

Pen & Pencil 2017

Ralph S. Maugham Elementary School



THE PRINCIPAL'S PEN

Dear Parents,

May brings many wonderful things – great weather, longer hours of daylight, spring concerts, and field day. The PARCC test is wrapping up and our kids have done well. Our 4th graders will be finishing up their last 3 days of PARCC testing on Monday, May 1st, Tuesday, May 2nd and Wednesday, May 3rd. Our 3rd graders will be testing from Thursday May 4th through Thursday, May 11th. Our final round of testing will only be for our 4th graders when they take the NJASK paper and pencil science test on Wednesday, 31st.

Numerous projects, assemblies and school trips will be tightly packed into the remaining weeks. It is amazing to think that this year is almost over and that our 5th graders will soon be moving onto Tenafly Middle School. The fifth graders have begun a gradual transition process, through structured glimpses, into their next academic destination and will be visiting the middle school in early June.

This is the month of May, the time when limbs grow longer and tanner and our spring weather becomes warmer. It is also the time to address **appropriate attire for school**. Attire becomes much more significant and noticeable, once we shed our overcoats. It is important that the students understand what clothing and footwear is appropriate and inappropriate for school.

Therefore, I ask that you review the following guidelines and discuss them with your child:

- Girls and boys should not wear pants that end below their belly buttons. All pants should reach to waist level. Underwear should not be visible.
- Children outgrow their clothes rapidly. Please make sure they do not wear clothing that is too small or too tight. Sometimes that favorite pair of shorts needs to be donated or passed on to a younger sibling. A good rule of thumb to determine if shorts are too short is to ask your child to stand straight with their arms to their sides. If the shorts do not reach the tip of the middle finger, they are too short.
- Boys' and Girls' tops should at least reach below the waistband of pants, shorts, and skirts. A bare midriff or bareback is not appropriate for school.
- Boys and girls should not wear tops or shorts with messages about alcohol, drugs, or other inappropriate topics. These items are not permitted in school.
- Shoes should be comfortable and flat. Sneakers and socks are recommended.
- Sandals should be chosen with care and should give proper support to feet.
- Absolutely no flip-flops in school.

School spirit has been high and academic achievement wonderful at Maugham school. Let us work together to accomplish proper decorum and safety through Maugham students' attire. Parents who wish to discuss any of these guidelines should feel free to contact me.

Please also remind students that before they leave the house in the morning they should check to make sure they have all they need to bring to school. Our front table has been covered recently with a lot of forgotten lunches, notebooks, and instruments. Calling students out of class to pick up these items is disruptive and should try to be avoided.

Best Regards and Happy Mother's Day!

Jennifer Ferrara

Calendar

Mon. 5/01 4th Grade PARCC Testing

 12:20 PM 5th Grades walk to
 Middle School for
 performance-**dismissed**
directly from Middle School

Tues. 5/02 4th Grade PARCC Testing

Wed. 5/03 4th Grade PARCC Testing

Thurs. 5/04 3rd Grade PARCC Testing

 Kdg. classes to visit
 Nature Center - AM

 Incoming 2017-18 Kdg. Parent
 Meeting
 6:30 PM/Library
 &
 HSA Meeting
 7:15 PM/Library

Fri. 5/05 3rd Grade PARCC Testing

Mon. 5/08 3rd Grade PARCC Testing

 1st Grade Program/Classrooms

Tues. 5/09 3rd Grade PARCC Testing

Wed. 5/10 3rd Grade PARCC Testing

 2nd Grade Program: Native
 American Celebration
 9:00 AM/Auditorium

Testing

Thurs. 5/11 3rd Grade PARCC

Fri. 5/12 Field Day - PM

Mon. 5/15 5th Grade Program:
 Right to Dream
 9:50 AM/Library

Tues. 5/16 Nature Center to visit
 1st Grades

 KPA Meeting
 9:00 AM/Library

 Spring Concert
 7:30 PM/Auditorium


Wed. 5/17 Assembly:
 Spring Concert for students
 9:00 AM/Auditorium

Fri. 5/19 Rain Date for
 Field Day - PM

 Maugham Variety Show
 6:00 PM/Auditorium

Tues. 5/23 4th Grade Field Trip
 8:30 AM - 2:50 PM

Thurs. 5/25 3rd Grades to visit
 Nature Center

Fri. 5/26 SCHOOLS CLOSED
 Memorial Day Break

Mon. 5/29 SCHOOLS CLOSED
 Memorial Day Break

Tues. 5/30 SCHOOLS CLOSED
 Unused snow day

Wed. 5/31 4th GRADE NJASK
 Science Test



May 2017 Library Pen & Pencil

Our April Poetry unit in the library for National Poetry Month was a big hit! We explored different types of poetry and used various poetry prompts to create poems.

Below are some of the partly bi-lingual poems written by our second graders. We collaborated with our Spanish teacher Senora Guerrero to create diamond poems about the weather and the seasons using the vocabulary learned in class!

*El invierno
Hace frio, snowy
Skiing, skating, sledding
Sun, shiny, frio, dark
Diving, dancing, swimming
Hace calor, el sol
El Verano
-J.G. 2nd grade*

*Mayo
Sol, hot
Sailing, pitching, fanning
Foggy, sunny, stormy, hay nubes
Raining, warm, niebla
Buen tiempo, fresco
Abril
-Z.W. 2nd grade*

We also had some terrific color poems by our fourth graders!

LAVENDER

Lavender is the color of flowers in the spring
Lavender is the beauty of the world
Lavender is a pretty sunset in summer
Lavender is the cover of a new story
Lavender smells like fresh clean clothes
Lavender tastes like fresh juicy grapes
Lavender sounds like the waves crashing on the beach
Lavender looks like flowers blooming
Lavender feels like the wind blowing on my face on a windy day
Lavender makes me feel happy in side
Lavender is my favorite color

~A.D. 4th grade

RED

Red is my favorite sports team
Red is the brick outside my school
Red is the blood dripping down my skin
Red is the first color in the rainbow
Red smells like roses
Red tastes like red apples
Red sounds like robins humming away
Red looks like fire burning up
Red feels like the heart beating in my chest
Red makes me happy
Red is my favorite color

~D.E. 4th Grade

Always take time for a little

poetry in your life.

Happy Spring!

Mrs. Herbst



Pen & Pencil April 2017

2017-2018 School Budget Presentation

Presentation by Superintendent Lynn Trager, Assistant Superintendent Barbara Laudicina, and Business Administrator / Board Secretary Yas Usami:

Superintendent Lynn Trager presented the 2017-2018 school budget for Tenafly as an economically sound budget able to provide new programming and a new direction for the district, while staying within the 2% tax levy. Many other school districts have been making programming cuts, but thanks in part to strong financial planning by Yas Usami, Tenafly is able to expand existing programming and offer our students an improved curriculum and services that will move them forward. Lynn Trager believes the Tenafly School Budget will support the whole child – educationally, socially and medically. Yas Usami presented the budget facts and discussed the importance of the School Board staying within the 2% tax levy for this year and hopefully within the next few years.

The School Board received a health care cost waiver of \$417,490 for the upcoming year, but this funding does not lower the tax burden; rather it is banked for future use. Tenafly received a little over 2% of its operating budget from New Jersey state aid, which is \$1.4 million. This amount is less than what Tenafly received in 2009-2010 by approximately \$400,000, but since the School Board received no funding in the between years, it was pleased to receive state funding again during this calendar year. Tenafly received debt service aid from New Jersey this year, which was approximately \$11,000.

The Fund Balance (difference between assets and liabilities) is over \$2 million, with the annual school tax for the average Tenafly property of \$222/year. The School Board also had two bond refinancings in the past two years to create additional funds. This money will be used to make up the difference in the reduced NJ State aid and to hopefully reduce the tax burden on homeowners for future years, while maintaining quality programming and services for students.

Programming Supported by the 2017-2018 School Budget - The following areas of programming will be enhanced and added in the school budget:

- Student Learning Opportunities
- Tenafly Elementary Schools – the biggest increase in the elementary school budget will be to support the next generation Science and STEM standards and courses. There will be several revisions to the K-5 curriculum to augment the current science classes, including enhanced engineering, problem solving and problem based science. New textbooks will be provided in 4th and 5th grades to support the expanded science curriculum.

- Tenafly Middle School – Students will receive more in depth, independent learning. There will be an increased Chrome book initiative to improve technology and resources in the classrooms. New Middle School start time will be at 8:20 AM and end at 2:57 PM.

- Tenafly High School – New classroom schedule and the creation of curriculum cycles for enhanced learning opportunities. High School will enable class size to remain smaller, and for this past year, has successfully reduced class size for most, if not all, of students. New High School start time will be at 8:10 AM for four days and 8:30 for one day a week. Tenafly Police department and the Tenafly traffic bureau will be assisting the flow of traffic.

- Increased Support for At-Risk Students

There has been increased enrollment in the Tenafly Middle School and Tenafly High School, which increases the incidence of physical and mental health issues for the student body. The new school budget will include a 15 hour paraprofessional and an additional nurse in both the high school and middle school. These health professionals will be available for students to cope with stress and mental health issues. The two health professional will also act as substitutes for any public school in Tenafly, including elementary schools, when the school nurse is absent. This allows Tenafly's student body to avoid substitute nurses and better continuation of care.

As part of this initiative, Tenafly high school and middle school will create an after school drop in center where students can informally come to speak to a health professional. This is in addition to the existing programming and psychologists. The walk in center will be open during lunch periods as well. Tenafly received a drug and alcohol prevention grant at the middle school and high school levels to create and maintain this new walk in center.

- Addition of Technology Mentors

The school budget is instituting Technology Mentors at the Middle School and High School, with three mentors at the middle and four at the high school level. The Technology Mentors will be teachers with the knowledge and passion to implement and teach technology, computers and chrome books. The Elementary Schools currently have a Technology Developer full time for the K-5 grades and this person will remain in the budget.

- Continuation of Four Year Plan

The School Board reviews the Tenafly School District in four year time periods. The goals of the past and next four years will be to lower class sizes and maintain facilities. Currently the High School will be redoing tennis courts and updating the boiler. All schools will have their roofs assessed for maintenance under the budget.

HSA Updates

Maugham Programming and Class Trips

There are numerous upcoming class trips, plays, assemblies and programming for the Spring. Please be sure to ask your children about these exciting events. We hope parents and caregivers will volunteer their time for the class trips as well.

Maugham Field Day

Maugham students will all participate in Field Day on Friday, May 12th (rain date May 19th). Students will compete in various sports and contests in the back playground.

Maugham Variety Show

Maugham will host its student variety show on Friday, May 19th in the school auditorium. Students have been preparing individual and group acts for your enjoyment. Please come out and support our students' efforts.

Maugham Spring Event

The Maugham Spring Event this year will be on June 9th (rain date June 16th), and the theme is All Star Sports. There will be games and food for families. Additional information will be circulated as the event gets closer. We hope you can attend.

HSA Committee Updates

Fifth Grade Committee

The Fifth Grade ice skating event had a good turn out with families entering the Middle School next year. At least 200 students attended. The students had a good time meeting each other and ice skating. The next event will be the Fifth Grade pool party on June 8th, with a rain date on June 12th.

Beautification Committee

The TEF Grant was used to purchase and install a new irrigation system for the updated grass and plant beds, new plantings and trees. There will be ongoing landscaping work over the next month to enhance the aesthetics of the school. There will be a dedicated bench, a plaque and trees for Jim Byrne in his memory, to honor his work done on behalf of the Maugham community and the HSA.

Korean Parents Association – Library

The KPA has purchased and shelved over 40 books in Korean for students to use. These books will allow students learning English to continue to enhance their reading and learning in their native languages. The KPA is looking for books in various other languages as well.

New HSA Executive Board and Volunteers Needed

The HSA will announce their new executive board at the next meeting. There are still committee positions and volunteer positions open for the upcoming year ahead. Please reach out to the HSA if you are interested.

Important dates to mark on your calendar:

Kindergarten visit Nature Ctr.	May 4
Field Day- Maugham Playground	May 12 (rain date May 19)
Maugham Variety Show	May 19
Fourth Grade Field Trip	May 23
Memorial Day - School Closed	May 26, 29-30 th

Third Grade Field Trip	June 1
First Grade Play	June 2
Second Grade Violin Concert	June 6 at 7 PM
Fifth Grade Pool Party Event	June 8
Fourth Grade Science Fair	June 9
Maugham Spring Event	June 9 (rain date June 16)
Next H.S.A. Meeting: Welcome New Kindergarten Parents	Thursday, May 4 at 7:15 PM in Library 6:30 PM -7:10 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.

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