



Pen & Pencil October 2017

Ralph S. Maugham Elementary School

Dear Maugham Families,

It is hard to believe that one month of school has already come and gone. School has gotten off to an incredible start. Students are settled into their daily routines and minds are growing as we speak.

For the month of October, our school will be highlighting the positive character trait, RESPECT. Next week we will be celebrating the week of respect and our students will be participating in a multitude of activities.

Some daily reminders for our students as they aim to be more respectful and understanding are:

- treat people in a way that shows you care
- be polite
- respect yourself by taking care of yourself
- respect public property and your personal belongings
- respect animals
- use respectful language such as “please” and “thank you”
- show respect for authority, including teachers, the principal, and your parents
- respect others by paying attention when they are talking
- respect people for who they are and the differences they have
- respect rules in your community, at school, and at home

Ask your children to share with you what they have been discussing regarding respect in the schools. Hopefully there will be some great conversations.

As student assessments have been on-going since the beginning of the school year some parents have been invited to attend an I&RS meeting or a meeting with our Guidance Counselor. The Intervention & Referral Services or I&RS, and Guidance Services are extremely important resources at Maugham School. Parents who are new to the school and those who did not utilize these resources in the past may find this information particularly useful.

INTERVENTION AND REFERRAL SERVICES (I&RS)

Each Tenafly School has a standing Intervention and Referral Services Committee. This committee is a school-based, problem-solving group designed to assist teachers in developing intervention strategies which will help students who are experiencing difficulty in school. This committee serves the needs of General Education students who are not classified. The I&RS serves as a vehicle to develop instructional goals or modifications through collaborative discussion and planning of which you, the parents, are an integral part.

What can Intervention and Referral Services Committees Do?

- Offer structured support and assistance to teachers and parents
- Enable the school's instructional program to meet a broader range of student needs
- Assist teachers in developing alternative strategies to promote student competence in basic skills
- Provide a means for teachers to share and increase their skills and knowledge through peer interaction with other professionals
- Determine whether the challenges being addressed require additional, school, district or outside resources
- At times, but not necessarily, an I&RS committee meeting results in requesting referral services to the Child Study Team.

The core committee is composed of the principal or her designee, a member of our Child Study Team (usually our Learning Consultant), the school nurse (as needed), the speech and language specialist, a guidance counselor, and support services staff such as: Resource Room instructor, Basic Skills Teacher, ELL teacher (as needed) etc. In addition, the classroom teacher seeking assistance is always a part of the team.

Parents are invited to attend an I&RS meeting as the information they have to offer is extremely valuable to the team. They also have the benefit of hearing suggestions made by different team members who examine the situation from their varied perspectives of professional expertise.

Mrs. Jodie Craft, our Vice Principal of Elementary Schools will assist in the coordination of the activities of the committee this year. Should you need additional information about our I&RS Committee, please contact your child's teacher, Mrs. Craft, or myself.

GUIDANCE SERVICES

Maugham offers a variety of guidance services to our students. Our Guidance Counselor is Ms. Maria Casteline, who has been very helpful to many Maugham families.

What is the Guidance Program?

The focus of the elementary school guidance program is to help students develop positive learning experiences. Through a proactive approach our guidance counselor works closely with classroom teachers and the school principal to develop small-group programs that will

address a variety of needs within our student population. The gamut of counselor services includes various types of interventions.

- The Guidance Counselor collaborates with teachers/parents to provide an ongoing connection between students' social/emotional and academic functioning
- Conducts small group counseling sessions such as the Friendship Circle/Lunch Bunch, offering opportunities for students to model student to student interaction in a small setting
- Creates new groups as needed. A group of Banana Splits will be offered this year in response to the circumstances of children of divorce/separation

- Arranges for special assemblies and programs that are conducted by outside providers. This year assemblies about cyber bullying will be held, as well as Halloween Safety sessions, conducted by Law Enforcement Officers
- Provides support for the Responsive Classroom program as she helps students maintain Responsive Classroom approach to conflict resolution in less structured times such as recess and lunch
- Leads/teaches various proactive group lessons that are grade-appropriate by request of the classroom teacher/building principal. One example is the “Zippy’s Friends” program that addresses social skills appropriate for kindergartners which is taught by the Guidance Counselor in all kindergarten classes
- Offers individual counseling sessions for students who exhibit emotional needs and/or concerns
- conducts “New Student Orientation” services for new students who transfer into the school
- Arranges 504 meetings, provides input, follows up on student success, and monitors the effectiveness of interventions that have been designed and implemented
- Responds to emergencies and crises situations, as needed.

Those of you who have been part of Maugham School for a number of years will note that our guidance services grew over the years to accommodate the various needs of our student population. I am truly excited about the services that are available to our students and I encourage parents to take advantage of this opportunity by seeking our Guidance counselor out to address questions, concerns or information they have about their child.

I certainly encourage you to reach out to your child’s teacher if you have any further questions.

Best Wishes,

Mrs. Jen Ferrara
Principal

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**This year we have a new photographer-Irvin Simon.  
All picture forms will be online. You will receive information to go  
online after the students have their picture taken.  
No paper forms.**

## Calendar



Wed. 10/04  
Student Photograph Day

Mon. 10/09  
12:45 PM Early Dismissal  
Prof. Day

Wed. 10/11  
1:45 PM Assembly/Auditorium  
“Be True To You”

Sat. 10/14  
Fall Event/Maugham School  
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Tues. 10/17  
Author Visit: Jerry Pallotta

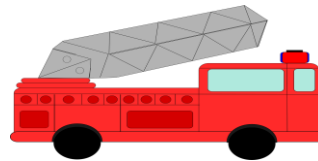
Thurs. 10/19  
2:00 PM HSA Mtg./Library

Tues. 10/24  
4th Grades to Nature Ctr.-  
see schedule

Wed. 10/25  
Assembly: The Almanac Dance Circus  
Theatre  
9:00 AM Grades 3-5  
10:00 AM grades K-2



Wed. 10/31  
2:00 PM Halloween Parade  
**Students go home for lunch from 12:45  
PM – 1:45 PM**



Fire Prevention Posters  
If you would like to participate in this year’s Tenafly Fire Prevention Poster Contest, please stop by the school office for the information and poster.  
All posters are due:  
Wednesday, October 18th at 9:00 AM



## Library Pen and Pencil, October 2017

It’s fall and these first few months of school in the library, we are enlarging our world with learning how to choose good books and continue our love of reading.

I am thrilled to host our Author Visit for the year on **Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**! Mr. Jerry Pallotta will be presenting to all of the grades about his books and writing.

Mr. Pallotta is the author of many non-fiction books including the popular “Who Would Win?” series. We are looking forward to a great day with our visiting author.

Happy reading and enjoy the beautiful autumn season with a good book!

Mrs. Herbst

## HSA Pen & Pencil October 2017

- Online Maugham Directory Registration. For new and returning families, please sign up for our online directory. When you are included in the directory, Maugham HSA can ensure that you receive the latest information for the school and students.

- School Lunch & Ice Cream Program. School lunch change period will be on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> and Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>. October 4<sup>th</sup> will be the cash collection in front of Maugham School on the lawn. Please bring exact change. New lunches will be in place starting October 10<sup>th</sup>. If you did not get to sign up to volunteer for lunch and wish to do so, please contact the lunch committee to be placed on the substitute list.

- After School Clubs. After school clubs will commence on September 26<sup>th</sup>. If there are any issues, please contact the after school club chairs Serena Chai, Susan Scherman and Joanne Surick.

- School and Class Portraits. Portraits will be taken for all students on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. There is a new portrait company which offers numerous digital backgrounds and online ordering.

- Maugham Fall Event. The Fall Event will take place Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 2-5 PM at the Maugham playground. This event is a free event, so come join for games, music, fall crafts and snacks with fellow Maugham families. If it is raining, the event will still take place, but will be moved to the Tenafly Middle School gym. Please contact Alissa Epstein, Jill Gabay or Karen Krassman to volunteer to help run the event.

- Volunteers Needed. Maugham is looking for a hospitality chairperson for orchestra concerts. Please contact the HSA if you are interested in volunteering your time.

- Halloween Parade. Maugham School will have its annual Halloween parade with children dressed up in costumes. Parents are welcome to join for the festivities on October 31 at 2:00 pm.

- Community Reward Program Reminder: Please consider supporting Maugham through the following fundraising programs:

§ Amazon Affiliate – Support Maugham school by the link on the HSA website for the Amazon.com Affiliate Program. Maugham will receive a percentage of all purchases made by shoppers who reached Amazon through our link. Be sure to pass the website information on to your family and friends! You can also add Maugham through Amazon Smile for the school to receive funds.

§ Stop & Shop Rewards Program – If you have a Stop & Shop card, log onto website [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus) to register for Maugham to get money each time you use the card. Select “register your card” from the “for customers” list on the right and enter our Maugham School 08983. Program dates to earn cash for our school runs from October 6, 2017 until March 15, 2018. If you already registered your card in the past, you do not need to register again.

§ 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 – Earn extra cash for Maugham by clipping Box Tops at home and sending them to school. Visit [btfe.com](http://btfe.com) for a complete list. This year, the class who submits the most coupons will win a prize!

**Important dates to mark on your calendar:**

|                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| School Portraits            | October 4                    |
| Early Dismissal from School | October 9                    |
| Halloween Parade            | October 31                   |
| Next HSA Meeting:           | Oct 19 at 2:00 PM in 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 the HSA and Maugham School.

Executive Council Co-Presidents: Susan Carlin, Michele Goldberg, Cheryl Shuster and Dara Wasserlauf  
Co-Treasurers: Natalya Michaels and Kate Williams  
Co-Secretaries: Lauren Dayton and Christine Chun

# NURSE'S NOTE-FOOD ALLERGIES

There are approximately 40 students with Food Allergies at Maugham School this year. This is 10% of our student population. We here at Maugham School are asking your help in keeping all our food allergy children safe. These children, who are perfectly healthy, must watch every single bite they eat, or risk suffering a severe or even life threatening reaction. Food allergies are responsible for over 30,000 emergency room visits each year and the guidelines below are rules that we like to follow and we ask for you and your child to keep them in mind. The most common food allergy here at Maugham are Peanut/Tree nut allergies, but we also have several students with other food allergies such as Egg, Milk, Fish/Shellfish, Sesame, Soy and Wheat.

-We maintain a **strict no food sharing protocol** at school. Please reinforce this with your child.

-Please do not send any Peanut or Tree nut products to your child's classroom to be eaten as snacks in the classroom. It is fine to send these for lunch which is eaten in the gym. If, however, any snack is questionable the student with the snack will be asked to save it for lunchtime or if labeled will come to the Nurse to have it checked. All tables in the gym are cleansed with a bleach and water solution by the custodial staff between lunch sessions to avoid cross contamination.

-Hand washing with soap and water is vital to stopping cross contamination. Children with Peanut butter/Tree nut products at lunch will be asked to wash their hands before returning to the classroom.

-During celebrations in the classroom, food allergy children are given a special snack provided by or approved by their parents. It is not the teacher's responsibility to read labels.

Working together and following these rules has been very successful in keeping all our students safe in a "Nut Aware" environment.

Regards and thank you for your continued cooperation!  
Mrs. Martin RN