

Pen & Pencil

Ralph S. Maugham School

December 2016



THE PRINCIPAL'S PEN

Dear Parents,

December is always a wonderful time of year. Inevitably those indoor recesses will become more frequent, but I really want to get students outside in the fresh air whenever possible. When the “feels like” temperature isn’t bitter, (usually 28 or above), I will be getting students out for recess. Please make sure that your children are coming to school with a hat and jacket (not just a sweatshirt) and boots when the snow arrives. Every day I try to wait to the last minute to make the call whether or not to keep students in. I know they would much prefer to go outside. When the snow is too deep to go on the playground or turf, I will take students on a walk around the neighborhood to get some fresh air.

December is also a time of celebration for many of us. We take pride in the diversity of Maugham School. Through a variety of celebrations, we become enriched by learning about the wealth of backgrounds our students represent. We encourage parents of all cultures who would be willing to share the background of an important holiday, festival, or tradition to contact our teachers. This approach goes a long way to sensitize us all to the different values, customs, languages, and culinary preferences that are woven into the rich fabric of our school and district community.

Our non-food birthday celebrations have been going well and students have enjoyed having dance parties, extra recesses, parent read alouds, or an arts and crafts time to make them feel special. One thing I wanted to mention is that parents **do not** need to provide a goodie bag of pencils or stickers or toys for the class. We certainly do not want school birthday parties to become an expensive endeavor for families and students are happy just spending a little extra time honoring a classmate.

Starting later this week or early next week, Maugham will take part in their yearly community give-back called the “Giving Tree”. Our community teams up with the Department of Child and Family Services of Bergen County to provide holiday gifts for those families in need. Participation in this is voluntary. Our first grade team will be sending home a detailed flyer explaining how to give if interested. If you would like to participate, we ask that you have the unwrapped gifts brought back to school by Monday, December 12th.

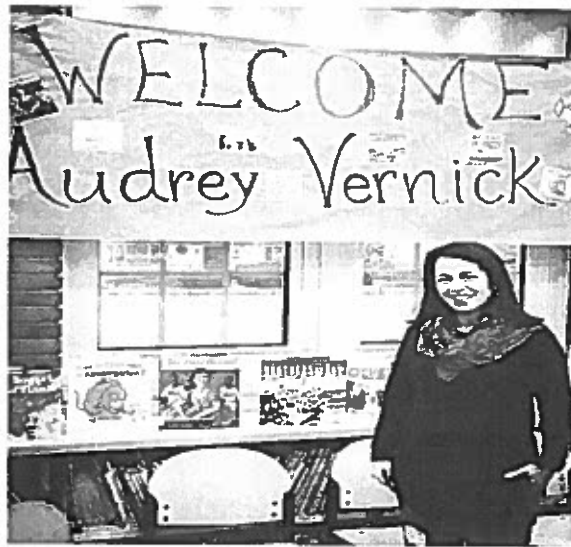
I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Maugham families all the best this month. I am looking forward to the many wonderful events that lie ahead for all of us in 2017.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ferrara

Library Pen & Pencil, December 2016

On Tuesday, November 15th, we hosted Audrey Vernick as our Author Visit for the year. Audrey Vernick presented to all grades about writing books and how to come up with good ideas for writing. She also signed books. Thank you to our Maugham H.S.A. for sponsoring this visit for our students.



It's that most wonderful time of the year again!

We have a lot of fun holiday books in the library on display. In fact, we have so many, we don't have enough buckets to hold them all! Encourage your child to check out the holiday books and enjoy them together.

For having fun with your kids online, check out the following holiday-related and wintry websites:

Love Snow?

<http://snowflakebentley.com/>

(This is the official website of Wilson A. Bentley where you can see a really cool original photo snowflake display.)

<http://snowflakes.barkleyus.com/>

(This is a cool snowflake-making website where you can create your snowflakes virtually and then display them. No paper or scissors required!)

<http://papersnowflakes.com/>

(This website has many patterns for making snowflakes the old-fashioned way - with paper and scissors!)

Love the The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg?

www.polarexpress.com

(This is the website of the very popular book and has lots of fun activities.)

Love the beautiful illustrated Jan Brett books?

www.janbrett.com

(This is the author's official website with info about her books and lots of fun activities for kids based on her books.)

Love family time? Check out these websites rich in Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa activities.

<http://familyfun.go.com/>

(Disney's Family Fun Magazine website)

Stay warm and cozy this season and don't forget to curl up with a good book!

Mrs. Herbst



Calendar

Thurs. 12/01 12:45 PM Early Dismissal
Afternoon/Evening Parent
Conferences
~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Book Fair
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM
12:45 pm – 2:30 pm
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Fri. 12/02 3rd Grade Field Trip
8:45 AM – 12:45 PM
~ ~ ~ ~ ~
12:45 PM Early Dismissal
Afternoon/Evening Parent
Conferences
~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Book Fair
12:45 PM 1:15 PM

Mon. 12/05 4th Grade Program-Our Revolution
11:00 AM/Library

Wed. 12/07 4th Grade Field Trip
8:15 AM – 2:00 PM

Tues. 12/13 Holiday Concert
7:30 PM/Auditorium



Wed. 12/14 Assembly: Holiday Concert for
Students/Auditorium
9:00 AM

Thurs. 12/15 HSA Meeting
2:00 PM/Library

Fri. 12/16 TMS Holiday Music Tour
10:30 AM/Auditorium

12/16 5th Grade Movie Night
Evening - Auditorium

Calendar

Thurs. 12/22 THS Madrigal Singers
10:30 AM/Auditorium

Fri. 12/23 12:45 PM Early Dismissal

SCHOOLS CLOSED:
December 26th through January 2nd

Important dates to mark on your calendar:

Book Fair: November 30, December 1, 2
Parent Teacher Conferences:
December 1 and 2
Third Grade Field Trip: December 2
Fourth Grade Field Trip: December 7
Next H.S.A. Meeting:
Thursday, December 15 at 2:00 PM in Library
Early Dismissal: December 23
Winter Break / School Closed: December
26-30

Lunch and Ice Cream Program

To place an order for the Winter Lunch Session
go to www.MaughamHsa.com

**All Orders must be placed by Friday,
December 9th at 11:59 PM.**

NO late orders will be accepted until the
change order period opens on January 6th.

Lunch will be served starting January 3rd

Schools Reopen: Tuesday, January 3rd



Go Green & Stay Healthy

The “Go Green & Stay Healthy Committee” interviewed Mr. Derek Blankenbush, the Recycle Foreman of the Borough of Tenafly. He is also a certified recycle professional – a license he has to hold in the state of NJ. We asked him what our Maugham School family can do to help the town’s recycling efforts. He said that “recycling is getting to be a little bit more difficult than it has been. It is different for every town. Every town is allowed to have its own system. The town right next door to us could be totally different than Tenafly. Even though we dump the material at the same place, we could have different rules and regulation.” So, we wanted to know what are Tenafly’s rules. “Right now, we are comingling the material (your plastic bottles and aluminum cans) – it’s supposed to be loose material,” he responded. “That is 1-5 plastic (a number found on the bottom of anything plastic that can be recycled). Normally there is a little triangle with a number. There are so many numbers now making it difficult for everyone to know what to recycle. 1-5 are the safest numbers to recycle. 6-7 is considered other than plastic – mostly Styrofoam. As of now, where we are taking our material, they don’t accept Styrofoam,” he explained.

If you’re wondering what is 1-5 plastic, it is mostly rigid plastic as in containers used for food and water. Water bottles, for example, are good to recycle. At lunch, if students have food in plastic containers and want to recycle the containers, two steps should be followed: the food must be scraped out (not 100% clean, but do your best) and then check if your container has a 1-5 number next to / in the triangle recycling symbol. “Any paper products can be recycled” noted Blankenbush, unless “it’s really dirty and you can’t get it scraped off then you should put it in the garbage.”

If you want to be up to date on what Tenafly does regarding recycling, please check the town’s website: <http://tenaflynj.org/> In addition, the borough sends a newsletter every month to the residents of Tenafly, which has updated rules and regulation. Mr. Blankenbush urges families to read the newsletter (before recycling it!).

We asked him if he recommends that students visit the recycling center, he said no, pointing out that there is a sign at the center, which says, “children must stay in vehicles.” However, he would welcome the parents to come and visit the center, which is located at the end of Grove Street (153 Grove St, Tenafly, NJ 07670). They are open all day Saturday and Sunday from 7:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. “Come and visit on the weekend!” he said.

Sheenam Khosla
Galit Shoshani
Nadine Shubailat

HSA – December 2016

With school underway and winter weather around the corner, we hope that everyone has been studiously working in school enjoying their after school activities at Maugham. Our children have been participating in assemblies, author visits and holiday parties this month. Maugham staff created wonderful Thanksgiving celebrations for the children and we hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving holiday with their family and friends as well.

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Program for Parents and Students

The Maugham HSA was fortunate to host the Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Program for parents and students at our November meeting, with guest speakers Debbie and Bert. This program concerned our children's safety, child abuse prevention and self-empowerment. This program will be hosted at Smith on November 29 at 7pm and at Stillman on December 7 at 7 pm as well.

Our children will be participating in the CAP program presentation in February 2017, where Maugham students and educators will have role playing scenarios in each classroom, while teaching age appropriate solutions for children to be proactive and to act assertively to protect themselves.

The mission of CAP is to reduce children vulnerability to child abuse. The CAP Motto is that **all children deserve to be safe, strong and free**. As demonstrated at our HSA meeting, CAP will present three different role playing scenarios to discuss bullying, child abuse and assault from peers, strangers and people known and trusted to us. In each scenario, the children will be given the opportunity to problem solve strategies to assert their safety and personal boundaries. CAP will teach the children to resist and report anything that makes them uncomfortable, as well as determine options and consequences. The workshop will be empowering, upbeat and age appropriate for each grade.

Active listening guidelines for parents

- Always be calm
- Believe the child
- Use the child's language
- Don't avoid a child's description of an assault
- Don't project or assume

CAP Objectives

- Access the child's safety needs
- Find out what the child wants from you
- Validate the child's feelings
- Assure the child that it is not their fault – being victimized is never the child's fault
- Let the child know she/he has the right to be safe

Comment Example Comment Example

In New Jersey, Maugham and parents are bound by law to report child abuse under the Dodd law. The report phone number is 1-877-NJ Abuse.

Harlem Wizards Game. On November 20, 2016, the Tenafly All Stars teachers and cheerleaders played a basketball game against the Harlem Wizards. Five staff members from each Tenafly school participated in the basketball game. The game was sold out, with all funds going to the Tenafly Educational Fund.

Parent Teacher Conferences. Each classroom teacher sent out a sign up for parent teacher conferences for December 1 or 2. Report cards will be available November 30. Parents are encouraged to review the report cards prior to the teacher meetings.

Book Fair. November 30, December 1, 2. Scholastic book fair will take place for the students and parents at Maugham. Each class will be allotted a day and time to attend the book fair. Notices will be going out to notify parents if they want to send money in with students to purchase books and school supplies. The book fair will also be open to parents during parent / teacher conferences.

Governor's Educator of the Year Award. This award honors two individuals in each of the Tenafly schools. Parents received a form home to nominate for teacher of the year and educational professional of the year (such as our librarian, guidance counselors, nurse, speech pathologist, and those educators without a classroom). The forms are due Monday, December 5, 2016. The Maugham

selection committee consists of Mrs. Herbst, Mrs. Langford, Mrs. Pena, Michele Goldberg and Chie Williams. * If a teacher or educational professional won in the past five years, they are not eligible to receive the award. Teachers do not have to be tenured to win.

First Grade Giving Tree coming in December. First graders will be creating Maugham's annual giving tree for needy children. First graders will assist in the collection and assembling of gifts with donated toys and books for over 200 children. Families will be able to receive the information for the children from the giving tree in December.

Indoor / Outdoor Recess. Each classroom will create a wish list of items, toys and games for students to utilize during the indoor recess for the winter months. Parents and families will be asked to sign up to donate and make contributions to the classrooms. This is an optional donation. Please be on the lookout for your class parents to send out a sign up genius. Any questions, please contact Lindsay Epstein on the Indoor/Outdoor Recess committee.

Third Grade Play. Third graders presented Free to Be Me and You. The show was filled with wonderful messages of inclusion for everyone. The show was a good, uplifting happy occasion for students and their families. The children spoke about being united, being accepting of everyone and supporting each other. This year, the third grade play was filmed, with editing help from high school students, to be circulated to parents with a link and password online rather than a CD. The link will be available before Thanksgiving so families can enjoy watching the play during the holiday.

Social Media and District Policy on Use of Children's Images. Cyber issues have already been discussed with parents and students at Maugham, including cyber safety in assemblies and a digital distraction assembly earlier in the year. Maugham requires parental permission prior to any use of children's images by the school and the HSA. There cannot be direct uplink of photos and images from Maugham children to any outside website, such as Facebook. Although yearbook committee sent out links to class parents, please do not utilize those links. Instead, testing idea to upload photos onto flash drive or another secure system to Mrs. Ferrara to review and edit out those without parental permission to show image. Avoids security risks and hacking issues as well.

Lost & Found. Efforts are being made to create more opportunities to retrieve lost items for Maugham students and parents. Lost items will be on display during parent teacher conferences during the evening hours. Suggestion to have lost and found tables at both 3 pm and 4:15 pm pick up times to ensure all parents have opportunity to retrieve lost items.

Orchestra and Concert Snacks. Snacks should be kept in containers to be eaten after performances and are not allowed downstairs in the gymnasium / concert hall.

Reward Program Reminder: 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.

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.

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.

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



Tales of The Traveling Vice Principal November 2016

Hello! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with their loved ones. What a busy month November was! I was whizzing around the district participating in grade level team meetings, conferences with individual teachers, meetings with content supervisors for science and social studies, and visiting classrooms in each of the schools. Here are a few highlights from my travels across the district:



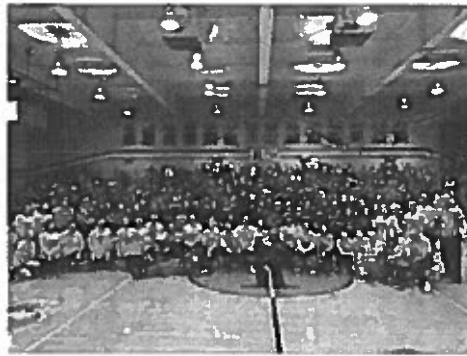
Mackay Turkey Trot What a fabulous event sponsored by the HSA! Every student in grades K-5 participated and we walked, ran, and trotted around the middle school track. It was a glorious day!



I was honored to be invited to the Writing Celebration in Ms. Pita's 3rd grade class at Stillman School. I was so proud of each and every child for reading and writing such great persuasive essays!



Over at Maugham, Ms. Breakfield's 4th grade class and Ms. Blagdon's 2nd grade class worked together to create Thanksgiving turkey's. The room was filled with so many wonderful thoughts and conversations about being thankful. Thank you for inviting me!



She SCORES!!!! If you ask around town, I have been secretly practicing my basketball shot during recess and all of my hard work paid off! Thank you to Lucas over at Smith and Aiden at Stillman for helping me with my shot! What a wonderful event sponsored by TEF! Thank you all for your support!



I had the pleasure of attending Thanksgiving celebrations at Stillman and Mackay. The ELL departments and the KPA did a FABULOUS job in providing our students with an authentic Thanksgiving feast. Kindergartners at Mackay were ADORABLE as they performed Thanksgiving tunes for their parents. I was doing the Turkey Trot right alongside them!



Finally at Smith, I was honored to take part in Thankssharing! Fourth graders at Smith had the unique opportunity to share an area of expertise. I successfully learned how to throw a lacrosse ball, set a Thanksgiving table, tap dance, and play Sudoku (that was trickier than I thought!)



It was a great month filled with many exciting learning experiences across the district. I am looking forward to December! See you around town 😊



Dear Parents,

Please be aware that head lice can occur at any time of the year. With the winter break approaching, I would like to offer some helpful hints:

- Be aware of different levels of hygiene standards when traveling out of this country.
- There may be a chance of contracting nits/lice if your child's hair is braided or wrapped by unlicensed vendors while on vacation.
- Remind your child not to share brushes, combs, hair accessories or hats.
- Please be sure to check your child's head before returning to school after the break. Our best defenses against these pests are diligent parents.

Another reminder, whether you are skiing or swimming, is to protect yourself and your children from the sun. The reflective qualities of sand and snow can increase your risk of sunburn. Please use a high SPF product and apply liberally and often.

Thank you for your cooperation and I wish you and your families a pleasant vacation!

Sincerely,
Marianne Gray Martin, RN