

MAPLE LEAF MESSENGER

November 2017



Ms. Amanda LeBlanc, Principal
Mr. Erik Khilji, Superintendent of Schools (905) 895-5155
Mr. Martin Van Beek, Trustee (905) 830-6776

Mrs. Linnet Richmond, Vice Principal

The Character Trait for November is

HONESTY

We behave in a sincere, trustworthy and truthful manner.

Thank you to all the parents and caregivers who came out last Thursday and Friday to take part in your child's student-led conference. Hopefully you heard about progress made so far this term and the goals that have been set to steer your child toward success at the Term 1 Report Card. If you were unable to attend for any reason, please give the teacher a call.

Our staff, with the leadership of Mrs. Richmond and Mrs. Zimmerman, organized our first annual Vendor Fair. Members of our local community came out to sell their wares. We had a great time connecting with Maple Leaf staff of past years and MLPS families. We raised almost enough money from this event to pay for Rocks and Rings which will give all Maple Leaf students an initial experience learning about the Canadian sport of Curling.

You will have noticed we have a mobile unit that was brought to the school on Friday. Maple Leaf is one of only 5 schools in Ontario to have the privilege of this partnership with the Dairy Farmers of Ontario. Students in our grade 4 classes will learn about healthy food choices and are cooking baked falafels.

We are excited to begin the Roots of Empathy Program again this year. Mrs. Leone will be leading this work in partnership with Ms. Thornhill and Mrs. O'Brien for the students in rooms 132 and 113. "Roots of Empathy is an evidence-based classroom program that has shown significant effect in reducing levels of aggression among school children while raising social/emotional competence and increasing empathy. The mission is to build caring, peaceful and civil societies through the development of empathy in children and adults. The program has at its heart a neighbourhood infant and parent who engage students in their classroom nine times over the school year. A ROE-trained instructor coaches the students to observe the baby's development and to label the baby's feelings. In this experiential learning, the baby is 'teacher' and catalyst for instruction to help children identify and reflect on their own feelings and the feelings of others – empathy."

Please remember to go to the Maple Leaf school website at <http://mapleleaf.ps.yrdsb.ca>. You will find there our school community calendar and all notices. You will receive regular information through email if your email address is accurate. Please let Mrs. Agostino know if you need to update the email on your child's index card.

If you have not yet signed the consent form for The Recess Project, we are hoping to have every child return their form so that we can get the site facilitator hired and begin the recess activities as soon as possible. Copies are available in the office.

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French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools on January 18, 2018 at 7 p.m. Please visit YRDSB's website in January 2018 (<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx>) to find the FI program location for your elementary school location. FI registration will begin January 19, 2018. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2018, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to the designated FI program location to register between January 19 and February 9, 2018. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. Space requirements at some schools may mean that siblings are in different schools for primary dual track French Immersion programs due to differing grade structures. Like any of our schools across the Board, changes to school boundaries, and/or the accommodation model for the French Immersion program may need to be considered when new schools open, a school experiences enrolment growth, and program changes occur. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools.

More information is available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 19, 2018

Kindergarten registration will commence on January 19, 2018 for the 2018-19 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2018, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact your local school.



Maple Leaf PS has been awarded a Green Apple School Program grant of \$1,000 to support our Student Nutrition Program! The goal of the Green Apple School Program is to encourage Ontario students to adopt healthy eating habits and increasing their fruits and vegetables consumption, which are the foundation of healthy eating habits. Thanks to Chantal McCallum, our School Council Co-Chair, for submitting the application.

Last year staff organized a **Winter Open House**. This year the evening is December 12th starting at 6pm. Our Holiday Basket Raffle will happen on this evening. **We need volunteers to help wrap the baskets on December 5th at 6:30 pm.** Please let us know if you can help.



Reminder: Recording school events (e.g. concerts, assemblies) and then publicly posting them on social media infringes on the rights of those parents, staff and students whose images are shared without their knowledge or permission.

We urge parents, caregivers and visitors to not post any school videos or photos on social media. Photographs and video clips cannot be controlled by the York Region District School Board nor can it prevent their further distribution or use.

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

