

Maple Street School
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Michael Bessette, Principal



Memorandum

To: Mr. Chamberlin and Members of the Board
From: Michael Bessette
Date: 2/23/10
Re: Principal's Report

Mr. Chamberlin and Members of the Board:

The following is an update on events impacting Maple Street School over the course of the month of January.

Team Tomorrow Update:

The MSS student leaders (under the guidance of Fran Burdette, Behavior Specialist and Katherine Graham, Behavior Specialist Asst.) underwent a name change recently, as the children decided to self select a name befitting of their efforts and hope for the future. In selecting Team Tomorrow, students on the Team described to MSS students at our monthly student assembly that the name is reflective of their effort to make a difference and make tomorrow a better day than today. Students raised a paper banner with the old name (Student Leadership Team) and tore through it to raise a new banner with their newly adopted name.

Team Tomorrow has been active in the school over the past month. After receiving training, the students surveyed all children and staff on school climate data using the Main Street Academix online survey. The students broke out into presentation groups and worked with individual classes and teachers to obtain the data.

Team Tomorrow will be receiving additional training on February 2nd. During the training, the students will be reading and interpreting the survey data they have collected, and will be preparing to present their feedback on the data to the faculty that afternoon. From this presentation, the faculty and Team Tomorrow will generate climate building goals that support the school climate.

Finally, I will be requesting that Team Tomorrow also present to the Board in the near future, to provide the community with an overview of their work and the results of their efforts.

Student Council Event Planning:

The MSS Student council has been working closely with me over the past two weeks to revisit and refine plans for a social fundraising activity at the school. Originally proposed as a “dance”, this event was restructured as a “Line-dancing Social” and provided a host of structures and guidelines to maintain a safe, developmentally appropriate, learning experience for fourth through sixth grade students.

However, the council and I have opted to restructure the event in entirety – moving away from the dancing event all together. The council has returned to the planning table, with hopes of creating a social event that encompasses more interest and positive outcomes for all members of our community.

The council hopes to host the event in February or March depending on several variables.

Haitian Relief Fundraising Efforts:

Under the guidance and support of Lori Aubertin and Kristin Jacques (Grade Five teachers) students in the Maple Street School organized and supported a recent cookie drive fundraiser occurring over a two-day period. During those two days, students and staff purchased in excess of \$550.00 worth of cookies to support the UNICEF relief effort in Haiti.

Gymnasium Walls:

The recent addition of Velcro tape to the perimeter of the gym walls has provided us an opportunity to use the existing floor mats as padding for the gym walls. This has made a positive impact on student safety and both physical education teachers have reported that they believe that it has made a positive difference in space.

Upcoming Activities and Events January / February:

January

- January 29th, 2010 Morning Brew - 7:45 AM*
- January 29th, 2010 Spelling Bee – 12:45 PM

February

- February 3rd, 2010 Early Release Day – 12:10 Dismissal
- February 3rd, 2010 Progress Reports Go Home
- February 12th, 2010 Community Clubs – 8:15 – 9:00 AM
- February 19th, 2010 Community Clubs – 8:15 – 9:00 AM
- February 22nd, 2010 School Closed - Winter Break

* (Indicates parents are invited to attend)

