



# MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOL



PRINCIPAL : HEIDI LINNEN-MACDONALD

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2021

## From Mrs. MacDonald's Desk

Welcome to 2021 and we hope that you found special moments together, even when closer to home, with your family over the December holidays and into 2021. We also know there may have been challenges along the way. Know that we have felt your support as we worked together to be safe and creative in our remote learning. We look forward to learning together throughout the winter and we know that we can overcome any challenge that comes our way. We will stay safe and Mustang Strong in all we do.

As I do every month, I did an interview with a student for this double month newsletter. I spent some time in a virtual interview with Bryce, who is in Grade 6 with Ms. Marshall. During the interview he shared many things with me.



*What makes you happy at Maynard? I really am excited to get to grade 7 in June.*

*What is your favourite thing to do when learning remotely with our school? I really like eating lunch and having a break.*

*What does kindness mean to you? When my family agrees to do something with me, that shows kindness. It might be playing certain games that involve adventure and fantasy.*

*What are your favourite books? I enjoy books about ghosts and horror.*

*What are your favourite animals. Animals really make me feel happy, especially cats and dogs. I have one of my own and it is a cat named Midnight. He is black. My family has a cat, Jasper, and we have a dog named Gracie.*

*What make you laugh? Adam Sandler makes me laugh because his movies are funny.*

*What would you like to be when you get older? I haven't thought of that yet.*



## 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 school improvement plans. We are excited to provide Scientists in School again this year, with the financial support of School Council. These virtual workshops are directly connected to grade level curriculum and are exciting ways to bring even more Science into our classrooms. **School Council met on Tuesday January 26 at 7**

**p.m. As always, everyone is welcome to our virtual meetings.** Please, call us at 613-925-4291 so that you can get a link to our Microsoft Teams meeting. We meet again on Tuesday February 23 at 7 p.m.

**Information: from Lanark, Leeds & Grenville Health Unit COVID-19 Screening-One Size Doesn't Fit All.** COVID-19 self-assessment tools are different for children and adults. An important difference is that adults who have just one COVID 19 symptom (not related to other known causes or conditions they already have) are to self-isolate and get tested. Ensure you are completing the correct school screening tool. Please use <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/> daily before your child comes to school. Connect with us for any updates or support needed as we follow the directions of public health.

**School Immunization Clinics:** Do you have a child in grade 7, 8 or 9 that still needs their Hep B, HPV or Meningitis immunizations? The Health Unit will be scheduling additional catch-up clinics, so stay tuned for dates and locations. For more information: <http://bit.ly/Grade7Immunizations>

**The 4 D's of Mask Wearing.** If a mask becomes DAMP, DIRTY or DAMAGED, change it up, and wash cloth masks at least DAILY! A dirty mask no longer does the job of protecting others and puts the person wearing it at risk of contaminating themselves. Did you know? You can hand-wash cloth face coverings in a sink or basin and hang them to dry. This can be a great way to teach laundry skills to children of any age. For more information on masks, and how to obtain free or low-cost masks, visit: <https://healthunit.org/health-information/covid-19/face-coverings-masks/>.

**Wearing Masks/Face Coverings:** Our grades 1-3 students have been supported in the *new routines* of wearing masks or face coverings inside our school as they returned to us on Monday January 25. Our grade 1-6's will also be required to wear masks/face coverings outdoors when physical distancing of 2 meters is not possible. We will be supporting these grade groups to wear masks/face coverings inside and outside our school, as well as on busses. We will continue to strongly encourage our Kindergartens to wear masks/face coverings too.

Many families will ask about the suitability of gaitors/neck warmers/scarves as masks when outdoors. This is the messaging that has been encouraged from the province:

- **Multiple layers:** Minimum of 2 layers of material; 3 or more will provide further protection. Some masks have a pocket built in to accommodate a filter layer. The

middle, filter layer can be a disposable filter purchased for this or even a folded paper towel, that would then be removed before washing. Other styles have a fabric middle filter layer sewn right into them. **Note:** People should not throw away their 2-layer non-medical masks. If making or buying more masks, consider the 3-layer mask for improved protection.

- **Type of material:** Tightly woven fabric will provide the best protection. Try blowing out a candle through the fabric or holding it up to the light to check how tightly it is woven. Avoid non-breathable materials like plastic or vinyl when making or choosing face coverings. Having a different fabric on each side makes it easy to quickly see what side faces out.
- **Fit:** The mask should fit snugly over your nose, and chin and not gape at the sides. A wire inside the top can help to provide a snug fit over the nose and reduce fogging of eye-glasses. Adjusting the ear loops or ties can help with a snug fit on the sides of the face.
- **Durability:** Cloth face coverings should be washed after each use so it should hold up to repeated washings in hot water.

### SPIRIT of GIVING

**Thanks to our entire school community and the MTJB families for showing kindness and care by participating in the Spirit of Giving food drive before our December holidays.**

### Staffing Updates

We are excited to welcome Mrs. Marilyn Brennan as the teacher of our grade ½ class, and Mrs. Vicki Sargeant in our Main Office as our Office Administrator. Mrs. Dana MacMillan is remaining at a school closer to her home and we wish her well in her ongoing support of schools. We have been thankful for the recent support of Mrs. Alyssa Knapp in our office and wish her well as she moves into South Grenville District High School as an Office Assistant. Similarly, we are wishing Mrs. Johanna Charbonneau all the best in her new system role as an Early Years Learning Partner.

### Safe and Accepting Schools Team

We are so appreciative of the support of this team who is made up of a parent, student, community member, teacher and support staff member and me, Mrs. MacDonald. We work together to ensure that all our students feel safe and a sense of belonging in our school and that they have a voice in their well-being at our school. We met virtually for the second time this year on Tues. Jan. 26 at 6:15 p.m. and we will meet again in March and May.

### 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 in all spaces at Maynard and our community. You might like to use W.I.T.S in your homes as well. The program details and resources can be found at [www.witsprogram.ca](http://www.witsprogram.ca).

Your child might be able to recite 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 peer conflict problems.

During each week, as students are “caught” using kindness and their W.I.T.S they will earn tickets for a random draw at the end of each week. **There is a W.I.T.S Prize Pack to be received in this draw, and special recognition on our Facebook site.** We are committed to promoting a safe and positive learning environment at Maynard every day.



### Winter Weather Update & Remote Learning

With the winter weather and potential transportation cancellations, this is a reminder that **our school will be closed**, and we will move to remote learning on an **“inclement weather day.”** We will have no in-person learners on inclement weather days. This also includes our walkers and students transported by their families. Teachers of each classroom have already reached out to their families. Teachers have provided materials and guidance based on the preferred learning mode chosen (printed or digital) for learning on an inclement weather day. Students and families may inquire with their child’s teacher if it is possible to participate in synchronous learning, especially in cases where their child was already supported in this way. Please, reach out to us at Maynard or your child’s classroom teacher with any questions or concerns.

### MTJB

Just a reminder about the amazing daycare which shares our Maynard facilities. If you know someone that is interested or needs to know more about MTJB as they register their child, they can contact them at 613-925-4032.

### Important Dates

Tues. Jan. 26 – Non-Digital Package pick up/drop off day  
Tues. Jan. 26 – Safe and Accepting Schools Team meeting at 6:15 p.m. and School Council meeting at 7 p.m.  
Wed. Jan. 27 – Family Literacy Day  
February is Black History Month  
Mon. Feb. 1 – PA Day – no school today  
Fri. Feb. 12 – Valentines Day at Maynard “Red and White Wear” spirit day and classroom activities  
Mon. Feb. 15 – Family Day holiday  
Thurs. Feb. 18 – Report Cards sent home to families & students  
Tues. Feb. 23 – Kindergarten Information Virtual Meeting 5-6 p.m. for new registrants and details to be shared out to our school community  
Tues. Feb. 23 – School Council Virtual Meeting 7-8 p.m.  
Wed. Feb. 24 – Pink Shirt Day or wear any pink today  
Fri. Feb. 26 – Mustang Wear Spirit Day or “Green”

### 2021 Kindergarten Registration

**“When should I register my child for Kindergarten?”** If your child will be 4 years old by December 31, 2021, then it’s time to register. As we move into 2021, we are beginning the process of Kindergarten registration for the 2021-2022 school year. Families who are interested in pre-registering their child for Kindergarten should complete the online registration at [www.ucdsb.on.ca](http://www.ucdsb.on.ca) or contact us at Maynard at 613-925-4291. If your child already attends our Junior Kindergarten program,

---

there is no need to register them for Senior Kindergarten. Once you have registered your child for Kindergarten, we will reach out to you with further information to guide the transition of your child to school. We will have phone and email contacts and we will plan virtual connections so that you can “virtually” tour our school and have time for questions and answers.

Maynard’s **Kindergarten Information Virtual Meeting** is being held on **Tuesday February 23 from 5-6 p.m.** for new and interested Kindergarten registrants. Please, call Maynard at 613-925-4291 for more information. This meeting will be a great evening including a virtual tour of our Kindergarten spaces as well as time for questions and answers.



### **Family Literacy Day**

Wednesday January 27 is Family Literacy Day and this year’s theme is “Travel the World Together” even if it is virtually. This is an opportunity to read and dream about travel and raise the awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in literacy-related activities. Please check out <https://abclifeliteracy.ca/blog-posts/family-literacy-blog-posts/abc-life-literacy-ramps-up-for-family-literacy-day-2021/> for more information on Family Literacy Day.

### **February is Black History Month**

Black History Month exists to remind us all about the rich contributions within our society from people of African and Caribbean decent, and of their ongoing struggle for equity and social justice. Not only during this month but throughout the school year, we must all recognize the strengths and resiliency of communities that historically have been marginalized, as well as examine issues of racism and the impact of discrimination on these communities.

“The Canadian Race Relations Foundation is committed to building a national framework for the fight against racism in Canadian society; to shed light on the causes and manifestations of racism; provide independent, outspoken national leadership; and act as a resource and facilitator in the pursuit of equity, fairness, and social justice.” <http://www.crr.ca>



### **Pink Shirt Day**

From <https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/> “this Pink Shirt Day, our focus is working together and treating others with dignity and respect. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all and shown the importance of helping one another and advocating for those who need it. Help us “*lift each other up*” and support programs that encourage healthy self-esteem and teach empathy, compassion and kindness.”