OCTOBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

OUR TEAM JUST KEEPS GROWING

We would like to extend a warm Maple Wood welcome to Jennifer Drope, who joined our team on September 17th.

Mrs. Drope has taken on the long-term-occasional (LTO) role of Teacher-Librarian.

Many of our students recognized Mrs. Drope from a few years ago, when she had been at Maple Wood covering Mrs. Barber’s maternity leave.

Thank you to all of our student TEAMPLAYERS who take extra steps to keep our school a safe, warm and welcoming place to learn and work!

It’s great to see students putting garbage and recycling in the proper containers and reporting any vandalism or unsafe conditions on the playground.

Our review of Playground Safety rules and following the simple rule of ‘feet and hands’ to yourself has helped minimize unnecessary ‘accidents’ during recess breaks.

Our junior students are doing a wonderful job role-modeling safe and inclusive play! Mrs. Ibrahim and Mrs. Chow trained our PALs (Playground Activity Leaders) and they are engaging our students with various games and activities at recesses.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

We are happy to announce that our Parent Representatives on our 2012-2013 School Council are: Jung Kirpal, Paul Markowski and Julie Smithson. Jessica Barber, one of our FDK teachers has also volunteered to participate as our Teaching Staff rep.

We are meeting on Oct. 3rd to decide on School Council Chair and to make preliminary plans for our Parent Engagement evening and how we can best support our School Success Goals for this year.

Parents/guardians are always welcome to attend upcoming meetings. These will be communicated through Monthly Newsletters and on our website. We will rely on our volunteers to assist with upcoming Pizza/Pita Days, fund-raising efforts and events!

TEAMPLAYER DAY’z’

On Sept. 21st and 28th, we hosted our TEAMPLAYER Day’z’. Both afternoons were a lot of fun as staff and students had the opportunity to meet one another. The students definitely put into action their teamwork, enthusiasm and exemplary effort!

Trustworthy * Environmentally-Friendly * Appreciative * Motivated
Positive * Life-Long Learners * Achieving * Youth-Leaders
Exemplary Effort * Respectful
In a collaborative spirit they participated in a variety of cooperative ice-breakers. Mrs. Blake’s Grade 5/6 Team Captains are to be commended on their demonstration of leadership and positive role-modeling.

For the month of October we will be focusing on the ‘E’ of TEAMPLAYER; an environmentally-friendly student makes a conscious effort to comply with the 3Rs of Recycling. This student takes an active role in educating others, protecting and nurturing our school, community and home environments.

We invite you to brainstorm and discuss with your children various ways that they can demonstrate this important characteristic in their home and school life. Thank you for your support!

**OUR ‘LATES’ are CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN LAST YEAR**

Thank you parents and students for making a concentrated effort to minimize the number of ‘late arrivals’ this year. This definitely helps decrease the number of disruptions to classroom program and allows our students to settle into their day without the anxiety of rushing. If you do happen to be running late, please remember to park on the street and escort your child(ren) into the office so that you can sign them in. Thanks again for your teamwork in helping to further develop the important life skill of punctuality and regular attendance!

**SUPPLY LUNCHROOM SUPERVISORS NEEDED**

We are looking for reliable supply lunchroom supervisors to assist us when one of our regular supervisors is unavailable. If you would like to be considered for this position please call the school, 905-826-3902, and ask to speak with Mrs. Housdon.

**SCHOOL SUCCESS PLANNING**

Maple Wood staff dedicated time during our September 14th and 25th Professional Activity days, collaboratively looking at our School Success Goals for 2012-2013. Collecting student data that will be used as a diagnostic base-line has been one of the preliminary steps of moving our students forward.

Colin Aldridge, our Early Literacy Teacher and Natasa Pasic-Knezevic, our Resource Teacher helped facilitate sessions around PM Benchmark Training and exploration of the student data available on our School Success Planning Website.

Our ‘big idea’ for Curriculum Mapping this year is Agents of Change. Students have begun talking about ‘what makes a superhero’; focusing on ‘real-life superheroes’ and ‘demystifying what it takes to be one’.

Students have begun co-constructing success criteria with their teachers, as they explore various ways that they can make a positive impact in their own community – unveiling what it means to be an Agent of Change.

Mrs. Buttigieg kicked-off this Social Justice theme by reading Perfect Man, by Troy Wilson & Dean Griffiths, to our guests and students, at our first Awards Assembly, on Friday, September 28th. Following this assembly, our junior students spent time watching the live-feed of Craig Kielburger’s WE Day, that hosted more than 10,000 students at the ACC.

When talking with your child at home, encourage them to think of ways that they can make a positive imprint on their community.

**CALL FOR FAMILY VOLUNTEERS TO SUPPORT EDEN COMMUNITY FOOD BANK**

Wednesday, Oct 10th, 2012 @ 7-8:30pm
Wednesday, Nov 14th, 2012 @ 7-8:30pm
Wednesday, Dec 12th, 2012 @ 7-8:30pm
(Family Nights are monthly on every 2nd Wednesday.)

Where:
Eden Community Food Bank - UNITY
2-3185 Unity Drive (Unity Drive is the first street south of Hwy 403 west off of Winston Churchill Blvd.)

Bring:
Your family and donations of food that you can help to sort together. Please wear closed-toe shoes.

Contact:
Maureen Sawicki, 905-785-3651 x5
office@edenfoodbank.org
TIPS ON HOW TO BE A SMART 'Trick or Treater'

Halloween is a fun and exciting time, but safety should be the number one concern. Here are some safety tips for children:

1) Wear a properly fitted, bright and non-flammable costume. Use reflective tape so you can be seen in the dark.
2) Use face makeup or enlarge the eyes on your mask so you can see well.
3) Take your child out trick or treating or send them with another adult.

TERRY FOX EVENT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

Thank you to all the students who made donations to the Terry Fox Foundation and for all their enthusiasm and team spirit as they collaboratively finished Terry Run Across Canada! Also thank you to our family and friends who came out to support our efforts that day!

CELEBRATE WORLD TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY – OCT. 5th

Since 1994, parents and students from around the world have celebrated World Teacher Appreciation Day to commemorate the work of teachers and their contributions to society. During the week of October 5, take the time to let your child's teacher know he or she is truly appreciated. Thank your child's teacher and let them know they are making a difference.

OFFENCE DECLARATION FORMS REQUIRED FOR RETURNING VOLUNTEERS

Parents play an important role in the development and education of their children and in the success of the school community. At Maple Wood, we welcome and encourage the participation of parents and community members, and are grateful for the countless hours our volunteers contribute throughout the school year.

Thank you for helping to triangulate all of our efforts in supporting our children to be successful!

Our partnership and open communication continues to be key to their success!