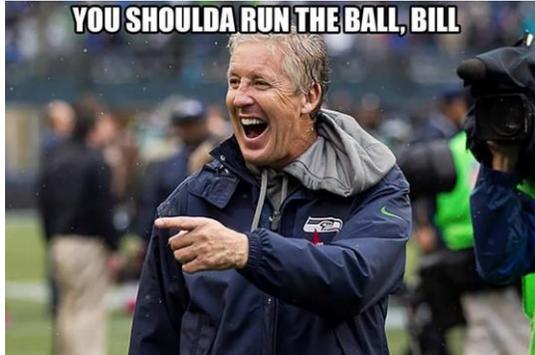


Maplewood Elementary Principal Weekly Newsletter November 14 - 18, 2016



Hello Maplewood Families!



Seahawks Win!

It appears that I have found the key to a Seahawks Victory! It is not listening to them on the radio. It is not meeting friends and watching on a big screen TV. Nope. It is either one of two ways: In person or at home with my family. Seriously...what did you think of that game last night? Unbelievable! I actually sat down with no expectations whatsoever...just thought...here we go...let's see what happens! Ha! The irony of winning on the

goal line, with just seconds left. I'm sure many of us were thinking the same thing. Hence, my funny pic of Coach Pete Carroll. This coming Sunday, I will be taking my brother to the home game for his 60th Birthday! Let the victories roll on! **GO HAWKS!!!**

Coming Together

The past week has been an historical one, to say the least. As we move forward to the Inauguration of a new President, we are mindful that some people are concerned about the future. We are a diverse society with many perspectives based on culture, religion, politics, ethnicity, sexuality and history. Sometimes, these things divide us, but in the end, as Americans, we always find a way to come together and create common ground. It is a testimony to our incredible nation that we are able to do so.



We could learn a lot from crayons;
some are sharp, some are pretty,
some are dull, while others bright,
some have weird names,
but they all have learned to live
together in the same box.

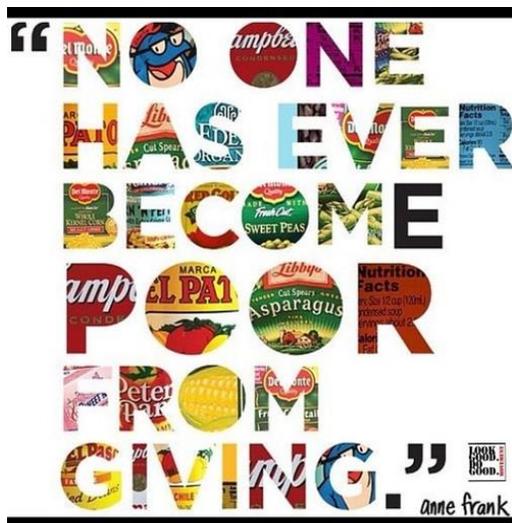
In the Puyallup School District, we value and honor ALL of our students and their families. As a school community, we show our children what hope, inspiration, and compassion looks like and sounds like. This is something we do each and every day, regardless and sometimes, in spite of, politics. When you walk the hallways of Maplewood and visit the classrooms, you see our future and it is pretty darn AWESOME! Our kids can teach us a lot of things. Most of all, they teach us that kindness and compassion align themselves to no political party and in fact, bring us together as Americans. THIS is where we find hope for the future...in our children and the amazing difference they will make in our world! From what I see, we are all in great hands! So, my ultimate message this

week, is no different than any other week...our diversity is what makes us strong and the beauty it brings to our school is something we all cherish.

FILL the BUS!!!

Speaking of coming together for a common cause...This week is our Annual Food Drive with Aylen Junior High! The event is called, "Fill-the-Bus," and let me tell you something, they sure do! As I stated in my email to families last week, we do this BIG TIME here at Maplewood! I think it's really important for all of our students to see the results of their efforts, so Aylen Leadership Teacher, Tom Spane, will call me when the bus is heading from Fruitland to Maplewood.

At that time, I call a quick assembly in the gym. Excitement fills the air! Smiles are everywhere! Then, as the Aylen Leadership Team enters the gym to pick up the food – CHEERS ERUPT! We greet the Leadership Kids with a standing ovation (so deserved) and thank them for their hard work. Some of the students from Aylen give us some words of wisdom and thanks. Then, Miss Pettitt's class will help the Aylen students load the food! Truly, I have to tell you, THIS is such a moving thing to watch...all of our students cheering, Aylen kids feeling the love and our 6th graders working with their older classmates. It makes me teary-eyed every year! Goodness just fills our school and the feeling lasts for weeks and weeks!

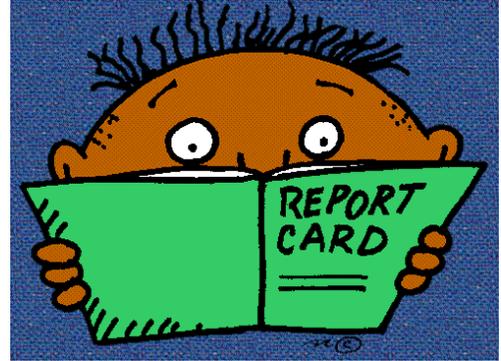


We have a competition among classrooms to have some fun as the food items come in...Top three classrooms with the most items will get an ice cream sandwich party and an extra recess! In addition to Maplewood, the elementary schools of Fruitland, Karshner and Waller Road also collect food! It's an honor to work together with Aylen and do good work, for a good cause. We are proud of this and know that our efforts will make a difference in the lives of families that live in our community – food collected goes to the Puyallup Elks and they distribute it to local food banks.

Just writing about this makes me soooooo happy! I can't wait! When Mrs. Vesey talks about "Spreading Joy," I think this is exactly what she means. Right, Kim?

Report Cards...Going Home on December 12th!

Ever wonder how those Report Cards get done? Well, we all wish we had Report Card Elves, but, alas, there are none to be found – not even on Amazon! So, teachers spend a half-day, working on their assessments and completing report cards for their students. Frankly, a half day isn't enough, so there will be late nights and weekends involved as well. Reports Cards are a common part of a child's education and most of us are fairly used to them. However, please take a close look at your child's report card and make sure you understand what is being assessed and how the rubric defines a student's progress. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher. And, don't forget that a conference can be held at any time. Don't wait until spring! Keep on top of your child's progress all year long. Teachers will be happy to meet with you! We are here to help families and work as a team on behalf of our kiddos!



This Saturday is the PTA Holiday Bazaar from 9am until 2pm!

This is such a fun day! Last year was a great success and this year will be much the same! I know Evan and I sure enjoyed our shopping – bakery items, jewelry, hats and much more! My wallet was a lot lighter and to tell the truth, I had to go to the bank and take out some more money from the cash machine. This is what happens when your son comes shopping with you! Ha! We hope to see lots of you there and like I said, it is a ton of fun! Bring your friends and neighbors!

Holiday
Bazaar

Welcome Reptile Man!

Do you like reptiles? Are things that crawl and hiss enticing to you? Ever wanted to see an alligator or boa constrictor up close (not too close)? Well, do we have a deal for you! On **Monday, November 21th**, Maplewood will welcome, The Reptile Man and his scaly, slivering and cold-blooded friends. The Reptile Man is the #1 School Assembly in the State of Washington for the past 25 years! Having seen this assembly before, I can attest to the fact that it is a really great experience. Kids and families thoroughly enjoy themselves.



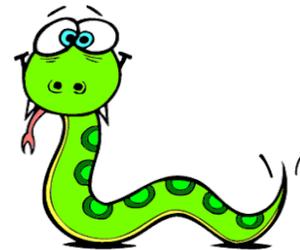


Zoologist and educator, “Reptile Man,” Scott Petersen will present 12 live reptiles in a 40 minute show that teaches the importance of all animals in nature. Scott has been featured nationally on *Disney’s Bill Nye the Science Guy* and on *PBS’ Biz Kids*. He has appeared on *Northwest Afternoon, Evening Magazine* and *NPR Radio*. Corporations like Boeing, Microsoft and Nintendo have used Scott to educate and entertain. If you would like to know more about The Reptile Man, here is a link to his website.

<http://thereptilezoo.wixsite.com/education>

For me, with a fear of snakes that causes me great anxiety, I will be handing over the introductions to Principal Intern, Ann Schumacher. She isssssss ssssssssoooo much more sssssskilled than I when it comessssss to asssssssemblies like thisssssss.

DATE and TIME for Reptile Man:
Monday, November 21st
Maplewood Gym
Doors Open at 6:00pm
Assembly is approximately 40 minutes
Cost: \$1.00 per person (including small children)



Thanksgiving Break is Next Week!



Coming next week – **Thursday and Friday, November 24th and 25th**. Students will be dismissed on **Wednesday, November 23rd at 12:46 and QUEST at 12:26**. Lunches will be served. Good time to think about the many things we have to be thankful for and know that the food we collected will be serving our local families as they feel the generosity and love from our valley students!

Thanks again for all of your support! Maplewood is a special place and it is because of our incredible staff, kids and families! You are valued, appreciated and loved!

Sincerely,

Susan Walton
Proud Principal of Maplewood



Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.
Mark Twain