

MAPLE ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

HOME OF THE MOUNTAIN LIONS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greeting Maple Families,

It is hard to believe that we are already eight weeks into the school year. I wanted to tell everyone how proud I am of the staff and students at Maple; through their efforts we gained **36 API** points. Our **API is now 796**. Way to go guys! The goal for this year is to break thru to 800; and I believe we can do just that.

So many wonderful things have already happened here at Maple. First, was our Back to School and BBQ night. It was wonderful seeing all the kids smiling faces and parental support that night. Thank you to everyone that came. Next, we had our Scholastic Book Fair, and once again it was a tremendous success. It is wonderful seeing how excited the students get over the new books that they have purchased. Next, we had our first district benchmarks. I am again proud of how our second thru sixth grade students performed on them. Finally, we had our first Mountain Lion Pride event. Over 300 students met the qualifications for it. They had good attendance, completed all home work, were performing well academically in class, and had good behavior. To all those who made it to the first Pride event, good job and keep it up!

One last thing I wanted to talk about is attendance. Please try to make all doctors' and dentist appointments for after school. Coming in late, or leaving school early affects your child's education. If your child is sick, please call the office or bring in a doctor's note so we can verify the absence. Having your child at school is extremely important to his/her education and it is the law. The state of California considers 10 or more absences in a year to be excessive. So please remember to bring your children to school everyday.

Mrs. Elgan



Special points of interest:

- School begins at 8:10 for Kindergarten and 8:20 for grades 1-6.
- Please have your ID ready when picking up kids from school. They will not be released with out proper identification.
- Remember to call in and let us know why your child is absent from school.
- Please follow all laws and regulations when picking up and dropping of your kids.
- There is no parking on the street from 8-8:30AM and 1-3:00PM. Citations will be done, if caught.
- **DO NOT** block the drive during dismissal, so buses can leave.

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Kindergarten

The children are making good progress learning letters and sounds. They are beginning to use this knowledge to hear and record the beginning sounds of words. They are working on patterns, sorting, recognizing numbers and counting out sets. Please continue to read to your child and talk with your child. Familiarity with books and conversational skills enhance learning.

3rd Grade

Greetings third graders! October is the month for new beginnings! That means if you did not make it to the first Mountain Lion Pride then you have a chance to start over. Make sure you are bringing in your homework daily, doing your class work, and behaving your very best at school. Also, our first A.R. party was a blast, so start reading books for the month of October because we want to see you there! Have you purchased your multiplication flash cards yet? Timed multiplication tests are beginning, so make sure you are prepared.

5th Grade

We have been learning a lot in 5th grade! In class, students have been reading about inspirational people who "give it all they got!" Many students have begun reading the 5th grade Clue-Me-In Books as well. Teams will be chosen later, but we encourage all students to start reading. Reading daily is a great way to improve your child's vocabulary and academic success. In math, we are continuing to learn about fractions, decimals, and percents as well as reinforcing multiplication and division facts.

1st Grade

October will be a busy month in first grade. We will continue to work on short vowel words in reading and will introduce the word endings -s, -ed, and -ing. Students will also need to count by tens to 100 in math and continue to practice addition and subtraction facts. Just a reminder, homework goes home on Friday and is not due until the following Friday. Please make sure your child reads for 20 minutes each evening with the books provided in the homework folder. The books should be returned with the homework on Friday. We appreciate your support. It really makes a difference.

6th Grade

The sixth grade would like to welcome Franco Ortega to our sixth grade team. He has taught sixth grade before and is knowledgeable about all the standards he will be teaching.

Our benchmark scores were quite impressive and above the district averages of other schools. We would like to thank the parents for making sure all homework was completed. Please make sure you are checking their binder and signing it nightly for their homework assignments.

Mountain Lion Pride was on September 25th. Students that did not attend this time will need to work on their attendance, homework, appropriate behavior, and achievement.

We want to remind you of conferences on October and November.

2nd Grade

The beginning of the school year has flown by for both teachers and students. We have been working hard on the California State Standards in both Language Arts and Math. The students had their first District Benchmark Assessments in week 6 and you should have received a paper with your child's test scores and highlighted (checked) areas where extra practice is needed. You will receive this information each time the students take the Benchmarks. It is a way for us to communicate and work together to help the students in areas of need. The students are presently preparing to take the next set of Benchmarks in week 11. In the next few weeks all students will be focusing on the concepts of money and telling time. Please spend some extra time working with your child at home on these skills: adding mixed collections of coins and telling time to 5-minute increments. Thank you for all the support that you give your child with their homework and nightly reading. Your commitment to your child only enriches their learning.



SCHOOL GROUPS

GATE

The 4th, 5th, and 6th grade GATE teachers at Maple have implemented differentiated curriculum to meet their GATE students' needs. We incorporate projects and assignments that allow students to utilize a variety of their skills. The project outputs and assignments will reflect something about the student who created it, and will still identify and meet state standards. Parents also need to help develop their child's abilities with many different learning opportunities. Please come to the GATE parent meeting on Oct. 20, 2009 at 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm to be introduced to our Maple program.

Parent Center

With the new school year, comes new things for Maple. This year the PTC, Parent Teacher Club, is once again helping the school with its Mountain Lion Pride Program. Other events are also being planned to pull the Maple School community together.

School Site Council and ELAC (English language Advisory Committee) are two groups that help to advise the school of the needs of our students, as viewed by the community.

Genoveva Santa Cruz, our School Liaison, continues to have the Parent Center open for our Maple families to meet and work. If you have little ones at home, don't worry, they are always welcome to come with you.

Working together, we can do great things for our students, so sign up to be a volunteer, so you can be part of the great things happening at Maple this year. If you have any questions in regards to the Parent Center or becoming one of our Volunteers you may contact Genoveva Santa Cruz Monday-Friday 8:15am-12:00pm.

October 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 ELAC 5:30-7:00	7	8	9	10
11	12 No school	13 District Writing Prompt	14	15	16	17
18	19 School Site Council 3-4PM	20 District Benchmark		22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Parent Conferences	29	30 Mountain Pride 2	31