



Pen & Pencil November 2017
Ralph S. Maugham Elementary School

THE PRINCIPAL'S PEN

Dear Parents,

It has been a wonderful two months here at Maugham, created by collaboration between home and school. The month of November will fly by as it always does, but here are a few highlights for what is coming up.

Conferences

On November 30th and December 1st, you will be coming to school for your first Parent/Teacher Conference. I encourage you to make the most of this opportunity to discuss your child's school progress. It is one of the many steps we take to build a partnership with you for your child's educational program.

Your child's report card will be available through the Genesis Parent Portal on Wednesday, November 29th. Having it a day before conferences will give you an opportunity to review and come to the conference with questions you may have for the teacher. We know that you and your child's teacher will have an invaluable tool of communication that will allow a clear picture of how well your child is acquiring the skills set forth by the NJ state standards on their grade level.

Conferences are intended to be interactive events. Certainly, teachers will have considerable information, rubrics and some work samples to share with you. However, we also benefit from hearing about your children's reactions to their school experience. Please be aware that our special teachers are also available during the conference periods. It may prove useful to meet with special teachers in order to gain a fuller perspective of your child's performance. When the conference is over, you should have a better understanding of all aspects of your child's school experience. Your child will undoubtedly be curious about the conference. It is more than appropriate to communicate the essentials of the meeting and review your child's strengths and areas for continued growth. Our teachers want to make each conference worthwhile and look forward to the opportunity to meet with you.

Fall/Winter has finally arrived

With the cooler weather finally upon us, it is an important reminder to parents that your children come to school dressed properly. It is really too cold now for shorts and short sleeve t-shirts. Temperature/precipitation permitting, we like to get our students outside for recess every day so please have students come with at least a warm jacket and hat so they can enjoy the fresh air. You know your child better than anyone – so ask yourself if your child can stay outside for about 25 minutes in what they are dressed in. If your child gets cold easily, please send extra layers. When there is snow on the ground, I do try to get students outside. We will either go for a walk outside, staying on the sidewalks, or when it gets more consistently snowy, we will allow students to go on the turf if they'd like, but they must have snow boots to do so. If the temperature is below 32 in the morning, we will allow students to come in the building at 8:20 am until the bell rings at 8:30 am. Please remember that supervision does not begin until 8:20 am. I am noticing that a lot more students are being dropped off in the morning earlier and earlier to play with friends before school begins. Though I know they enjoy this time to play, I don't recommend students being dropped off **earlier than absolutely necessary. If you are planning to supervise your own child feel free to have them come and run around.**

Gratitude

Thanksgiving is just a few short weeks away, and it is a time to reflect on all that one is thankful for. This month the positive character trait we will be focusing on is Appreciation which aligns perfectly with what Thanksgiving is all about. I am thankful each day to come to work in such an incredible school community. We cherish your children and we consider it such an honor to work with them each day. William Shakespeare says it best, "I can no other answer make, but, thanks, and thanks." Thank you for sharing your children with us and we wish you the healthiest and happiest of Thanksgivings.

Best Regards,
Jennifer Ferrara

Calendar

Thursday, 11/02
5th Grades to Nature Center



Tuesday, 11/07
Election Day



Thursday, 11/09
NO SCHOOL
NJEA Convention

Friday, 11/10
NO SCHOOL
NJEA Convention



Thursday, 11/16
Retake Student
Photographs
&
HSA Meeting
7:15 PM/Library



Friday, 11/17
KPA Meeting
8:30 AM/Library

Tuesday, 11/21
Assembly: 3rd Grade Play
9:00 AM/Auditorium

Wednesday, 11/22
12:45 PM Early Dismissal
Thanksgiving Break

Thursday, 11/23
NO SCHOOL
Thanksgiving Break

Friday, 11/24
NO SCHOOL
Thanksgiving Break

Monday, 11/27
Assembly: Beyond the Beat
9:00 AM Kdg. - 2nd grades
10:00 AM 3rd - 5th grades
Auditorium

Tuesday, 11/28
Book Fair Setup
9:00 AM/Library

Wednesday, 11/29
Book Fair/Library
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Thursday, 11/30
12:45 PM Early Dismissal
Parent/Teacher Conferences
Afternoon & Evening

Book Fair/Library
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Friday, 12/01
12:45 PM Early Dismissal
Parent/Teacher Conferences
Afternoon

Photograph Retake Day, November 16th
Anyone who did not have a picture taken on October 4th, or who wants to take a new photo, may have their photo taken. Photos will be taken on Photo Retake Day, Nov. 16th. Proofs will be distributed in homeroom approximately 3 weeks after retakes. This proof will provide you with all information in accessing your child's photograph.



Library Pen and Pencil, November 2017

This month we are grateful for the Maugham School Library. Thankful for the many books on the shelves, thankful for the volunteers and thankful for the ability to share the joy of reading with our students. Thankful for kids who love to read!

We're also thankful that our Maugham H.S.A. sponsored our Author Visit this year with *Jerry Pallotta*! On Tuesday, October 17th, our students enjoyed a presentation on what it takes to write non-fiction books. It was a great day!



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Mrs. Herbst

Maugham HSA Pen & Pencil November 2017

· Photo Committee. This **NEW** committee is looking for volunteers! This committee oversees the digital collection of photographs of key events (school trips, plays, etc.) for use in the Maugham Yearbook, and works in partnership with all parents in the grade, teachers and the 5th grade Yearbook Committee. The duties for this committee can be largely done from home, making it ideal for working parents. Members should be open to learning Gmail and Google Drive, and should have access to a computer. Please email maughamschoolhsa@gmail.com if you are interested in joining this committee.

· Maughamwear. Thank you to the committee chairs Jill Gabay and Deborah Cohen for the hugely successful school clothes orders and Maugham spirit day clothes. The Student Council will be holding future spirit weeks and spirit days, so please place your orders with the Maughamwear committee.

· Book Fair. Maugham book fair will take place November 29th and 30th during parent-teacher conferences. This year's theme is Wild West. The committee is looking for volunteers for the book fair to assist students in choosing books.

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

§ Box Top Contest - Earn extra cash for Maugham by clipping Box Tops at home and sending them to school. Visit btfe.com for a complete list. This year, the class who submits the most coupons will win a pizza party.

§ Stop & Shop Rewards Program - If you have a Stop & Shop card, log onto website 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.

§ 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.

Important dates to mark on your calendar:

Halloween Parade	October 31
School Closed (NJEA Convention)	November 9 and 10
School Picture Retake Day	November 16
Early Dismissal	November 22
School Closed (Thanksgiving)	November 23 and 24
Book Fair	November 29-December 1
Parent Teacher Conferences/ Early Dismissal	November 30-December 1

Next HSA Meeting: November 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 for helping out the HSA and Maugham School.

Executive Council

Co-Presidents: Susan Carlin, Michele Goldberg, Cheryl Shuster & Dara Wasserlauf

Co-Treasurers: Natalya Michaels and Kate Williams

Co-Secretaries: Lauren Dayton and Christine Chun