



Maplebrook Messenger

May 2004

Principal News

By Dr. Gwen Bockman

Dear Maplebrook Parents/Guardians,

During this past month the staff and I have been very busy preparing for the ensuing year and at the same time winding down and celebrating the completion of an important period in your children's educational experience. In essence we have been reflecting on the past, while living in the present and thinking about the future. It is my hope that every child has had a year balanced with experimentation, affirmation, and adventure!

Reflecting on the Past

Our theme "Staying on course for a winning year!" emphasized the use of data to *drive/guide* instruction. A number of assessments "for" and "of" learning were administered (i.e. fall writing assessments, Rigby Reading Placement Assessments, and trimester math tests). Not only did teachers use *data to stay on course*, but so did our students. Teachers have been setting clear goals and communicating learning targets with their students by creating and implementing student friendly rubrics (assessments). The 6 Traits Writing Framework, is being used by our teachers as part of the new literacy program.

Teachers in all grade levels have engaged students in the writing process by giving them the opportunity to assess writing models, looking for strong and weak elements. This instructional practice has been most effective! I look forward to reviewing their writing portfolios that contains compositions they have completed over time.

This year has been packed full of new initiatives to support our School Improvement Plan (SIP). Our 2003-04 SIP focused on increasing student achievement in the areas of literacy and school climate. The School/Family/Community Partnership Committee has done an outstanding job implementing our Breakfast with Brooks Program. This program provided the opportunity for children to experience positive reading interactions by sharing good literature (and food) with good role models (grandparents, dads and high school athletes). I would like to thank our school business partner, Home Run Inn Pizza, and community retailers (Costco and Krispy Krème) for supporting this program.

To assess school climate, we administered the Manners Matrix (bully survey). The data indicated a need to establish clear "bully rules" and provide effective strategies to assist students in dealing with difficult relationships. Mrs. McIntire is currently training all teachers on how to conduct weekly class meetings

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that address these issues. Some of our teachers have already implemented class meetings this year. Next year all teachers will conduct class meetings.

A Peer Relations Committee has been formed and has been working on the rules. The committee is comprised of parents and staff. The Student Council has been our vehicle in collecting student feedback. Parent, student and teacher input has all been very insightful and valuable in addressing our concerns.

Looking into the future

By the time you receive this letter, I will have concluded my parent conferences regarding concerns over next year's placement. Your input is important and will be shared with teachers as we move forward in the placement process. During the month of May, placement meetings will be conducted. Both the current and ensuing teacher(s) for your child will attend the meeting with me. It is our goal to create the best learning environment for each and every student. We appreciate the positive notes and kind words you have extended to us as we determine your child's placement. Thank you for your trust and confidence.

Staff changes occur every year due to retirements, relocations, and expanding families. We have three people retiring this year: Mr. Kroger (art), Mrs. Ebeling (2nd), and Mrs. Reese (health tech). Mr. Kroger has been at Maplebrook almost since they opened. Mrs. Ebeling has been a kindergarten, first and second grade teacher here at Maplebrook for

the past 12 years. Mrs. Reese has served Maplebrook for the past 18 years. Other people leaving Maplebrook are: Mrs. Patti McIntire (school social worker), Mrs. Margaret Caldwell (Learning Resource Teacher), Mrs. Jennifer Bjorkman (kindergarten), and Mr. Bob Matejcak (psychologist). All but Mrs. Bjorkman are transferring to different schools in the District. Mrs. Bjorkman is relocating to Michigan.

We will miss these dedicated individuals who have made positive contributions to Maplebrook Elementary School. We wish them well in their new endeavors. (Staff replacements will be announced in the fall.)

In addition to the staff changes noted above, we would like to welcome our student teachers that will be joining us in the fall. Kristen Levato a North Central student, will be joining Mrs. Barak (4th grade), and Kyle Padia a student from Northern Illinois University, will be joining Mr. Moores (PE). Other staff changes include Ms. Peterson moving to second grade and Ms. McCubbin moving to first grade.

Present Events

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 1-9. Maplebrook Elementary teachers and staff are known for their dedication and their incessant drive to meet all students' needs. To celebrate our appreciation for their dedication, the Home and School will be providing a luncheon for the staff.

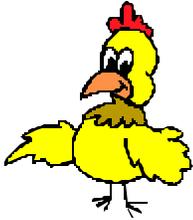
Our Maplebrook Marching Band will be performing at the annual Memorial Day Parade. This is a perfect opportunity for students and their families to

Got Information?

Would you like the Home & School Agenda and Minutes e-mailed to you? This year, Home & School will be providing parents with an opportunity to join a group e-mail list to receive the General Meeting Agendas and Minutes.

Please send an e-mail to hsmapplebrook@ncusd203.org with the subject line "Maplebrook minutes and agendas".

If you have questions or concerns, call contact Laura Kovarik, Home & School Secretary.



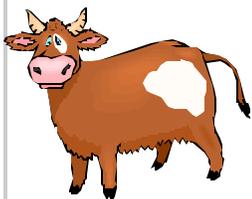
**Down on
Maplebrook
Farm**

Funfest 2004

- **Raffle Baskets**
- **Teacher Silent Auction**
- **Games**

**Ranch
Hands
Needed**

**Call
Karen
Brothers**



acknowledge the men and woman who have served and are currently serving our country. Students participating in the band are to arrive at Lincoln Jr. High by 9:00 a.m. The parade will begin at 10:00 a.m.

- May 21/ 5:30-8:30 Funfest
- June 7/ Field Day
- June 8/Fifth Grade Luncheon
- June 9/Classes End-10:00 a.m.

Gentle Reminders

During arrival and dismissal times, hundreds of children and parents are leaving and entering the school. Please remember to keep all dogs off school grounds during those times. Pets are not to be brought onto school property. Some children and staff are very fearful of pets. Also, for the sake of the children, please keep the school free of doggie droppings. Thank you for your assistants.

Due to safety concerns, children are not allowed in the teacher workroom or

lounge. Our equipment is not child proof. Thank you!

Congratulations!

The following people were awarded NEF Grants this year:

- Patti McIntire and Vicky Trevizo: \$500, "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words"
- Pam Vaughan: \$264, "Books to Read, and Read Again "

Longer days and warmer weather have arrived! Before you know it, we will be saying good bye as we head into summer. Until then, continue to *encourage* your child to put forth their best effort, *celebrate* their accomplishments, and *plan* a fun-filled educational summer, complete with lots of quality family time!

Become a Talk203 Subscriber

Let's Talk!

District 203 invites the entire community—even if you don't have a child in school—to participate in Talk203, our new e-mail information system.

It's easy to sign up:

- Go to the Naperville Community Unit School District 203 website at www.ncusd203.org.
- Click on the picture of students.
- Enter your e-mail address on the Welcome to Talk203 page and proceed as directed.

Home & School Association News

By Carol Rutledge, President

Before the school year winds to a close, we rev up to celebrate another successful year. There are many activities and events to take place before the end of the year. For Home & School, one of the big ones is Fun Fest, which is May 21 from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. We hope all can attend this fun-filled evening.

A big event for the district is the Naperville Education Foundation's (NEF) Annual Fundraising Breakfast. The NEF is a charitable organization that provides grants each year to District 203 schools. The grants are given in areas such as fine arts, multi-cultural curriculum, and technology. Funds for these grants are raised through the breakfast, a golf outing, employee contributions, corporate donations,

and parent contributions collected during registration.

This year the fundraising breakfast will be held on May 12 at 7:30 am at the Holiday Inn Select. Phil Lawler from Madison Junior High and Paul Zientarski from Naperville Central will speak about the district's new PE program, including demonstrations using the latest technology. Please contact me (355-3960) if you would like to join a Maplebrook table. For more information on the breakfast, contact Victoria Boomgarden at 420-3538.

The golf outing is scheduled for July 19 at Springbrook Golf Course. Let me know if you would like more information on this and I will forward it to you when it's available.



THANKS TO!

- Teri Peot, Pam Czarnowski, Karen Guerra, Kathy McConnell and the School Family Community Partnership Committee for hosting Breakfast with Books for our 4th and 5th graders. Also to the student athletes from Naperville Central HS, Benet, and the Illinois Math & Science Academy for reading.
- Laurie Delgrosso, Diana Barrett, and Stephanie McLean of Hospitality for honoring our administrative staff.
- Everyone who attended McDonald's Night (and especially those who waited in the long lines). Also to Melissa Hager for planning the fundraiser.
- Mrs. Kern and Mrs. Buell for creating the Digital Yearbook on Maplebrook's website. Check it out at www.ncusd203.org/maplebrook!
- Rita Burnett for coordinating the bike helmet and booster seat sale.
- Eileen Lass, Judy Ryan, and Mr. Moores for leading our spring Milers program.
- And to the many Maplebrook staff who lead extracurricular activities. Some of them have been thanked previously. Here are more: Mrs. Buell and Mrs. Barak – Computer Club. Mrs. McIntire and Mrs. Krause – Culture Club, Mr. Manolakes – Young Astronauts, Mr. Moores – Intramurals, Mrs. Garrison, Mrs. Crowell, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. McGinnis – Literary Club and Battle of the Books, Mrs. McIntire – Peer Mediation, Mrs. Randolph and Mrs. Krause – Safety Patrol, and Mr. Craig and Mrs. Novak – Student Council. We appreciate the extra effort put forth to give our students the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills in these areas.



Maplebrook Messenger is a monthly publication of Maplebrook's Home & School Association. The deadline for newsletter articles is the fifteenth of each month. Articles should be placed in the Communications folder in Maplebrook School's workroom or e-mailed to: hsmapplebrook@ncusd203.org

For information about the newsletter, please contact the editor:

Jennifer Lundin

Class Notes — The Sounds of Learning...



KINDERGARTEN

Our Kindergartners wish to say, “Hola, Amigos!” to express their delight in learning about Mexico! The boys and girls in Mexico City are a lot like us! We celebrated connections, as well as differences! Learning about seeds and plants help prepare us for our Red Oak Nature Center field trip! Every day we celebrate all that we’ve learned in reading, writing, and math throughout the year! We look forward to “flying up” to First Grade soon, just to get a glimpse of what next year will be like!

THIRD GRADE

With testing over, third grade is really enjoying their learning! We are deep into our social studies unit of Japan and will finish off the year studying medieval Europe and their community systems. In late April we enjoyed a presentation from a Naperville woman of Japanese heritage. During our Medieval Unit, each child will be creating their own personal shield.

Our reading/science unit of People and Animals has us learning and researching wolves. We’re hoping to have a visit from John Basil, who we lovingly have named “The Wolf Man.” The date of his visit has yet to be set. Also, as part of the unit we will be observing the behavior of roly pollies and using the scientific method to find out their food, habitat and terrain preferences.

Our last math units will be measurement and division. Remember, measurement is most meaningful when used in real life, so if the opportunity presents itself, have your child measure liquids, weight and lengths when possible! Division will cover only the concept and facts. No need to worry about “long division” this year.

We’re all looking forward to the warm weather and finishing up the year on a positive note! Please continue to turn in Reading Logs and sign assignment books. We hate to end the year with children not remaining responsible for their homework and school obligations.

FOURTH GRADE

Do you think the 4th graders are square? We actually have an angle for everything!! Our math lessons all geometry these days and we’re feeling very competent.

The excitement emanating from 4th grade these days is due to the excellent plants that we’re growing in the classrooms. Our Wisconsin Fast Plants provide us with a 6 - week life cycle and an immersion course in botany.

We travel to the desert SW through fiction, research, history, geography, and art. We employ the hardest, most sophisticated strategies in literacy during this time.

Our literary finale is an all pod novel study with our favorite books. The children will choose their novels and visit other classes and possibly have other teachers for this experience. We all really like this.

See you at Fun Fest!!

FIFTH GRADE

The fifth-graders have some big units coming up in May. In social science, they will be finishing their year of U.S. History by focusing on America’s involvement in the two World Wars and the Cold War. In math, fifth-graders are learning how to work with data and statistics, and they will also be learning about probability. The final science unit of the year is all about weather.

Year-end MANNA Notes

HUGE thanks and gratitude go out to our many wonderful volunteers: Guadelupe Becerra, Mary Beth Berent, Trenna Brauer, Denise Deitz, Dawn Durkin, Helene Fosco, Billie Gerlach, Angela & Sophie Graefenhain, Nancy Havenaar, Lee Hicks, Kim Insley, Dawn Laubsted, Cynthia Lozano, Michelle Mallett, Wendy Piepho, Sue Pfaff, Karen Randolph & her students, Klara Reeves, Karen Smith, Susan Stumpf, Kelly Ward, and Dawn Zaininger. And ...

this very unique fundraiser couldn't have gotten off the ground and running without our H&S Board as well as the continual support from our principal, Dr. Gwen Bockman. **MANNA could not have been a success without ALL of you ... thanks so VERY much again!**

Exciting NEW Vendor: The home improvement store, *LOWE's*, is now available to order from MANNA along with Lonestar Steakhouse and Sunglass Hut/Watch Station.

Please continue to support MANNA with your orders: every order this year will still make a BIG difference for BOOKS! Also, if you are a parent who buys year-end teacher "thank you" gifts, MANNA is a very convenient way to do some one-stop shopping for your gift cards. **The last day to order will be Tuesday, June 1st and orders are due in no later than 10:00am.**

Are you looking for quality child care for your school-age child?

Discover the Heritage YMCA

Safe 'n Sound Before- and After-school Care Program

The Safe 'n Sound program offers children a variety of age-appropriate activities. There are opportunities for both structured and unstructured activities. Group games, crafts, homework time, and snack are a part of every day.

Our program is designed to meet the needs of working parents. You can work without worry knowing your child is in a safe and fun environment. The program is located right at your school so your child is able to participate in after school clubs and activities.

The morning program runs from 6:30 a.m. until the start of school. The afternoon program hours are from school dismissal until 6:00 p.m.

For information about our Safe 'n Sound before- and after-school program, extended-day summer camps, and educational preschool please call the Child Development Center at 630-355-2559.



Heritage YMCA Group

Child Development Center

1971 Gowdey Rd., Suite 200 • Naperville, IL 60563 • (630) 355-2559

YMCA Safe 'n Sound 2004-2005 Priority Registration



4:15-5:30pm

- Beebe- April 21st
- Ellsworth - April 14th
- Elmwood - April 23rd
- Fearn - April 23rd
- Highlands - April 20th
- Kingsley - April 12th
- Maplebrook - April 20th
- Meadow Glens - April 12th
- Mill St. - April 13th
- Priair - April 19th
- Ranch View - April 21st
- River Woods - April 15th
- Scott - April 14th
- Steeple Run - April 19th

Look for registration packets at your sites starting March 15th. Please have all forms filled out when you come to register.

Please be prepared with child's emergency contact names and numbers.

Don't forget \$100 per family registration fee.

**Please contact the
Child Development Center
at 630-355-2559
if you have any questions.**

