



MAPLE LEAF NEWS

September and October 2008

(See Full Calendar of Events Page 2)

PTA Web site:
<http://www.maplegrove-pta.org>

MAPLE LEAF NEWS
September/October 2008

News from the PTA Presidents

Sasha Overholt and Kathryn Todd



The school year is off to an early and fast start. Our fall term has several fun social and educational opportunities for our children. In September we have the Fall Dance at Manning and in November the Talent Show will dazzle us with our children's diverse skills. Fall is also the time for the nationally acclaimed Reflections program. All these groups need large numbers of volunteers, but not a lot of hours from each volunteer. So consider signing up for one of these activities.

Our paid after school programs for fall include a completely restructured Spanish program from Elementary Spanish Programs, Keyboards for Kids, Creative Workshops, radKIDS, and two new programs, Taekwondo and MyArtWorkshop. Consider signing your children up for one or more of these exciting programs.

Fall is also membership time for PTA. We encourage at least one parent or other family member to sign up as a member. Being a member shows you support the nations largest non profit organization dedicated to the following goals:

- To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children;
- To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and
- To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation

Your membership dollars allow us to run interesting and challenging programs at the school, to support and enhance your child educational experience by returning to the school funds raised by the PTA. Becoming a member does not require any volunteer hours from you, although we encourage you to be involved in the school and PTA activities.

We have a new MGPTA web page at www.maplegrovepta.org with information on all the programs and activities of the Maple Grove PTA. The National PTA has also redesigned its web page. This site and the Colorado PTA web site are valuable resources for you and your family. Check out www.pta.org and be sure to check the tab on membership benefits. You should also bookmark www.copta.org.

News from the Principal: Michael Maffoni



September 18, 2008

Dear Maple Grove Families,

September is well on its way and school has officially settled into the "hum" of daily classroom routines. Over the course of the past several weeks, we have witnessed transitions as our community has ushered in another academic year. As I have circulated amongst classrooms, the cafeteria, the playground, and outside our building, it is exciting to see the energy for learning around Maple Grove. Amidst the challenges of the past few weeks, I am honored to work in a school and community that values children and holds education to such a high standard. Thank you again for your partnership. A strong connection between home and school fosters an environment of excellence.

Please remember that school safety is paramount at Maple Grove. The parking lot is always an area where all drivers need to be vigilant about safety. Please remember to obey all traffic signs and drive slowly and cautiously. Often, young children are not completely aware of the dangers that are present in a parking lot or in our "Hug and Go" Zone. All of our alert and respectful driving habits ensure safety for ALL children.

(continued on page 3)

Submit articles to mapleleafnews@yahoo.com

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

September 18	1:00 Early Release Spirit Day Wear Your T-Shirts	October 07	3:00-7:00 Talent Show Auditions-Gym
September 18	1:00 Taekwondo-Gym	October 08	2:30-3:30 Creative Workshop – Art rm
September 19	No School, Teacher Inservice Day	October 09	8:00-9:00 PTA Meeting - Cafeteria
September 22	2:30-3:30 Reflections – Computer Lab	October 09	2:30-3:15 Spanish – Classrooms B & C
September 22	2:30-4:00 Keyboards for Kids – Music rm	October 09	2:30-3:45 Taekwondo - Gym
September 23	2:30-3:30 Reflections – Art rm	October 10	Talent Show Master of Ceremonies Auditions
September 23	2:30-3:15 Spanish – Classrooms B & C	October 13	2:30-4:00 Keyboards for Kids – Music rm
September 23	2:30-4:00 RAD Kids - Gym	October 14	2:30-3:15 Spanish – Classrooms B & C
September 24	2:30-3:30 Creative Workshops – Art rm	October 15	2:30-3:30 Reflections – Art rm
September 24	2:30-4:00 RAD Kids - Gym	October 16	2:30-3:30 Art Workshop – Art rm
September 25	2:30-3:30 Reflections – Art rm	October 16	2:30-3:15 Spanish – Classrooms B & C
September 25	2:30-3:15 Spanish – Classrooms B & C	October 16	2:30-3:45 Taekwondo - Gym
September 25	2:30-3:45 Taekwondo - Gym	October 16	1:00 Early Release
September 26	Hearing & Vision – Rm 15 & Gym	October 20	2:30-4:00 Keyboards for Kids – Music rm
September 26	6:00-9:00 p.m. 70's Dance Fever/Carnival – Manning School	October 21	2:30-3:15 Spanish – Classrooms B & C
September 29	2:30-4:00 Keyboards for Kids – Music rm	October 21-	Grades K-6 Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences
Sept 29-Oct 3	AVID	October 23-	Mini Break
September 30	2:30-3:15 Spanish – Classrooms B & C	24	
September 30	2:30-4:00 Rad Kids - Gym	October 27	2:30-4:00 Keyboards for Kids – Music rm
September 30	7:00-8:00 p.m. Destination Imagination - LIC	October 28	2:30-3:15 Spanish – Classrooms
October 01	Gr 5-6 Track Meet – Jeffco Stadium	October 30	2:30-3:30 Workshop – Art rm
October 01	2:30-3:30 Creative Workshops – Art rm	October 30	2:30-3:15 Spanish – Classrooms
October 01	2:30-4:00 RAD Kids - Gym	October 30	2:30-3:45 Taekwondo - Gym
October 02	2:30-3:15 Spanish – Classrooms B & C	October 31	End 1st Trimester-Report Cards Issued for Grades K-6
October 02	2:30-3:45 Taekwondo - Gym	October 31	1:00 Halloween Parade/Parties
October 06	2:30-4:00 Keyboards for Kids – Music rm		
October 07	2:30-3:15 Spanish – Classrooms B & C		



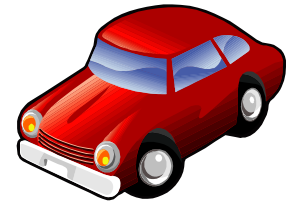
FREE and REDUCED MEAL PLAN INFORMATION

PARENTS!

Important Information for Free and Reduced Price Meals:

Every school a new application is required, for all students, for the Free and Reduced Price meal Program. Please use a current 2008-2009 meal application and fill out in black ink.

- a. If your child(ren) were on the Free and Reduced Meal Program on the last day of the 07-08 school year, that status (free or reduced) will be carried over until a new application is processed, or until Sept. 23, 08 (deadline for carry-over status). Please re-apply early to ensure your child will not be dropped from the program. Applications are available at the school and can be filled out after Aug. 1 08.
- b. School based fees may be waived if you sign and complete section 6, the INFORMATION RELEASE form on the application.
- c. Students pre-approved through the Food stamp Direct Certification process will receive a Direct Cert approval form in the mail prior to the start of school. You may return the completed and signed Information Release Form for Students Approved through Direct Certification for school-based fees to be waived. Direct Certification is done by student, not by family. PLEASE check to make sure you have received a letter of approval for each child in your family. If you have not, please fill out an application ASAP.



TRAFFIC REMINDER

There is no parking in the Front Circle drive from 7:40 am -8:00 am or 2:30 pm -2:45 pm.

Drop off procedures for Front Circle Drive

Parents please stager your drop off time starting at 7:40 am until 7:55 am. When dropping off students please hold all students in your vehicle until you reach the crosswalk in the middle of the circle drive. This will give you time to say your good-byes and still allow the circle traffic to move through smoothly. When pulling into the circle drive please pull as far forward as possible. Please turn on your blinker when you are finished unloading this will signal to the staff directing traffic that you need to be able to pull out into the left side of the circle drive. Please watch staff directing traffic there are reasons why they are not moving you around other vehicles. Students need to unload on the curbside to ensure their safety as cars move through the circle drive.

After 7:55 am students must enter through the front doors; unless they are in the cottages.

After 8:00 am students must check in the front office before going to class.

Pick up procedures for Front Circle Drive

No parents are to enter the circle drive until buses have pulled out of the circle drive or 2:30 pm. Parents need to please stay with your vehicle. Like in the morning we would appreciate you only loading after you have passed the crosswalk in the circle drive. This allows for staff to be able to keep students in a more centralized location and allows for traffic to move more smoothly through the circle drive. Please watch staff directing traffic there are reasons why they are not moving you around other vehicles. Please turn on your blinker when you are finished loading, this will signal to the staff directing traffic that you need to be able to pull out into the left side of the circle drive.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we implement slight changes to our front circle drive procedures. As we work together we can ensure the safety of all students.

Safety Alert: Safety Alert:

Please refrain from driving down Braun Road behind the school before and after school. There are many walkers, scooters and bikers who use the *entire road*. Please take a few extra minutes and get to school by an alternate method.

Thank You. Maple Grove PTA

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS GET INVOLVED IN THE BOND & MILL ELECTION NOVEMBER 2008

- In 2004, Jeffco voters overwhelmingly supported a \$323.8 million bond issue and a \$38.5 million mill-levy override. The bond money has been used to build new schools and upgrade others, while the mill-levy money has gone directly to people and programs that support student achievement.

- In 2004, the district promised voters that it wouldn't ask for any more increases for at least four years and has kept that guarantee.

- District administrative expenses are VERY lean at 4% of the total budget.

- As gas prices have hit our pockets hard, they have hit the school district's budget hard too.

If you are interested in being involved in this effort, please contact Phyllis Albritton, Jeffco PTA Legislative Chair, 2008-2009 at pmaalbritton@comcast.net.

Dollars and Sense

Balancing budgets – whether you're the head of your household or the CEO of a large company, the job of making a dollar stretch to cover the rising cost of just about everything, is a challenge. Jeffco Public Schools is no different when it comes to the dollar dilemma. Beginning in 2009-2010, Jeffco will have to make deep and drastic budget cuts that will affect classrooms, bus routes, class size and maintenance of schools. It's not just the skyrocketing cost of living causing the problem; it's also the way public schools are funded in Colorado. The amount allocated to school districts by the state legislature isn't enough to cover rapidly rising costs. Here's another way to look at it: most of the revenue available to schools is fixed, while the cost of education continues to rise.

Over the next three years, Jeffco Public Schools will need to cut \$35 million from the budget to pay for those increasing costs. Here's an early look at what those budget cuts might mean:

- Reducing up to 500 teachers
- Increasing elementary class size
- Reducing art, music, physical education classes
- Reducing staff in school clinics
- Increasing student fees
- Losing one school day

The budget challenges also affect the district's ability to keep school buildings maintained and up-to-date. Only 26 percent of Jeffco schools meet the district's educational standards and only 6 percent meet the district's technology standards.

In 2004, Jefferson County voters approved both a bond issue and mill levy override, giving the district badly needed money for buildings and operating expenses. The district has strategically spent down that money over the past four years.

If you have questions about the district's budget and the budgeting process, please feel free to contact Jeffco Public Schools Communications Services staff at 303-982-6808 or visit <http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/finance/index.html> to view the 2008-2009 budget.

REFLECTIONS

Celebrate your talents!

Do you express your creativity through dance, music, story or poetry? Do you dream of having your drawings displayed in a special exhibit? Do you enjoy taking photographs or videotaping your friends?

Participate in PTA's Reflections Program.

Join thousands of other students as they create entries based on the 2008-2009 theme **WOW!**
(Submissions due Oct. 16)

Think about the theme (what makes you say "Wow"?). Then select a category:

Film Production Dance Choreography

Musical Compositions Photography Visual Arts Literature

Put on your dancing shoes, grab a camera or pick up a pen or paintbrush and create!

Check out what other kids did last year--visit the Reflections Program Gallery online at www.pta.org.
Workshops for Photography, Visual Arts, and Music will be held at Maple Grove: refer to the flyer in your child's Friday folder for sign-up and details about Reflections.

For Basic Rules and rules for all categories, visit the Maple Grove PTA web site.

Submissions are **due Oct. 16 and can be dropped off at the Mounting Workshop or in the Cafeteria in the morning of Oct. 16th**. A filled-out Official Entry form must accompany your work.

See Flyer in Friday Folders!!!

Contacts: Liz Lautrup 303-278-4130 and Karla Mathias 303 -216-1282

Maple Grove Talent Show

Calling all performers! The 2008 Maple Grove Talent Show is right around the corner! Sponsored by the Maple Grove PTA. **Mark your calendars with these important dates:**

Auditions Forms Due:	September 30, 2008
Auditions for Performers:	October 7, 2008
Auditions Masters of Ceremony:	October 10, 2008
Dress Rehearsal:	November 13, 2008
Maple Grove Talent Show:	November 14, 2008

This year, parents will be able to choose the audition time that works best for them. Signup sheets are located on the PTA table just outside the cafeteria in the new PTA corner. Hurry, signups are on a first come, first served basis and are due by October 6th. An audition packet will be sent home on October 3rd to those students auditioning for Masters of Ceremony. The packet will include audition time, location and instructions on what to prepare.

Questions: contact Jill Nagode at (303) 384-9322.



Maple Grove PTA presents

70's Dance Fever and Carnival!!

Friday, September 26, 2008

6-9 PM

The Manning School

*****Food*** ***Dancing*** ***Games*****

Take out your bellbottoms, dust off your platforms and come for a groovy time. Bring your kids back in time to the 70's!! This fun family evening has something for everyone!!

Great music from the 70's and today from

DJ Sweetness

Fun games and prizes for all ages and best of all everyone wins a prize every time.

Food available for purchase

Tickets available for purchase September 25 and 26 before and after school and at the Disco!!! Only \$ 5 for admission and access to all the dancing and games. \$1 for adult ad-

Attention Parents: Get Involved in Maple Grove through PIE (Partners in Education) !!!

Partners in Education is concerned with basically anything your child does or comes into contact with during their school day. From the procedure they use to enter the building in the morning, to the curriculum they are taught when they are there, to the extent their family feels welcome when they come into the building.

If you like the way something is done, dislike the way something is done at the school, or just want to learn more about how the school budget is spent or how the school plans to address various issues this is the place for you!

The voting parent members of the committee this year are Scott Brown, Amy Dietz, Mica Dute, Kristin Michas, and Barbara Westfall. ANYONE is welcome to come to PIE meetings and their input is welcome.

Meetings will be at 2:45, are about 60-90 minutes in duration, and babysitting will be provided. The agenda for each meeting will be included in a flyer in Friday folders the Friday before the scheduled meeting. Meetings for the 2008-2009 School Year will be Mondays at 2:45:

September 22nd October 27th November 24th January 26th February 23rd March 23rd April 27th May 18th

DEAR EDITOR

The Maple Leaf newsletter is published monthly by the Maple Grove PTA. We hope to keep you updated on Maple Grove news and informed about issues that affect your children. To submit articles: **Email plain text or MS Word document to: mapleleafnews@yahoo.com ARTICLE DEADLINE -10th of each month —_NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Encouraging Achievement: Developing the Habits of Mind Necessary for Students to Excel

High ability students in our schools don't necessarily become high achievers. Is there any way to "inoculate" gifted children against underachievement? Are there any cures for students already caught in patterns of underachievement? As a parent or educator, you play a critical role in helping your students learn how to work to their fullest potential. Break out sessions will be provided to focus on strategies for K-6 students and Middle & High School students.

This seminar is sponsored by the Jefferson County Association for Gifted Children (JAGC). Our guest speaker, **Sue Whitnah**, will present research-based parenting strategies for encouraging achievement in children and share personal and professional insights from working with underachievers.

Sue Whitnah is a parent of three gifted children and K-12 teacher with thirteen years of classroom experience. Over the past year, Sue has been working with Cherry Creek Schools' Office of Gifted Education and Advanced Learning, to create professional development and parent presentations on preventing underachievement and encouraging children to work up to their full potential.

We hope you will join us on Tuesday, September 30th, 6:30-8:30 pm at:

Jeffco Education Center
Building 27, School Board Room, 5th Floor
1829 Denver West Drive
Golden, CO 80401

Jeffco Gifted and Talented Dept. staff will also be available to answer questions about the Gifted Center Application process in breakout sessions.

This open, educational evening is provided free-of-charge by JAGC for parents and educators (small donations at the door are always appreciated). RSVPs welcome but not essential; please email JAGC through Diane Dyer at dash326@wispertel.net or call Vicki Ray at 303-431-8054.

JAGC's website: <http://www.jeffcogifted.org>

**Talk a Walk And Step Out to Fight Diabetes!!!!**

It's fall again and that means it's time for the American Diabetes Association "Step Out to Fight Diabetes" walk! Jakob Fanning is continuing his fight against diabetes and is raising money to help find a cure for this horrible disease. Maple Grove can help! Jakob will again be selling red bracelets for \$1.00 or you can join his "walk" team by either walking with him or just donating to him for the walk. This year the walk is on Saturday, October 25 and starts at the Downtown Aquarium. For more information or to join his team, please go to www.diabetes.org/stepout, or email Jakob at fanningfam@msn.com. Thank-you for your continued support of Jakob and his efforts to help cure diabetes!

Maple Grove
Elementary School
PTA
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PAWS IN THE PARK RESCHEDULED SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12TH 9:00-12:00

Sponsored by Maple Grove PTA, Howard Sokol Photography, Paws-itively Clean Dog Wash,

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**Hours: Tuesday
through Friday
10:00am to 7:00pm /
Saturday 10:00am to
6:00pm and Sunday
10:00am to 5:00pm**

Bring your best friend in and give him/her a bath. While you're at it schedule an appointment with my groomer to give your dog a professional cut. We have a cage less and stress free environment, and most appointments are less than two hours. We can also do the bath for you if you don't have time to fit it in your busy schedule. Please call for a price quote on Self-Serv and grooming.

Pawsitively-clean@yahoo.com

Bring a picnic and a blanket and enjoy a fun-filled morning of people and K9 socializing, contests and entertainment !! (no dog required to attend)

Bring your dog and compete for :“Best look-a-like”, “Best Dressed”, “Most Grandiose”, “Most Itty-Bitty”, “Most Mannered Mongrel”, “Ugliest”, “Prettiest”, “SuperSpaz”, “Pucker Pooch” and “Couch Potato”.

Compete in “Doggie Idol” (best trick will win dinner for four at Qdoba)

Participate in \$1 raffle for fun pet packages of your choice!

Tanglewood Park, *Sunday, October 12th*

9:00 Registration

9:30 Agility Performance

10:00 Doggie Idol

10:30 Category Contests/ Prizes and Ribbons Presented

11:30 Search and Rescue Performance

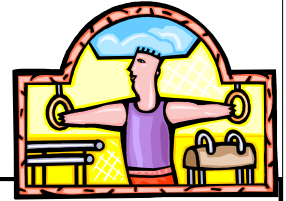
First 40 people will receive a free bagel from Einstein's Bagels!

Free Nail Clippings by Paws-itively Clean Dog Wash!

Supply donations are another great way to contribute to Table Mountain Animal Shelter.

***Collection Box available at event registration

Teacher Talk - Art and Gym News



Gym News

The school year is off to a great start in the gym! Grades 3-6 have been using pedometers and learning about the FITT formula. Class and individual goals were established and the students worked extremely hard to meet these goals. Primary students have been working on their kicking, throwing/catching, and locomotor skills.

A large group of 5th and 6th grade students have been waking up early to participate in our track program. The top 3 students in each event will earn a spot on the Maple Grove track team which will participate in the Wheat Ridge area track meet on Wednesday, October 1st at the Jefferson County Stadium. It's great to see their dedication and enthusiasm.

And, we are all looking forward to the Avid 4 Adventure program which is coming to Maple Grove September 30th through October 3rd! It's a great way to expose our students to noncompetitive, lifetime activities! Students in grades 3-6 will be participating in kayaking, mountain biking, a climbing wall, and learning how to Leave No Trace when using the outdoors.

Have a great day!

Mrs. Shauna Wujek

P.E. Teacher

Art News

We started the year with a delightfully messy painting project. On the first day in art class the students worked in teams to create a non-objective painting. Unusual painting tools were used -- tennis balls, rollers, string, foam brushes, and homemade flexi-foam brushes. It was fun to watch the students come up with creative ways to use the tools. Color theory also had to be considered because each team had a limited palette of 3 to 4 colors to use. The paintings are on display in the hallways.



Each class has learned a new lettering style that was then used to make the nametags for the table folders and the decorative covers for the sketchbooks.

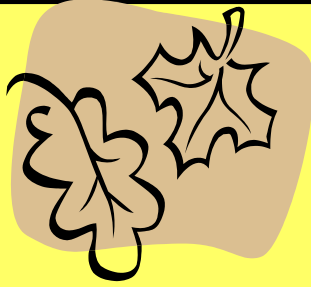
Now 4th through 6th graders are working on figure drawing, 3rd graders are designing playgrounds for outer space, 2nd graders are working on a sunflower still-life, and 1st graders and Kindergartners are working on line projects.

We could use the following items:

- * old tennis balls (to protect the floor from stool marks)
- * gallon size ice cream buckets
- * paper for the Creative Choice Center

If you are curious about your child's art class feel free to drop by some day and see what it's all about.

Peg McCombie, Art Teacher



Grandparent's and Special Friends Day At Maple Grove

Tuesday, November 25th

Have your grandparent or special friend visit your school and meet your teacher!

Full day kids (grades K-6):

1:45 – 2:10 snacks and coffee provided in cafeteria

2:10 – 2:30 Grandparents visit classrooms

Half day kids (k):

10:30 – 11:00 songs and games in half day classroom

(Grandparents and special friends only, please)

Look for the Grandparent's Day flyer to be coming home with your child next month- please take time to fill it out and let us know how many special friends will be visiting for this special day!

Destination Imagination !!!

Destination Imagination is one of the world's largest creativity and problem-solving programs for youth of all ages. Our PTA sponsors a very successful program here at Maple Grove Elementary. Students who participate in "DI" learn real-life skills like team work, creative problem solving, positive thinking, self confidence, and leadership - all while having tons of fun !

The program continues to need adult volunteers to manage the small (5-7) teams of children. There is plenty of help and training available for new team managers. Please consider this wonderful opportunity - its fun for the managers too !

For more information, check out www.destinationimagination.org or contact Lori Ireland at 303-278-7433. There is an introductory and sign up meeting on Tuesday, September 30th, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM in the Library. Look for a sign-up sheet to come home from school with your child!

**Paul's Kid-Sitting
Service now available!**

Red Cross Certified, 13 years old, Maple Grove graduate and Manning 8th grader. Paul Gagliardi will kid-sit in your home or his.

**Available most afternoons, evenings and weekends - call for rates and references.
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...Fun
Activities!

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