



Pen and Pencil - March, 2017
Ralph S. Maugham Elementary School

I feel that I should whisper as we have enjoyed a few beautiful days of outdoor recess and noticed the absence of snow covering our property. I know all of our students have enjoyed getting some fresh air in their lungs and resuming their games at recess. While it is hard to believe that Maugham is well into the spring term, a second conference with your child's teacher/s will take place in a few weeks, on March 23rd and March 24th. Its goal will be to review individual student progress during the second third of the 2016-2017 school year. March 22nd the report cards will be available to view before your conferences. We hope that in handing out the report card the day before conferences will allow you more time to digest the information before meeting with the teacher.

The focus of the conference of course, should be on the overall progress of your child for this marking period, but the discussion of class placement of students for next year is one that parents are always interested in. We as a faculty would certainly benefit from your input as we consider class placements for our current kindergarten through fourth grade students. After all, we do recognize that as your child's first teacher, you undoubtedly possess important information about your child's learning style, temperament, personality, and friendships. After discussing the report cards, please share some of your insights about your child, which you feel may be important as we begin to think about class placements. We ask that you think about this question and consider your child's strengths, personality, needs, and learning styles. You may want to jot down this information and hand it to your child's teacher at the conference. Information presented in writing will be helpful and accessible during placement meetings. Please be sure to send me a copy of your note to the teacher so that I am aware of your request. **Specific teachers should not be discussed or listed in your request.**

Student Placement

When classes are structured we follow a clear set of guidelines. Classes are formed into deliberate heterogeneous groups with the following in mind:

1. A balanced gender ratio
2. A full range of aptitudes within each class
3. An even proportion of abilities and learning styles across the classes in each grade
4. An equal number of pupils in each class on a grade level
5. An even proportion of children with varied English language proficiency
6. Relevant school concerns that require certain students to be in a given class

Once these factors have been considered, teachers begin to "build a class" of children who show promise of working well together. At this point, teachers are assigned to groups of students that have been formed. Quite naturally, these decisions are based upon observations made by the teachers during the course of the year. While we seek your input, we trust that you understand that **the final decision about class placement will reside with the school.**

Teacher Placement. Please read carefully!

Parents need to be aware of the fact that the school may choose, when the need arises, to change the grade level of teachers for any coming year which means that a teacher's placement during the current school year may not be taken for granted. For example; as the number of classes per grade level changes due to enrollment in that grade level (up or down) teachers will have to move to a different grade level. Teachers also make personal choices about their lives. People move away, make family decisions that may involve not returning, or, at times, pursue different career choices. To avoid disappointment a school can never presume to make a promise about a particular teacher for any given year. At the same time, every effort will be made to accommodate the needs of children, while keeping in mind the above listed factors.

Warmest Regards,
Jennifer Ferrara
Principal

Calendar

Wed. 3/01 3rd Grade Program:
Life in Space
10:00 AM/Auditorium

3/01 5th Grade Parent TMS
Transition Meeting
7:00 PM/TMS Cafeteria

Thurs. 3/02 Assembly: Music in our
Schools Concert
9:00 AM/Auditorium

Fri. 3/03 Dr. Seuss Celebration for
grades K-2
9:00 AM/Library

3/03 4th Grade Program:
New American
1:45 PM/Library

Wed. 3/08 Assembly:
2nd Grade Play
9:00 AM/Auditorium

Thurs. 3/09 2nd Grade Program:
Lenape Museum
9:00 AM/Library

3/09 3rd Grade Field Trip
9:30 AM - 3:10 PM

Fri. 3/10 Assembly: Int'l. Day
9:00 AM/Auditorium

3/10 International Buffet
11:30 AM - 1:05 PM

Mon. 3/13 International Day-
Festival of Tables
Auditorium

3/13 12:45 PM Dismissal
Professional Day

Thurs. 3/16 HSA Meeting
7:15 PM/Library

Mon. 3/20 5th Grade Field Trip
9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Wed. 3/22 HSA Book Fair

Thurs. 3/23 12:45 PM Dismissal
Parent/Teacher Conferences



3/23 HSA Book Fair

Fri. 3/24 12:45 PM Dismissal
Parent/Teacher
Conferences

3/24 HSA Book Fair

3/24 5th Grade Skate Night
6:30 PM/Mackay Ice Rink

Mon. 3/27 Assembly:
Catskill Puppets
9:00 AM/Auditorium

Library Pen & Pencil - March 2017

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DR. SEUSS!!!

It's "Read Across America" time once again. In conjunction with the birthday of Dr. Seuss on March 2nd, we will once again celebrate this special event on Friday, March 3rd with all of our Kindergarten, First and Second Grade classes. Students will hear from special guest readers.

How well do you know Dr. Seuss and his books? Click on the link attached and find out how much you know!

Dr. Seuss Quiz:

<http://www.factmonster.com/quizzes/dr-seuss/1.html>

Remember all "the places you'll go" by reading books!

Mrs. Herbst



Pen & Pencil submission – HSA Meeting February 23, 2017

Welcome back from Winter break. We hope that your family enjoyed the time away from Maugham. The HSA has been busy working with Mrs. Ferrara, teachers, staff and parents to create new programming and experiences for your children.

CAP Presentations. The Child Assault Prevention group made classroom presentations to all grades in February. They did a wonderful job to present age appropriate content and lessons concerning conflicts, bullying, child abduction and safe touch / unsafe touch using role playing scenarios. CAP taught the children to trust their gut. The children had the opportunity to address options on role playing scenarios and provide feedback to CAP presenters in group discussions. The teachers felt the children were receptive and there was good follow up. The CAP presentation opens up the dialogue between parents and children to discuss these issues. Parent feedback included positive reactions and the children discussed the “special scream” for the abduction scenario.

March Teacher Conferences on March 23 & 24. Teacher conferences are an opportunity to learn your children’s’ progress in the classroom and to communicate teacher qualities that would be best fit for your child for next year. If there are any thoughts for next year, such as teacher type, classroom set up, classroom environment, please tell your current teachers. Please do not request specific teachers and children, but describe what would work best for your child

Book Fair. March 22-March 24. Maugham will be holding a book fair during the week of parent teacher conferences. Please come browse the fantastic array of books and consider purchasing some new books for your children.

New Playground Equipment - Creative Play Things. The TEF Grant was awarded to Maugham and was used to purchase a playground structure. This week, the Maugham grounds crew will be building a platform to secure the new equipment outside on the field in the back left corner. This equipment is primarily for Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders.

TEF Grant for Flexible Seating. Another TEF grant was just awarded to all four elementary schools for flexible seating and seating options for classrooms. Not every child does a great job sitting on hard chairs. This grant will be used to purchase flexible chairs, such as bouncy ball chairs, lower seated chairs, chairs to sit on the floor to engage core muscles. Flexible chairs encourage children to be more focused on the classroom learning, while finding ways to incorporate movement and body control.

TREPS Marketplace. Amazing success and a wonderful evening. Final workshop with children and Mrs. Ferrara will take place February 27th week. The 5th Graders raised \$3,524.00, which will be divided with \$1764.00 designated for the 5th grade party and the other \$1764.00 will be given to the three classes for a charity donation of their choosing. Mrs. Ferrara enjoyed seeing the students grow a seed of an idea into an awesome business. This was an opportunity for children to be proud of the products and marketplace they created.

First Grade Trip to Italy. 1st Graders will be “traveling” to Italy this semester to learn about Italian culture and food. First grade children have taken passport photos and will be getting passports to begin their journey to Italy. Tenafly High School Italian students will be working with first graders to teach them to speak basic Italian, learn songs, games and discuss the country. Mrs. Ferrara will spotlight this first grade program to Italy to the Board of Education this year, making a presentation and video on March 14th.

5th Grade Transition Meeting on March 1st at 7pm in Tenafly Middle School cafeteria. The transition meeting is for all 5th grade families as an opportunity meeting other elementary school families, the middle school principal, teachers, staff and guidance counselors. Tenafly Middle School will make a presentation and answer parent questions. Also, Tenafly Middle School is looking for parents interested in filling open HSA seats for next year.

Music in Our Schools Program on March 2nd. The program spotlights Maugham musicians for a day concert, with children performing in the orchestra, jazz band and solo pieces.

Read Across America Day / Dr. Seuss Celebration (K-2) on March 3rd Maugham students will celebrate this day by reading in school, particularly Dr. Seuss books. March 2nd will be a no homework night to encourage children to read at home with their families.

Stay Green and Be Healthy Committee. Maugham had a very successful shoe donation drive, and filled 10 large boxes with shoes at 50 cents a pound. This fundraiser taught children about recycling and helping others. There will be another shoe donation in April.

5th Grade Committee. The Fifth Grade Ice Skating Night will take place on March 24th for all four elementary schools. This event is free of charge and snacks will be provided. It is a wonderful opportunity for 5th graders to meet children from the other elementary schools and to ice skate.

Yearbook Committee. The yearbook will be adding additional parent advertising and space in the back of the yearbook for wishing congrats to the graduating children. The deadline to submit for the yearbook will be extended to allow all families to participate. The Ads will be \$10 per space. The yearbook committee is working with the HSA to create a Google drive to submit school pictures throughout the year and compile pictures for various years. This effort will assist parents in finding pictures for future yearbooks.

International Day Committee. International Day will take place on two days – March 10th (International Buffet Day) and March 13th (International Festival of Tables). There is a sign up genius for parents to volunteer and participate. March 10th will feature an international food buffet lunch for all children, with no school lunch served on that day. Children can visit food stations and sample food from around the world. March 13th will be a festival of country tables, where children can learn about other countries and do projects. This year the International Day will feature Brazil, and Tenafly High School students will be helping out to teach the students about Brazilian culture.

Board of Education / Meeting on School Air Conditioning. The Board of Education will be holding a meeting on April 5th to discuss the possibility of air conditioning for Tenafly public schools. This meeting will be the only opportunity for the community to voice its support or concerns to the Board of Education concerning the air conditioning initial construction and annual maintenance costs. Parents are encouraged to attend and participate in this meeting before a community referendum is considered. If parents cannot attend the meeting, please email the Board of Education members with your opinions, supports and/or concerns by the April 5th deadline.

New Superintendent Search. Parents are encouraged to fill out a survey on the Tenafly School District website concerning the new superintendent search.

Korean Parents Association – The KPA is making a book donation for all four elementary schools to support students in the ELL program. The book program will provide Korean, Spanish, Hebrew and other language need books to students that meet their native language reading levels, which are typically higher than the student ELL reading levels. The program is intended to keep students excited for reading. The KPA hopes to make this an ongoing library for ELL students.

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 boxtop is given to Maugham.

Important dates to mark on your calendar:

5 th Grade Transition Meeting	March 1
International Day	March 10 & 13
Book Fair	March 22, 23, 24
Parent Teacher Conferences:	March 23 & 24
5 th Grade Ice Skating Night	March 24
Bd. of Educ. Air Conditioning Meeting	April 5
Next H.S.A. Meeting:	Thursday, March 16 at 7:15 PM in 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 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