

Pen & Pencil
Ralph S. Maugham School



October 2016

Dear Maugham Families,

It is hard to believe that one month of school has already come and gone. School has gotten off to an incredible start. Students are settled in to their daily routines and minds are growing as we speak.

For the month of October, our school will be highlighting the positive character trait, RESPECT. Next week we will be celebrating the week of respect and our students will be participating in a multitude of activities. Our 4th and 5th graders will have an assembly on October 6th about internet safety and respecting and appreciating the benefits and challenges of using it safely. We ask parents to join us that evening for a parent discussion of Cyber Safety with Sergeant Tom Rich at 7 pm at the Middle School Auditorium.

Some daily reminders for our students as they aim to be more respectful and understanding are:

- treat people in a way that shows you care
- be polite
- respect yourself by taking care of yourself
- respect public property and your personal belongings
- respect animals
- use respectful language such as “please” and “thank you”
- show respect for authority, including teachers, the principal, and your parents
- respect others by paying attention when they are talking
- respect people for who they are and the differences they have
- respect rules in your community, at school, and at home

Ask your children to share with you what they have been discussing regarding respect in the schools. Hopefully there will be some great conversations.

As student assessments have been on-going since the beginning of the school year some parents have been invited to attend an I&RS meeting or a meeting with our Guidance Counselor. The Intervention & Referral Services or I&RS, and Guidance Services are extremely important resources at Maugham School. Parents who are new to the school and those who did not utilize these resources in the past may find this information particularly useful.

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INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL SERVICES (I & RS)

Each Tenafly School has a standing Intervention and Referral Services Committee. This committee is a school-based, problem-solving group designed to assist teachers in developing intervention strategies which will help students who are experiencing difficulty in school. This committee serves the needs of General Education

students who are not classified. The I&RS serves as a vehicle to develop instructional goals or modifications through collaborative discussion and planning of which you, the parents, are an integral part.

What can Intervention and Referral Services Committees Do?

- Offer structured support and assistance to teachers and parents
- Enable the school's instructional program to meet a broader range of student needs
- Assist teachers in developing alternative strategies to promote student competence in basic skills
- Provide a means for teachers to share and increase their skills and knowledge through peer interaction with other professionals
- Determine whether the challenges being addressed require additional, school, district or outside resources
- At times, but not necessarily, an I&RS committee meeting results in requesting referral services to the Child Study Team.

The core committee is composed of the principal or her designee, a member of our Child Study Team (usually our Learning Consultant), the school nurse (as needed), the speech and language specialist, a guidance counselor, and support services staff such as: Resource Room instructor, Basic Skills Teacher, ELL teacher (as needed) etc. In addition, the classroom teacher seeking assistance is always a part of the team.

Parents are invited to attend an I&RS meeting as the information they have to offer is extremely valuable to the team. They also have the benefit of hearing suggestions made by different team members who examine the situation from their varied perspectives of professional expertise.

Ms. Maria Casteline, our Guidance Counselor will continue to assist in the coordination of the activities of the committee this year. Should you need additional information about our I&RS Committee, please contact your child's teacher, Ms. Casteline, or the principal.

GUIDANCE SERVICES

Maugham offers a variety of guidance services to our students. Our Guidance Counselor is Ms. Maria Casteline, who has been with us for the last four years and has been very helpful to many Maugham families.

What is the Guidance Program?

The focus of the elementary school guidance program is to help students develop positive learning experiences. Through a proactive approach our guidance counselor works closely with classroom teachers and the school principal to develop small-group programs that will address a variety of needs within our student population. The gamut of counselor services includes various types of interventions.

- The Guidance Counselor collaborates with teachers/parents to provide an ongoing connection between students' social/emotional and academic functioning
- Conducts small group counseling sessions such as the Friendship Circle/Lunch Bunch, offering opportunities for students to model student to student interaction in a small setting

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- Creates new groups as needed. A group of Banana Splits will be offered this year in response to the circumstances of children of divorce/separation
- Arranges for special assemblies and programs that are conducted by outside providers. This year assemblies about cyber bullying will be held, as well as Halloween Safety sessions, conducted by Law Enforcement Officers
- Provides support for the Responsive Classroom program as she helps students maintain Responsive Classroom approach to conflict resolution in less structured times such as recess and lunch
- Leads/teaches various proactive group lessons that are grade-appropriate by request of the classroom teacher/building principal. One example is the “Zippy’s Friends” program that addresses social skills appropriate for kindergartners which is taught by the Guidance Counselor in all kindergarten classes
- Offers individual counseling sessions for students who exhibit emotional needs and/or concerns
- conducts “New Student Orientation” services for new students who transfer into the school
- Arranges I&RS/504 meetings, provides input, follows up on student success, and monitors the effectiveness of interventions that have been designed and implemented
- Responds to emergencies and crises situations, as needed.

Those of you who have been part of Maugham School for a number of years will note that our guidance services grew over the years to accommodate the various needs of our student population. I am truly excited about the services that are available to our students and I encourage parents to take advantage of this opportunity by seeking our Guidance counselor out to address questions, concerns or information they have about their child.

I certainly encourage you to reach out to your child’s teacher if you have any further questions.

Parents – Please remember if your child’s after school plans change, please call the school office.

******Pick-up Reminder – Parents, remember if you are using the pick-up line at the end of the day, YOU MUST REMAIN IN YOUR CAR, and your child comes to you. I have found many cars empty on the line which causes a great back up. If you are not picking up your child and have someone else picking up, please let them know the procedure as well. I appreciate your continued cooperation.**

Best Wishes,

Mrs. Jen Ferrara
Principal

Calendar-September

Mon. 10/03 SCHOOLS CLOSED
Rosh Hashana

Tues. 10/04 SCHOOLS CLOSED
Rosh Hashana

Wed. 10/05 After School Clubs
begin today

Thurs. 10/06 Student Photographs



Thurs. 10/06 4th & 5th Grade Assembly:
Digital Distraction
9:00 AM/Auditorium

Thurs. 10/06 Elementary Parent Presentation
on Digital Distractions
7:00 PM/Tenafly Middle School
Auditorium

Fri. 10/07 Kdg. - 3rd Grade Assembly:
Omegaman & Friends
9:15 AM/Auditorium

Sat. 10/08 Fall Event
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Maugham School

Mon. 10/10 12:45 PM Early Dismissal
Prof. Day

Wed. 10/12 SCHOOLS CLOSED
Yom Kippur

Thurs. 10/20 HSA Meeting
2:00 PM/Library

Wed. 10/26 Assembly: Food Allergy
9:00 AM Grades K – 2
10:00 AM Grades 3 – 5
Auditorium

Mon. 10/31 2:00 PM Halloween Parade
**Students go home for lunch
at 12:45 PM – 1:45 PM**



Library News

October is a great month to fall into a great book. But how do you help your child choose just-right books that will hold their interest?

Here are some helpful websites to help students:

- **Kidsreads.com** - allows students to see lists of authors, new titles, books that are part of a series, books that are made into movies as well as reviews.
- **Bookadventure.com** – allows students for search for books by grade level, desired reading level and by numerous genres. You must register to be able to use this site but there is no charge for membership.
- **Guysread.com** – this web-based literacy program is designed specifically to help boys become self-motivated, life-long readers. It was created by author John Scieszka. You can search by authors or by genres.

Please feel free to check out these sites with your kids and create reading lists for the fall. Our younger students are exploring their way around the library and are off to a good start choosing appropriate books.

Happy fall!
Mrs. Herbst

HSA Pen & Pencil- September / October 2016

We hope that everyone has had an easy and exciting start to the 2016-2017 school year! The HSA has many Fall events coming up and important information to share with you.

Fall After School Clubs: After school clubs begin the week of October 5th. (There will be no clubs for the first week on Monday and Tuesday October 3-4th for holidays.) Check the Maugham HSA website for the Clubs Brochure or the Clubs Quick Reference Sheet, which have all the dates for the upcoming Fall Clubs Session. Please note that pick up from after school clubs is at **4 PM**. There will be late pick up policy in effect, and parents should ensure that their child is picked up by 4:15 PM. If there are any issues, please contact Hongjian Zhu, Hong Zhu and Cecilia Jiang.

Maugham Fall Event: On Saturday, October 8th from 2-5pm, Maugham will host our annual Fall Event at Maugham playground (with a rain location in the Tenafly Middle School gym). There will be a bounce house, sports, games, music, arts & crafts, coffee and donuts, and much more to keep the whole family entertained! We hope you can join in the fun, and all siblings and family members are invited. The event is free this year.

HSA Directory: Our Maugham School Directory is now online (and there's even a mobile app for it). Go to the Maugham HSA website for all registration instructions and details. The email address that you use to register must already be in their system (transferred from last year's directory or new student paperwork). Once registered, you can login at any time to update/change your personal information as needed. You can also choose to remove your personal information if you prefer. Only Maugham families and staff have access to this directory. If you have any problems, please contact Jocelyn Schwarz or Doreen Hawkins.

School Assembly and Cultural Arts: Maugham School will celebrate a Week of Respect during the beginning of October. On October 6th, 4th and 5th graders will have an assembly, STOPit Cybersafe Rally, which teaches children how to be safe and responsible in this technological world. On October 7th, Kindergartners, 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders will attend an assembly called OmegaMan, which teaches the principle of "HERO," or Help Everyone Respect Others, focusing on anti-bullying and respecting the Maugham community.

On October 6th, Parents are also invited to attend a STOPit Cybersafe Rally assembly in the Tenafly Middle School at 7 PM. This assembly will focus on the dangers and benefits of technology for our children. It will focus on responsibility of parents and children to remain technologically safe and to avoid digital distraction.

Birthday Party Celebrations: Maugham is changing its classroom birthday party celebrations to focus less on birthday treats and more on other ways to honor the birthday child. Ms. Martin, our school nurse, and Principal Ferrara request parents to come with a short, planned activity for the birthday celebration; i.e., read book, dance party, art project, or child's favorite activity. The upper grades will be encouraged to do once a month activity together, such as extra recess. The lower grades can still wear birthday crowns, have birthday song, and get pencils and stickers from Principal Ferrara.

Reward Programs: The HSA has set up fundraising programs that parents can participate in to help raise monies throughout the year for our school. Please consider supporting Maugham through the following programs:

- Stop & Shop Rewards Program –If you have a Stop & Shop card – log onto website and register then number for Maugham to get money each time you use the card. Program starts Oct 7th. Children will be bringing home a flyer in backpack.
- TD Bank Program– If you have an account with TD Bank, link it to Maugham school to get \$10 per family per account for Maugham.
- Box Top Program – for every box top clipped from household foods and products, 10 cents per box top is given to Maugham. Last year, Maugham earned \$320.

Important dates to mark on your calendar:

Fall Event:	Saturday, October 8th, 2:00 – 5:00 PM
Picture Day:	Thursday, October 6th
Professional Day:	Monday, October 10th – EARLY DISMISSAL at 12:45 PM
H.S.A. Meeting:	Thursday, October 20th at 2:00 PM in Library
Halloween Parade:	Monday, October 31 st at 2:00 PM

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, comments or concerns at maughamschoolhsa@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for helping out the HSA and Maugham School in any way you can.

Executive Council: Michelle Roglieri, Chie Williams, Susan Carlin and Michele Goldberg
 Co-Treasurers: Doreen Hawkins and Natalya Michaels
 Co-Secretaries: Andrea Weitzner and Lauren Dayton

Important Reminder:

- **No School Monday, October 3rd and Tuesday, October 4th – Rosh Hashana**
- **12:45 PM Early Dismissal (no lunch served) Monday, October 10th**
- **No School Wednesday, October 12th – Yom Kippur**