

Pen & Pencil

Ralph S. Maugham School

November 2016



THE PRINCIPAL'S PEN

Dear Parents,

It has been a wonderful two months here at Maugham, created by collaboration between home and school. The month of November will fly by as it always does, but here are a few highlights for what is coming up.

Conferences

On December 1st and 2nd, you will be coming to school for your first Parent/Teacher Conference. I encourage you to make the most of this opportunity to discuss your child's school progress. It is one of the many steps we take to build a partnership with you for your child's educational program.

Your child's report card will be available through the Genesis Parent Portal on Wednesday, November 30th. Having it a day before conferences will give you an opportunity to review and come to the conference with questions you may have for the teacher. We know that you and your child's teacher will have an invaluable tool of communication that will allow a clear picture of how well your child is acquiring the skills set forth by the NJ state standards on their grade level.

Conferences are intended to be interactive events. Certainly, teachers will have considerable information, rubrics and some work samples to share with you. However, we also benefit from hearing about your children's reactions to their school experience. Please be aware that our special teachers are also available during the conference periods. It may prove useful to meet with special teachers in order to gain a fuller perspective of your child's performance. When the conference is over, you should have a better understanding of all aspects of your child's school experience. Your child will undoubtedly be curious about the conference. It is more than appropriate to communicate the essentials of the meeting and review your child's strengths and areas for continued growth. Our teachers want to make each conference worthwhile and look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

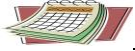
Fall/Winter has finally arrived

With the cooler weather finally upon us, it is an important reminder to parents that your children come to school dressed properly. It is really too cold now for shorts and short sleeve t-shirts. Temperature/precipitation permitting, we like to get our students outside for recess every day so please have students come with at least a warm jacket and hat so they can enjoy the fresh air. You know your child better than anyone – so ask yourself if your child can stay outside for about 25 minutes in what they are dressed in. If your child gets cold easily, please send extra layers. When there is snow on the ground, I do try to get students outside. We will either go for a walk outside, staying on the sidewalks, or when it gets more consistently snowy, we will allow students to go on the turf if they'd like, but they must have snow boots to do so. If the temperature is below 32 in the morning, we will allow students to come in the building at 8:20 am until the bell rings at 8:30 am. **Please remember that supervision does not begin until 8:20 am. I am noticing that a lot more students are being dropped off in the morning earlier and earlier to play with friends before school begins. Though I know they enjoy this time to play, I don't recommend students being dropped off earlier than absolutely necessary. If you are planning to supervise your own child feel free to have them come and run around.**

Gratitude

Thanksgiving is just a few short weeks away, and it is a time to reflect on all that one is thankful for. This month the positive character trait we will be focusing on is Appreciation which aligns perfectly with what Thanksgiving is all about. I am thankful each day to come to work in such an incredible school community. We cherish your children and we consider it such an honor to work with them each day. William Shakespeare says it best, "I can no other answer make, but, thanks, and thanks." Thank you for sharing your children with us and we wish you the healthiest and happiest of Thanksgivings.

Best Regards,
Jennifer Ferrara



Calendar

- Tues. 11/01 5th Grade Field Trip
9:00 AM – 1:30 PM
- Wed. 11/09 Assembly: 3rd Grade Play
9:00 AM/Auditorium
- Thurs. 11/10 SCHOOLS CLOSED
NJEA Convention
- Fri. 11/11 SCHOOLS CLOSED
NJEA Convention
- Tues. 11/15 
-Student Retake Photographs

-Author Visit: Audrey Vernick
K-5/Library during day
- Wed. 11/16 Nature Center visits 5th Grades
- Thurs. 11/17 HSA Meeting
7:15 PM/Library
- Mon. 11/21 KPA Meeting
2:00 PM/Library
- Wed. 11/23 12:45 PM Early Dismissal
- Thurs. 11/24 SCHOOLS CLOSED
Thanksgiving Break
- Fri. 11/25 SCHOOLS CLOSED
Thanksgiving Break
- Wed. 11/30 HSA Book Fair/Library

Lifetouch Student Photograph Retake Day Tuesday, November 15th

is student photograph retake day in the morning. Students having their picture retaken must return all original pictures on retake day—keep class picture only. Students can still have their picture taken if they were absent on the original picture day. Forms are in the office and must be given to the photographer the day of retake.



Library Pen and Pencil, November 2016

This month we are grateful for the Maugham School Library. Thankful for the many books on the shelves, thankful for the volunteers and thankful for the ability to share the joy of reading with our students. Thankful for kids who love to read!

We're also thankful that our Maugham H.S.A. is sponsoring our Author Visit this year which takes place on **Tuesday, November 15th** with NJ's own Author **Audrey Vernick!** We love her books and can't wait to hear her presentation about what it's like to be an author.

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!**

Mrs. Herbst



HSA Pen and Pencil article - November 2016

Fall is officially here! The beautifully colored leaves are beginning to drop and the cool weather is setting in. Go outside, take a walk, enjoy the fresh air.

Book fair - (co-chairs: Jeanine Casty, Deborah Cohen, Lila Cogan, Patti Punzi)

- **Coin a day challenge** - It is a fun competition between the classes. The winning class gets a basket full of books for their room library. The money collected goes to purchasing books for the kids on The Giving Tree. If we match the goal of three books per child on the tree, Mrs. Ferrara will dress as a pirate during the book fair; this year's theme. Scholastic will match the money we raise and will send books to schools in need throughout the US. Collection starts on Monday, Oct. 24th with pennies. Each day a different coin will be collected.

FALL BOOK FAIR COMING SOON!

Mark your calendars for Maugham's BOOKANEER BOOK FAIR..."Where books are the treasure!"

November 30th 8:30am - 4:30pm

December 1st 8:00am - 2:30pm, 5:30pm-8pm

December 2nd 8:30am - 1:15pm

Volunteers will be needed for setup, breakdown and for fair hours. Please contact Lila Cogan at lila.cogan@gmail.com if interested in helping or keep an eye out for the link to sign-up genius.

Looking forward to another successful event! More details to follow in E-News.

TEF - On Sunday, Nov. 20th, from 2-4pm @ THS. Tenafly Education Fund (TEF) is bringing The Harlem Wizards basketball team to play against Tenafly teachers. All school principals will play as well. There will be teachers from classrooms at Maugham, and various staff members as cheerleaders. Tickets are on sale

Community Service (chair: Lisa Cole)

A flyer about the Center for Food Action's (CFA) Giving Tuesday campaign is coming soon. It is held on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving- Nov. 29th; a day of philanthropy and community service throughout the US. We will be collecting soup cans. Please donate and help as you can. More info coming in a flyer.

Clubs Committee

The committee would like to enforce that pick up time from after school clubs is 4:15pm. A child will be suspended from clubs if not picked up by 4:25pm, more than once. Or, they must be signed up with SAAC and show proof of registration. Too many children are not being picked up on time, and it's not fair to the supervisor in charge.

Fall Event

It was a very successful event and the rain did not stop us from having fun. Thank you for all coming and supporting the event. And a big "Thank You" to Linda Khorozian and her committee, and all the volunteers, for organizing such a great for our community.

Board of Education (Rep: Eileen Pleva)

The Board of Education approved the later start time for the High School starting Sept. 2017. There will be a 15 minute later time change for the start of high school. The school day will have a 4 day block schedule, which rotates. A lot of options were considered, before deciding this was the best plan. This was decided after 2 years of research by the committee and was recommended by the Administration. The presentation made by the Administration is on the Bd. of Ed. website, which describes the plan in more detail. Feel free to reach out to Eileen Pleva, our Board liaison, with any questions.

CAP (Chemical and Alcohol Prevention) - (chair: Todd Uresse)

On November 16th, there will be an underage drinking panel discussion at Tenafly Middle School. Local students who have gone through the recovery process will talk about their experiences. More information will be coming soon.

Art contest in the elementary schools based on healthy choices (#choices)

All Tenafly elementary school students can submit drawings to the contest. The theme is healthy choices. In this manner, the younger children are talking about CAP at their level, hopefully educating them before they get involved with substances.

Important Upcoming Dates:

Thurs. Nov.10th and Fri. Nov. 11th - NO SCHOOL - NJ Teachers Convention

Tues. Nov. 8th - Election Day - Get out and vote!!

Tues. Nov. 15th - Student retake photos

Wed. Nov. 22- **Early Dismissal**

Thurs. Nov. 23 and Fri. Nov. 24th - NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving

Wed. Nov. 30, Thurs. Dec. 1 & Fri. Dec. 2 - HSA book fair

Dec. 1 & 2 - **Early Dismissal** - Parent Teacher Conferences

Next HSA Meeting: November 17th, 7:15pm @ Maugham School Library

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

Thank you in advance for helping out in any way you can.

Michelle Roglieri, Chie Williams, Michele Goldberg, and Susan Carlin: Executive Council

Doreen Hawkins and Natalya Michaels: Co-Treasurers

Andrea Weitzner and Lauren Dayton: Co-Secretaries



“Go Green & Stay Healthy Committee”

The “Go Green & Stay Healthy Committee” sat down with Dr. Richard Besser, ABC News’ Chief Health and Medical Editor, to get his take on some of the most important issues facing our elementary school children. He came to ABC News from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where he was responsible for all of the CDC’s public health emergency preparedness and emergency response activities.

As a pediatrician and a father, he said the two most important questions for him are “what can you do to ensure your child is healthy and, as importantly, what can you do as a community to ensure the health of the other children?” He said there are various pressures on parents, which compel them to send their children to school even if they are not feeling 100%. “The bane of my existence is the perfect attendance certificate given out to kids in some schools, which I call the ‘Typhoid Mary Award’,” he said. If your child is not feeling well, it would be better for them to stay at home and rest. That would speed up their recovery and also protect their classmates from getting sick – something that the other parents would appreciate.

On the topic of infection, he strongly urges parents not to put pressure on their kids’ doctors to give their children antibiotics thinking it will make their child feel better and go back to school earlier. Antibiotics won’t help with viruses. He explained that studies have shown that when parents ask, doctors tend to provide antibiotics more readily than they would otherwise. He recommends that parents not do so as it increases the child’s risk for resistant infections as well as many other side effects. Instead, he advises that parents ask their pediatrician for advice as to what steps they should take to help support their child’s recovery.

When asked what is one of the biggest health issue facing American school children, his response was swift: “guns.” The American Academy of Pediatrics has long advocated that pediatricians and doctors discuss with their patients how firearms are stored in the house. Dr. Besser admitted it is a hard to ask, but advised parents who send their children on playdates to other houses to inquire whether there are guns in the house and if so “are they locked up?”

“Prevention” and “modeling” are two words Dr. Besser uses frequently when it comes to a healthy family. “One of the things we have come to realize is that helping someone obese to lose weight is very very hard. The goal is prevention,” he explained. To that end, there are a lot of things parents can do. To encourage healthy eating, parents should regularly have a meal with their child and their own plate should be divided into three parts: half greens, a quarter complex carbohydrates and a quarter lean protein. Children learn from what they see in their own house, where there should also be no soda and sweet beverages on hand. Children should learn to eat when they are hungry and when they are, they should be offered appropriate food - avoiding sugary snacks. When parents complain to him that their child is a finicky eater or will not touch a vegetable, he calmly states, “no child will willingly starve themselves.” So when they are hungry, make sure they have healthy options. For new foods, he adds, it can take a child 7-10 tastes of them for them to incorporate it in their diet. So if you want your child to eat a vegetable, pick an easy one (carrots or peas are popular) and put it on your child’s plate as well as your own plate every other day; eat it in front of your children and they may try it and like it!

“Fight to protect recess and gym classes,” Dr. Besser urges. “Kids need wiggle room and wiggle time and it is important for them to enjoy physical activity.” He adds that it should also be a fun and regular family activity too, whether it’s going for a daily walk to biking, playing in the park, etc.

Last but not least is sleep. “When it comes to health and development, sleep is critical for kids. They need more sleep than adults,” he said. Children also need a sleep routine. He noticed that parents of babies are very focused on establishing sleep routines but as their children get older, the emphasis lessens. “Kids in elementary school and adolescents need a sleep routine too!” he said. One of the keys to that is keeping electronics out of the bedroom – both the child’s AND the parents’. Remember modeling healthy behavior is key to having healthy children.

Sheenam Khosla
Nadine Shubailat
Galit Shoshani

FROM STUDENT COUNCIL:

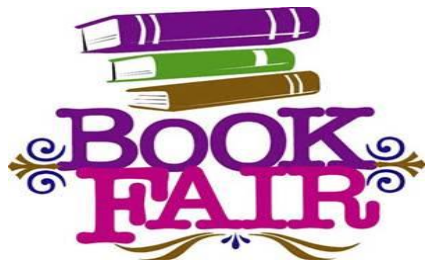


***We'd like to congratulate the Student Council Election officer winners for the 2016-2017 school year. They are:**

President	Jake Pleva
Vice President	Liam Tenenbaum
Treasurer	Theo Wasserlauf
Secretary	Ruby Shultz

We congratulate ALL of the candidates who ran for office on a job well done. They will represent their classes at the monthly meetings. We look forward to a great and productive year!

A HUGE thank you for all those who contributed to our Table to Table campaign. The Maugham School community donated at grand total of \$2209.09 towards the Bag a Lunch program that provides meals to the needy in Bergen County. Last year, more than 2,500,000 meals were delivered and we are a part of that.



Book Fair in Library:

Family Shopping Hours

Wed., Nov. 30th from 3:10 PM – 4:30 PM

Thurs., Dec. 1st from 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM; 12:45 PM – 2:30 PM; 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Fri., Dec. 2nd from 12:45 PM – 1:15 PM