



MAPLE LEAFLET

Maple Leaf International School

A Canadian International Program

MAIN CAMPUS
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Alyce Heights Drive, Alyce Glen, Petit Valley,
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 E-mail: mlis@tstt.net.tt Website: www.mapleleaf-school.com

PRIMARY CAMPUS
 Tel: (868) 632-8339/9500
 Fax: (868) 633-7330

SPECIAL POINTS

- ☺ **No School for students** on Wed., December 11th as this will be interview day.
- ☺ Please ensure that when your student returns to school from an absence, that you provide them with a note of explanation. This will help ensure that our records are accurate.
- ☺ Be considerate of our neighbours when parking or dropping off/picking up the children to/from school.
- ☺ Kindly do not park and leave your vehicle unattended in front of the entrance to the school.
- ☺ Observe school uniform expectations including all black closed shoes.
- ☺ Remember to return library books.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional Development In-service for teachers new to MLIS in year 1 —3 is ongoing. Two sessions covered so far are Teachers Partner/Reporting and Long Range Plans. These sessions will continue for teachers once a month until May and will include topics such as class management, and assessment and evaluation.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| December 5th | Secondary Achievement Assembly |
| December 7th | Elementary Reports distributed |
| December 10th | Christmas Concert, Main Campus Grs. JK-8, 6:00 p.m. |
| December 11th | Elementary PA Day—Report Card interviews. No school for students. PTA Meeting—2:30 p.m. |
| December 12th | Achievement Assembly—Gr. 6-8 |
| December 14th | Last day of school before Christmas Holidays |
| January 7th | First day back after Christmas Holidays |
| January 22-28th | Secondary School Exams |



Check out our new webpage: www.mapleleaf-school.com

PTA KORNER



Thank you to all the families of MLIS who made our "Cook Off" a resounding success! Your contributions and participation are a true indication of the spirit of MLIS. It is support like this which meant that the PTA was able to donate 6 of the 12 new computers which the school recently installed in the Primary Campus.

As we live up to our commitment to develop and improve

all aspects of school life, the PTA donated \$10,000 to the group of Grade 11 and 12 students who, accompanied by teachers, did a splendid job of representing MLIS at the Model United Nations Assembly in Montreal.

The PTA will continue to recognize and encourage hard work, teamship and excellence, and will support this however possible. Any MLIS group or club seeking assistance may submit their request in writing to any mem-

ber of the PTA Executive Committee for review at the next meeting. As of January, these meetings will be held every third Thursday of the month. In recognition of the achievement of the MLIS Jr. Hockey Team, the PTA will provide the team's T-shirts.

Finally, we encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with our MLIS Handbook which is available on our school's website www.mapleleaf-school.com

"Life affords no greater responsibility, no greater privilege, than the raising of the next generation"



Resolutions for 2008

1. **Resolve** to stay optimistic. See the opportunity in every difficulty and anticipate the most favorable outcome from every situation. Whatever you look for, that's what you'll find.
2. **Resolve** to identify the most powerful benefit you offer to the people around you and then deliver it. "The purpose of life," said George Bernard Shaw.
3. **Resolve** to be habitually generous.

Success is not something you pursue, it's something you attract by what you become. So resolve to search for yours to contribute to others.

4. **Resolve** to be a global citizen, fully open to the cultures and influences of others.
5. **Resolve** to take control of your destiny. Don't be so busy trying to make a living that you forget to make a life.

Don't be so busy trying to make a living that you forget to make a life

Remember: You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.

Course Selection for School Year 2008-2009

Current Grade Eights (8):

1. Mr. Crowder has visited the classes once in November in preparation of the Grade 9 course selections.
2. A second visit will be scheduled for December.

Schedule of Events:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Monday, January 7 | Grade 8 class room visits |
| Tuesday, January 8 | Grade 8 Parents' Meeting Course Selection September '08-'09 Grade 9 Building B—6:30—7:30 |
| Wednesday, January 9 | Grade 9/10 classroom visits |
| Wednesday, January 9 | Current Grade 9/10 Parents' Meeting Course Selections September '08-'09 Building B—6:30—7:30 |
| Thursday, January 10 | Grade 11/12 classroom visits |
| Thursday, January 10 | Current Grade 11/12 — Parents' Meeting* Course Selection September '08-'09 Building B—6:30—7:30 |

*returning Gr. 12s for Sept. '08

Remember to Visit:

1. **www.careercruising.com**
Username: mapleleaf
Password: international

Complete Career Research Tool that allows for skill analysis, higher learning institution research and career selections.

2. **www.mapleleaf-school.com**

Comprehensive website detailing Maple Leaf International School's programs, upcoming events and policies.

Review regularly to keep abreast of News and Events.

Questions regarding Guidance / Counseling issues are to be directed to:

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Mrs. Johnston | Grade 9 and 10 |
| Mr. Crowder | Grade 11 and 12 |

REMINDERS

1. Community Services **MUST** be completed before the school diploma can be issued.
2. **ALL** university / college applications should be submitted by now.
3. Students are **RESPONSIBLE** for sending their marks to W.I., U.S. and U.K. schools.



This month we are starting a new section of our newsletter to highlight our past students and discover where they are now. They have set their goals, worked hard to achieve them and have succeeded. If you should wish to contribute to this effort, please contact Pam at 633-9500.

This month we come to you with news of Tamar Shepherd. Tamar graduated from MLIS in 2005 and wanted to pursue her helicopter pilot's license. She entered flight school here in Trinidad

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

to get her private airplane license at Piarco and then in Florida, USA to get her private and commercial helicopter license. On returning to Trinidad she had to convert from her American FAA license to a Trinidad and Tobago Commercial Pilots License. She is now flying helicopter for a company here in Trinidad.

It has been hard work, and continues to have her working long hours. However, she set her goals, worked hard to achieve them and succeeded. Tamar says that her parents were her strong supporters and encouraged her every part of the way.



TAMAR SHEPHERD

We wish Tamar continued future success.

IMPORTANT LESSONS TO MAKE YOU THINK ABOUT THE WAY WE TREAT PEOPLE

Always Remember Those Who Serve.

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10-year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. 'How much is an ice cream sundae?' he asked. 'Fifty cents,' replied the waitress.

The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it. 'Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?' he inquired.

By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient. 'Thirty-five cents,' she brusquely replied.

The little boy again counted his coins. 'I'll have the plain ice cream,' he said. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left.

When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies.. You see, he couldn't have the sundae, because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.

The Cleaning Lady.

During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions until I read the last one: 'What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?' Surely this was some kind of joke.

I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50s, but how would I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank.

Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade. 'Absolutely,' said the professor. 'In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say 'hello.'

I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.

The Obstacle in Our Path

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock.

Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way. Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

The peasant learned what many of us never understand! Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.





PRIMARY CAMPUS

Divali Celebrations

Primary Campus enjoyed a day of Divali Celebrations, dressing in traditional clothes, and tasting Indian food such as poulori, khurma and many other delicacies. Many children were delighted to have the art of mehindi painted on their hands as they learned of the importance of Divali. Here are a few photographs that depict the students involvement and enjoyment in the celebrations.



Primary students dressed in traditional Indian clothes.

Halloween Pumpkins

Halloween was celebrated at the Primary Campus with a dress down day, sweets and treats and pumpkin carving. The children were amazed at Aunty Alicia and her skills of carving a pumpkin and watched with much enthusiasm.



Senior Kindergarten Bears Picnic

Senior kindergarten students have been doing a unit on bears which has been implemented into the math, language and science programmes. It was a fun day when the children brought in their stuffed bears and ate picnic snacks on Bear Picnic day.



Wackie Hat and Tie Dress Down Day



This special day was to raise funds for an orphanage and each child who wished to dress up in a funky hat and tie paid \$2.00 towards this venture. The children had lots of fun as they expressed their personalities through their choice of clothing and at the same time raised some funds to help others.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!!

Primary Campus Students have been preparing for the Christmas Concert for December 10th, 2007, with the guidance of Auntie Adrienne. The children are excited as they practise their singing and discuss the costumes they will be wearing. Stage production is in process, designing and sewing of costumes, ordering of plants and much more. So come on out and enjoy a 'Night Before Christmas, Trini Style' starting at 6:00 p.m.!



WOW!

MODEL UN ASSEMBLY

The Maple Leaf Model United Nations Montreal delegation, would like to thank all those who supported them in their fund-raising efforts. We could NOT have done it without your help. The MUNA group experienced an extremely successful and enjoyable trip to Montreal, Quebec and proudly received a school scholarship from the Model UN because of their pre conference submissions.

On leaving for Montreal, Mrs. Pomeroy presented a "toque" to each student to ward off the Canadian Winter, while they made some time to go skating and shopping. Altogether there were 29 students and 3 teachers. Ms. Duplisea, Ms. Leacock and Mr. Noel.

Overall the trip was an amazing experience and a wonderful success as the delegates learned and discovered new strengths about themselves.

ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY SPELLS SUCCESS

Maple Leaf secondary students celebrated their successes on the recent mid-term exams at the Academic Assembly held Wednesday December 5th. Fully 125 students achieved an average of over 80%.

The guest speaker was nationally renowned footballer Mr. Lincoln Phillips. He told the students that sports is similar to life in that skills used in team sports are similar to those which lead to success in life.

He encouraged each student to believe in themselves, to constantly develop, to set appropriate goals and to never accept mediocrity. He exhorted students to do their best, not only for themselves but for the good of Trinidad.

Afterwards, the proud honours winners accepted their diplomas from school administration. It was a great day for education.

GRADE 8 WINNERS OF \$2 BILLION U.S.

Alexandra Warner, Matthew Habib and Christopher Hettgen of Grade 8S won a \$2 billion U.S. prize from a wealthy Middle East sheik to raise LIFE EXPECTANCY in their country SUDAN. These students competed against all the other grade 8 **Geography students** for this attractive prize to improve a current situation within their country. They represented Government Ministers for the impoverished country of Sudan and through effective research and a detailed and convincing presentation, they captured the well needed money donated by a rich sheik.

Life Expectancy, which is the average number of years a person is expected to live in a given country, is low and only **49 years** in the African country of Sudan. The three Grade 8 ministers attributed this to several deadly diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/Aids. The three ministers also cited poverty, hunger, poor health care and internal war as other factors that contribute to citizens living a short life span in Sudan.

They were the most effective group in convincing the sheik to donate his money to their country. The group proposed that they would use the money to buy

chemicals to kill mosquitoes, treat air borne diseases, burn illegal opium fields, give farmers grants to increase agricultural production, develop industrial activities to extract valuable resources to boost the country's economy and engage in a major educational campaign to educate citizens on nutrition. The ministers also promised to distribute effective medicines, ensure that they are used effectively, and that they are provided at subsidized costs or free. Realistic data and statistics painted a grim situation in Sudan, thus earning these passionate Government Ministers a worthy \$2 Billion U.S. to raise life expectancy in Sudan.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FOR GRADE 8

Character Education is being implemented into the School program at Maple Leaf this year, to prepare our children to be responsible citizens, making good choices and achieving their goals.

In Grade 9 we begin to log our community hours which is a requirement for an Ontario Secondary Diploma, which requires 40 hours of community involvement activities. Students must choose a volunteer activity, not for pay or for credit, but for character development. Their choice must be a constructive contribution to the community.

We have decided to introduce this concept to our Intermediate students in preparation for their senior involvement, but exposing them to volunteer work at a senior citizens home in Petit Valley, known as 'The Lodge' and run by Mr. and Mrs. Parsons. This home is well respected for its efficiency and cleanliness as well as for its care of the elderly.

Four students from Grade 8 will visit the home once for the week on a Tuesday morning for half an hour. They will read, chat and entertain the senior citizens for half an hour and begin to understand

what community service is all about in preparation for next year. Students will be rotated, so each group of 4 will have an opportunity to serve.

We are asking parents to give this some priority in your conversations at home so our students will adopt a philanthropic mindset and healthy sensitivity for our community at large.

Students have been recording their experience. Read on and you will read excerpts from Dominic Carvalho and Robin Merry on their visit to the "The Lodge".

Our Visit to Apple Blossom..... By Dominic Carvalho

This morning, November 13th, 2007, Mrs. Soderstrom took Robin, Andrew, Charlotte and I of Grade 8SH to visit the best senior citizen home in Trinidad called Apple Blossom. We were going to spend one hour talking to them and brighten the lives of the 'old folk' in the home as well as preparing for community service hours in Grade 9. When we walked in we can see why it was the best nursing home in Trinidad. Everything was clean, organized and the people were happy. They had staff helping and lots of seats for them to rest. There was even a wheel chair elevator going up the stairs for people who couldn't walk well! The one thing that everybody was looking

forward too was meeting the 102 year old man whom has the memory of an elephant.I realized how much it means to those people to get a visitor in that home since they've been there so long and their families sometimes only visit them twice a month. I am looking forward to doing community service there next year and bring joy to those people's lives.



My Visit to the Old People's Home...By Robin Merry

Today my three classmates and I went to the old people's home.First we met a lady called Susan, a very nice lady who is 52. She is there because she is mentally challenged and her mom died. She did not talk

much but when we left Miss told us how she normally talks a lot. She has a brain of a 7 year old. She is very helpful in the home and lays a beautiful table.

Then we met a lady called Gline and we did not really talk to her but Miss and her talked a lot and by listening to them I can tell that she is a very sharp person and is very good for her age.

Then we met a lady called Joanie who is 85 who has been at the home for about 5 years. She is good but a little forgetful.

From this experience, I think that it is very hard to be old and living in a home. Also I think anyone who has spare time should go take a visit because those old people get very happy for visitors. And I think we should continue doing this for the whole year.



LIBRARY NEWS

Choosing Something Different

Children's Picture Books

Kevin Henkes – popular author/illustrator, whose stories carry a strong message with endearing characters.

Melinda Long - her books on pirates contain a storyline and language that is far better than the "Pirates of the Caribbean" books that have been published as a result of the movies of the same name. David Shannon is the celebrated illustrator for Melinda Long's books.

Laura Numeroff – her books are always a favourite, titles begin, "If You Give....."

Children's Chapter Books

Mary Pope Osborne – author of the wonderful series, *The Magic Treehouse*, she incorporates historical information and facts in her stories.

Dav Pilkey – author of the truly gross, *The Adventures of Captain Underpants*, these books are sought after by most 7 to 13 year olds.

Jerry Spinelli – an immensely popular author who has won innumerable awards including the Newbery Award, he writes about school and life.

Teens and Young Adults

Eoin Colfer – The Artemis Fowl series. A combination of real life and fantasy, this Irish writer has won many awards for his children's books. Ages 11 and up.

Cornelia Funke – a German author, Cornelia Funke writes for all ages, from picture books to novels for adults. All are worth reading.

Anthony Horowitz – The Alex Rider series. None stop action that appeals to boys from age 11 and up. Horowitz is currently working on a new supernatural series, *The Gatekeeper*.

Phillip Pullman – author of the *Dark Materials Trilogy*, these books appeal to teens and adults alike.

Poetry

Shel Silverstein – writes the most amusing and sometimes disgusting poetry that appeals to all ages. His language is rich and witty and gives us something to think about.

Jack Prelutsky – his poetry tickles the most stubborn funny bones, turning children into poetry lovers.

Okay. I'm just going to come right out and say (write) out loud. It is NOT all right that your children do not read for pleasure and relaxation. I know that in this technological age where we can watch movies, listen to music and play an innumerable number of games at the touch of a button means that reading has been given an almighty boot where your children are concerned (and you too may be), but educators are becoming more and more concerned about the eventual fall-out in society if we continue down this path.

With this in mind, I would like to recommend authors to you this year. Try to stay away from the rehashed, abridged versions of the classics and the old Enid Blyton and Caroline Keen. Instead look around for books by the authors in the article, *Choosing Something Different*. Please encourage your children to make a New Year's resolutions to read, read, read and to remember to bring back their library books on a timely basis. I wish all our parents and students a very happy and restful Christmas along with a bright and prosperous New Year.

Gisèle Hobday



Library Book Exchange Schedule

Students in each grade in the elementary school have a regularly scheduled time to exchange the books that they borrow every week. Generally, children are not allowed to borrow a book from the library until they have returned the book they borrowed previously. Please take note of the day your child has scheduled in the library so that you can remind them to put their book in their bookbag or backpack to exchange.

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 8:00 – 8:30 | | Gr.5 Munro | | | |
| 9:00 – 9:30 | Gr. 5 Ramdeen | Gr.6 Charles | Gr.4 Ghany | | |
| 9:30 – 10:00 | Gr. 8SH Liverpool | Gr. 8J Liverpool | | | |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | | | | | Gr. 3 Scott |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Gr. 8L Liverpool | | | Gr.7G Yearwood | |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | | | Gr.6 Bodden | | |
| 1:00 – 1:30 | JK Ayoung | SK Hoyte | Gr. 2 Phillips | Gr. 1 Nieves | Gr. 4 Aguiton |
| 1:30 – 2:00 | | | Gr. 7 Yearwood | | Gr.7S Yearwood |