



THE EAGLE'S NEST

PTA PRESIDENT: JENNIE WILDERMUTH
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: LESLIE WALTZER
PRINCIPAL: MONIQUE BEANE

"Making a Difference"

OCTOBER 2008
VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

NEWS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

We teach our children that changes occur all around us, from the leaves on the trees to classrooms and teachers. We find that our kids are very resilient and excited to experience new things. As the season changes from summer to fall, let's reflect on September and look forward to October. In September we had our school pictures. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who helped on picture day and our two curriculum nights. In October we are looking forward to our General Membership meeting on the 2nd, the Scholastic Book Fair and Pajama night, the PTA sponsored Sock Hop, Vision and Hearing Screening, and the 4th grade musical. I've enjoyed getting to know more Maple Hills families. Have a wonderful October, and I hope to see you in the halls in the coming weeks and months.

Jennie Wildermuth
Your PTA President



PTA GENERAL MEETING – FOCUS ON THE BUDGET

The Maple Hills PTA is **YOUR** PTA! Do you have some good ideas? Concerns? Or do you just want to sit back, listen and get an idea of what's going on at Maple Hills? The first PTA General Meeting of the year is Thursday, October 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the school library. Among other things, we will be approving the budget for the 2008-2009 school year. You may view the proposed budget online at www.maplehillspata.com on the budget page. Don't miss this chance for your voice to be heard regarding our PTA. We look forward to seeing you there!

LIKE BOOKS?

The Maple Hills library still has some time slots that need volunteers! Contact Lana Matson for information: ланаandbob@comcast.net or 425-391-0417.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION!

Hopefully everyone has been clipping and saving Box Tops over the summer! Our first roundup is here. Please have your children bring Box Tops to their classroom **by Friday, October 3rd**. The classroom with the most Box Tops in each grade level wins an ice cream party! Also, if you haven't already signed up to receive Box Tops e-mails, please do so. We earn extra points just for signing up. You'll get about one e-mail a week telling you about special deals on Box Tops products and get links to great recipes and coupons. Just go to boxtopforeducation.com for more information. Thanks for supporting our school through Box Tops!

ARE YOU ARTICULATE?

If you have an interest in art, we want you as an art docent! Our goal is to have art docents for all classes, and even if you did not sign up on your teacher's volunteer form or on the PTA interest form, please join us at our first Art Docent meeting. I will be presenting the program at a "Meet and Greet" training October 9th in the PTA portable at 10:00am. Come and learn how important this program is and what it provides to our students. NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! Contact Lana Matson for more information: lanaandbob@comcast.com or 425-391-0417.

Lana Matson
Art Docent Chair

STUDENT BANKING

Our Student Banking program will begin on Tuesday October 14th. For those of you not familiar with this program, it is a wonderful way for your child to learn how to save money. We partner with Washington Mutual who provides a banking program for kids in elementary school. All you need to do is fill out a few forms for your child to participate in this program.

Every Tuesday we set up a table in the main hallway, and any student that has an account brings in their coins or dollars, we enter that amount into their account, and then we deposit their money for them. They get a tracking guide and a register to keep track of how much money they are saving. They receive a monthly statement from the bank as well. They also receive prizes every other week just for saving money.

It's a great program, and the kids love it. It is easy to do and a lot of fun. Forms will be going home with students next week who are interested in participating. You can sign up anytime.

If you are interested in volunteering to help out at Student Banking, that would be great. Please contact me at webesmith@comcast.net

Thanks!

Susie Smith



STUDENT DIRECTORY FORMS

Make sure and take a moment to fill out and send in those Student Directory forms you received in your PTA packet! This will ensure that your child's name and information is included in this year's Student Directory.

Leslie Waltzer
Student Directory Chair

POPCORN, POPCORN, POPCORN!

Who doesn't love popcorn? The kids at Maple Hills sure do, and would love it, if you popped or sold it to them this year! I am looking for some help with either popping and bagging, or selling the bags during lunch on Popcorn Fridays. If you would like to be a well-loved volunteer, come and help with Popcorn Sales. Call or e-mail Mary Nelson 425-391-1437, maryjjj@comcast.net.

WATCH OUR SCHOOL GROW!

The school of fish is growing larger - be sure to check out the underwater seascape just inside the entranceway to see all the new PTA members so far. Can you find your name??? A very special thank you to all those who have already joined the PTA! Our membership is currently at 70%. Maple Hills has had the honor of achieving 100% membership for the last seven years – let's make it eight in a row! Membership dues help fund so many outstanding programs for Maple Hills' students: Eagle Reader, Science Fair, Math Club, Pizza Bingo Night, Ice Skating Party, Student Banking, Field Day, Art Docents, Bus Greeters, and many more. As PTA members, you will receive a **free Student Directory**, membership card, and Eagle-wear coupon. Our goal is to reach 100% membership by the end of October, so join the PTA today and show your support for the health and welfare of our children.

Sheryl Beeman and Lori Boots, Membership

NOMINATE A VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Thanks to all those who have turned in the "Volunteer Opportunities" form and volunteered your valuable time and effort! It's very much appreciated!

Also please note that you can nominate a "Volunteer of the Month" – in order to give special recognition to someone who has given extraordinary volunteer service to Maple Hills through advocacy, education, and/or volunteering. Each month the PTA board reviews the nominees and picks one (or more) as the 'Volunteer of the Month'. The forms are by the volunteer sign up sheet by the office door. So please send in a nomination if you feel someone deserves the recognition.

Thank you!

Leslie Waltzer, Director of Volunteers

OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to volunteer of the month Susie Smith! Susie is a constant presence at Maple Hills. First she ensured that the start of a new school year was a warm and welcoming one for our kids by coordinating the Bus Greeters, and now she's on to chairing Student Banking, the Book Fair and Fifth Grade Celebration as well as volunteering in the classroom! Thank you, Susie, for all that you do for Maple Hills!

Congratulations to volunteer of the month Leslie Waltzer! Along with being PTA Directory of Volunteers this year, Leslie is the PTA website webmaster, the PTA newsletter editor, and is producing the PTA Student Directory. Leslie has also been known to videotape grade level musicals and produce the DVDs. And then in her spare time, she helps in the classroom when needed.

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.



The Maple Hills PTA Presents the 2008-2009 Reflections Arts Program
Theme: "Wow!"

Reflections is a national PTA program created to allow students to use their creative talents by expressing themselves through their own original works, created around a specific theme. This year's theme is "Wow!" You decide what the phrase means to you and how you can best express it. The Reflections Program provides a way for parents to encourage and recognize their kids' efforts to practice creative self-expression.

This year the entry categories for our school are literature, photography, and visual arts:

- Literature—works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, prose, drama, short stories, and lyrics.
- Photography—prints up to 11"x14" in color or black and white, including techniques of photogram, retouched, montage, sandwich, and multiple exposures.
- Visual Arts—prints, drawings, painting, collages, photographic collages, metal etching, fiber work, and computer-generated art. Pieces must be flat, may not exceed more than 3/8" thickness, and may not exceed 24" x 30" including matting.

The program begins with participation at the individual school level in the primary (grades K-2) and intermediate (grades 3-5) divisions, with 12 school finalists chosen to move on to the district level, which then feeds the state and then national levels. Entries are judged blind (no names) based on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of theme. General Reflections program guidelines, rules for each of the three categories, and official entry forms will be available as of **Monday, October 6**.

The deadline for turning in your Reflections submission to the office is **Friday, November 7 at 4 p.m.** Mark your calendars for our Reflections Reception (and ice cream sundae bar) for all Maple Hills Reflections participants and their parents on **Monday, November 24 at 7p.m.** in the multi-purpose room. We will announce the 12 school finalists who will move on to the district level at this event. Also, each child who submits a Reflections entry will receive a certificate and be entered into a drawing for a \$20 gift card, which will be given away at the reception.

Look for a display of last year's Reflections entries in the case at the main school doors in October.

(Have a parent help fill out, tear off, and return to school.)

I am interested in entering my creation in Reflections!

Child's First & Last Name: _____ Teacher: _____

E-mail Address: _____ I will:

- Pick up a packet when Reflections helpers visit classrooms the week of October 6-10;
- E-mail Marcy Rand at ograymar@msn.com with the specific categories I am interested in and have the information/forms sent via e-mail;
- Download the forms off our PTA Web site at: <http://maplehillspata.com>; or
- Pick them up from outside the office after October 6.

Education Funding in the State of Washington – **PTA Members, We Have a Crisis**

The Washington State Legislature has formed a Task Force to develop a new system for the delivery and funding of K-12 education in this state. Despite changes in expectations, the model for education funding has not been changed for 30 years. Washington State PTA and many other organizations throughout the state are deeply concerned about the crisis in K-12 education funding in our state. In fact WSPTA is working on these concerns this year – now!

Is there a crisis? Some facts to consider

1. In general, the state funds K-12 education on a per pupil basis. The average per pupil allocation from the state *does not cover the actual cost*.
2. The state allocation pays for only 5 class periods per day. Most school districts offer students 6 or 7 periods per day. They pay for those additional periods out of levy and other funds.
3. The state legislature has passed a number of mandates, but provided *no additional funding* for school districts to comply. For example, unfunded mandates for a neighboring school district (Northshore) cost that district almost \$17 million or approximately 10% of their \$172.6 million budget.
4. When the state's allocation doesn't cover the actual costs, some districts make up the difference with levy funds, foundation funds, or PTA fundraisers. Not all school districts in the state can raise the same amount of funds to make up the difference, so *not all Washington State students are receiving the same basic level of services*.
5. Larger class sizes are not just a problem in your school district. Washington State ranks 46th, *fourth worst in class sizes*. (Source: NEA Ranking and estimates)

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction has currently placed *7 school districts under Binding Conditions* for the 2007-08 school year. This means that these districts could not cover their bills for the year. There have never been this many school districts so close to bankruptcy in the memory of OSPI officials.

Are you concerned? The single most important thing you can do is to get informed and engaged. Start by talking with Issaquah School District about their concerns (like the costs of unfunded mandates), then help us to spread the word. Our kids are depending on it.

Important Dates

October 7: School District Board of Directors meeting, ESD Board Room, 4:30pm

October 21: School District Board of Directors meeting, ESD Board Room, 4:30pm

November 4: Election Day! Don't forget to vote!

We are in the 5th Legislative District and are represented in the Legislature by:

Senator Cheryl Pflug, phone: 360-786-7608

Rep. Jay Rodne, phone: 360-786-7852

Rep. Glenn Anderson, phone: 360-786-7876

CAFETERIA SUBSTITUTES NEEDED!

Do you need a little extra cash? Substitutes are needed in the Food Service Dept. Please contact Chris Baynes at 837-7027 for further information.



MAPLE HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 15644 204TH AVE. SE
 RENTON, WA 98059
 PTA UNIT 2.6.15
 OFFICE: 425-392-4334

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.MAPLEHILLSPTA.COM

The deadline for the
November 2008 Eagle's Nest is :

Wednesday, October 15th.

Please e-mail submissions to
 Leslie Waltzer at

Waltzerla1@aol.com

(425) 392-4334

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2008

1st – 17th DRA Testing
 2nd PTA General Meeting 7pm
 3rd – 4th Legislative Assembly
 6th – 10th Scholastic Fall Book Fair
 7th Vision and Hearing Screening
 13th Fourth Grade Musical Rehearsal
 13th Third Grade to Salmon Hatchery
 15th Choral Fest with Liberty High School
 15th PTA Board Meeting 9:45am
 15th PTA Newsletter Deadline
 16th Fourth Grade Musical Rehearsal
 17th PTA Sock Hop 6:30—8:30pm
 20th Fourth Grade Musical Rehearsal
 23rd Fourth Grade Musical 9:45am and 7:00pm
 23rd Picture Retakes

NOVEMBER 2008

10th Conferences – No School for Students
 11th Veteran's day – No School
 12th Conferences – No School for Students
 13th Third Grade Musical Rehearsal
 17th Third Grade Musical Rehearsal
 19th PTA Board Meeting 9:45am
 19th PTA Newsletter Deadline
 20th Third Grade Musical 10:00am and 7:00pm
 27th – 28th No School – Thanksgiving

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

COME TO THE BOOK FAIR!

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Maple Hills on October 6th- 10th. You don't want to miss this event. The Book Fair provides you an opportunity to buy books for your family and support our school at the same time. 50% of the profits goes right back into books for our library and our Eagle Reader Program. It's a great time to pick up holiday gifts as well.

The Book Fair Hours are:

Monday 8:30 – 4:00

Tuesday 8:30 – 4:00

Wednesday 8:30 – 2:00

Thursday 8:30 – 8:00 pm

We are having a special event on this night. A Pajama Party Read Aloud. Some of our Maple Hills staff will be reading their favorite books while we relax and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. So bring a pillow, wear your pajamas and come enjoy the fun. You can also shop during this time as well.

Friday 8:30 – 2:00

I am also looking for volunteers to help out at the Book Fair please let me know if you can help.

There is a sign up sheet by the office or you can contact me at websmith@comcast.net

We hope to see you there

Susie Smith

