

## LeBlanc, Amanda

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**From:** LeBlanc, Amanda  
**Sent:** Friday, April 5, 2019 5:51 PM  
**Subject:** April News

Dear Maple Leaf School Community

We have lots going on and news to share this month. The most exciting news is at the end; be sure to read all the way through.

**Community Coffee and Tea - Tuesday, April 9th, at 3:30 p.m.** Please join us for coffee and tea on Tuesday, April 9th at 3:30 p.m. at the primary exit and playground area. It will be a great opportunity to talk and have some coffee, tea or hot chocolate. We had great feedback about our last event. We look forward to seeing everyone there. From Mr. Derakshandeh

**Family Fun Evening - Tuesday, April 16th, at 3:30 p.m.** Please join us for a Family Fun Evening on Tuesday, April 16th at the Primary exit and playground area and Junior/Intermediate tarmac. This will be a great opportunity for families to play some sports and fun activities together, and learn about some new games or develop their skills in games they already know. The event will start at 3:30 and end at 5:30 p.m.. Families that attended this kind of evening last year all said they really enjoyed the time together. Hope to see everyone there! From Mr. Derakshandeh

**Winter Lost and Found** Please come in next week to look through the Lost and Found. We will have all items on tables near the main office. Any items leftover will be added to our Clothing Fundraiser.

**School Clothing/Textiles Donation Fundraiser** As you may know through the communications over the past 2 years about our school fundraising plan, we have been working to minimize costs and maximize student inclusion for all school activities and events. We have been working to capitalize on community and business partnerships rather than always asking our families for money. This small fundraiser is an example. We have arranged a clothing donation fund raiser. At this time of year we are all going through our closets and sorting through the winter clothing that is too small or no longer useful to us and make room for spring and summer clothes. This fundraiser does not cost any money and is a small way that everyone can get involved by investing just a little bit of time in spring cleaning our cupboards. This event will increase students awareness in helping the environment by diverting unwanted textiles away from landfills, generate funds for a worthy cause and support our fundraising needs. Cornerstone to Recovery (<https://cornerstonetorecovery.com/>) is a grassroots charitable organization that offers support to those impacted by addiction to achieve wellness. **On April 16th at 3:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Cornerstone to Recovery **will have a truck parked in our south parking lot to take our unwanted clothing and textile donations and they are paying us money to take it away. The money we raise is going directly toward the cost of our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary t-shirts. We are giving every student a free t-shirt on June 11<sup>th</sup>.** We have arranged this fundraiser to coincide with our Family Fun Night in order to maximize the donations and the money we can raise for t-shirts. We hope everyone will help us out and clean out their clothing and textile closets.

**Community Garden** Did you know that we have a local Community Garden? It is located at London and Main and the first Information Meeting will be on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Newmarket Public Library just off Main Street. From Mrs. Goverde

**Ward 4 Community Meeting** Your Ward 4 Councillor Trevor Morrison attended our last 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning meeting. He will be attending our celebration on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Also, coming up you may want to drop in to Newmarket Ward 4 Community Meeting. Meet Councillor Trevor Morrison and share any questions or feedback you have. Wednesday, May 8, 2019 from 7-9p.m., Community Centre, Hall #4, 200 Doug Duncan Drive.

**Before and After School Care** We have been working in partnership with YRDSB and community partners to bring before and after school care back to Maple Leaf. We recognize the need and want you to know we have been and are working on this and will keep everyone informed. We are very grateful to have our Newmarket Boys and Girls Club After School Program and very excited to have our Boys Club re-open last week!

**Bullying Prevention:** While we continue to focus on our #WWS goals, our Sustainable Bullying Prevention team has been focused on empowering our student leadership team to share what they are passionate about. Feeling a sense of safety and belonging is something they tell us is a priority for everyone! Recently, our school had a Day of Pink to raise awareness about being an 'Upstander' to address and prevent bullying. Our student leaders will be sharing more information about our next event, taking place on April 11<sup>th</sup>, on the International Day of Pink, through announcements and posters. We hope to see everyone wearing something pink again that day to stand up against all forms of bullying!

As many of you know, April is Autism Awareness Month. Through our morning announcements and, by visiting classes, we encouraged everyone to wear mismatched socks to support acceptance of everyone's uniqueness. It was great to see so many crazy designs worn by students and staff to show their support of the 1 in 6 people worldwide who are diagnosed with Autism.

When discussing different forms of bullying that take place in our lives, our students began to discuss several topics that they were very passionate about. After talking about how we can raise awareness about some of these issues, our students decided on participating in a Day of Silence. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, students will display signs as they silently walk our track to bring attention to issues such as bullying, racism, classism, LGBTQ2+ rights, saving the sharks and several other topics they feel need our attention. Our student leaders will be sharing more information with everyone at our Day of Pink assembly on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

We all know that a home-school partnership is very important in the community. As we strive to work together to make sure our kids are safe, we are hoping to have more parents become engaged in events so we can hear your voice as well. With the nicer weather coming our way, we will be looking to have folks join us for coffee or tea, at the end of the day on April 9<sup>th</sup> and come on out to our Family Fun event on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

On a final note, we are working toward creating a school touchstone. This will be a process of capturing voices from our students, families, staff and community partners to highlight what MLPS means to our community. This will be particularly special as we recognize our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary! We look forward to having our families even more engaged in the amazing work we can do together! When we work together, with the common goal of the well-being of our kids, we will build a stronger culture of #WWS. From Mrs. L. Richmond

**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** From Mr. Gord McCallum, Chair 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee

We're very excited to celebrate Maple Leaf Public School's 60th Birthday this coming June 2019!!

There is a list of fun activities for all ages at the school, alumni from years past and the entire Community of Newmarket Heights!

As a former student of Maple Leaf PS 1972 - 1978, I'm proud to call this area home. It has some really great tradition and we'd like to share that with all of you in the Community. Here is a list of events to build spirit, show support and grow a Community we all can be proud of.

June 11<sup>th</sup> 2-3:15pm

School Assembly with student performances, greetings from past Alumni, and 60<sup>th</sup> Aerial Photo

June 11th 5:00 - 7:30pm

Fun Fair and Community Event

- Bouncy Jungle and Inflatable Obstacle Tiki Trek
- Giant Jenga, Connect 4 and Light Strike Table
- DJ
- Water games
- Face Painting
- Team games

- Great Food
- Cotton Candy and more!!

#### Raffles

- Mountain Bike
- Blue Jays Tickets

June 14th - 4:00 - 9:00pm

#### Alumni and Community Social at The Works Burgers

- Management has offered to support MLPS with a percentage of MLPS sales will go back to the school
- We hope you all can come meet some Alumni and other Community members for some fun and old time stories.

June 15th - 10:00am - 6:00pm

#### 60th Birthday and Alumni Party

- Visit at the school with some history and updates with lots of historic stories and memories
- Tour Newmarket on the Bus Tour with several stops along the way to share stories and hear some history as well as some future plans for the town.
- Re-visit old Main Street and take in the local fare as the restaurateurs are supporting our school in many ways.
- Finish the day at Cachet Restaurant - Mingle and Share some Social time.

Hope you can support the Community we call home and create equally as much spirit for the new residents of "The Heights"!!

**School of Character:** At Maple Leaf we have a strong emphasis on character education. Our morning announcements, monthly student led character assemblies, and classroom instruction incorporating social justice themes are among a few of the ways we foster character development. The Character Community Foundation of York Region recognizes the importance of strong character as a critical component for healthy communities. Last year our Student Nutrition Program student volunteers were nominated and represented at the Annual Character Community Awards and the year prior Sandi O'Neil's Winter Basket volunteer crew were nominated and recognized. This year our school was nominated for the School of Character Award category. The nomination read:

*Maple Leaf Public School is an incredible place to be. Many of our students face challenges in their lives that folks in York Region cannot imagine. Our students recognize, demonstrate and value strong character. No matter what challenges they face there is always someone there to care and to support. The Maple Leaf Student Leadership Team represents our student body well. Our student leaders volunteer endless hours whether, for example, to raise awareness about topics of importance in society such as Mental Health Day and Pink Shirt Day, or by raising donations for the local food bank and families in need within our school. Student leadership and volunteerism is typical of the culture at Maple Leaf. We want York Region to recognize Maple Leaf as a place of great character so that when you meet someone from Maple Leaf or speak about our school you know of the pride we have in our school community.*

*Demonstrating strong character is what matters most for the students at Maple Leaf Public School. Our students understand the importance of treating members of our school community with respect. They take responsibility for their words and actions and demonstrate great courage and perseverance to manage the many challenges with which they are faced. Our students show empathy for those around them and value fairness in treatment of others. We see these character traits demonstrated regularly as almost every student engages in some form of volunteerism at the school at some point or throughout their Junior and Intermediate grades. The opportunities for student leadership and volunteerism are boundless and there is always a line up of students willing and asking to help out. These activities include: being a classroom helper during lunch and indoor recesses, coming in before school to prepare snacks and cleaning the bins at the end of the day for the Student Nutrition Program, supporting our youngest students in the Kindie yard engage in social skills, being a student leader for our recess project team where students support other students to feel a sense of belonging and inclusion, taking responsibility to set up the sound equipment for school character assemblies, or as a member of the Student Leadership Team raising awareness for topics of importance such as Mental Health Day and organizing food and shoe drives.*

**We are pleased to share that Maple Leaf has been selected as a Finalist for the School of Character Award.** The staff at Maple Leaf are incredibly proud of the progress our students have shown. At a future Character Assembly a

representative from the Character Community Foundation will present a certificate to the school. We hope everyone will join us in celebrating this tremendous honour! We are hoping to win on April 24th.

Linnet Richmond  
Vice Principal

Amanda LeBlanc  
Principal

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MISSION: To advance **student achievement** and **well-being** through **public education**, which motivates **learners**, fosters **inclusion**, inspires **innovation** and builds **community**.