

OCTOBER 5, 2011

BRANCHING OUT

The Maple Street School Principal's Weekly Newsletter



Dear Parents and Students:

I hope you are enjoying this first week in October. It is my favorite month of the year for sure, with the changing color of the leaves, the smell of Fall in the air, and the arrival of hunting season - a big thing in my family as my brother, father, and uncles cherish the time to gather together coming from several states and spend a week together in the woods away from the stressors of life. It is a great reminder of the importance of family for me in my life.

There sure is a lot happening in the school as well during the month of October. This week, for example, we have a significant professional learning day occurring in the District, as teachers and staff gather together as a District to learn more about the Common Core. For those who are not familiar with the Common Core, it is a nationalized set of standards for literacy and mathematics instruction and will soon become the replacement content for State testing. Currently, the majority of States in the country have agreed to make Common Core the standard for learning in their curricula, and we have a lot of work to do in our State and District to be sure that our instructional efforts and standards are in alignment. With a strong push for the integration of mathematics and literacy skills into unified arts classes, all teachers will be working on this learning experience collaboratively at this event. For more information about the Common Core, try looking at this website. It provides a nice overview of the standards: <http://www.corestandards.org/>.

Another upcoming event is the release of Progress Reports this coming October 12th. Please remember that the Progress report is not a Report Card. It is simply a means by which to help inform families of current performance in the classroom. It can often be confusing to parents who believe that this is the end of the term, and that their child

has done very well or poorly. In reality, it is a way for parents to advocate quickly, and intervene if needed to support their child who may be struggling academically or socially. It marks the midway point of the term, and provides a solid window of time to redirect or change course as needed.

Accompanying the Progress Report for our fifth grade students only, a copy of the NECAP Science assessment results for individual children will be provided. This assessment was given in May of last year to the students as 4th graders and provides a view of their science performance in relation to their peers at the local and State levels. As a school, we did very well on the Science NECAP, and the data from the assessment results is currently being used by the District Science Committee to review our curriculum, standards, and common assessments at each grade level.

Finally, I wanted to let you know we are having a blast with Community Clubs. We will pause this week, as we have no school this Friday (and also on Monday for Columbus Day) but will resume the clubs for the third and final week of Session One during the next week. We will be running two more sessions of Community Clubs this year, so we look forward to the events to come!

Enjoy the long weekend and have a great week ahead!

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 2011

S	M	T	W	TH	F	SA
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	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Date

Time / Location

Event

October Events

- October 7, 2011 All Day / NA No School - Teacher PD Day
- October 10, 2011 All Day / NA No School - Columbus Day
- October 12, 2011 All Day / NA Progress Reports (Term 1) Sent Home
- October 14, 2011 8:15 - 2:15 PM Grade Four Field Trip to Ruggle's Mine
- October 28, 2011 1:00 - 2:15 PM / Playground Halloween Costume Contest*

November Events

- 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

*Indicates Parental Invitation