



THE EAGLE'S NEST

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: LESLIE WALTZER
PRINCIPAL: MONIQUE BEANE

"Making a Difference"

DECEMBER 2008
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

NEWS FROM YOUR VICE-PRESIDENT

The Holidays are upon us already and you know what that means... Unfortunately here in Maple Hills it most likely means wind storms and power outages. Are you ready at home? Well here at school we are. Thanks to 4 years of hard work our emergency container is stocked to where we can provide 2-3 days of food & shelter for each student.

On a lighter note, this winter we are once again having our annual Variety Show, Honor Chorus concert and a Skating Party at Castle Ice. Tryouts for the Variety Show are on December 17 and the show is on January 9th. This year the Honor Chorus will be giving a winter concert on December 18th.

Also, don't forget to keep an eye out for great auction donation items while holiday shopping. Procurement will be in full swing after winter break.

Have a great holiday,

Rebecca Carter
Maple Hills PTA Vice-President

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

Dear Community,

My family and I would like all of you to know how very blessed we feel to be a part of such a supportive and loving community. Since the death of my husband, my family and I are always finding support, care and strength from all of you who are around us. From the overwhelming support of the carwash fundraiser to the prepared meals for us, we know that we are not alone during this most difficult of times. Please know how very thankful we are for your support.

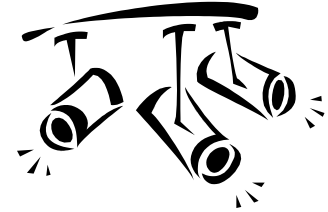
Trudy Watts and Family

PARENT EDUCATION

Did you know that there is an Issaquah PTA website? Please visit <http://www.issaquahpta.org/parented/> to access a schedule of upcoming parenting classes.

OFF, OFF BROADWAY! AT MAPLE HILLS ELEMENTARY VARIETY SHOW AUDITIONS

On Wednesday, December 17th at 1:30 p.m. we will be holding auditions for this year's Variety Show. The Variety Show will take place on Friday, January 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. This show can include acts of almost any nature, i.e., singing, playing an instrument, dancing, gymnastics, drama, etc.



Participation in the show is subject to the following guidelines:

1. Acts must be fully prepared and well-rehearsed at the time of audition.
2. Acts must be no more than 2 minutes in length, with the act quality more important than full use of the time allowed, and must be appropriate for all ages.
3. Any pre-recorded material must be cued and provided at the time of audition.
4. All acts must include ONLY students from Maple Hills Elementary (Parent accompaniment OK)
5. The only props/equipment available from the school are: microphones, CD/Tape player, and gym mats. Any other equipment must be provided, and setup on the 13 x 13 stage by the act.

Please return your signup forms to the office via kid mail by December 10th. Ask your little "stars" to keep practicing their acts so they are prepared for auditions on December 17th. It is sure to be a lot of fun and we look forward to seeing you all soon!

If you need more information, please contact Dawn Peschek, Variety Show Chairperson at 425.277.2770 or email dawndiamond@comcast.net.

SOCK HOP THANK YOU!

A big Thank you! To all the volunteer's for without your help we would not be able to have this dance. Viva Productions kept us on the dance floor with music and games. The DJ was very impressed with our Maple Hills students. Kudos to all of you. Another big thanks goes out to everyone that donated goodies that kept us going on the dance floor all night. And last but not least a thank you goes out to the Maple Hills staff for helping us set-up for the dance.

Molly Caskey & Kim George, Sock Hop Co-Chairs

SKATING PARTY! SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, February 6th is the annual Castle Ice Skating Party. More details will follow in January, but please save the date. Note- it's a good idea for kids to wear helmets when skating. Bike ones are better than none, but ski/snowboarding helmets are best.

Lisa Huntley, Skating Party Chair

BLANKET DRIVE FOR THE HOMELESS

Dear Families of Maple Hills Elementary,

Our Maple Hills Honor Chorus and Percussion Ensemble will be doing a blanket drive in conjunction with our Winter Concert on Thursday, December 18, 2008. We will also be partnering with Maple Hills Eagle Club to make this happen. We are offering the opportunity for families to provide clean, warm blankets to donate to the Union Gospel Mission's, "Search and Rescue Van," which delivers hot drinks, warm blankets and clothing to people on the streets. They do not have to be new, just *gently* used-and clean. We all know this year has been a more difficult year, financially, for many of us. The number of homeless men, woman and children has increased dramatically, and this is a way we can spread a little warmth at this time of year to those in need. Blanket Donations for the homeless are EXTREMELY LOW this year. The Mission gives away 11,000 blankets to needy men women and children each year. Currently their supply is 350—enough for one week. Please donate what you can.

We will collect blankets beginning Monday, December 15 through Thursday evening, December 18. Please let me know if you would like to assist in delivering the blankets, on Friday, December 19, 2008. For more information about the Union Gospel Mission, you can access their website at: www.ugm.org; I can be reached at (425) 837-5075 or hardinm@issaquah.wednet.edu if you have any further questions.

Thank you,

Mary Perry-Hardin

HONOR CHORUS CONCERT



Please note that there is a time change for the Honor Chorus and Percussion ensemble Daytime concert on Thursday, December 18. The concert will begin at 2:00 pm instead of the previous scheduled 2:45 pm. This will allow the Maywood Band to join us, to play a few songs. The evening concert will be at 7:00 pm which will include our guests: 5th grade orchestra students plus Liberty High School Strings.

STUDENT BANKING NEEDS YOU!

Student Banking is in need of volunteers to help out on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 to 9:30. The banking program is not only a great way to teach our children about saving money it is a fun way for parents to get to know the students. Please contact me, or just drop by the banking table Tuesday mornings if you are interested in helping.

Thank you,

Susie Smith, Student Banking Chair

The first Eagle Reader Clubhouse was a great success with a little over half of the school (236 students) earning the Regal Eagle Award and a free book. Congratulations to Mrs. Wiess' Kindergarten class - the entire class earned a free book!

The breakdown by grade:

Kindergarten	50 Regal Eagle Awards
1st Grade	47 Regal Eagle Awards
2nd Grade	48 Regal Eagle Awards
3rd Grade	43 Regal Eagle Awards
4th Grade	26 Regal Eagle Awards
5th Grade	22 Regal Eagle Awards

Please encourage your students to read, keep track of their minutes and turn in their calendars at the end of each month so we can give away even more free books!

The next Eagle Reader Clubhouse will be on December 17th for the November calendars.

2008 AUCTION UPDATE

Dear Maple Hills Parents and staff!

Awesome does not begin to tell you what wonderful things are in store for you May 30th 2009! Your auction team is working overtime to make sure that this auction will be fun, entertaining and beneficial for both you and the school. The procurement team is working above and beyond on packages for you! They are focusing on services, trips, experiences and much more. But we need your help! You have no-doubt noticed the floor to ceiling display for the auction in the entry hallway. There are procurement forms waiting for you there. Please think about businesses you frequent and services you purchase. Now is the time to take procurement forms and ask for donations. We cannot have a successful auction without this crucial part - your part!

Another vital part to making this auction successful is sponsorships. Businesses are more likely to sponsor when an employee asks. Where do you work? Most companies have monies allotted for sponsorships/donations. Talk to the HR department or your manager. Tell them about the school, your kids and the upcoming auction. A sponsorship will benefit both your company and the school. They will receive valuable advertising in the community, and recognition the night of the auction. We are not asking for thousands of dollars - every little bit helps. We have more information regarding sponsorship packages and compensation and can provide you with that or send it directly - you just need to let us know.

We will be communicating with you several ways - fliers, posters at school and e-mails. We realize this is a crazy time of year, but please take a moment to read them and do your part to help with the auction.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Kelly Applegate & Lisa DeVogel, Auction Co-Chairs
kflyapple@hotmail.com, devogel@earthlink.net

LEGISLATIVE NEWS-BASIC EDUCATION FUNDING

What is it? Why is it the Top PTA issue? What can I do about it?

Public schools across the state are funded with a combination of federal, state, and local dollars. It is expected that most of the funding should come from the state.

In fact, in our state constitution, it is the “**Paramount duty** of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing in its borders...” and it calls for the Legislature to “provide for a common and uniform system of public schools”.

Recognizing that tax payers might wish to provide “enhancements” over the “basic” education paid for by the state, local districts have the ability to enact local levies to supplement this funding. Sadly, over time, a mechanism intended for enhancements has instead become a vital and critical source of funding for essentials, **as the state has failed to keep up with sufficient funding for basics.**

To overly-simplify a very complex, historical process, the state last defined “basic education” in the late 1970s. As you cast your mind back on the huge cultural and technological changes in 30+ years, it is not difficult to understand that a system which pays for a 5-period day in high school, and makes no allowance for technology, security, or the need for curriculum and teaching to advance to meet a 21st century standard, is vastly under-funded.

The system is also plagued by severe and irrational discrepancies amongst school districts, due to “grandfathering” of levy lids and teacher salaries, leading to gross inequities in allowable student funding.

In addition, Education, in accordance with the Paramount Duty clause, once accounted for 50% of the state general fund. It is now receiving closer to only 35%. Yet costs are severely outpacing even that funding, resulting in cut programs and services.

It is no exaggeration to say that **our public school funding is in crisis.** Supporting details for those that doubt can be found everywhere, but particularly on www.fundingwaschools.org

And the impact on our students, who now compete in a global economy, is clear:

- In 2007, 50.4% of 10th grade students failed the math portion of the WASL, which tests concepts taught in the late 6th grade or 7th grade internationally.
- Only 1/3 of high school graduates are college-ready.
- About half of our graduates attending 2-year colleges require remediation in math.
- Only 23% of our students are at or above “proficient” level in the Grade 12 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
- Parents purchasing of outside tutoring and educational services rose by 340% from 1994 to 2004

It is the Paramount Duty of our state to provide a public education that **prepares our students to succeed in the 21st century**, and graduate ready for a four-year college, a community or technical college, or a living-wage job.

So, if the legislature hasn’t done very much to fix this in 30 years, why are they going to do so now?

Because bless Federal Way’s little heart. They sued. They won. The Legislature must act.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Will they do the right thing?

Well, isn't that the question!

Enter the Basic Education Taskforce (BET), a bipartisan 16-person panel, whose recommendations on **a new definition and a new model of financing** are due to the Governor and the Legislature by December 1, 2008. The BET is going to consider 5 proposals, from each of:

a bipartisan subset of the Taskforce Legislators: see www.WhatItTakesForKids.com for a 3-page executive summary and a 27-page first draft.

Note: I highly recommend this report!! This group has done incredible research and collaborative work. Their recommendations are visionary yet pragmatic. They are also expensive! We owe it to ourselves and our kids to understand the costs of implementing these changes, and – equally important - the cost of not doing them.

the Task Force Chair, Dan Grimm, which will be published shortly

the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) www.k12.wa.us

the Full Funding Coalition (WASA, WSSDA, PSE, AWSP, WEA) see www.wssda.org and others

League of Education Voters www.educationvoters.org/taskforce

The results will inform legislation created in the 2009 session.

What can I do about having my voice heard?

Regular updates on the progress of the BET, invitations to public discussions, and calls to action will be published on Parent Organizer.

As whatever legislation results from these recommendations begins to work their way through Olympia (there will be multiple bills) it may become essential to push for votes. Please sign up for the PTSA's "Action Alerts", which will come over email, and ask you to phone or email your legislator at critical junctures.

Simply email support@wastatepta.org , ask to join the listserv "Action Alert".

This is the first of many articles on Basic Education Funding. This is an incredible milestone on a critical issue. Please bring your voice to the table to share what you think must be done and what we can afford as a state.

Dawn Peschek
Maple Hills Legislative Chair

REFLECTIONS RESULTS

Congratulations to all of our 49 students who participated this year in Reflections, a National PTA sponsored arts program! Our theme this year was “Wow!” Students came up with some really creative and beautiful pieces related to this theme in the visual arts, photography, and literature categories.

Participants and their families enjoyed a fun awards reception Monday night with an art gallery viewing of all entries and an ice cream sundae bar! Each participant received a certificate and an art-related gift for entering. Lindsay Hodgson, second grade, also won the \$20 Target gift card in the drawing that was open to all Reflections participants. At the reception, we announced the 12 school finalists who will be representing Maple Hills at the Issaquah School District level, and will be recognized at a District-wide reception in January. Entries will be judged based on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of theme.

This year’s Reflections Finalists are:

Jay Beeman, first grade
Abbie Biggs, first grade
Jane FitzGerald, fourth grade
Kyle George, second grade
Lindsay Hodgson, second grade
Kerrek Matson, second grade
Ashley Montague, fifth grade
Zoe Nepsa, third grade
David Rand, fourth grade
Allison Sheflo, third grade
Hunter Simpson, fourth grade
Avery Warner, Kindergarten



Those students receiving Honorable Mention for their excellent efforts were:

Kayla Dunn, fifth grade
Rolf Encarnacion, second grade
Angela Hay, fourth grade
Hunter Reilly, first grade
Annabelle Smith, second grade
Jessica Spradling, fourth grade

If you and your student missed out on participating this year, we’d love to have them show us what they can do for next fall’s Reflections Program! Watch the PTA newsletter and Kid Mail for more information starting next September. Next year’s theme is “Beauty is...”

Thank you to Monique Beane, Patti Flanik, and Sue Schantz in the front office for their help and support with the program, to Jennie Wildermuth and Lana Matson for their support and hands-on help with the Reflections at Lunch events, to Maple Hills teachers for helping promote and encourage participation in the program, to Stacy

(Continued on page 10)

SHOPPING ONLINE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?

Be sure to shop through PACE. When you do,
Maple Hills receives a 5% donation with every purchase.



Target.com

LANDS' END

Overstock.com
Your Online Outlet™

iTunes

BARNES & NOBLE
www.bn.com



SEPHORA

APPAREL & ACCESSORIES

- A pea in the pod
- American Eagle Outfitters
- Ann Taylor
- Avon
- Baby Gap
- Banana Republic
- Beauty
- Blue Nile
- Brooks Brothers
- dEliA*s
- Eddie Bauer
- Famous Footwear
- Gap
- Gap Maternity
- Garnet Hill
- J.Jill
- JCPenny
- Lands' End
- Limited Too
- L'Occitane
- Motherhood Maternity
- Nordstrom
- Old Navy

- Piperlime
- Ross-Simons
- Saks Fifth Avenue
- Sephora
- Skinstore
- The Body Shop
- Zappos

ELECTRONICS & ENTERTAINMENT

- Apple iTunes
- Barnes & Noble
- CompUSA
- Kodak EasyShare
- Gallery
- OfficeMax
- Shutterfly
- Snapfish

GIFTS

- 1-800-FLOWERS
- Brookstone
- Dean & DeLuca
- Discovery Channel Store
- FTD
- Godiva

- Hallmark
- Harry & David
- Hickory Farms
- Omaha Steaks
- Proflowers
- Red Envelope
- Starbucks
- Things Remembered

HOME & HEALTH

- Cooking
- Drugstore
- Illuminations
- Overstock
- PETCO
- PetSmart
- Sur La Table
- Target
- The Container Store
- The Popcorn Factory

JUST FOR KIDS

- Back to Basics Toys

- Childcraft
- eToys
- FAO Schwarz
- Gap Kids
- KBToys
- Land of Nod
- LeapFrog
- Leaps and Bounds
- Nickelodeon
- One Step Ahead
- Pottery Barn Kids
- Scholastic Store
- The Children's Place

SPORTING GOODS

- Adidas
- Dick's Sporting Goods
- Foot Locker
- MLB
- NFL Shop
- Nike
- Sierra Trading Post
- Sports Authority
- Under Armour

Make our school's holidays bright - begin your online shopping at www.4PACE.com

It's not too late, become a PACE member and extend the joy of giving for a full year!

REGISTER TODAY at www.4PACE.com

Register any Visa or MasterCard and \$10 of your \$25 membership fee goes directly to our school.

RAISE MONEY FOR OUR SCHOOL

We earn 5% with every purchase you make!

YOU SAVE 20% AT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Pay for your purchases with your registered credit card at over 400 local restaurants & retailers and save 20%. A little extra savings can help you stretch your holiday shopping.



DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Volunteer of the Month Sonia Wright. Sonia has been volunteering in the classroom two times a week. She preps materials and teaches literacy stations. In addition to her kindergarten mom volunteering, she stepped in to teach Mrs. Williams' stations for two days of vision testing. She is always there when the kindergarten needs extra help. Thank you for all you do, Sonia!

~ Submitted by *Renee Wiess*

Congratulations to Volunteer of the Month Marcy Rand. Marcy is currently chairing the Reflections program at school, and took it one step farther by offering art opportunities during lunch the last few days of October. That took a lot of time and effort to put together and a lot of patience to have all those kids working on art at once. Great job, Marcy!

~ Submitted by *Kimberly Montague*

Congratulations to Volunteer of the Month Cheri Murch. Cheri reorganized 110 files for checkout for the Kindergarten Read-at-Home program and did this on time beyond her regular weekly volunteering. Thank you, Cheri!

~Submitted by *Diane Danklefsen*

Do you know someone that's given extraordinary service to Maple Hills through advocacy, education and volunteering?

*We welcome your nomination for this award. Nomination forms are available in front of the office,
or e-mail Leslie Waltzer at Waltzer LA1@aol.com*

MATH TEAM CHAIRS NEEDED!

Are numbers your thing? Then we want you for the Maple Hills 4th and 5th grade math teams. We need 1 or 2 parents for each grade to chair the math teams and take them to competition which is held in March and April. If you would like more information or are interested in volunteering please call or e-mail Trecy Trimble at 425 - 391-7946 or trecy@comcast.net.





MAPLE HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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RENTON, WA 98059
PTA UNIT 2.6.15
OFFICE: 425-392-4334

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.MAPLEHILLSPTA.COM

The deadline for the
January 2009 Eagle's Nest is :
Wednesday, December 17th.

Please e-mail submissions to
Leslie Waltzer at
Waltzerla1@aol.com
(425) 392-4334

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2008

17th Variety Show Auditions
17th PTA Board Meeting 9:45 am
17th PTA Newsletter Deadline
18th Honor Chorus Concert 2:00 pm
and 7:00 pm
22nd – Jan. 2nd Winter Break

JANUARY 2009

5th Back to School
7th Variety Show Dress Rehearsal
9th Variety Show 7:00 pm
19th No School
20th First Grade Musical Rehearsal
21st PTA Board Meeting 9:45 am
21st PTA Newsletter Deadline
23rd First Grade Musical Rehearsal
27th First Grade Musical 2:45 pm
and 7:00 pm
29th PTA General Meeting 7:00 pm

**Please Note that this
Calendar is
Subject to Change!**



(Continued from page 7)

Morford and Kim George for helping at the reception, to Leslie Waltzer for newsletter and broadcast e-mail publicity support, and to the parents of all the participants for their many efforts.

Lastly, Reflections entries from the last three years that have not yet been picked up are in the PTA Portable in bags labeled by year. Your child's entry form with their name should still be attached. Parents, please pick up your child's work yourself so that no precious pieces are lost in transit. Thank you!

-*Marcy Rand*

2008 Maple Hills PTA Reflections Chair