
MAPLE AVENUE MIDDLE SCHOOL
515 Maple Avenue
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866
518-587-4551

Stuart F. Byrne
Principal

Robert Loggins
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Columbian Springs

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Roseann Jackling
Assistant Principal
Red Springs

November 18, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Enclosed you will find your child's first report card for the 2008-2009 school year. Hopefully the report card reinforces information you already have from observing your child's progress on homework and tests taken during this marking period. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's guidance counselor or team to set up a conference.

In an effort to help you understand the use of Edline, the following points should be noted:

- Please be aware that grades posted through Edline can be misinterpreted if the "weighting" of assignments is not noted by the teacher. By weighting, it is meant that, for example, quiz grades are worth more than homework grades and may be counted as double. Test grades could be weighted 2 or 3 times a quiz and the like. Each teacher has the discretion to weigh different kinds of work products differently from others so a formula is developed by each teacher for calculating your child's quarterly average.
- In addition, teachers are not required to post grades to Edline on a daily basis, but every three weeks of the quarter. Postings will occur at least during the third, sixth, and ninth weeks of the marking period and report cards will be printed after the tenth week.
- If you have questions regarding your child's teacher's homework policy, please contact the teacher.

The Yankee Candle Fundraiser was a great success. The PTSO raised about \$15,000 to fund the Cultural Arts programs. A big thanks to all who participated! Information regarding candle pick up will be forthcoming as soon as we receive it from the company.

The Scholastic Book Fair will begin on Monday, December 8, 2008 and run through Friday, December 12, 2008 during school hours in the library. The family evening book fair date is Thursday, December 11, 2008, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the lobby of the auditorium.

Maple Avenue Middle School Yearbooks are on sale until December 12, 2008. They are \$22.00 each; cash and checks are accepted. Order forms are available in each house office and the Main Office. Completed forms, with payment, should be returned to your child's house office or the Main Office. You may also order on-line at <https://www.yearbookordercenter.com/?jobnumber=2766>. Yearbooks will be distributed in June, 2009.

A list of upcoming events at Maple Avenue follows:

- November 20 - Fall Picture Makeups
- November 26-28 - Thanksgiving Recess
- December 8-12 - Scholastic Book Fair
- December 8 - Band & Orchestra 8, Chamber Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- December 10 - PTSO, 7:00 p.m.
- December 11 - Scholastic Book Fair Family Evening, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
- December 11 - Chorus 6 & 8 Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- December 15 - Orchestra 6 & 7, Band 7 Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- December 18 - Band 6, Jazz 7, Chorus 7 Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- December 22 – January 2 - Holiday Recess
- January 5 - Classes Resume
- January 14 - PTSO, 7:00 p.m.
- January 19 - School Recess - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 21-23 - Grades 6-8 ELA Assessment
- January 30 - Second Quarter/First Semester Ends

Have a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Stuart F. Byrne
Principal

SFB/jec
Enclosure

GUN FREE SCHOOLS

It is important for all members of the public to understand that it is illegal for any firearm to be brought onto school property by an individual other than a peace officer in the discharge of legal duties. According to the Gun Free Schools Act, starter pistols, explosives, other weapons able to expel a projectile, even portions of a workable weapon, are all covered under this legislation. This information is extremely important, not only for students who could suffer severe penalties of up to one-year removal from school, as well as mandatory referral to law enforcement or juvenile delinquency officials for prosecution, but also for parents and community members who might also face legal prosecution for violating this Act.

The full impact of this legislation makes it illegal for someone to drive onto school property with a firearm or similarly defined weapon in their possession or in their vehicle. This means a parent returning from a day of hunting should not have the rifle or shotgun in their vehicle if they come to school to pick up their child or attend an evening meeting. Beyond strict compliance with the law, there is also the concern for the potential of some unintended tragedy whenever firearms are brought in close contact with large numbers of people, including children. Please use particular caution at this time of year when so many citizens may be involved in hunting or target shooting activities.