

NOVEMBER 30, 2011

# BRANCHING OUT

The Maple Street School Principal's Weekly Newsletter



Dear Parents and Students:

I hope that everyone had a terrific holiday with family and friends this past Thanksgiving. Personally, I love the day, as it is not about receiving gifts, or shopping (although Black Friday continues to push its way back into Thursday to my dismay). Thanksgiving is about celebrating the family and the gifts that life has already given us through our relationships with others and I am very thankful for the opportunity to be with my family on that special day.

I wanted to say thanks this week to some very helpful people who are making a difference in our school. First, I wanted to recognize the folks on our IMPACT and CORE committees who met just prior to vacation to begin a cooperative project with one another that will soon be on display in the front of the school. This project helps us focus on our continuing climate building experiences and to build links between parents and staff. It takes a lot of work to complete this cooperative project, and their time is valuable, so we thank them for helping to make our school community a terrific place for children.

Secondly, I wanted to extend thanks to the volunteers who have been supporting the Student Council food drives and the Book Fair. Again, these events are time consuming, and time is valuable, so their dedication to helping to run these events is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I wanted to thank the students themselves for all the hard work and effort they have put into projects to support our community. Students in our school collected substantial amounts of food for the needy, have recently collected over \$200.00 for SPCA, and one young man will be leading a community assembly this week helping to educate his classmates and teachers about waste reduction and recycling. We have a powerful and motivated group of

community members in our school, who truly are seeking out ways to make a difference in their world.

I do believe that congratulations are in order for several of our students, as they recently participated in the LEGO FIRST competition in Manchester. I had the pleasure of watching them in several events, and I can honestly tell you that their enthusiasm and positive spirit was infectious. I hope that spirit and love of learning carries forward with them as they continue with their participation in this powerful program.

Finally, I wanted to let parents know that report cards will be heading home soon. As we fast approach the deadline for the cards being created (next Friday), now is a good time to do a last minute check with your child to see if there are any missing assignments or projects that need to be completed. Report cards will be a focus of another letter next week, and I will take the time to help explain some of the information in the cards that is substantially different than a traditional report card that you or I may have received as a student.

Have a great week ahead!

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

# DATES TO REMEMBER

November / December 2011

| S  | M  | T  | W  | TH | F  | SA |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

## November Events

| <u>Date</u>                  | <u>Time / Location</u> | <u>Event</u>              |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| • 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 9, 2011  | 8:30AM/ Gym            | Living in Space Assembly |
| • December 23, 2011 | All Day / NA           | Holiday Recess Begins    |

\*Indicates Parental Invitation