



MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOL



PRINCIPAL : HEIDI LINNEN-MACDONALD

DECEMBER 2020

From Mrs. MacDonald's Desk

Kindness Counts at Maynard! The staff and I want to wish our students and families a safe and happy holiday season. Things may look different this year, but we have shown that we can change, learn new ways, support one another and be safe together. We look forward to continuing to have fun while learning in our classrooms and creating virtual connections with all of you. Watch how we celebrate the spirit of giving and the season ahead throughout the month of December. We will see everyone back to learning on January 4th, 2021.

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week was in November and this is when we reinforced our kindness goals and introduced and reminded students and families about our use of the W.I.T.S. program. Student well-being, working through conflicts and getting to learning is what we are all about. Part of being well and having fun is building relationships and I was fortunate to interview Emma this month, who is in grade 3 with Mrs. Baker.

What makes you happy at Maynard? There are lots of friends and I like all the teachers. I really like the play structures.

What does kindness mean to you? It means people being nice and not being rude.

What do you love to do when you play? I like to share toys like dolls and stuffed animals.

What are your favourite animals. Horses, dogs and cats are my favorite. **Do you have pets?** I have a dog and eight cats. My cats are named Lily and Harley.

What do you dream about for your future? I dream about living in a candy world. Why? It would be pretty with bright colours and "it's candy!"



Safety Together - REMINDERS – Every morning, and as your children return to us on Monday January 4 from the holiday break, daily COVID-19 screening and safe holiday practices based on the guidance of public health, is what will keep our school and communities safe. We thank everyone for their efforts in contacting us when their child is ill at home, and for notifying us about their return to Maynard.



ATTENTION: Families of students that walk to Maynard: Our safe arrival process must still happen for our walkers on inclement weather days, so please call us by 9:15 a.m. to report your child's absence and that they are safely at home.



School Council Updates

Cheers to our School Council for their support of our school, students and staff. The work of our committed members supports the spirit of well-being and student achievement. Council has spearheaded the process of bringing a water filling station to Maynard and for Scientists in School to work with classrooms throughout the 2020-21 school year. Please, connect with us if you are interested in joining our next virtual meeting Tuesday January 24 at 7 pm.

Virtual Holiday Celebration

Our school community will come together, class by class, to join in a virtual celebration of the holiday spirit on Thursday December 17 (inclement weather date of Friday December 18). Watch for more information to come to our families on the timing of this virtual event. We are working to use Maynard's Facebook site and Livestream to capture these moments and share them with our families. Then they can watch "at the moment" or at their convenience as the video will remain posted on our Facebook site. We look forward to doing things a little differently, while still sharing the spirit of the season with our school community.

Holiday Spirit Week & and Day

Our classrooms have decided on the festive **Spirit Week** activities for December.

Fri. Dec. 11 – Get on your Plaid or Flannel Day

Mon. Dec. 14 – Red, Green, and White Day

Tues. Dec. 15 – Crazy Hair Day

Wed. Dec. 16 – Ugly Sweater Day

Thurs. Dec. 17 – Christmas Character/Movie Day (dress up in your favorite holiday character i.e. an elf, Santa, Rudolph)

Fri. Dec. 18 – PJ Day



Spirit of Giving – Please, consider donating non-perishable food items from Tuesday December 1 to Wednesday December 16. Our goal is to collect as many items as we can which supports our local food bank. Items can be sent in with your child and our staff and CYW Placement student will support the safe handling, tracking of class donations and storage of the items to be picked up.

Quarantine Processes

We want families to know that any item sent into our school from your homes must quarantine for three days prior to any staff handling/opening. This process is based on directions from public health and COVID-19 protocols. We would ask families not to send in cards for us to deliver to other children.



Kindness Counts!

We are focussed on using W.I.T.S strategies to support students to be kind and more independent in solving social challenges. You might like to talk in your homes about how we can Walk away, Ignore, Talk things out and Seek help to solve social conflicts. The program details and resources can be found at www.witsprogram.ca.

Your child might be able to say the WITS acronym but may need help putting it in action. Role-playing, discussions and suggesting the use of supportive statements are all ideas that can help our children work through problems that can arise with peers.

During each week, as students are “caught” using kindness and their W.I.T.S they can earn tickets for random draws every Friday. We are committed to promoting a safe and positive learning environment at Maynard every day.



Winter Weather Update: As has been shared with our families, if we have inclement weather, **schools will be CLOSED to students on these days when busses are cancelled.** Our educators have taken your input on whether “paper copy” or “digital” learning materials will be used for learning on any Remote Learning Days due to inclement weather. If you have not connected with your child’s teacher, based on the feedback form in the letter sent home to all families by Mrs. MacDonald on Thursday November 19, 2020, please do so as soon as possible. The learning materials provided on these days will be for review and reinforcement for your child’s learning. Thanks for all you are doing to support this new process and any learning from home. This closure process was necessary due to public health guidance on COVID-19 and the safety and supervision of your child.

MTJB – We are so fortunate to have pre-school and younger learners in daycare so close to our school environment. When possible, MTJB will be joining into our activities such as spirit days and collecting for the Spirit of Giving. Cheers to MTJB and their support of our school community through so many changes this school year!

Lost and Found - Our “lost and found” will be on display through our Facebook posts. Please, review the photos and have your child connect with their teacher about picking up lost items.



E-Bits December 2020

For Families:

Wondering when your child can go back to school after having COVID-19 symptoms? Our [Return to School Protocol](#) may help. You may also call the Health Unit’s school/parent phone line for advice at 1-866-236-0123. The line is open 7:00am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday and 8:30am to 4:30pm on weekends.

COVID-19 Supports are Available. If you don’t have sick leave, but you have to stay home with your child due to COVID-19 symptoms, income support is available at <https://www.canada.ca/.../recovery-caregiving-benefit.html> . For additional community supports, visit the website for your area for a full listing of resources:

- [United Way of Leeds and Grenville](#)
- [Lanark County](#)

School Immunization Clinics: For 2020/2021 the school immunization program will be conducted at host schools throughout Leeds, Grenville and Lanark. For more information visit our [School Immunizations](#) page.