

210 Hawker Road
Maple, Ontario
L6A 2J8
905.417.9177

Principal: Marisa Cerullo
Vice Principal: Jillian Di Nallo
Superintendent: Grant Fawthrop



Website: www.maplecreek.ps.yrdsb.ca Instagram: [maplecreekpublicschool](https://www.instagram.com/maplecreekpublicschool)
Email: maple.creek.ps@yrdsb.ca

Maple Creek Public School

Administrators' Message

December 2022

December is a time for reflection and celebration, as we recognize the many joyous holidays within our community that highlight and share in the beauty of family, religious and cultural traditions.

As we look back on the last 4 months of school, we reflect on the strong partnerships we are developing. We would like to thank our families for your participation with your child in our Curriculum Night, our Remembrance Day assembly and interviews. Maple Creek is committed to the academic and social success of each student, and we are proud to reach this success through the partnership with parents and families.

We would also like to thank our teachers who are committed to providing exciting learning opportunities, both in the classroom, and through extracurricular activities. We are so proud of our students who are taking advantage of extracurricular learning activities such as the Health and Wellness Club, Girls Inc., Dance Team Gr. 5-8 and other sports teams such as boys/girls volleyball Grades 4-8. We are especially proud of our Intermediate Girls and Boys Volleyball teams who represented Maple Creek with passion and determination, achieving a 3rd place win at an area volleyball tournament. We extend a huge thanks to our coaches for volunteering their time for these important extracurricular opportunities.

As we look forward to the upcoming winter months, it is very important for children to come to school appropriately dressed for snow, slush, wind-chill and icy conditions. We would like to encourage all students to wear proper footwear, scarves, gloves, snow pants or lined jackets. Please discuss the importance of winter clothing and footwear with your child. We need to plan for whatever Mother Nature may send our way. Children must always be prepared to go outside for morning and lunch recess. Only in severe conditions will outdoor activities be shortened or cancelled. Children must also have a clean pair of indoor shoes to wear, especially during physical education classes.

We would also like to thank School Council for their time and energy as we work together. **Our next meeting is on December 12, 2022 from 6:30– 7:30pm and is a hybrid meeting model of face-to-face and online. We are still looking to expand our School Council team. If you are interested in joining, please join us at the following link: <https://meet.google.com/tut-qved-nje> or in person at Maple Creek's Library on Dec. 12, 2022 between 6:30-7:30pm.** We will continue to partner with staff toward making our school an inclusive and welcoming place for everyone.

During this season of giving and gratitude, we are pleased to have our Hat and Mitten Tree up in the front lobby of the school. We want to thank families who were able to donate new winter hats, mittens/gloves, and scarves. All of the items collected will be donated to families from the York Region Community who are in need. Thank you to all community members who supported our Holiday Toy Drive, as well.

Here at Maple Creek, we value the relationships we have fostered with our family partners. It is always exciting to look forward, but it is also a joy to reflect on the great work we have all done together for each child.

We wish everyone an enjoyable winter break, holiday, and a Happy New Year!

Ms. Cerullo
Principal

Ms. Di Nallo
Vice Principal

Message from Our Trustee

December 2022

I am happy to serve as your trustee on the 2022-2026 Board of Trustees.

As a trustee, my role includes being an advocate for quality public education in York Region, and I want to assure you that I am committed to that work. Every one of our students deserves to be learning in an environment where they feel safe, valued and supported in learning and achieving success.

Part of our role as trustees includes making policy and budget decisions, and setting our priorities as an organization through a Multi-Year Strategic Plan. Our board will work hard to keep students at the centre of our decision making, and to build collaborative relationships with the families and communities we serve. The education of our students, your children, is a partnership and the relationships we have with families is an essential one.

Communicating with families and members of the public is also an important part of our role, and I look forward to connecting with members of the school community in the coming weeks and months. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I will be sharing information with you throughout the school year, and letting you know more about our work and priorities as a school board. You can also visit the board website at www.yrdsb.ca or follow on social media.

As we head into December, I also want to wish you a safe and enjoyable winter break. There are many significant dates in December for different faiths and cultures, and to all those celebrating, I wish you a happy and joyous celebration. I hope everyone has an opportunity to spend time with family and friends, relax and recharge, and we look forward to welcoming you back in January.

Nadeem Mahmood

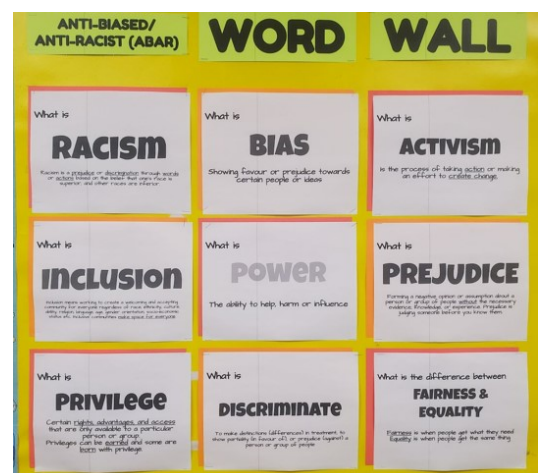
Trustee, King and Vaughan Ward 1

Equity, Inclusion, and Dismantling Racism

Every student should have the opportunity to achieve personal excellence, and to feel safe, welcome and valued. Our priority of championing equity and inclusivity has a focus on proactively supporting equitable access to quality education and opportunities for all students, and to challenge the marginalization of students, staff, and families.

At Maple Creek P.S., that work includes:

- the use of Anti-Biased Anti-Racist Word Walls in the classroom
- Revising our classroom libraries using books/texts that support a more equitable and inclusive approach to learning
- Designing learning activities that promote social justice, inclusion, and equity, with a focus on diversity
- Ensuring that students see themselves reflected in their learning environment
- Discussions around equity, inclusion and the importance of being an 'upstander' versus a 'bystander'



The What and Why of Number Sense

It is important for children to develop number sense as they move through the grades. This simply means that children develop the ability to understand numbers, number relationships, and can use this understanding to solve mathematical problems.

The Ontario curriculum scaffolds the development of number sense for children as they learn to read, represent, compose, decompose, compare, order and estimate numbers. This journey begins in kindergarten where children learn about counting and quantity as they investigate and explore numbers in their everyday lives. The Ontario Mathematics Curriculum supports the development of number sense throughout the grades by carefully scaffolding for each grade.

Grade 1 - Numbers to 50 Try this at home: Together, count a small collection of items.

Grade 2 - Numbers to 200 Try this at home: How many ways can you show 2 dollars using different coins?

Grade 3 - Numbers to 1000 Try this at home: Count by 10s, 20s, 25s or 50s to 1000. To add an extra challenge, start at a number that is not 0.

Grade 4 - Numbers to 10 000 Try this at home: Think about as many situations as you can involving numbers up to 10 000. Discuss what the numbers and units represent.

Grade 5 - Numbers to 100 000 Try this at home: Have a discussion about where you find big numbers. Think about as many situations as you can involving numbers up to 100 000. Discuss what the numbers and units represent.

Grade 6 - Numbers to 1 000 000 Try this at home: Have a discussion about how big is a million. Think about it in terms of number of items, where you can find a million and how much it really is. You may want to check out the book - How Much is a Million

Grade 7 - Number to one billion Try this at home: Think about as many situations as you can where you would find a billion. Discuss what the numbers and units represent.

Grade 8 - Very large and very small numbers. Try this at home: Have a discussion about what the smallest number is and what the largest number is. Then do a bit of searching to see if you are right. Discuss how big and small those numbers really are in comparison to everyday items.

Celebrating the Many Global Contributions to Mathematics

Throughout human history, people from many cultures and societies have contributed to the continuously developing understanding of math. As a part of each monthly newsletter, one of these many significant contributions will be shared in celebration of how diverse ways of knowing have shaped our mathematics today.

Did you know that the first known use of zero was about 4000 years ago in the Sumarian culture in Mesopotamia? It was used as a placeholder to indicate the absence of a number. It was later independently developed by the Mayans and even later in India. Arab merchants brought zero from India to the West where after much debate it was accepted as a number.

To learn more about the history of zero, visit this BBC webpage [We Couldn't Live Without Zero - but we once had to.](#)

YRDSB Student and Family Surveys; Every Student Counts

YRDSB will be inviting all students in Grades 4-12 and students in Grades K-3 to participate in the 2022-23 Every Student Counts Survey in the Spring of 2023. Surveys will be available online and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. You and your child should have received a letter



from the Board notifying them that the survey will be taking place. The surveys will provide the Board and our schools with valuable information about the learning experiences of students and families this year that are used to inform Board and school planning and to support student achievement and well-being. Students in Grades 4-12 will be given class time to complete the survey at schools. Students in Grades K-3 are encouraged to complete the survey at home with their family. Families who do not want their child(ren) to be sent an invitation to participate in the survey will be given a chance to opt their child out of receiving the survey in the new calendar year. As our first partners in education, we value input from families and encourage parents/guardians to complete the survey. The information provided will be confidential and kept in strict accordance with all relevant legislation. Please contact Research Services at research.services@yrdsb.ca if you have any questions or visit the Board website to learn more.

The purpose of the ESCS is to better understand our students' identities as well as their experiences inside of school. ESCS results will be used to inform Board and school improvement planning that aims to:

- identify and eliminate systemic barriers to student success
 - create more equitable and inclusive school environments
 - improve student achievement and well-being
- Findings from the ESCS will be used to develop strategies and realign supports to where they are needed the most. As outlined in the [Director's Action Plan](#), this work will be guided by an anti-oppression framework. Board and staff members will engage in learning to use the data from the ESCS in order to identify, interrupt and eliminate discriminatory practices and systemic barriers from schools and classrooms to continue supporting student achievement and well-being.

WINTER BREAK

December 26, 2022—January 6, 2023

Monday, January 9, 2023—Return to School, Welcome Back!



OTHER IMPORTANT DATES IN DECEMBER

8th— **Picture Retake Day**; those who missed picture day/want to have retakes are to inform the office

12th— **School Council Meeting** 6:30; hybrid of face-to-face and online <https://meet.google.com/tut-qved-nje>

21st- **December Showcase**. Our students are busy preparing for our December Showcase. Students will be presenting various performances, showcasing what we have been working on in class. Like our Remembrance Day Assembly, it will be an in-school event for the *students only*. Pictures/videos will be posted to Instagram, and on your child’s Google Classroom so stay tuned.

ACTIVITY WEEK (December 19-23)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Winter Door Decorating Completion	Toque Day; wear your favourite toque	Creeker Day; wear blue or your Maple Creek clothing	Favourite Sweater Day	Pajama Day