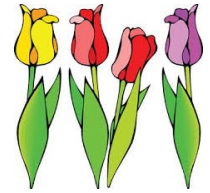


Maple Lane Gazette



From Dodd's Desk...

Hello Maple Lane Families!

I write this as the weather is finally beginning to warm up! I hope you've had the opportunity to do some outdoor activities as a family. I've seen many classes outside on the playground or playing basketball during these past few warm days!

Our Running Club is taking place in full force! Thanks to Mrs. Kelly, our Physical Education teacher, and other dedicated staff, students who have had safe behavior can run on Tuesday mornings and Thursdays from 11:30-12:00. We run rain or shine, because Mr. Mike and Mr. Jeff our custodians have designed an indoor running path for us. Students earn bracelet charms for each mile they run. It's a great incentive for Maple Lane students to follow our STAR rules while also engaging in some physical activity.

March is National Reading Month, an opportunity to celebrate how important reading is. One of the biggest milestones in our child's education is when they learn to read. Think of everything you read in your life, on a daily basis! Reading aloud to your child is probably the most important daily activity you can do in teaching your child to read. Reading to children increases their knowledge of the world, their vocabulary and their familiarity with the written language. When you read to your children, they learn that reading is enjoyable, pictures provide context clues to the story, print goes from left to right, print represents words and meaning and that stories have a beginning and an end. By listening, watching, and asking questions throughout the story, children increase their vocabulary and comprehension skills. Children are expected to read aloud frequently in school and for many children it is a skill they must practice to be good at.

In honor of National Reading Month, we'll celebrate in a number of ways. Members of our Board of Education along with our Assistant Superintendent will read to our students. The Sterling Heights Police Department and Representative Henry Yanez will also visit Maple Lane to share stories. Each classroom will also participate in a door decorating contest based on a book of their choice. The celebration will include a pizza party!

Enjoy the month of March!

Sincerely,
Jack Dodd, Ed.S.
Principal

work hard now. it'll pay off later.



R2

We celebrated 100th day. The classroom did a special project. "If I were 100 years old." They made a booklet describing what they would look like, what they would eat, and where they would live. It was funny, yet enlightening to hear each of their stories. Be sure to ask the student what they wrote. We are also celebrating Black History Month. The classroom is giving a presentation on Rosa



Classroom News!

R3

Well, February has come and gone. We hope all of our Maple Lane families survived all of the snow, and maybe even had a chance to build a snowman? Even with the cold, and the snow, the students in Room 3 have very busy learning. We have been working extensively in the area of language arts this month, focusing on word families, rhyming, and building new vocabulary. In writing we have been extending and enriching our knowledge in writing both narrative and informational pieces. Integrating our new vocabulary into our writing pieces has been our writing goal this month. On the fun side - (even though I LOVE reading and writing)... we had a FABULOUS Valentines' Day party, and all of the children had so much fun giving and receiving cards and treats. It was a wonderful, warm time watching our children share, be kind to each other, and laugh together! We hope that each of you had as much fun on Valentines' Day as Room 3 did. Let's hope that winter is beginning to wind down.



R4

R4 had a very busy February. We celebrated Valentine's Day with fun activities in the gym and then more activities in the classroom. We also went bowling and the students bowled really well! A great time was had by the classroom.

Our room continues to work hard on math. The students are putting forth a lot of effort! We are doing story problems to figure out perimeters and areas, using division, multiplication, adding and subtraction. We are very proud of their efforts.

In reading we learned about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., George Washington Carver, Rosa Parks, Jessie Owens, Jackie Robinson, Harriet Tubman and the underground railroad as we celebrated Black History Month. We are completing our characters unit this week.



Going forward into March, we will be focusing on informational reading and writing units.

We are looking forward to being able to enjoy warmer days and getting outside daily to enjoy them!

Classroom News!

R5

Room 5 News

R-5 stretched our "fantastic, elastic brains" with a special marshmallow and spaghetti building project last month. Come see our designs on the classroom bulletin board!

You can also take a look at our "heartfelt emotions" Valentine window display celebrating a full range of creatively interpreted emotions.



While we continue our measurements unit in math, we're also spending time brushing up on our healthy teeth habits in honor of dental health month.

Throughout the year, students have stayed busy with individual reading logs, and we're now using student-favorite books to inspire and prepare for reading awareness month's door decorating contest! Good luck to all!

R6

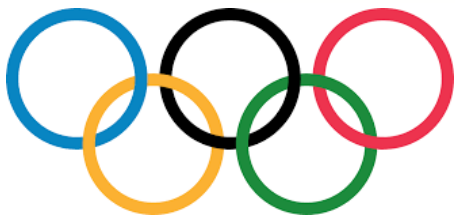
Welcome to Sullivan who joined R6 this month. We are continuing our study of informational (non-fiction) text in both reading and writing. This week, we will begin a unit on persuasive/opinion writing. All of the students are working on writing longer pieces and editing their work when they are done. In math, we are working on multiplication as well as geometry and measurement. I encourage you to practice basic multiplication/division facts at home. This will really help the students as we get into more complex problem solving. As we continue our Growth Mindset work, we are focusing on trying your best and working hard. We are striving for progress, not perfection. We have read and talked about some celebrities that have had to persevere and work hard to achieve their success. Michael Jordan, Steve Jobs, Walt Disney, Henry Ford, Oprah are just a few.



Classroom News!

R7

Room 7 learned about many different topics related to the month of February. We learned about Punxsutawney Phil the groundhog who predicts weather. We wrote compliments to each other in honor of Valentine's Day. We learned about the history of the Olympics and watched snowboarders compete. We also learned about the flags of the various countries participating in the Olympics. We read about George Washington and his wife Martha in honor of President's Day. Most recently we watched a video about the life of Michael Jordan and read about his career as a basketball player in honor of Black History Month. We are also reading Anne of Green Gables and watching the video to build our comprehension skills.



R10



R-10 sure did share the love this Valentine's Day! Each student made folding hearts to tell how they value their: friends, family, and school. They colored the hearts, filled our big heart with handprints, and displayed them on our Peace & Love bulletin board! We celebrated the 100th day of school; we are 100 days smarter...and over half way through the 2017-18 school year! Yahoo!

We also talked about symbols of the United States! We made cubes with all the symbols to tally up what symbol came up for each roll. We also graphed the data and shared the results with each other. R-10 is truly "on a roll"!

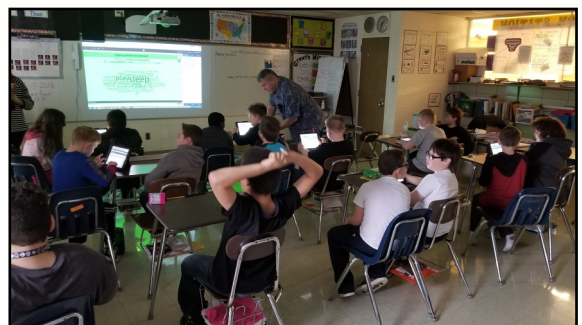


Classroom News!

R13

PEER TO PEER

Ms. Griffin, our school speech therapist, has been working with our students all year on social and conversational skills. She comes in every Thursday afternoon and runs a small group lesson. In the month of February, Ms. Griffin worked with the students in Mrs. Glappa and Mrs. Greenwell's classes. Together, they partnered classes up and completed some fun activities using technology. Not only were students able to engage with peers from another classroom, but they also developed some friendships in the process. Students really seemed to enjoy getting to know one another and participating in Ms. Griffin's activities. Since it was such a positive experience we will continue to pair up the classes during social skills throughout the spring.



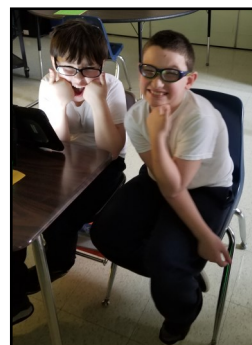
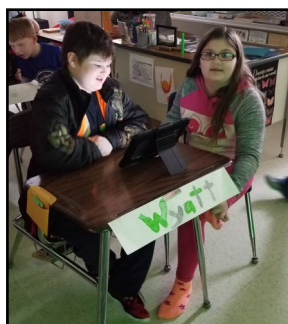
R14

Though February was a short month, we have still been busy in R14. Academically, we have finished our unit on weather and the students are excited to start learning about the Solar System. This is the time of the year when we make our classroom into a mini solar system. The students are starting to choose which planet they'll be creating and learning facts about that planet. By the end of our unit, each student's planet will hang from the ceiling, along with stars, an asteroid belt, and the sun. This is a great team building activity for the students.

We have also been participating in a peer-to-peer opportunity with Mrs. Glappa's class. Every Thursday, R14 and R13 students have been coming together, with the leadership of Ms. Jessica, our Speech Therapist, to work on our communication and friendship skills. Peer-to-peer programs are an evidence based practice that have been around for over 10 years. It's a way for peers to come together beyond their normal circle of friends in the classroom and build friendships with student's they otherwise would not have known. The kids have interviewed each other, answered an interest survey via the iPads, and just had conversations with each other. I know that R14 students and staff are having a great time making new friends and learning about other students at Maple Lane.

With all that we have been learning about and doing, I know that the students can't wait for spring to arrive in March, the weather to warm up, and for all the things they will be doing in the coming month.

PEER2PEER



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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 16—No School
Staff Professional Development

March 30—April 6
No School, Spring Break

Macomb Intermediate School District

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www.misd.net

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Maple Lane Gazette is published monthly throughout the school year for the parents of students attending Maple Lane Elementary, 34600 Dryden, Sterling Heights, 48312, (586)977-9170. Maple Lane Elementary School is operated by the Macomb Intermediate School District, 44001 Garfield Road, Clinton Township, MI 48038-110, 586/228-3300.

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