How old are you?, How are you?, What is today's date?, etc... We have started learning the vocabulary for parts of the body and articles of clothing as well. Students have the lyrics to "O Canada" in French and we will continue to practice our national anthem.

Your son or daughter may have mentioned Kyle McGiveren, my student teacher from Brock University. He is a French and drama major. He will be with me every Thursday and Friday till November, mostly observing. He will then do a four week teaching block, where he will be with us on a daily basis.

C'est tout!!

Enjoy your long weekend and Happy Thanksgiving!

-Tania-



In case your kids haven't already reminded you...Halloween is fast approaching!

We will have detailed communication in our next newsletter October 21st. However, in case you are wondering, on Hallowe'en day we will have our traditional costume parade and shared snack in the afternoon.

SK children are welcome to stay for the festivities!



Are you ready for flu season?

The best way to protect yourself and your family is to get the seasonal flu shot.

2011 Seasonal Influenza (Flu) Immunization Clinics

Niagara Region Public Health is offering free seasonal flu immunization clinics at the times and locations listed below. Unless there is a medical reason not to, **everyone six months of age and older can benefit from getting the seasonal flu shot.** No appointments necessary.

- For best protection against influenza, yearly immunization is recommended.
- Please wear a short-sleeved shirt.
- If you have an Ontario Health Card and/or Driver's Licence, please bring it to the clinic.
- For the most up-to-date clinic information, visit www.niagararegion.ca or call the **Flu Clinic Information Line: 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074, ext. 7443.**

Dates and Times	Locations
Tuesday, November 1, 2011 1 p.m.—8 p.m	Fort Erie ▪ Leisureplex Hall, 3 Municipal Centre Drive
Wednesday, November 2, 2011 1 p.m.—8 p.m	Niagara-on-the-Lake ▪ Centennial Arena, 1565 Four Mile Creek Road
Thursday, November 3, 2011 1 p.m.—8 p.m	Niagara Falls ▪ MacBain Community Centre, 7150 Montrose Road
Monday, November 7, 2011 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	St. Catharines ▪ Brock University - Gymnasium, Walker Complex, 500 Glenridge Avenue
Tuesday, November 8, 2011 1 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Wainfleet ▪ Wainfleet Firefighters' Memorial Community Hall, 31907 Park Street
Wednesday, November 9, 2011 1 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Port Colborne ▪ St. James and St. Brendan Anglican Church - Guild Hall, 72 Charlotte Street
Thursday, November 10, 2011 1 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Grimsby ▪ Grimsby Senior Citizens Centre - Auditorium, 18 Livingston Avenue
Thursday, November 10, 2011 1 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Thorold ▪ Niagara Region Headquarters, Public Health - Main Office, 2201 St. David's Road, Campbell East
Monday, November 14, 2011 1 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Welland ▪ Rice Road Community Church, 305 Rice Road

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

September 2011