

JANUARY 25, 2012

BRANCHING OUT

The Maple Street School Principal's Weekly Newsletter



Dear Parents and Students:

It has been an active week since last I wrote. As many of our families are aware, there is a stomach virus moving through the community which impacts not only our students, but our staff as well. Interestingly, as we have become a smaller, more consolidated school staff, we also have realized that with that smallness comes a bit of dependency on everyone being present in the school to cover the multitude of duties, coverages, classes, and responsibilities that do not go away, even when we are ill. This has been one of those weeks in which we have had to be creative, flexible, and supportive of one another. I am very proud of the staff and volunteers who have pitched in during this challenging week.

Because of the illness traveling through the community, it is important to remind the children of the need for hand washing. More often than not, the majority of illness that is spread in schools can be reduced or avoided through hand washing and avoiding hand to mouth contact. Please help us to keep the children healthy by encouraging them to wash their hands frequently and to take advantage of hand sanitizers throughout the building. This will go a long way in reducing illness among our students and staff.

Community Clubs are ramping back up this coming Friday. For three weeks, we will be hosting our second session of clubs on Friday afternoons from 1:55 - 2:30. The Clubs are run by our staff with the intention of making small group, fun-filled activities that encourage students to meet and develop relationships with staff members and other students whom might not be part of their normal circle of contacts. It is a positive, engaging opportunity for all to learn and play together while positively growing our community connections. Community Clubs will run this session through February 10th.

Other items in the “news” this week include the “Jump Rope for Heart” program that has been active in the past week. The program leaders have set a “goal” of raising \$2000.00 for the effort which would return \$200.00 from the US Games corp. for physical education equipment to the school. The best way to help this effort is to visit the online site at www.heart.org/jump and to click on the tab that says “Student Sign Up.” Last year we raised over \$950.00 in support of this cause.

On another note, please check your calendars for February 6th. This is a professional development day for the District. It will be a busy day for the District staff, as they extend the work that was begun on January 10th on assessment. The goal of the day will be to present a series of presentations to staff on how to address student learning needs from remediation through enrichment. At this time, over a dozen presentations are slated for the day, and staff members will select four or five one hour presentations to attend that best fit their professional needs. Sessions are run by volunteer staff and administration and we have a returning keynote speaker to begin our day from the Department of Education. We know the disruption to the school week is certainly difficult for some, but thank you for the opportunity to work collaboratively with one another to improve our professional learning.

Finally, just a thank you to all whom attended the Winter Concert. My daughter and I enjoyed the performances, as I am sure you did as well. The kids and staff did a remarkable job, and we are so proud of their efforts. Thank you for helping to make it a special evening for all.

Have a great week ahead.

BE SAFE...BE RESPECTFUL...BE RESPONSIBLE... BE A COMMUNITY

DATES TO REMEMBER

January / February / March 2012

S	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

January Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time / Location</u>	<u>Event</u>
• January 25, 2012	All Day / NA	Progress Reports Go Home
• January 27, 2012	1:55 PM	Community Clubs Begin

February Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time / Location</u>	<u>Event</u>
• February 6, 2012	All Day / NA	No School - Teacher Professional Development Day
• February 10, 2012	All Day / NA	Community Clubs End
• February 27, 2012	All Day / NA	Winter Break Begins

*Indicates Parental Invitation