

OCTOBER 26, 2011

# BRANCHING OUT

The Maple Street School Principal's Weekly Newsletter



Dear Parents and Students:

I wanted to share with you a little bit about our Community Assembly last Friday afternoon. It was an "Assembly in the round" format, where our students and staff discussed one of our "Four B's" - "Be Safe." Many of you are aware that the "Three B's" are a hallmark of children's experiences and learning at HMS. We maintain and extend the "B's" by adding a fourth - "Be a Community" to the beliefs of "Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible." This is a developmentally appropriate extension for our age group of students, and really helps us to frame many of the increases in personal freedoms and responsibilities kids receive as they mature and grow. This past week's focus on "Be Safe" allowed us to explore physical safety, emotional safety, and social safety - tying together practical elements like Halloween, test taking and academic risks, as well as dangerous choices and behaviors such as substance abuse and bullying. Be sure to take a moment to discuss the assembly with your child. Assemblies are most often held on the last Friday of the month.

I have been discussing a number of health related items with staff members and students as of late. In speaking with our nurse, she asked that I remind students and parents about a few key issues that she is noting in her office. Specifically, she asked that I remind students to please dress appropriately for the weather. It has been in the low 40's in the morning the past couple of weeks. With most of the children outside prior to the start of school and again for morning snack recess it can be quite cold for them without the right clothing choices. Another issue regarding clothing is the wearing of leggings as "pants." Leggings by themselves are frequently a "modesty issue" for children, as they do not often provide ample coverage to meet the expectations of the dress code. Please encourage your child to review the dress code located in the District's

Student Handbook online at <http://mss-studenthandbook.wikispaces.com/Home>.

Also, our nurse asked that I remind parents that, when calling the school to inform of your child's absence, please inform the office if it's a personal day for the student or an illness. If your child is ill please include if your child has a fever over 100 degrees or is complaining of feeling feverish, hot and cold. Other symptoms which are important to the school nurse are to note if, along with the fever, does the child have a sore throat or cough. This information is relayed to the State on a daily basis to help monitor and track the spread of illness in our schools. In order to report accurately, the nurse needs the information noted above.

The nurse asked that parents be reminded that immunization records for all students needs to be completed as soon as possible. A report to the state is submitted on or before November 15th regarding every student's immunization records. If you have an appointment scheduled please leave word with the nurse so your child is considered up to date.

Finally, we have had a substantial number of ticks located on students which have been removed by our school nurse. Stories continue to come in each day of the high number of ticks in our area, and that is a worrisome thought given the ability of the tick to transmit Lyme disease to hosts. Please be very careful in checking for ticks each day, especially if your child enjoys being outside for sports or play.

Have a great week ahead!

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

# DATES TO REMEMBER

October / November 2011

S	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
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	30	1	2	3

**Date**

**Time / Location**

**Event**

**October Events**

- October 28, 2011                      1:00 - 2:15 PM / Playground                      Halloween Costume Contest\*

**November Events**

- November 9, 2011                      8:00 AM / Art Room                      Picture Retake Day
- November 10, 2011                      All Day / NA                      No School - Parent / Teacher Conferences\*
- November 11, 2011                      All Day / NA                      No School - Veterans Day
- November 23 - 25, 2011                      All Day / NA                      No School - Thanksgiving Recess
- November 30, 2011                      All Day / NA                      Grade 5 Planetarium Trip

\*Indicates Parental Invitation