



## Pen & Pencil-February, 2017 Ralph S. Maugham Elementary School

### Building Community

I can't believe that half the school year is already passed us by. Time flies when you are having fun.... is so true. One of the many exciting things that will be going on this month is our 5<sup>th</sup> graders working hard preparing for our entrepreneurial program called TREP\$. *(Please come and support our 5<sup>th</sup> graders at the TREP\$ Marketplace, Thursday, February 9th from 6:30-8pm in the Maugham Gym)* The students have been learning about what it takes to become successful business men and women.

I have started my lunch with the principal chat and have met with several kindergarten groups so far. I absolutely love this time with the students. I start with the kindergarteners and make my way up to the fifth graders. Look for the invitations and mark the calendars. By meeting with students, I want students to understand that my office doesn't have to be a scary place and fun times can be had.

During winter and the colder weather, more indoor activities tend to take place. Parents are aware of the increasing time students spend using the Internet, using either hand-held tools or their stationary computers. This wonderful, most powerful tool of innovation changed our lives in recent years but as you all know it is also a double-edged sword harboring many new dangers. It is a tool we promote in school extensively for research and easy access to invaluable information while at the same time we caution students against its misuse.

In school, sites that are not appropriate for students are automatically blocked by the Tenafly School District Technology Department and students have no access to them. Technology policies have been signed and teachers are very cautious as they guide students' navigation of the World-Wide Web. At the same time, our students are very proficient in navigating the web or their hand held phones and game systems. It is never too early to have a conversation with your children about how to use it safely. Mrs. Herbst does a great unit of study with all grade levels on Digital Citizenship and what that means in this technological society.

**An Important Reminder:** Parents, if you have some important information regarding drop-off or pick-up for your child, please call the office, do not email the classroom teacher. Our teachers are constantly working with students so they do not have the opportunity to check emails frequently. If you call the office, Mrs. Walsh or I will be able to notify the teacher with the correct information. We really appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Also, due to the snow coverage on our streets, we know that the drop off line is longer than usual. We will not be marking students late at the usual time due to this. Please drive safely.

Warmest Regards,

Jennifer Ferrara

**Calendar**

- Tues. 2/7 Kdg. Registration for  
Maugham School  
students  
8:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
Tenaflly Bd. of Ed. Office
  
- Thurs. 2/9 5th Grade TREPS  
Marketplace  
6:30 PM/Auditorium
  
- Mon. 2/13 2nd Grade Program  
Magnet Makers  
in the classrooms
  
- Wed. 2/15 Assembly: Toying with  
Science  
9:00 AM/Auditorium
  
- Thurs. 2/16 12:45 PM Dismissal  
Winter Break
  
- Fri. 2/17 SCHOOLS CLOSED  
Winter Break
  
- Mon. 2/20 SCHOOLS CLOSED  
Winter Break
  
- Tues. 2/21 SCHOOLS CLOSED  
Winter Break
  
- Thurs. 2/23 HSA Meeting  
2:00 PM/Library



Kindergarten Registration 2017 - 2018  
Maugham School

Date: Tuesday, February 7th  
(snow date Tuesday,  
February 14th)

Time: 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Location: Tenaflly Board of Ed. Office  
500 Tenaflly Road  
Tenaflly, NJ 07670

If you cannot register on the above  
date, please go to the Board of  
Education Office after March 1, 2017  
to register.

Kindergarten packets are available on  
the district website:  
[www.tenaflly.k12.nj.us](http://www.tenaflly.k12.nj.us)  
Click Our District  
Click Registration

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Hi everyone, sorry I am so late in thanking  
all parents and children for your gifts, but,  
my computer *has been acting up and I am  
not able to use it. I appreciate your  
thoughtfulness during this holiday season  
and I hope that all of you had a great  
vacation and enjoyed all festivities that went  
along with it.*

Marge Riley  
Crossing Guard  
Magnolia & Highwood

## ***HSA Pen and Pencil article - February 2017***

***In February, exciting things are taking place. Read on to stay up to date and informed. And bundle up, it's winter...brrrr!***

### **- TREP\$**

The 5th graders are creating amazing businesses, with groups of 1, 2, or 3 students. TREP\$ marketplace is on Thurs. Feb 9th in the multipurpose room at Maugham, from 6:30-8pm. Join us - it is open to entire school. Support our 5th grade entrepreneurs.

### **- Morning Drop-Off Procedure**

It is important that parents pull all the way up to the front of the school to drop off kids - otherwise it backs up traffic. Please make sure the kids get out on the passenger side of the car, to stay safe. The kids can go in at any door - it doesn't have to be their own door. If you have new people picking up kids (grandparents, new babysitters, etc.), please make sure they know the rules for drop off and pick up procedure. As a reminder, when there is snow on ground, it is hard to find spots to park; so the line needs to move along.

- Bingo night was a great success, sponsored by the TEA. Thank you to all the teachers and staff who helped run the evening. A TEF grant was awarded for Flexible seating. The new seats have been dispersed throughout the school. All kids will have a chance to try them, and see what meets their needs. We all have different learning styles and ways to focus.

- KPA - Asian Lunar New Year celebration will be next Sat., Jan. 28th at Mackay. The KPAs from the entire district are putting this event together. It is a free event, from 2-5pm. The KPA would like to share their culture with the town, using games, food, and displays. Open to all.

- International Day - This year, the event is being split into two different days. One day will be the assemblies and festival of tables (Fri., March 10th), and the next day will be the buffet with international lunch (Monday., March 13th). This will be instead of HSA lunch served that day. The change is inspired by an effort to increase the learning portion of the event. The committee decided on Brazil for the feature country. A lot of help is needed to make this event successful. Please think about what table to represent and what food to make for the buffet. Kids can participate in the assemblies and show their culture. Please reach out to get involved. The dates are March 10th and March 13th. Contact Erica Park.

### **- Lunch and Clubs - Seeking Committee Chairs for next year!!**

The HSA is looking for 2 new chairs for each committee, to serve a 2 year term. We would like to have a transition period, and allow the new volunteers time to train with the departing chairs. Both are very important groups to Maugham, and cannot run without your help! The HSA relies on them both for a lot of services. Please think about volunteering, and contact the HSA council.

- **Air conditioning** - The Board of Education is discussing a system for the entire district. It is an expensive endeavor. Spread the word; get people to support the idea or to speak against it - before the Board can consider even evaluating the proposal. There are discussions open to the public at upcoming Board meetings. Residents can attend any meeting and voice an opinion. See the Board website for more information.

Important dates to remember:

Thurs. Feb. 16th - early dismissal

Fri. Feb. 17 - Tues. Feb. 21 - **School closed**

Next HSA meeting: **Thurs. Feb. 23rd @ 2pm.** in Maugham School Library

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

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## Nurse Notes

Dear Parents,

Whether you are skiing or swimming, it is important 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 reapply liberally and often.

Please be aware that head lice can (and does!) occur at any time of the year. With the winter break approaching, I would like to offer some reminders:

- 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!

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

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Martin RN

# FEBRUARY LIBRARY PEN AND PENCIL

## KIDS LOVE CODING!!

By now, all students at Maugham School have experienced coding mainly through the "Hour of Code" that was held during their library classes in December. Some students have also coded in their classrooms and some through the coding after-school club. The kids are hooked on coding!

Why is this a good thing? According to the website Code.org, "Computing is a fundamental part of daily life, commerce, and just about every occupation in our modern economy. It is essential that students are exposed to the field of computer science in our K-12 system—as it is foundational in transforming the way a student thinks about the world. It not only teaches them about technology, it also teaches them how to think differently about any problem. Computer science puts students on the path toward some of the highest paying, fastest growing jobs in America."

Here are some of the coding websites/apps that are being used at Maugham School along with others that you can encourage your child to continue at home:

### Websites:

- Code.org - Sign up is free and students can try any of the various types of coding games in the "Hour of Code" section
- Tynker.com
- Scratch.mit.edu
- Madewithcode.com (Google)

### Apps:

- Kodable (free)
- The Foos (free)
- Lightbot \$2.99
- Daisy the Dinosaur (free)
- Move the Turtle \$3.99
- Tynker (free)
- Cargobot (free)
- Bee bot (free)
- Lego Fix the Factory (free)
- A.L.E.X (free)
- Hopscotch (free)

Try it with your child today - Happy coding!  
Mrs. Herbst



## Tales of the Traveling Vice Principal February 2017

What a busy month! Part of my role as the Vice Principal of Elementary Schools is to provide feedback on how to keep our curriculum consistent across the four schools. Here are a few things I will be working on for the remainder of the school year:

- **Phonics First** – Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers have recently been trained on the Phonics First program to strengthen their literacy instruction. After meeting with each of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teams across the district, I felt it was important to meet with our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> grade teams to ensure that our pacing was cohesive across the four schools. I have met with all of our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teams, along with our Staff Developer, Lisa Krommenhoek, and our Literacy Supervisor, Aliki Bielz, to discuss the importance of pacing, assessments, and fidelity to the program. We will be meeting with our 1<sup>st</sup> grade teams in the upcoming weeks to ensure cohesion across the district.
- **Science** – The state of New Jersey is currently in the process of implementing new science standards in grades K-12. In conjunction with our district supervisor, Cathy Paz, and a committee of teachers, we met with a representative from McGraw-Hill to pilot a new science program in grades 4 and 5. Each of the four schools will have one 4<sup>th</sup> and one 5<sup>th</sup> grade class piloting this new series in a few weeks. I am looking forward to their feedback on the implementation of the program in each of the schools.
- **Professional Development for our Paraprofessionals** – After surveying our paraprofessional staff, I quickly learned that our paraprofessionals wanted professional development on behavior management. I reached out to one of our behaviorist who trained all of our full and part time paraprofessionals on specific strategies to utilize within the classroom.
- **ELL Support** – I have worked closely with our school principals and our ELL supervisor, Freddy Nunez on creating native language libraries for our port of entry students. Although our goal is to immerse our ELL learners into the English language, we would like to make their transition a bit easier by having literature in their native tongue available to them.

It has been a great start to the New Year. Thank you to ALL the students across the district who submitted names to the Name That Pug contest. My family and I are so grateful for all of the wonderful names submitted in each of the schools. We will be making our announcement when we pick up our puppy on February 17, 2017.

See you around town=)