

Maple School Newsletter

September 2021

Judy Averill, Principal



Principal's News

We have finished our first few weeks of school with much success. Teachers have been focusing on setting structures and routines and creating opportunities to learn about their students.

Instructionally, we have been assessing student's academic levels in math and literacy. Socially, teachers are spending time creating positive classroom cultures through activities and lessons. Our teachers are quite skilled at knowing their learners and this time of year helps set the stage for strong teacher-student relationships.

As a Maple community, we have spent time learning about our school-wide expectations, including all Covid safety measures. I continue to be amazed at the overall compliance with mask wearing, one of our most important mitigation strategies. Like many of you, we are anxious for Routine Covid Safety Checks to begin. If you have not registered your child yet, please do so here. www.cic-health.com/consent/ma. This is one of the most important things you can do to help keep our schools open.

The weather has certainly been on our side as we continue to provide an outside

lunch option. Once we are back in the building for meals, our lunchtime will look very different from the past. Instead of 12 students seated at our six-foot double tables, we will now be seating 3 students. All will be facing the same direction and only one grade level will be in the cafeteria at a time. We have increased our air purification in the basement to meet all standards necessary for indoor eating.

Dr. LeClair has been sending out important information regarding our safety measures and contact tracing. If you ever have questions about this information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We are in need of subs! If you or someone you know is interested in being a substitute teacher this year, please contact the office. Teacher sub pay per day is \$107.50 if certified, \$97.50 if uncertified. Para pay is \$94.00 a day. This is a very important role in our schools.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with questions and concerns javerill@epsd.us Best, Judy

Upcoming September Events

- ◆ 20th School Photos - Outside again this year.
- ◆ 23rd Open House Zoom

October Events

- ◆ 11th No School Indigenous Peoples Day
- ◆ 21 & 22 Parent Teacher Conferences

PTO Volunteer Form Link

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1M8BF_O8StrH6rVxEGDhkihVgvsseA
[0bxJOpI_EblLek/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1M8BF_O8StrH6rVxEGDhkihVgvsseA/edit)

PTO News

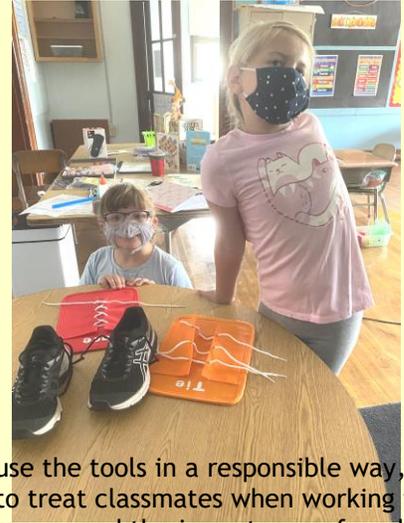
Easthampton PTO would love for new parents and guardians to join this year! The next meeting is outside on the Maple playground on Wednesday, October 6 at 6:00. BYOC (chair). Children are welcome to play on the playground during the meeting. The PTO will be providing playground supervision. Meetings are held via Zoom when the weather does not cooperate.

The main goal of the PTO is to provide enrichment activities for students as well as social events for families.

Volunteers can help the PTO by attending meetings, assisting with planning and fundraising, and donating their time to help at events. One thing families can do right now is sign up for Amazon Smile. Just go to your Amazon account and select "Your Charity" near the top of the page. Write in "Easthampton Home and School Association" and a small percentage of your sales will be donated to our PTO. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Our Soar Classroom

This month in Soar, we are putting emphasis on getting to know each other and life skills. Through a stations or centers format, each day we have a new focus. One of our favorites is our "life skills" focus, when we get to practice buttoning/snapping, folding clothes, and even shoe tying! We use real clothing items so we can practice in a realistic way.



use the tools in a responsible way, how to treat classmates when working in a group, and the importance of working on the task that you have been given!

Second Grade News

Second grade started off the year as mathematicians by laying the foundation for thinking about math as something that we can work hard at and improve in every day. We learned that researchers have found that people who struggle, make mistakes and find a different approach are the ones who go on to do really well. We also explored several of the tools that we will use throughout the course of the year to aide us in our mathematical thinking and reasoning. These tools included connecting cubes, geoblocks, pattern blocks, and two sided counters and ten frames. We will use these tools all year long as we develop fluency in addition and subtraction within 20- one of the standards for second grade fluency. This fluency goes beyond merely memorizing a list of facts and extends into strong number sense and the ability to think flexibly about numbers. In addition, we set up the expectations about how to



Third Grade News



Hello families! Our curriculum relies heavily on student talk and cooperative structures. Third grade has been trying out some new ways for our students can "turn and talk" during many of our lessons throughout the day.

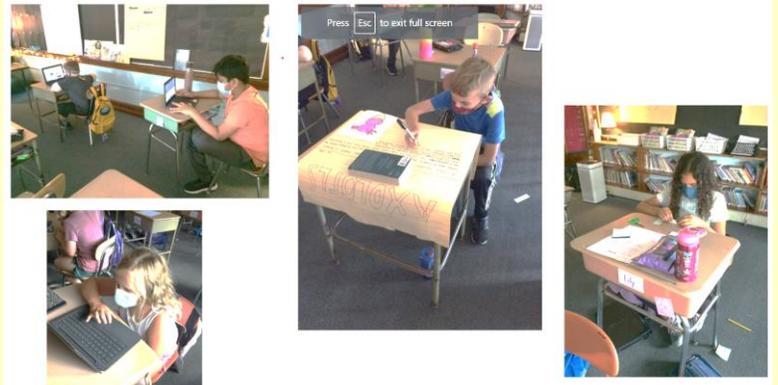
With the need to remain socially distant, we tried having students sit on desks and turning to their partner to share ideas. We found that it worked really well and the students enjoyed it! This is just one of the many way in which we've had to shift our teaching this year.

To keep air moving in the classrooms, windows are open, air purifiers are on and fans are pointed out. This combined with our consistent mask wearing sets us up for safe teaching and learning.

Fourth Grade News

Mrs. Franke's Classroom

Mrs. Franke's class kicked things off by researching mascots for our class. We researched different animals, and then presented our findings to the class. We will soon vote which mascot we'd like to represent our class. This activity helps to build community within our classroom! In math, we discussed how numbers could be represented and seen in many different ways. Just ask your child to talk about the dots activity we did, and how many



The Fourth Graders in Ms. Pickard's room have been getting to know one another, easing into the routines of school, and challenging themselves, particularly in science and math.

In math we have been learning to think visually, systematically, and learning to find patterns. We just finished an engineering challenge in Science class. Our assignment: build the highest tower we could without glue or tape. Check out our results below.



Mrs. Pickard's Classroom



Resources from Ms. Breon, School Counselor

As many families continue to follow stay-at-home advice to help slow the coronavirus pandemic, the need for fresh activity ideas grows. [Pandemic 2020: Our Stuck-At-Home Guide to Food, Fun and Conversation](#) from the Family Dinner Project shares ideas for keeping busy during the pandemic. [Sesame Workshop Caring for Each Other Initiative](#) supports families with a broad variety of resources to spark learning and help your family thrive. Finally, [Resources for Families Under Pressure](#) includes video resources with evidence-based tips for helping children manage difficult emotions and challenging behavior at home. You can contact Ms. Breon at ebreon@epsd.us

EEASP After-School Program



Maple's Easthampton Enrichment After School Program (EEASP)

There are a few spaces available Tuesday-Friday for current Session 1 and Session 2, with a 2-day enrollment required. Classes in Art, Active Movement, Science & Technology, and Circus, to name a few. First come-first served until all spaces are filled!

Monday-Friday 3:10-5:30. EEASP is closed 1/2 days, Holidays, or vacation weeks.

Session 1: September 20-November 12,
Session 2: November 15-January 14, 2022.

We encourage Maple students to explore unusual enrichments, small class sizes, and social time with friends. Sliding scale available. *No family will be excluded due to inability to pay.* For more info, please contact: Marcia LaRocque Levy, Maple EEASP Coordinator (and Maple's Art Teacher!) 413-221-9425, mlevy@collaborative.org