



MAPLE GROVE ELEMENTARY

A Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon School

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The Maple Leaf Newsletter 

September 2015

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A Word from Our Principal...

Another school year is off and running! It has been so fun to see the smiling faces of your children returning to Maple Grove. What a great job we have, to be able to work with them every day, helping them to fulfill their potential and experience the joys of childhood.

A few updates as we start the year:

- We have new carpeting in the highest use areas - hallways; and new state-of-the-art security and fire alarm systems.
- We continue to offer two full-day Kindergarten programs, so we are able to offer more families their choice of a full-day program.
- Both Kindergartens have a full Art/Music/PE program for the whole year, taught by Jill Lasky, who infuses the learning with dance.
- At Grades 3-6, the CMAS state assessments have been reduced in length and consolidated into one month, April. The interim assessments given three times a year have been upgraded from Acuity to "MAP" (Measures of Academic Progress).
- Our STEM Lab has taken shape and next to it we have added a 3-D printer, creating more opportunities for hands-on learning.
- Our school garden is flourishing, and is one of the best-designed of its kind, including tiered amphitheater-style seating for a classroom, orientation with sun and shading in mind, irrigation, a budding tee pee, walkways, and quality fencing that deters deer and other animals.
- Mrs. Hamelin returns to Maple Grove in a new position, Technology Integration Specialist, shared 50/50 with the district IT department. This position will leverage our investment in technology by supporting our teachers with powerful and engaging uses with students.

continued...



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A Word from Our Principal, continued...

- Partnering with Jeffco IT gives us access to new technology, one of which is a 1:1 take home pilot program in first grade using Nexus 7 tablets for every child.
- Also joining us this year are Ms. Meinecke, Kindergarten; Mrs. Arnold, 2nd Grade; Mrs. Pike, Kindergarten para; Mrs. Belmear, full-time social worker; and Mrs. Yatribi, Cafeteria Manager, all great additions to an excellent staff.

Most important, our staff is hard at work creating an engaging, meaningful year of learning for your children. We look forward to partnering with you on this journey!

In service,
Ian Stone, Principal

Morning Milers

Thank you to Mary Steele for organizing the “Morning Milers” again this year. Morning Milers runs from 8/25-10/1 to get everyone in shape for the 5K on October 4th. Please bring your children before school on Tuesdays and Thursdays to run around the track from 7:15 am. until the bell rings. They will see their friends and work to get the most laps run for their individual classes. The children will be wide awake and invigorated for their school day. Plus, they all enjoy earning their charms! Get your day going too, and run or walk along with them.



Grizzly Growl 5K

Formerly the “Gallop at the Grove 5K,” the “Grizzly Growl 5K” will be held at Maple Grove on Sunday, October 4th at 9 am. (Please mark your calendars!) This is a whole family event. There will be a 1K family fun run following the 5K. This is a wonderful community event and so much fun for everyone.

There will be goodie bags for everyone, prizes, and ribbon winners for every grade. You can run individually, sign up as a team, wear costumes, or walk with friends. This is a perfect day to celebrate our wonderful school and community.

If you would like to volunteer, there are many opportunities. If you aren’t going to participate in the 5K, you can time it, set up a water station in front of your house, or be a marshal on the course to keep everyone safe. If you are going to participate in the 5K, you can hand out t-shirts and bibs to the participants. We hope you will all be a part of this great event.

Visit the race [webpage](#) to register or volunteer to help!



Technology Integration Specialist

Gina Hamelin

I am currently the Technology Integration Specialist at Maple Grove and the Instructional Technology Coordinator in the IT department at Jeffco Schools. In my current position, I work with teachers on integrating technology into the school environment and I work with the IT staff to help them better understand the needs of teachers and students. Additionally, I collaborate with teachers and the Jeffco IT department so they can design curriculum and systems that are well thought out and maximize educational impact.

I love my job. I do it because when kids come to school I want them to be happy. I want them to realize: how creative and innovative they can be, how smart they are, how they can solve huge problems and make big decisions, how collaboration makes them better, stronger, smarter, how important they are, how making a difference feels really, really, good, how risk taking does pay off, how they are relevant to the world around them, and most of all how being passionate motivates them to do great things.

I see technology as an enormously powerful tool that helps us reach these goals. In fact, I would argue that in today's world, you can't get there without technology. It provides us a means to differentiate, individualize, and create in ways that are staggering. Technology enables a connection with people that was unimaginable 20 years ago.

Gina Hamelin

Technology Integration Specialist, Maple Grove Elementary

[Technology Toolbox Website](#)

[IT Tech Tips](#)

Technology Corner

A recommended read from Mrs. Hamelin:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gI2nrHuEUOVRm-Uywy7IEWpqoxYNIvV5ZSbiRcWHF4/edit?usp=sharing>



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Grizzly Reading Challenge

SAVE THE DATE! The Grizzly Reading Challenge (formerly REACH Week) is coming! \$10 in Book Fair Bucks just for participating. The class with the highest participation will get a Jamba Juice Party! Mark your calendars!

- 9/11 - Informational Packets go home
- 9/11 - 9/17 - Read, Read, Read!
- 9/18 - Packets due back to school
- 9/21 - Students will receive their Book Fair Bucks

Upcoming Events

September	
7	Labor Day (No School)
10	1st PTA Meeting
11-21	Grizzly Reading Challenge
21-24	Parent Teacher Conferences
23	Grizzly Gathering at Smashburger
October	
4	Grizzly Growl 5K

Safe2Tell Mobile App Available Now

Safe2Tell Colorado is excited to announce the launch of the new mobile app for reporting safety concerns in Colorado schools and communities. The Safe2Tell Colorado mobile app for reporting threatening behaviors and safety concerns in Colorado is now available for students, parents, and community members on the Apple App Store for iPhones/iPads and Google Play for Android devices. Download it today!



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PTA Board for 2015/2016 School Year

We would like to announce the PTA board for the upcoming year.



Shannon Garvin – **President**, Emily Melancon - **Co-Vice President**, Cora Rice - **Co-Treasurer**,
Mindy Kopser - **Co-Treasurer**, Lindsey Fleener - **Co-Vice President**, Jessica Tsuo – **Secretary**

Shannon Garvin

I am the PTA President this year. This year's PTA board is devoted to keeping the traditions alive and well, fundraising for our students, staff, and community needs, and continuing to grow projects such as the school garden. My husband Matt and I have three children, and two of them attend Maple Grove. Avery is in 2nd grade, and Ethan is in kindergarten. You may reach me via email at shannonjeangarvin@gmail.com.

Emily Melancon

This year I am Co-Vice President and am responsible for all three fundraisers for the school. I have two daughters at Maple Grove. Sylvie is in Mrs. Ramaker's 1st grade class, and Clara is in Mrs. Arnold's 2nd grade class.

At Maple Grove we have three fundraisers throughout the year: The Grizzly Growl 5k on Oct 4, The Grizzly Reading Challenge Sept 14-18, and the Gala coming this March. If you would like to volunteer for one of these, please email me at emily.melancon@gmail.com. All the money we have raised through these fun events has paid for new technology in our classrooms, a science lab, the garden, our new security system, teacher's wish lists for the classroom, and the list goes on! I also volunteer with our garden, so if you are interested in getting involved with this, please let me know.

Lindsey Fleener

I'm Lindsey Fleener, Co-Vice President of the 15-16 PTA. I'm sharing the position with Emily Melancon and will have the "tech" duties this year. I will keep the website organized and updated. I am also looking for volunteers for all of our great programs and activities. I have a first grader and two future Grizzlys ages 4 and 2. Please email me at lindseyfleener@gmail.com if you have any questions, ideas or would like to share your time with the PTA to keep Maple Grove great!

continued...



PTA Board for 2015/2016, continued...

Cora Rice

I'm the PTA co-treasurer alongside Mindy Koper. I am the keeper of the checkbook, so if you need money from the PTA, you have to go through me. My son, Tim is in 6th grade this year, and my daughter, Audrey is in the 3rd grade. I can be reached at corarice@comcast.net.

Mindy Koper

The 2015/2016 school year is my second year on the PTA Board as Co-Treasurer. Some of my responsibilities include: PTA budget maintenance, accounting and reconciliation of PTA income and expenses, report filing with both the State and Colorado PTA, and federal tax reporting. I have two boys at Maple Grove - Dresden (1st) and Riley (3rd) - and am excited for the opportunity to be involved with the Maple Grove's PTA again this year.

Jessica Tsuo

My name is Jessica Tsuo, and I am serving as the secretary for the PTA this year. I have two children, and my oldest, Kai, just started first grade at Maple Grove. If you have information that you would like to be included in the e-blast, I'm the one to contact! Feel free to contact me at jessicatsuogmail.com.

PTA News

PTA General Meeting



Come one, come all to the PTA's first general meeting of the year! For our big kickoff we will be meeting at the Arbor House (14600 W 32nd Ave Golden, CO 80401) at 6:30 on September 10, 2015. Light refreshments will be served.

This is a fantastic opportunity to come out and meet other Maple Grove families and see all the amazing activities and events there are at Maple Grove! We are always happy when people can help out with something and this is the perfect opportunity to see what is available. Please join us. We look forward to seeing everyone! Babysitters will be provided, so bring your kids (ages 3+ and potty trained) to play at the park, and come inside to learn about how you can help to make Maple Grove even more amazing!

Please RSVP to jessicatsuogmail.com if you plan to bring your kiddo.

The School Garden

Since last spring parents have been working hard to complete the garden. Here is everything that has been accomplished in just a short amount of time:

- The fence was built.
- The planter boxes were constructed and post holes were dug so that they are secure in the ground.
- Organic soil was delivered and parents filled all the boxes.
- Lines were dug for an irrigation system, and it is now up and running.
- Finally, last weekend weed barrier and ground cover were laid down around the planter boxes.



Last spring, teachers and parents worked with the kids to sprout seedlings and plant them in the garden. The kids can now see their small seedlings have grown into plants that are producing vegetables! We will continue to do this every year starting in March. Also, Maple Grove now has a new person in charge of the cafeteria. Her name is Alicia Yatribi, and she has received training to bring our garden's vegetables into the cafeteria for the kids to eat! We also got free supplies from Jeffco to complete this task.

Thank you to all the parents who have helped with this project. It is parents like you who make this school great!! There will be many volunteer opportunities going forward, so if you are interested in getting involved in harvesting vegetables or planting seeds with student please contact Emily Melancon at emily.melancon@gmail.com.



Library Makeover

The Maple Grove library has always been a great place to get a good book and to find information. We want to continue providing these traditional library services, and to also better meet the needs of today's learners. This school year we will begin making changes to create a space where collaborative learning, innovation, and creativity are nurtured.

After doing research, talking with colleagues, and considering the unique needs of our MG community, this is the plan:

1. Create a flexible, collaborative environment.

- Remove computers and counter on west wall, replace with shelves currently under south windows
- Remove 2 stand-alone shelf units
- Move picture books to west side near Fiction
- Build window seat and device storage under south windows
- Obtain mobile devices to encourage flexible use and collaborative work
- Purchase light weight, easily moveable tables and chairs for center area in front of south windows- allows flexibility to accommodate individuals and small or large groups
- Cover large support posts with whiteboards for brainstorming and sharing ideas
- Create a makerspace- an area designated for tinkering, creating, building, experimenting.

2. Reorganize materials in a more intuitive way so students spend more time with information rather than learning how to find it. (In progress)

- Abandon the Dewey Decimal System in the nonfiction section for the Metis System, an organizational system that was developed with and for elementary students.
- New signs and use of images to guide even our kindergarteners to the books that interest them.

3. Create a welcoming environment that stimulates the senses.

- Choose a color palette for walls and new furnishings
- Include a variety of colors, shapes, and textures
- Mural or artwork
- Music

Students will be included in decision making when possible. Estimated costs will be presented to the PTA at the next general meeting. Progress will be made as funds are available.

For more information contact Amy Stahura, digital teacher librarian, at astahura@jeffcoschools.us or 303.982.5808, or search online for Metis library system; makerspace; 21st century school libraries.

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