Technology
Where would we be without technology? Technological advances made within the last decade are simply amazing. Perhaps even more astonishing is the speed and pace with which these changes are occurring. This rapid change often puts parents at a disadvantage in terms of their technological know-how in relation to their children. Although computers are indispensable and the Internet has become an essential tool for the acquisition of information, it can also be very dangerous and needs to be monitored.

An increasing majority of students have on-line profiles on Facebook, MSN, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat and gaming chat rooms. Often these profiles contain a great deal of personal information, including pictures, names, and clues to a child’s location. Kids often believe that they have more control over this information than they actually do. Used carelessly, these forms of Internet communication can open kids up to victimization from on-line predators and cyberbullies (bullies using electronic tools to antagonize or intimidate others).

The York Region District School Board has strict guidelines for computer use at school. It is equally important that children are monitored at home.

Prevention and Control for Parents
- Have clear household rules guiding Internet use (i.e. not to be used unless parent is present to supervise)
- Keep the computer in a supervised area (ie. ABSOLUTELY NOT in the child’s bedroom)
- Know what kids are doing on-line through discussion or checking Internet history
- Talk to kids about using good manners when communicating electronically and about the dangers of cyberbullying
- Encourage kids to come to you if they suspect they are being cyber-bullied or are worried about any communication they are receiving on-line
- Report incidents of bullying to Internet Service Providers (ISP), school officials (if applicable), or police if harassment persists
- Investigate purchasing an Internet filtering program

Helpful Websites
http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca – click on the Cyber Safety link
Family Literacy Day

Primary Literacy Drop-In
Thank-you to all those parents that attended the Primary Literacy Open House. It was great to see so many in attendance and the students were thrilled to have their parents visit!

At-Home Literacy Activities
Students were asked to participate in At-Home Literacy Activities. Students completed a ballot to be entered into a draw to win a book from Scholastic. A student was selected from each class...the following is a list of the winners:

From the primary division
Liana, Dylan, Shan, Arya, Ariana, Ivan, Angelina, Michelle, Catherine, Inwoo, Jordan and Darren

From the junior division
Haneul, Lucas, Mana, Pasha and Zahra

From the intermediate division
Scott, Connor, Sebastien

Thank-you for making Family Literacy Day a great success!

Ms.Polsinelli
English Language Teacher
Student absences have increased recently within several schools in York Region, related to illnesses with respiratory and enteric symptoms.

**To protect staff, students and families from getting ill, remember to:**
- Stay at home when you are sick, and keep your child home if they are sick
- Keep healthy by eating healthy foods, being physically active and ensuring your immunizations are up-to-date, including the seasonal flu shot
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available
- Cough and sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue, not your hand, and throw away used tissues immediately
- Avoid touching your face
- Clean and disinfect common surfaces

**Symptoms of respiratory and/or enteric illness can include:**
- Headache
- Chills
- Fever (over 38 degrees Celsius or 100 degrees Fahrenheit)
- Muscle aches and fatigue
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Sore throat
- Watery eyes
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you or your child are sick and do not improve, contact your health care provider. Many viruses are commonly active at this time of year, for example norovirus and influenza (flu). Both viruses are very contagious and can be spread by contact with contaminated surfaces, such as door knobs or eating utensils. For more information, read the norovirus and flu fact sheets online at the following links:  [Norovirus fact sheet](#)  [Flu fact sheet](#)

Just a reminder that May 6th, 2016 is also a PA Day for Elementary School.
Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration on now!

Documents required for registration include:

- Proof of child's age (birth certificate/passport)
- Proof of residency (for child and parent/guardian) such as tax bill, utility bill, or bank statement
- Citizenship and immigration status (for child and parent/guardian where applicable)
- Direction of school support form (this is available at registration)

Who can register?
Children born in 2012 are eligible for Junior Kindergarten this September. Children born in 2011 and not currently enrolled in public school can register for Senior Kindergarten in September (if your child is already attending JK, you do not need to re-register for the fall).

If you would like additional information, please contact Mrs. Priggen or Mrs. Shulman in the main office.

Please relay this message to neighbours who do not have children currently attending Red Maple P.S.

SCHOOL COUNCIL/SPRING DANCE-ATHON
The Red Maple School Council is pleased to announce that the Dance-a-thon will take place on April 8th. This will be an opportunity for students to dress up for the day and enjoy a dance party with their friends.

Are You Planning to Move?
We are currently in the beginning stages of planning classes for next year. If you are planning to move, it would be most helpful if you could let us know.

Lost and Found
Lost and found items will be on display next week. Any unclaimed items will be gathered together and given to charity during the March Break.
Stress in Children

Stress is a normal part of every day life for adults and children. With the many activities children are involved in, it is important that they learn how to juggle their commitments. Too much stress can cause many problems including stomach aches, poor school performance, confusion, and sadness. It is important to teach children to take the time to slow down and relax.

• As parents you can help your child or children by ensuring they have unstructured time to be on their own or with friends. This will give them the opportunity to work through their problems as they play or relax.

• You can also put aside some time each day to engage your child or children in quiet activities like reading, relaxation exercises or discussions about what’s going on in their lives.

For more information on helping your child manage stress and anxiety, contact York Region Health Services 1-877-464-YORK.

Class Placements 2016/17

Every year in early June, we organize classes for the following year. Input is appreciated from parents when we are making these placement decisions. Our main objective is to create classes that will provide the optimum learning environment for everyone.

We recognize that children have their own learning styles. We appreciate that parents have valuable information to share with us as we make placement decisions based on children’s capabilities, gender, work habits and behaviours.

Teachers have the benefit of knowing the children with whom they are currently working. We rely on their professional decisions. If, however, you have information or suggestions which will help teachers make an appropriate placement, please write a letter to Mr. Trute at the main office before May 2nd, 2016.

Rather than suggesting a teacher, please indicate the learning style or classroom structure which would be most appropriate for your child. When teachers get together to create new class lists, we will use this information to help make our final decisions. Requests will be accommodated only where placement will enhance a child’s learning.

Valuables @ School

Please be advised that students are not to bring valuable items to school. Any student who chooses to bring a valuable item to school, does so at their own risk. The school and staff cannot be responsible for any item that is lost, stolen or misplaced. We advise you to please leave your precious items at home. We thank you for your cooperation in advance.
Library News: The Forest of Reading for 2016

Every year the Ontario Library Association holds a reading contest for children across Ontario and Canada. This program encompasses all age groups and promotes Canadian authors and illustrators. This year Red Maple Public School will be participating in two programs.

Our Jk - Grade 3 class will be participating in the Blue Spruce program. For the next 10 weeks students will be read a series of nominated picture books and complete a memory book activity.

The other, is the Silver Birch Express program which involves voluntary students in grades 4-6, they will partake in reading 10 fiction and non-fiction books. These students will have an opportunity to read at school in the library, during one recess a week and continue reading these books at home at their leisure.

Both these programs are intended to encourage reading for fun. In April participants will have an opportunity to take part in an Ontario wide vote for students.

We look forward to announcing winners for both programs later in the school year. For further information, please check the Forest of Reading Website:

http://www.accessola.org/web

Happy Reading!!

Reading for the Love of It ❤

Two of Red Maple Public School’s teachers had an opportunity to attend the 40th annual Reading for the love of it conference.

Canadian author Kenneth Oppel was the Breakfast keynote speaker. Mr. Oppel has won numerous literary awards, including the 2004 Governor General’s Literary Award for English language children’s literature, a Printz Honor Award from the American Library Association and The Times Children’s Novel of 2005. Mr. Oppel signed our Red Maple Library’s copy of Firewing, check it out!

Miriam Terhearne was on hand to talk about her latest book which equips teachers with practical high-yield strategies, assessment tools, and motivating activities, all steeped in strong research and easily applicable in all kinds of learning environments.

Melissa Seco and Heather Ryan presented “An FDK Picture book Adventure: Spark learning one book at time”. In this presentation, the classroom environment sets the stage for “provocations” which help to initiate inquiry in the FDK classroom.

Some of the books we explored included: The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires, Meet the Artist: Alexander Calder by Patricia Geis and Rosie Revere Engineer by Andrea Beaty.

It was a great day of learning!

E. Polsinelli and M. Gikov
Primary students are keeping warm in this cold weather and are engaged in many learning opportunities! We are so happy that primary electives was a huge success! Students enjoyed a variety of activities! The primary students demonstrated respect and showed "the Red Maple Way"!
Thank you for the continued support!

**Racing with Autism**
Earlier this month, students from Grade 1 to 8 had an opportunity to listen to Austin Riley. Austin is 16 years old with Autism who loves race cars. He took his passion of cars from a little boy to racing go-karts and spreading the word of Autism. He came to our school to share his experiences and educate others on Autism. He has faced challenges, head on and through his presentation, he tried to inspire students to have a dream, passion and drive! Red Maple students gave Austin a standing ovation at the end of his visit. See Red Maple on Global news [http://globalnews.ca/video/2526897/ontario-go-kart-racing-sensation-teen-with-autism-teaches-others-about-acceptance](http://globalnews.ca/video/2526897/ontario-go-kart-racing-sensation-teen-with-autism-teaches-others-about-acceptance).

By Mrs. Xenos Kindergarten Teacher

**Austin’s Inspires Others**
On February 10, 2016 we went to gym B to hear a presentation. It was about a boy named Austin Riley who has autism but he is a go kart champion!

Austin is second place in go car racing in all of Canada. When he was four, he attended Junior Kindergarten in Mrs. Xenos class at Northern Lights P.S. and he was diagnosed with autism at age thirteen.

We learned that we should follow our dreams. Even though we have obstacles in our lives we can still try our best and achieve our goals. We were all inspired to be better people and to not give up. We should not look down on people who have disabilities.

It was a very interesting assembly. From Austin Riley we learned about autism. He taught us that even with a disability, one can still do great things!

By Lena in Grade 3 Ms Chan’s class

**Primary Electives**
Primary students had an opportunity to participate in Electives this year! Electives are planned for students to have experiences outside the school setting that they may enjoy or to try something new with their friends. Students had an opportunity to climb, jump, run, kick and punch, build or create! Teachers heard a lot of positive feedback from students which made all the planning worthwhile!

“I liked the cave room!” said Jason (Rock & Chalk)
“I loved that I got a strike!” said Yura (Bowling)
“I liked painting my basket” said Pranita (Pottery)
“I liked running and kicking!” said Luke (Karate)
“I liked skating around the rink!” said Hannah (Skating)
“I liked playing with the parachute!” said Amber (Indoor Sports and Movie)
“We could play basketball and jump on the trampoline!” said Ethan (Skyzone)
Primary Skating Elective
On Friday, February 19th, the Kindergarten to Grade 3 students at Red Maple PS went skating. Luckily, it was a short bus ride to Elvis Stojko Arena because everyone was excited. They were greeted by some parents. Thank goodness! They could help Mrs. Campbell, Ms. Elliott and Mr. Trute tie laces and do up helmets. Once out on the ice, it was clear that some of our students had skated before, including some of our smallest Kindergarten students! By the end of our 2 hour skating session even the first-time skaters were gliding around without falling. All of the students were tired but had a great time!

Primary Indoor Sports & Movie Elective
For primary electives I went to indoor sports and a movie. I played with a parachute. I had popcorn while we watched the movie. We were allowed to lay on pillows or sit at a desk. I liked the movie. At gym we played hockey. We also had a colouring sheet to colour. I had a fun time.
By Catherine in Mrs. Dankevy’s class

Friendship Day
Friday, February 12, 2016 was a special day at Red Maple. It was Friendship Day! Friendship Day was a bonus Spirit Day. It represents love, friendship and peace. As we know, the school shows Empathy, Friendship and Sharing. Mostly showing love and all of the character traits. Some children brought cards to school and had a party for Valentine’s Day. All the staff and students celebrated it! But the true meaning of friendship is not candy and treats or a party, it’s about love, friendship, caring and empathy. Happy Friendship Day!
By Mrs. Femia’s Grade 2 class

100th Day of School
On the 100th day of school we made crowns and glasses. I also made a wish for 100 pets. We shared our collection of 100 things. I brought Lego. We had a great day.
By Daniel in Mrs. Mitz’s Grade 1 class
NBA Day
On February 12th, 2016, 10 students were chosen to go to the Junior NBA Clinic held at the Enercare Center. When we arrived we were directed to the Ricoh Coliseum where the NBA Rising Stars were finishing their practice for their game that evening. We saw some NBA Legends, Mascots, and Cheerleaders perform and then we were off to practice some drills ourselves. The drills we practiced helped us to become better basketball players ourselves. We got to see some All Star players including Stephen Curry, Kevin Durant, James Harden, and Mugsy Bogues. We even got to practice on the court and learn from Klay Thompson and Draymond Green. We even got some new Under armour gear to play in. Overall, we had a really great time and it was a fantastic experience and opportunity.

By Kailyn and Julie in Mrs. Smith’s Gr. 8 class

Trip to Swan Lake
This month on February 3rd and 4th, the grade 7 classes travelled to Swan Lake Outdoor Education Centre. On this trip we were able to explore nature and learn about survival and the life of a Coureurs Des Bois. We learned how to read a map and navigate the property around Swan Lake. We learned how to find landmarks and find signs to help make sure that we wouldn’t get lost on our own. We learned about the history of how the Coureurs Des Bois were attracted to trade for Beaver Pelts because of their value, and what supplies they would need to survive in the harsh Canadian Winters. We played a survival and trading treasure hunt game with a partner that had us running all over the Swan Lake Property. We searched for different village cards using our new mapping skills and we had to answer trivia questions about the Coureurs Des Bois. For every correct answer we were given the chance to make trades to gain more profits and buy more supplies for survival. We learned that some groups were able to survive the game, but it took a lot of knowledge and understanding of nature, hard work, and some clever thinking to be a successful Coureurs Des Bois. We had a great day and we got to experience some excellent time in the wilderness.

By Dorsa in Mr. Bradshaw’s Gr. 7 class

Gregg LeRock Concert
On February 19th, 2016, the grade 4-6 students got the chance to see French singer Gregg LeRock in person at the Richmond Hill Performing Arts Centre. Students had a wonderful time singing along to his songs and a few students were given the chance to dance on stage with other students from different schools. Even French teacher Mr. Joly and Mrs. Philp got called onto the stage with a few teachers from different schools by the singer himself, Gregg LeRock. Students had great time watching their role models up on stage. Everyone had an amazing time at the concert, but in addition to this, we experienced French culture outside of the classroom and enjoyed participating in a fun rock concert!

Written by: Amonda and Noreen (5/6T)
Intermediate Girls’ Area Basketball Tournament

This year, our intermediate girls’ basketball team fought to the finish in both exhibition games and the area tournament. We trained hard during practices and focused on teamwork and communication. Our coaches, Mr. Saccucci, and Ms. Clancy, gave us positive energy, and taught us skills we would have never achieved without them. The bond of our team made us stronger both physically and mentally.

In the Redstone exhibition tournament, we played against many strong teams and had fun creating so many pleasant memories. We brought everything to the table and delivered the second place ribbon to our school!

The Area tournament was hosted at Red Maple this year. Although we didn’t succeed in making it to the playoffs, we gained experience and had the opportunity to play against some really good teams. Next year, not only will we bring our A-game, we will take our team to regionals!

By: Any, Amy, and Panthea Mr. Saccucci’s class grade 7

Intermediate Boys’ Area Basketball Tournament

This year the Intermediate Boys basketball team had an amazing season and it was a great experience. The boys all played extremely well and fought hard at the area tournament held at Red Maple. We made it all the way to the semifinals, but we fell short of the championships with a tough loss to Beverly Acres P.S. We tried our best in the consolation final and ended up coming home with a 4th place finish. At our final practice we had a great time competing in a three point and slam dunk competition to finish off the season. The boys all learned a lot and improved our basketball skills. I hope that we will all continue to grow as basketball players and that we continue to have just as much fun.

By Brandon in Mr. Varma’s Gr. 7/8 class

RAVENS AT REGIONALS!

The Red Maple Junior Volleyball team participated in the Regional tournament on February 4th. Twelve of the best teams in York Region attended the tournament. The Ravens played their first game against Oscar Peterson Public School. The game was filled with great rallies, serves and spikes! It was a close match, but Red Maple pulled through and won 25-23. The Ravens played four more games throughout the day, but unfortunately did not advance to the playoffs. Even though the team did not win the tournament, they had a great time, learned a lot, and had the opportunity to play against the best teams in the region! The Junior team had a fantastic season and are very proud of their accomplishments and hard work!

By: Emily, Patrick and Tole in Ms Clancy’s grade 6 class

Electives – Directors Cut

Directors Cut is a magnificent winter electives activity where young dreamers get to manifest their own animated films and movies. In this activity the students are given the materials, the technology, and professional assistance in order to make their own film. With just paper, pencil crayons, markers and a special camera, students are able to create their own movie and they go home with a CD with their mini movie to show their family and friends. Students are able to voice their characters, bringing their illustrations to life. I can positively say without a shadow of doubt that Directors Cut is not just educational, but also extremely fun!

By Marie in Mr. Bradshaw’s Gr. 7 class
How to Promote Friendships

Did you know that ….

- A friend needs to be careful, be assertive not aggressive, and be respectful and peaceful in his/her behaviour in order to keep his/her own friends
- To have friends, we also need to be a friend
- Being a friend is about caring and sharing

Here are some rules to promote good relationships:
- Show kindness and respect
- Be honest, speak the truth, but be kind about it
- If you hurt a friend, apologize and say you are sorry
- If you make a promise, keep it
- Accept your friends the way they are
- Treat your friends the way you want them to treat you

“I get by with a little help from my friends.”
John Lennon

More Fruits and Veggies Please!

Eating more fruits and vegetables may help to protect our children from obesity, diabetes, heart disease and cancer. Canada’s Food Guide to Healthy Eating recommends eating five to ten servings of vegetables and fruit everyday, yet many children do not meet this recommendation. A serving is defined as ½ cup 100% fruit juice or medium fresh fruit, ½ cup cooked vegetables or 1 cup salad.

Try the following tips to encourage your children to eat more vegetables and fruit everyday:

1. Include fruit at breakfast i.e. ½ cup of orange juice, banana slices or berries added to cereal
2. Include two fruits or vegetables in the lunch bag daily, but vary them to avoid boredom. Keep applesauce and unsweetened canned fruit in the pantry for those days when you run out of fresh fruit
3. Take advantage of after school appetites by offering healthy snacks i.e., fresh chunks of watermelon, cantaloupe, apples, grapes along with cheese and crackers or low fat fruit yogurt
4. Keep a bowl of washed fruit on the table and vegetable sticks (baby carrots, green, yellow or red pepper strips, etc.) in the fridge where children can reach them, along with low fat salad dressing for dipping
5. Provide two vegetable choices at the evening meal and encourage children to choose at least one of them. Use a microwave to quickly prepare frozen vegetables
**Cut the salt!**

Many children eat too much salt (sodium) putting them at risk for high blood pressure as adults. To reduce salt and unhealthy fat, limit corned beef, hot dogs, pepperoni or salami. Instead, pack leftover chicken legs, or cubed roast beef, or make sandwiches with sliced lean meat or hard cooked eggs.

Visit Canada’s Food Guide online at [www.healthcanada.gc.ca/foodguide](http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/foodguide).

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**Go with grains… whole grains that is!**

Canada’s Food Guide recommends we make at least half of our grain products whole grain each day. Try whole grain bagels or baguettes, flax seed pitas, rye or pumpernickel bread or multi-grain tortillas for sandwiches and wraps. Toss leftover brown rice or whole wheat pasta with chopped veggies and a lower fat dressing for an easy salad. Making muffins? When baking, replace half of the white flour with whole wheat flour.

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**Build better bones!**

Children who drink milk at lunch are more likely to meet their daily calcium needs. Chocolate milk is just as nutritious as white milk. It has lots of energy plus 15 essential nutrients. Does your child’s school run a milk program? Sign up so your child can enjoy fresh, cold milk at school every day.

For more information on healthy eating visit [Canada’s Food Guide](http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/foodguide) on line at [www.healthcanada.gc.ca/foodguide](http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/foodguide)

**For health-related information call York Region Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653 or visit www.york.ca**

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**Get Lost in a Book**

**March Break Reading:**

For a list of great books to read during March Break check out the following sites: [www.greatschools.net/content/summerReading.page](http://www.greatschools.net/content/summerReading.page) [www.reading.org/resources/tools/choices_childrens.html](http://www.reading.org/resources/tools/choices_childrens.html) (where children can also post their book reviews!)

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**Boys and Reading**

Jon Scieszka, author of “The True Story of the Three Little Pigs” has a website called Guys Read, which may be of interest to boys and parents. Visit: [www.guysread.com](http://www.guysread.com).
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March Break No School

Good News & Awards Assembly 1:30 p.m. Gym A “Superstar Day”