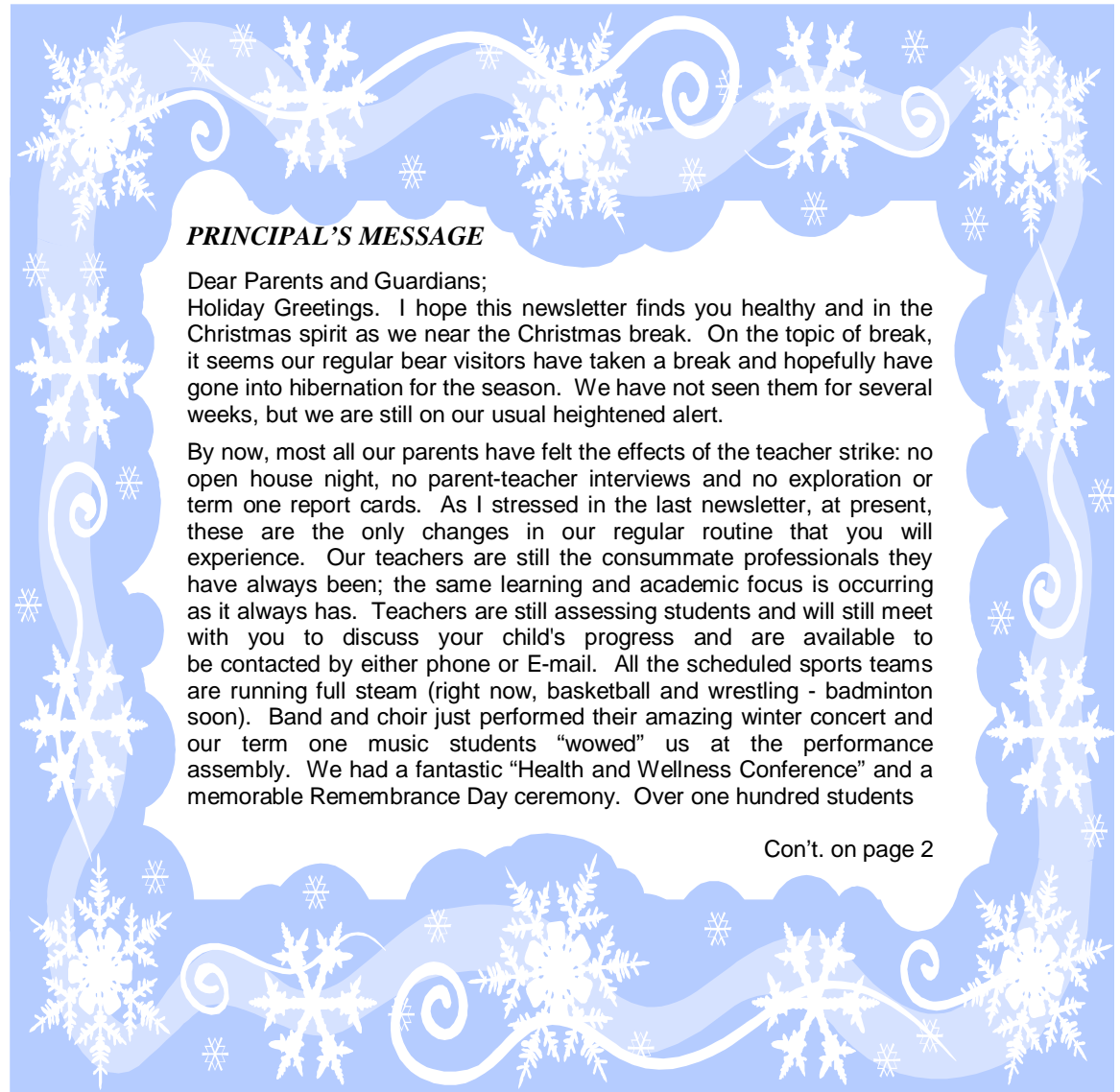
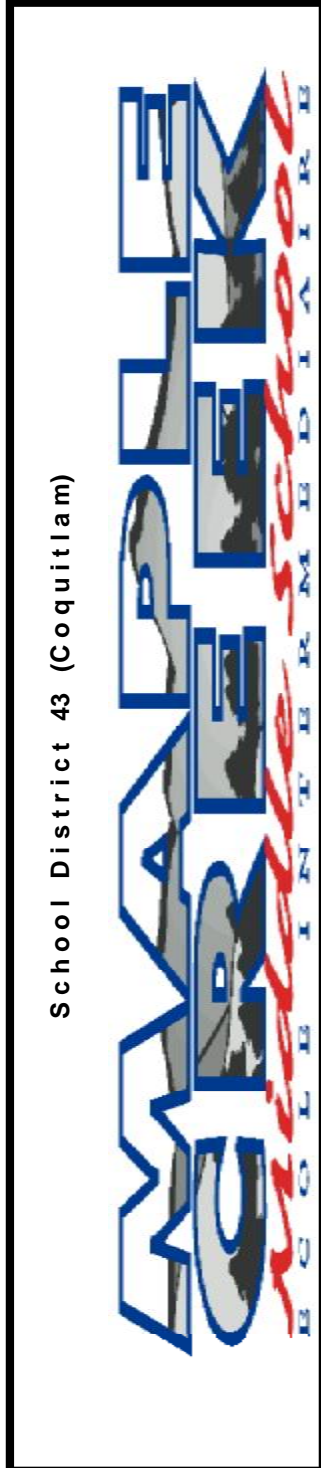


SCHOOL GOALS 2011-2012

To continue to improve reading skills and attitudes towards reading for information with nonfiction text; specifically with comprehension, analysis, and reading strategies.
To improve students' capacity to be socially responsible by valuing diversity, contributing to the classroom and school community, and being respectful of themselves and others.

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Dear Parents and Guardians;
Holiday Greetings. I hope this newsletter finds you healthy and in the Christmas spirit as we near the Christmas break. On the topic of break, it seems our regular bear visitors have taken a break and hopefully have gone into hibernation for the season. We have not seen them for several weeks, but we are still on our usual heightened alert.

By now, most all our parents have felt the effects of the teacher strike: no open house night, no parent-teacher interviews and no exploration or term one report cards. As I stressed in the last newsletter, at present, these are the only changes in our regular routine that you will experience. Our teachers are still the consummate professionals they have always been; the same learning and academic focus is occurring as it always has. Teachers are still assessing students and will still meet with you to discuss your child's progress and are available to be contacted by either phone or E-mail. All the scheduled sports teams are running full steam (right now, basketball and wrestling - badminton soon). Band and choir just performed their amazing winter concert and our term one music students "wowed" us at the performance assembly. We had a fantastic "Health and Wellness Conference" and a memorable Remembrance Day ceremony. Over one hundred students

Con't. on page 2

**Last day of classes before the
Winter Break**
Fri., Dec. 16, 2:54 p.m.

Winter Break
Dec. 19, 2010 —Jan. 2, 2012
(students return to school
Tues., Jan. 3, 2011)

**Professional Day
(school—based)**
Fri., Jan. 28
(no school in session)

**This is an important document. Please
arrange to have it translated**

此為重要文件,請翻譯成中文。

이것은 매우 중요한 서류입니다, 정확한 번역을 부탁드립니다.

این مدارک از اهمیت ویژه ای برخوردار است لطفاً ترجمه شده آن را در خواست بنمایید.

ESTE ES UN DOCUMENTO MUY IMPORTANTE.POR FAVOR,
TRATE DE QUE SE LO TRANSLADEN AL ESPAÑOL
LO MAS PRONTO POSIBLE.

To jest ważny dokument. Prosimy o przetłumaczenie go.

Principal's message con't from page 1

came out to audition for our upcoming Spring play "Alice in Wonderland". I am seeing many, many students involved in the amazing programs our staff are sponsoring; sound and lights crew, "Me to We" group, Odyssey of the Mind, Art Club, Flashmob Group, Outdoors Club, Crafts Club, intramurals, Astronomy Club, Battle of the Books, Peer Tutors, Peer Mediators, Spirit Crew, Leadership Council, success club, "Buy the Creek", Green Team.....to name a few of the many things still going strong. Additionally, the school has taken on the task of helping families in need during Christmas. In one form or another, everyone has contributed and we will be making Christmas special for over 30 local families. I am so proud of the work our staff and students have done. In total, we have raised well over \$5000 - congratulations Maple Creek!

A reminder that you can get some school updates I send via twitter Bill Trask at Twitter.com or visit our Wiki at <http://mcmstudentleadershipcouncil.wikispaces.com/>

Wishing you all a Happy Holiday and Happy New Year.
Mr. B. Trask, Principal

FSA (Foundational Skills Assessment) - For grade 7 students.

Every year, our grade 7 students write four government tests that assess reading, writing, and numeracy. The tests are for grade 7 students only and take approximately five hours to write (not all in one day or one sitting).

FSA's will occur throughout the province from January 16, 2012 - February 24, 2012. Due to teacher job action, Mr. Trask and Ms. James will be administering all the FSA exams. There will be a letter coming home explaining what the FSA is in the new year.

For more information go to <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/>. FSA results are usually made available to parents and students in March. We are scheduling all grade 7 students to write the exam. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mr. Trask or Ms. James. If you wish to have your child not write the FSA (exempt them), please pass this on in writing or by E-mail to Mr. Trask or Mrs. James.

GRADE 8 ARTICULATION INFORMATION

Grade 8 students are already thinking about Grade 9 and high school! Mrs. Chang, our school counsellor, has sent out dates and important information in a special notice early. Additional, information can be found on our website. The notice contains:

- General information about Grade 9 entry for all high schools in School District 43.
- Honours programs
- International Baccalaureate Advanced Placement

Students will automatically be forwarded to the high school in their catchment (based on current on-file address) unless otherwise indicated by an approved cross-catchment request, honors program acceptance, confirmation of participation in the high school French Immersion or gifted programs.

PEER TUTORS

We have just trained over thirty of our students to assist other students in all subjects. Often, a student can explain a concept to a fellow student in a way an adult cannot. Peer tutors do not replace teachers teaching or replace after school success club. It is another option available for our students. Any student can take advantage of this free tutoring service - contact your child's homeroom teacher for any details.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



Winter Break

Monday, December 19—
Monday, January 2
(no school in session)

School Re-opens

Tuesday, January 3

School Based Professional Day

Friday, January 27
(no school in session)

Explorations Term 2 Report Cards

Friday, February 10

District Wide Professional Day

Friday, February 17
(no school in session)

Literacy Conference

Friday, February 24

Second Formal Report Card

Monday, March 5

Spring Break

March 12—March 23
(no school in session)

School Reopens

Monday, March 26

Good Friday/Easter Monday

Fri., Apr. 6/Mon., Apr. 9
(no school in session)

Professional Day

(District Wide)
Friday, April 20

Drama Production
Alice In Wonderland
April 24—27

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Maple Creek would like to thank the following organizations and businesses for making our hamper program so successful. We sponsored 23 families with hampers. In addition those who came and donated items at the Christmas Breakfast helped bring Christmas dinner to each of these families. Additional thanks to:



- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Laureate Beta Rho | Tim Hortons |
| Safeway Coquitlam | Cobs Breads |
| Budget Car and Truck Rental | Summit Middle School |
| Maple Leaf Boxes | Canadian Superstore |

Thanks as well to Ms. Coatta, Ms. Barb Borkowski, "Me To We" Team, and all the students, staff and parents that went above and beyond with fundraising events during school hours and on weekends. If we have missed anyone else we apologize. Please know you are appreciated.

NEW YEAR'S FIREWORKS

This News Years eve, a group of former Maple Creek students who are now Pinetree Secondary graduates, will be hosting a neighbourhood fireworks show at the grass field at Maple Creek from 12:00 AM to 12:15 AM.



This group has previously done the show at Nestor in past years. They have a permit from the fire department and have experience with this sort of event. Feel free to come out and watch the fireworks on New Year's Eve. The group is not affiliated or connected to Maple Creek School.

We thought it may be an interesting pilot project to permit them to use our field so our students and neighborhood could benefit. I know the group is financially strapped and would be most grateful if you brought a few dollars to donate if you attend the show.

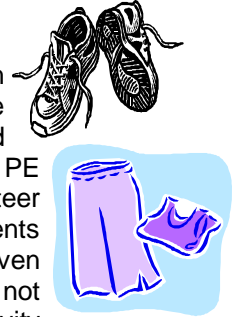


AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC

A wonderful time was had by all. Great work by the advanced band playing some difficult songs. Awesome demonstration for the beginner band's first presentation including playing hard pieces such as Frosty the Snowman. Capping the whole event was an incredible melody of songs from the choir. The variety of songs and the number of lead singers made us all proud. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Burton and Ms. Chang for pulling it all together and coordinating such a large group of very talented students.

LOST AND FOUND

All lost and found items have been on display in the upstairs hallway over the last couple of weeks. All unclaimed clothing items that could be utilized as PE clothing will be taken home by a volunteer and washed then returned so that students who don't have PE clothing will be given something to wear. This way they will not miss out on the important physical activity PE provides. All other items will be sent donated to local charities.



SCHOOL CLOSURE DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER OR POWER OUTAGE

School rarely closes. Always expect that school will be open. In addition to finding information on the radio stations and the District website, we also keep our school website (www.sd43.bc.ca/maplecreek/) up to date. Occasionally, it is



necessary to temporarily close a school due to extreme weather conditions or a power outage. This decision is made by School District personnel, not the Principal. Factors such as building temperature, light availability, other general safety factors, and the recovery time for power (estimated by BC Hydro) are all considered by the School District

in making a decision to close a school. Every attempt is made by the School District to communicate a school closure ahead of time via local radio and television, and through the District website. **In the event of heavy snowfall, ice or high wind, please listen to CBC 690 AM, CKNW 980 AM, or CKWX 1130 AM radio stations for possible school closure information. In addition, on inclement weather days, school closure information will be posted on the School District website at www.sd43.bc.ca**



Unfortunately, as we have experienced in the past, events sometimes occur at the last minute, and a decision to close a school cannot be communicated ahead of time to parents. In these circumstances, we will make every attempt to contact as many parents as possible using staff or student cell phones.

PHONING IN OF STUDENT ABSENCES, LATES OR EARLY DISMISSALS

The school office would like to request the assistance of all our parents with regards to calling the school when their son or daughter is going to be absent, late or leaving early. We are finding that so many families are forgetting to call and as a result the task of contacting these families to confirm the safety of the students is taking too long. **Please remember to call into the office each day that your child is going to be away.** A message can be left on the school answering machine or the information can be received by the office staff any time after 8:00 a.m.



TIPS TO AVOID THE FLU

Between November and April is flu season. Each year a different type of virus causes influenza. Health Link BC (www.healthlinkbc.ca) offers the following advice to help avoid experiencing the flu: Regular hand washing and good personal hygiene can help prevent influenza and not spread germs.



Here are some tips:

- Stay home if you get sick with influenza.
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Use a tissue when you sneeze or cough, and throw the tissue away.
- Disinfect regularly to clean surfaces such as door handles, desks and counters.

MAPLE CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARBOOK

The 2011/2012 Maple Creek Middle School yearbook will be on sale in the new year. This hard cover yearbook is 112 pages in length and includes pages in full colour. For an additional \$5.00 per book, you can personalize your yearbook with the student's first and last name on the cover (available until Feb. 1, 2012 only). The cost of these books are: \$40.00 from Jan. 3-31 and \$45.00 after Feb. 1, 2012.

If there is more than one child in the family, siblings can purchase their yearbook for \$35. If you wish to sponsor a yearbook that will be donated to a deserving student please contact Ms. Shaw or the school office.

Order forms will be sent home in early January, 2012.

MAPLE CREEK SOCK HOP A BIG SUCCESS

Congratulations to Team 5 for another successful Sock Hop. This fun noon hour dance hosted by Team 5 has become a tradition at Maple Creek, and lots of students participated again this year. A total of 144 pairs of socks were collected at the dance, and will be distributed to those in need by the Elizabeth Fry Society. Way to go Maple Creek!



HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION AND PROCEDURAL UPDATE

The following information is provided to ensure emergency planning information is in place and shared with our parent community prior to an emergency.



Fire Drills, Earthquake Drills, and Lockdown Drills

Every year, we have three earthquake drills, three fire drills and at least two lockdown drills. Many of you are familiar with fire drills and earthquake drills, but some of you may not be familiar with lockdown drills. A lockdown is when we close and lock all exterior doors to the school, close and lock all classroom doors and have students sit down in the classroom as a group silently. The windows in each classroom also get covered so nobody can peer in. Essentially, anyone who could enter the school would find the school locked up and silent with no evidence of any adults or students being present. The purpose of such a drill is to be prepared for any number of potential emergencies that may arise where we need students to be in a safe, secure area where they cannot be seen, heard or found. Being prepared for a potential emergent situation is prudent planning, however, this may cause some anxiety for some students. I recommend you sit down with your child and discuss the rationale behind a lockdown drill. At the school level, we discuss the rationale, answer any of the students' questions and debrief to clarify or answer any further questions after the lockdown. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Trask.

In the event of an Emergency Release:

The school command centre, located inside the fenced in basketball court at the back of the school, is a safe area away from the response activities where the principal and/or designate, and the communications team is set up. The command centre function is to provide overall direction, control and communication. It is also the centralized reporting location for all response team leaders. The command center is where parents/guardians/emergency release contact person would go to pick up the child in their care. Students will only be released from this area to the designated person written on the student verification form, that parents completed in September. This **form should be updated if any changes occur** with who the designated release person is. Students will not be released to anyone who is not designated as an emergency release person. As well, the **emergency release person must have ID**, in order for the school to release the student to them. Remember, in case of an emergency, phones may be down and you will likely not be able to contact the school.

In the event of an earthquake and Maple Creek Middle's ground is unsafe, students will be released from Town Centre Park.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB

The Ski & Snowboard Club has it's first outing on Mon., Jan. 23. Students leave right after the bell by chartered bus and return to the school at approx. 9:15 pm. The remaining dates of the trips are: Mon., Jan. 23 & 30 & Mon., Feb. 13 & 20.



Students who have their own equipment can bring it to the school in the morning and it will be locked up for the day (in the football equipment storage container at the back of the school), but they must arrive before 8:30 a.m. to do this.

Parents wanting to volunteer their time to supervise a group of students on the bus and at Seymour Mountain for our Ski/Snowboard trips on Jan. 23 & 30, Feb. 13 & 20, please contact the school as soon as possible (phone 604-464-8581 or e-mail Mrs. James at djames@sd43.bc.ca). We will finalize volunteers attending and dates required, on Jan. 6, 2012.

Looking for that great Christmas gift; we still have a few Ski and Snowboard spots available. If you are interested, please see Mrs. James or any of the office staff, for a registration form. Bring your completed form with payment to the office as soon as possible to guarantee a spot. Our first trip to Seymour is just after the winter break, on January 23, 2012.

RUNNING CLUB

A reminder to all runners that we will continue with our drop-in running club on Wednesdays after school in the new year. New runners are welcome at any time. Please meet at Mr. Elson's room at 3:05 pm—, we are done by 3:45. We are tracking our progress as we 'run' across BC...so far we've made it to the outskirts of Kamloops,



OUTDOORS CLUB

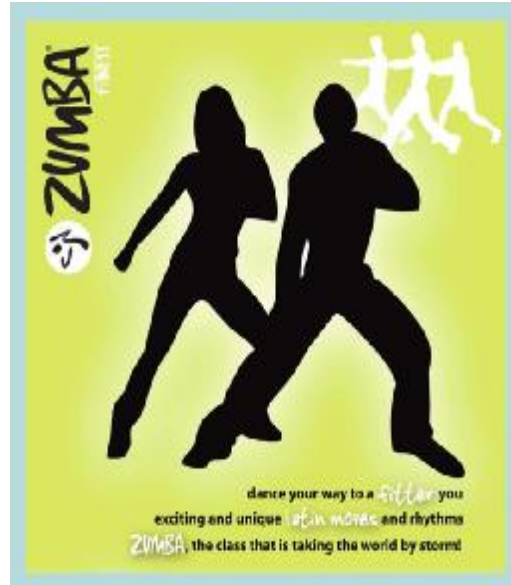


Next up for the Outdoors Club is an indoor camp/sleepover in the gym on Thursday January 27th. Look for permission slips in early January and plan to attend. This "camp-in" is a pre-requisite to our year-end weekend camping trip.

Happy Holidays



WANT TO BURN SOME EXTRA CALORIES?



START YOUR FITNESS RESOLUTIONS?

HAVE FUN?

MAPLE CREEK PAC PRESENTS

ZUMBA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19TH

6:30 TO 7:30 P.M. in the GYM

TICKETS: \$10.00 IN ADVANCE, \$15 AT THE DOOR

All Ages Welcome

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

**Advance tickets can be purchased at the Maple Creek office or email:
maplecreekpac@gmail.com for more information.**



MAPLE CREEK MIDDLE - QSP MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER

ATTENTION: PARENTS/STUDENTS

For those of you who wish to renew your subscriptions this fall and earn profit for the school please shop on line at:

www.qsp.ca

For existing and new customers, QSP now offers the opportunity to renew & purchase new magazine subscriptions by utilizing:

THE ONLINE MAGAZINE ORDER SERVICE...

IT'S EASY, SECURE & IT'S FASTER!

Orders are processed within 72 hours - sent directly to the publishing house

Customer RECEIVES ORDERS sooner!!

Plus

Students are still eligible to win prizes

We earn 37% profit or an average of \$10.00 / subscription.

How to get started:

1. Go to www.qsp.ca
2. Register and shop!
3. Use our school Group # 3055
4. Students are eligible for prizes with all online sales.
5. E-mail relatives and family anywhere in Canada and ask them to help support our school.

To Give a Subscription as a Gift:

Check the box "I want to give this as a gift" when selecting title

You will be prompted to enter the recipients email address

An email will be sent to recipient notifying them of gift details once your order has been completed