



MAPLE LEAF PUBLIC SCHOOL

155 Longford Drive, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 2Y7

Maple Leaf PS Community members.

October 31, 2017

The information in this newsletter was sent out via email to all MLPS parents and caregivers who have provided the school with an email. If you did not receive the email, please check your students index card has an accurate or up to date email address. A hard copy is only provided to the youngest and only student in a household whose parent/caregiver requested.

1. Exciting news. At our last school Council, I spoke briefly about an opportunity offered to us by Scott Milne Manager, School and Community Projects, Inclusive School and Community Services. **Community Resiliency Mapping** is an assessment of the forms of community assets available to the school. Scott will lead us through this process of understanding and information gathering. We need members of the school community to join us and share their knowledge of the community. All community members are welcome. Hoping you can make it to this meeting. If you are able to join us for an hour on November 28th at 7 pm, please let me know. We will meet in the Maple Leaf library.

2. In our September newsletter, we reminded our community of the Board Policy about **dogs on school property** and is outlined in the YRDSB Guide to the School Year 2017-2018 was sent home with every student in the first week of school or given to all families registering since then.

- All dogs must be on a leash and must not enter the building.
- The fenced Kindergarten yard is off limits to any animals.
- Excrement must be removed by pet owners.

We still have caregivers bringing animals into the Kindergarten yard. We are finding excrement all over our school yard and children are stepping in and sliding through the excrement. We have a number of who are afraid and intimidated by dogs, especially large dogs. We are again asking for all pets to be left at home when you are walking your child to and from school. We need everyone's support to keep our property clean and healthy.

3. Congratulations to our **Student Leadership Team**. Under the guidance of Mrs. Rorke and Mrs. Cochrane the Team planned, prepared for and ran our Fall Dance. It was a huge success. Not only did all students have an enjoyable day but they team also collected over the last 2 weeks 331 food items which will be packaged and delivered to the local food bank.

As you may be aware, in the last few months various sites across York Region including some YRDSB schools, have been vandalized with racist and anti-Semitic graffiti. National and global incidents of discrimination and hate are continuing to affect our students, staff and communities.

In light of this, York Region District School Board has organized a unity rally, **Ring of Peace: Inspire Learning, Inspire Action!**, to show our support for safe, inclusionary spaces free from discrimination and hate for all staff and students in York Region. All YRDSB schools will be participating in this event November 2. Our Student Leadership Team will be attending.

4. **Treaties Recognition Week**

Ontario passed legislation to recognize the importance of treaties and to bring awareness to the treaty relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the province. The Treaties Recognition Week Act, 2016 designates the first week of November each year as Treaties Recognition Week. The first legislation of its kind in Canada, Treaties Recognition Week provides a recurring opportunity for teachers to plan for their students learning activities about treaties during the school year. This legislation is part of Ontario's Treaty Strategy which is promoting constructive engagement and revitalizing treaty relationships between the province and Indigenous communities. Treaties Recognition Week is also one of many steps on Ontario's journey of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. It reflects Ontario's commitment to work with Indigenous partners, creating a better future for everyone in the province.

MLPS will be hosting Chad Solomon, author of the Rabbit and Bear Paws graphic novels, on Friday, November 3rd. Chad will be providing similar presentations to only four other schools in our board, so we are very fortunate to be included in this opportunity! His message supports the idea of conservation, cooperation and respect and is an interactive format for our students.

Amanda LeBlanc
Principal