

BRANCHING OUT

The Maple Street School Principal's Weekly Newsletter



Dear Parents and Students:

One of the four "B's" that are recognized as tenets in our school community that carry forward from the children's days at Harold Martin all the way through their High School careers is "Be Respectful." The two words mean so much more than just the superficial perceptions that most children hold about respect which focus more on compliance rather than appreciation and understanding. One of our goals at Maple Street is to focus our community energy on looking at Respect in all of its forms. To that end, we will be holding a community assembly on Friday in which we will discuss the topic together in a "town hall" format. For those who may not have seen this, imagine a horseshoe shaped arrangements of students with adults sitting together with the children as we face one another and host a conversation. The forum provides a terrific chance for our older and younger students and our staff to share thoughts and ideas, and to come together as a community to learn from one another.

During the assembly, we will focus our discussion on four types of respect: respect for self, others, life and the environment that sustains it, and respect for principles and truths. By outlining these forms of respect, we will open up some basic conversation about purposely and intentionally acting in a respectful manner towards others. Some of the ways that we will point out to create respect for others include eye contact, sitting up straight when talking to someone, using appropriate addresses such as Mr. or Mrs. , and helping to be thoughtful and appreciative of other people's opinions. These concepts tie together several of the health lessons that our teachers have worked on with the children over the past few weeks, and are important to helping to build upon and reinforce our community.

On another note, I was asked to write to you about the Student Council's November effort to support the local community. Specifically, the Student Council has decided to try to "Fill the Bus" with donations this year. They will have a bus outlined in tape in our hallway. Each time we fill a box of donations, they will mark off the area inside our "bus".

Our first venture is to have each class fill a "Thanksgiving Dinner" box for ten needy families in our town. The Student Council voted to donate the ten turkeys for each box. The rest of the donations will come from each classroom. Boxes will be delivered to the Hopkinton Food Pantry on Tuesday, November 22nd. Please check with your child to see if he/she has volunteered to contribute an item for their class box.

We recently had a guest speaker at our Student Council meeting. Mrs. Tewksbury came in to share with the council what the Friends Program does. We found out that the Friends Program helps needy families by providing them with a place to stay in addition to every day necessities. In the month of December we will be collecting donations for the Friends Program as well as the McKenna House.

Items that the Friends Program need are: diapers (all sizes), new socks (adult & children) winter boots (can be gently used), arts & crafts supplies, children's clothing (all sizes, can be gently used), canned goods and cereal.

Items that the McKenna House need are: new socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, razors, deodorant.

Thank you for your support in helping our kids help others in need.

Have a great week ahead!

DATES TO REMEMBER

November / December 2011

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

November Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time / Location</u>	<u>Event</u>
• November 23 - 25, 2011	All Day / NA	No School - Thanksgiving Recess
• November 28 - Dec. 2, 2011	Times TBD / Lobby	Scholastic MSS Book Fair*
• November 30, 2011	All Day / NA	Grade 5 Planetarium Trip

December Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time / Location</u>	<u>Event</u>
• December 6, 2011	1:20 PM / Gym	AIR Assembly
• December 7, 2011	All Day / NA	Report Cards Go Home
• December 7, 2011	6:30 PM / HMS	PTA / PTA Game Night *
• December 23, 2011	All Day / NA	Holiday Recess Begins

*Indicates Parental Invitation