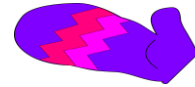




Pen & Pencil - December 2017
Ralph S. Maugham Elementary School



Dear Parents,

December is always a wonderful time of year. Inevitably those indoor recesses will become more frequent, but I really want to get students outside in the fresh air whenever possible. When the “feels like” temperature isn’t bitter, (usually 28 or above), I will be getting students out for recess. Please make sure that your children are coming to school with a hat and jacket (not just a sweatshirt) at least and boots when the snow arrives. Every day I try to wait to the last minute to make the call whether or not to keep students in. I know they would much prefer to go outside. When the snow is too deep to go on the playground or turf, I will take students on a walk around the neighborhood to get some fresh air.

December is also a time of celebration for many of us. We take pride in the diversity of Maugham School. Through a variety of celebrations, we become enriched by learning about the wealth of backgrounds our students represent. We encourage parents of all cultures who would be willing to share the background of an important holiday, festival, or tradition to contact our teachers. This approach goes a long way to sensitize us all to the different values, customs, languages, and culinary preferences that are woven into the rich fabric of our school and district community. It is also a welcome prelude to our expanded International Event Celebration in January, when the numerous and diverse Maugham communities share their customs, traditions, foods, folklore, and costumes and reinforce them further. This has become a very important, joyous and meaningful staple of Maugham School and an educational tool for our students. It has also helped families get to know each other.

Maugham will continue to take part in their yearly community give-back called the “Giving Tree”. Our community teams up with the Department of Child and Family Services of Bergen County to provide holiday gifts for those families in need. Participation in this is voluntary. Our first grade team will be sending home a detailed flyer explaining how to give if interested. If you would like to participate, we ask that you have the unwrapped gifts brought back to school by Wednesday, December, 13th.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Maugham families all the best this month. I am looking forward to the many wonderful events that lie ahead for all of us in 2018.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ferrara

Calendar

Friday, 12/01

**12:45 PM Early Dismissal
Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Sunday, December 3

**Registration opens online for After
School Clubs at 9:00 PM**

Monday, December 4

**Books Coin-A-Day Challenge
begins**

Thursday, December 7

**Registration ends online for
After School Clubs**

Friday, 12/08

**3rd Grade Field Trip
8:55 AM - 12:40 PM**

Saturday, 12/09

**Online ordering for 2nd Lunch
Session/Ice Cream closes at
12:00 PM**

Monday, 12/11

**Holiday Concert
7:00 PM/Auditorium**

Tuesday, 12/12

**Assembly: Holiday Concert for
students
9:00 AM/Auditorium**

Thursday, 12/14

**HSA Meeting
2:00 PM/Library**

Wednesday, 12/20

**4th Grade Field Trip
8:30 AM - 2:50 PM**

Thursday, 12/21

**THS Madrigal Mystery Tour
10:30 AM/Auditorium
&
Last day of Fall Lunch Program**

Friday, 12/22

**12:45 PM Early Dismissal
Holiday Break**

Monday, 12/25 - Monday, 01/01

Schools Closed

Tuesday, 01/02

**Schools Reopen
2nd Lunch Session begins**

Maugham HSA Pen and Pencil – December 2017

- **Lost and Found:** Parents and children can find lost items during Parent teacher conference hours. Items will be on display outside the cafeteria. All items unclaimed by December 1st at 3:00pm will be donated. Before these sessions, you may look in the bins near the ELL Room for lost and found items.
- **School Lunch and Ice Cream Program:** The 2nd Lunch Session and Ice Cream link is now available online and closes on December 9th at 12:00pm. Lunch volunteer sign up opens on December 4th. Cash payments will be accepted at the table by the flagpole on December 14th at 3-3:30pm. The 2nd lunch period runs January 2nd - March 29th.
- **After School Clubs:** The Session 2 Clubs brochure is currently available online. Please check out the new club offerings for the next session. Registration opens on December 3rd at 9pm and ends on December 7th. Cash payments will be collected on the front lawn on December 8th at 3:10pm. Session 2 begins on January 9th.
- **Community Service:** The Annual All for Books Coin-A-Day Challenge begins Monday, December 4th! The money raised will go towards purchasing books for the children on our annual Giving Tree. Last Year we were able to purchase 3 books per child. We'd love to at least match that again this year.

Important dates to mark on your calendar:

Winter Lunch & Ice Cream Order Period	November 27-December 9
Parent Teacher Conferences/Early Dismissal	November 30-December 1
Clubs Session 2 - Registration Period	December 3-December 7
Winter Lunch Volunteer Sign-up Opens	December 4
Holiday Concert	December 11 at 7pm
Early Dismissal	December 22
School Closed (Holiday Break)	December 25-January 1
Next HSA Meeting:	December 14 at 2pm 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 and Dara Wasserlauf

Co-Treasurers: Natalya Michaels and Kate Williams

Co-Secretaries: Lauren Dayton and Christine Chun

Library Pen & Pencil

December 2017

It's the "HOUR OF CODE" @ Maugham School!

December 4-10, 2017

The "Hour of Code" was designed to demystify "code", and has become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science starting with 1-hour coding activities. It takes place each year during Computer Science Education Week, Dec 4-10, 2017. It gives every student the opportunity to learn computer science and helps nurture problem-solving skills, logic and creativity. By starting early, students will have a foundation for success in any 21st-century career path. All students at Maugham School will have a chance to experience the "Hour of Code" during their library classes.

More information can be found at www.hourofcode.com



It's that most wonderful time of the year again!

We have a lot of fun holiday books in the library on display. In fact, we have so many, we don't have enough buckets to hold them all! Encourage your child to check out the holiday books and enjoy them together.

Mrs. Herbst

