

September 22, 2011



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA

Maple Grove News

From your V.P. James...

Hello Everyone,

We have had a wonderful start back to school, it is hard to believe we have only one week left in September! I want to thank each of you for the warm welcome I have received as the new vice-principal at Maple Grove. I also want to say thank-you to those of you who were able to attend the Annual Autumn Gathering, we really appreciate the support of the parents and community.

I also want to take this time to mention that our late slip system for students is working well, thank-you for your efforts to ensure your child

arrives at school on time for our 8:45am start. Just a reminder about our DSBN policies for dismissal. Students at Maple Grove are dismissed at 3:00pm and supervision is provided for 15 minutes after dismissal, until 3:15pm. As a courtesy, Maple Grove staff have been willing to extend supervision until 3:30pm. Please ensure you pick up your child by 3:30pm. If you have made arrangements for someone else to pick-up your child, we require a note or email indicating who is picking up your child. Even your "best friend who lives next door" should not be taking your child unless

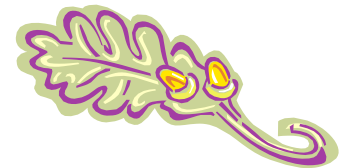
you have contacted the office to provide that information. Thank-you for your understanding as the safety of your child is our primary concern.

If you have any questions, please let me know as I would be happy to speak with you.

Sincerely,

Mr. James Willms

Vice Principal, Maple Grove



We need your help!!

Not available to volunteer on Sat. October 1st for Fall Work Day? We are also seeking help with preparation leading to this day.

The children's playground is in serious need of attention! This year, the staff has decided to dedicate attention to 3 major things:

- The Train
- The Teeter Totters
- Painting the Boys' washroom

We are looking for some expertise to help assess the work needed to repair both the train and teeter totters.

How much wood, paint and screws? We would like to have all the tools and supplies necessary here on the morning of the 1st to avoid wasting any time running back and forth to the hardware store.

If anyone has experience with woodworking and is interested

in helping us prior to October 1st please call the office and speak with Lianne.



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Dates to Remember:

- Monday, Sept 26th is the first day of our Milk Program
- Oct 1st— Maple Grove's Fall Work Day 9:00 a.m to 2:00 pm

From the Basement...

It's officially Autumn (and by Autumn, I mean the season also known as Fall, not the delightful girl in my class)! We're building up to a full day of routines, and overall things are going well. Here's the scoop on what's happening and coming up in the 3/4/5 class.

In Maths, we've been working away at recognising, describing, and extending shape and counting patterns. We'll continue these, as well as looking at "Input/Output" styled patterns, too, particularly with the older students. At the same time, we've been doing "Hot Math" exercises on one-more/one-less, ten-more and ten-less, and two-more/two-less facts. Some students continue to struggle with these, so try some with your kid and support them in growing familiar.

In Language, I'm continuing to read one-on-one with students to get an idea of where

they are right now. We're doing lots of reading and writing as part of our *What it Means to Be Me* sequence of activities, and spending lots of time talking about proper sentence structure and punctuation. Periods and capitals are important!

In Art, we're experimenting with and learning about OpArt. Creating visual tricks using line and colour is what we're up to. Watch for some student work to adorn the stairwells soon! We'll also be starting this year's LifeBook project. What is LifeBook, you ask? It's a scrapbook in which we explore the principles of design while creating a cool collection of memories, thoughts, and photos from the year. *For this, each student will need an 8 inch x 8 inch scrapbook/memory book (NOT a photo album).* The best kind for LifeBook has clear plastic pockets inside of an album-style cover. They're available at

places like Walmart, Winners, and Michaels for somewhere around the \$10 to \$15 mark. This book can be used for the entire time a student is in my class, adding new work from year to year. Students who already have one from last year should bring it in so we can add new pages this year. Not sure what this thing looks like? Just ask: I have samples you can look at.

Thanks to those who have told me of their intention to volunteer. Though I'm not quite ready for Reading Groups to begin, I can make use of volunteers starting now during the mornings and I will work in Reading Groups when we're ready.

Here's wishing everyone a smashing Autumn! (And here's wishing Autumn a smashing Fall!)

Jerome



Unfortunately Maple Grove's Annual Terry Fox run had to be postponed due to the rain. The run is re-scheduled for Monday, September 26th at 11:00 a.m. Again, we encourage parents to participate if you are available. Jerome will be donating for every lap run! The good news is the children now have the weekend to practice and train for Monday.

**National School
Run Day Run**



It's obvious that the students worked hard, took this event seriously and collected with pride. So far with the pledges that were handed in we have raised a total of \$737.79! Way to go Maple Grove students—we are very proud of you! This amount will of course be higher once Jerome adds in his contribution with every lap run by the kids.



The Terry Fox Foundation

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

Well, things are really rolling in our classroom! In language, we have been working on “**reading**” the **pictures** and adding details to our own pictures to tell a story without many words. We created cartoons with speech bubbles about a “great day”. We are also working on **making inferences** by looking at the pictures in wordless texts. In Writer's Workshop, some of us are journaling, some are writing cookbooks, others have started poems, and many are creating fictional stories that are really funny!

I am hoping to start **Reading Groups** and **Spelling Groups** this week. After looking over the volunteer forms, I have slotted parents in according to availability and need. Please let me know if this does/doesn't work for you. *If you cannot make it, please let me know as soon as possible.* I will plan activities assuming that I'll have a set number of helpers and it makes it very difficult if we are short handed. If you don't see your name listed and wish to help out on a regular basis, please let me know and I'll slot you in.

MONDAY	Katie B. (Green Team)
TUESDAY – Reading Groups Time: 9 – 10:15 a.m.	Laura Noble.W., Paula Couture, Laura Dearman, Lesley Taylor, Tracy Mumford. & Sydney Mumford
WEDNESDAY	Elly Jenkins
THURSDAY - Spelling Groups Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Paula Couture, Rachel Jane, Phil Niemi.
FRIDAY	No regular volunteers needed

In Mathematics, we have created **surveys, bar and circle graphs**. We have been looking at unfinished graphs to see what is missing and to learn why having all of the parts included is very important! Parents, you can help at home by having your child complete informal surveys and graphs with your family. How many family members prefer white meat over dark meat? Who wants to watch the news? We have been working on using the tally system to keep track of numbers and count them quickly and easily. In the next weeks, we will be moving toward a focus on **Number Sense** and **addition strategies**.

In Visual Arts, we are wrapping up our study of **Roy Lichtenstein**. We created cartoons in his style, complete with thought/speech bubbles and Benday dots! Please come and check them out in our classroom – they're awesome! We have been looking at different types of lines and the primary colours. We will be doing some colour mixing activities in the next weeks to explore the secondary colours as well.

In Dance, we have been exploring **movement** by isolating different body parts, moving through space in interesting ways, showing emotions with our bodies, and by dancing our lunches! We picked out all sorts of foods and then used our bodies to express them. You could try dancing your dinner! How would your body move when you dance like spaghetti? How about Jello or hot Wasabi sauce? In Drama, we have been working in **role** and **interviewing** each other as characters from Roy Lichtenstein's art.

Heads up! I have booked a **Pumpkin Patch trip to Bry-Anne Farms** the morning of Thursday, October 20th. Permission forms will be going home soon, and I could use some volunteers!

Have a lovely week!

-Sarah



The Science Scene

One of the primary objectives of elementary science has always been, and must continue to be, development of curiosity and wonder.

Students come to school with a natural curiosity. They also bring with them individual interests and abilities as well as diverse personal and cultural experiences, all of which have an impact on their prior knowledge about science, the environment, and the world in which they live. During these last two weeks our classroom discussions and activities have been drawing on students' prior knowledge with the intent to capture their interest. By the looks of their faces and the huge numbers of hands being raised, I think I can say they I have got their interest. The grade one and two students learned about air and finished off their lessons by designing and building wind socks. We were so lucky to have a windy day when it was time to take them to flight. Oh the fun! This week we are taking a look at water in the form of liquid, vapour and solid. We discussed condensation, making a glass jar fog up in the classroom, so if you car fogs up one morning on the way in to school you can have a little chat about it. The grade 3 & 4 students have been sharing their knowledge about major and minor habitats, looking at different animals and trying to figure out where they live and what they eat. This week we are taking a closer look at the behavior and structural adaptations that animals have made to survive. If you want, pop into the science room and look at some of the student's posters to see what they have learned.

Grade 1/2 Health

We meet once every two weeks to work on our first health unit, Personal Safety. Last week we picked seven important things that we thought all kids should know. The students filled out little booklets with the information they knew and are asked to learn/study all seven facts for a little quiz on Friday September 30th. Please help your child study for this day.

It's been only a few weeks since school started and already we are having a blast. I am truly enjoying seeing the excitement and wonder in your children's faces and look forward to many more fun filled days.

Denise

(Complete and bring in ballot if you are available to attend this year's Fall work day...)



Maple Grove's Fall Work Day

If you are interested and are available in volunteering on our Work Day Saturday, October 1st (rain date October 8th) please submit this tear away ballot to the office. ***(Lunch will be provided)***

I will be available to attend:

Name: _____

Parent of: _____

In case you overlooked this pamphlet at the beginning of the year it's worth looking over these opportunities!

21st Century Learners: WHERE PARENTS FIT IN

The seminars below are being offered for DSBN parents at no cost.

DATE: Wednesday, November 2, 2011

TIME: 4:00-8:45 p.m.

WHERE: Eden High School, 535 Lake St., St. Catharines, ON

Extra pamphlets are available in the office or you can find it on the DSBN website "www.dsbn.org" Click on the "Parents" link

A. Internet Safety & Cyberbullying - *Nadie Wallace, Youth Justice Coordinator for the Niagara Reg. Police*

Nadine was also a school resource officer for many years. As part of her current duties, Nadine works very closely with local schools and their families and has developed a reputation as an expert resource on issues of internet safety.

B. Parents and Teenagers—Life Will Never Be the Same - *Tony Antidoemi, Consultant*

Childhood to Adolescence is perhaps one of the most dramatic transitions we all must achieve. This is true not only for the young person. Parents must also make the transition of being the parent of a child to being a parent of a teenager. This workshop is designed to address the nature of this "new relationship" and enhance understanding of adolescent development.

C. Raising Resilient Children - *Dick O'Brien, Professional Speaker & Consultant*

How can we prepare our children for the inevitable challenges and struggles they will face in their future? This presentation encourages parents to teach their children to respond to life by choice rather than react to life by chance. It focuses on developing personal resiliency in our children as the survival strategy for the 21st century.

D. Winning Together - *Brian Harris, Author/Professional Speaker Canadian Guidance Services*

Winning Together is an entertaining workshop that will give you three secrets and more than a dozen proven ideas for successfully resolving conflicts with your children, regardless of their age. Brian Harris is a former award-winning elementary and high school teacher who now works as an author and professional speaker. His books related to student success have sold more than 500,000 copies across Canada.

E. Digital Citizenship & Social Media in Schools-*Dino Miele, Chief Information Officer, DS BN*

This presentation will explain what are Digital Citizenship and Social Media. Why should educators, students and parents care? The presentation will tackle the proper and safe use of these technologies as well as the personal interactions when using internet and social media. It is important to help students, teachers and parents understand the importance of using these 21st century connections appropriately.

F. SMART Boards - *Todd Sniezek, Consultant, ICT*

Todd will be doing this presentation on using SMART Boards to engage the 21st century learner by differentiating instruction through the use of interactive and multimedia content.

G. Brain Gym - *Liz Jones-Twomey, Waterloo District School Board*

This program consists of physical movements that enhance learning and performance in all areas. Learn easy and enjoyable activities that integrate body and mind to bring about rapid and often dramatic improvements in concentration, reading, math, memory, writing, listening, physical coordination and more...

H. Student Engagement using Technology-*Eric Moccio, Teacher, Apple Distinguished Educator, Eden H.S.*

Curious about the various uses of technology in the classroom? Mobile technology has the potential to engage students in ways not seen before. This hands-on workshop will have parents using technology like a 21st century learner.

21ST Century Learners con't...

I. Assistive Technologies - *Kara Hiott-Bowles, ICT*

This presentation will focus on current DSBN Assistive Technology. Essential for some students, but good for all, technology can play an integral role in today's classroom for student success. Highlights of current software programs as well as free resources will be provided.

J. Understanding the Teenage Brain - *Garfield Gini-Newman, Social Studies Lecturer at Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) associated with the University of Toronto and a senior national consultant with the Critical Thinking Consortium.*

Most adults all have the sense that there are differences between our adult brains and the brains of our teenagers and adolescents. He will help us understand the science behind these differences in a fun, engaging and easily understood way. Garfield provides lots of tips and suggestions on strategies to help us to communicate and work more effectively with our teenage children so that we can apply it within our daily lives.

K. New & Nearly New Chairs - *Diane Chase and Lisa Barnes, Parent Involvement Committee*

The role of the Chair is integral in guiding a School Council. This workshop will examine the role of School Council (it is not just for fundraising anymore!), and offer strategies and resources for new and nearly new Chairs on how to: increase parent involvement, spend the \$500 parent involvement funds, run an effective School Council meeting, resolve conflict, and create a partnership with the Council, Principal and Parents to achieve Council's goals.

L. Digital Literacies for 21st Century Kids - *Kelly Diiorio, Consultant, Educational Media Support, DSBN*

Our new learners are encouraging us to expand our horizons in terms of the format of materials we use for reading and research. From eBooks to digital databases, join Kelly as she demonstrates some of the latest formats being used by DSBN students to acquire information or read for pleasure

Lincoln Fire Rescue & Emergency Services

Re: Great Canadian Fire Drill 2011 here at Maple Grove P.S.



On Thursday, October 13, 2011 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. the Office of the Fire Marshall of Ontario and Lincoln Fire Rescue challenges every principal, custodian, volunteer, teacher and student to participate in the world's largest school fire drill. This province wide fire drill is being organized to increase public safety awareness and to encourage children to practice home escape plans.

Lincoln Fire Rescue & Emergency Services is asking our school to be involved in this very important safety mission. Firefighters will arrive at our school with a fire truck sometime between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to conduct the fire drill.

