

THE MAPLE LEAF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL LIBRARY

The Maple Leaf International School library is more than just a space where information resources are stored and managed. Rather it is a dynamic and enriching environment where learning comes alive for all of our users – Administration, parents, teachers and students.

With the generous support of the MLIS Administration and the Parent Teacher Association, the library has approximately twenty-five thousand information resources in various formats to meet the information needs of our school, in support of the curriculum. These formats are books, DVDs, CDs and most recently eBooks. We also subscribe to the EBSCO host Online Databases, where hundreds of thousands of scholarly journals and publications are available full-text. We also assist teachers by providing the use of multi-media equipment such as digital projectors, digital cameras, net books and DVD players. The library collaborates also with our teachers.

So what's in store for this upcoming year? Over the July/August vacation, the library underwent a makeover in our children's section. Our Secondary Art Teacher, Mrs. Donna Clarke and her Grade 11 & 12 students graciously took time to paint a mural filled with birds, monkeys, sun and trees.



We also painted the bookshelves in green, blue and yellow to match. Here at the MLIS library, one of our goals is to encourage the deep love of reading. By creating a space in our library where young children can feel comfortable and is attractive to them, we fulfill this goal in part. We have also cut down and opened up our junior and senior fiction shelves, thus opening up the library space.

In addition, the library has expanded our resources to include eBooks.

As we all know, as technology continues to develop and change, more and more people are beginning to read eBooks using electronic reading devices. One such device is the Amazon Kindle and through the generous donation from the PTA, the library now has two Kindles. By taking advantage of the text to speech feature of these devices, we can assist our students who need help in reading with deeper meaning. The Kindles already have most of the Shakespeare plays and novels

studied across our grades, loaded onto them.

This year we hope to organize author visits, re-introduce the Scholastic Book Club, conduct after school workshops on referencing and use of the EBSCO-host online databases, a poetry week, readers theatre and of course engage everyone in the Forest of Reading 2012 reading collection among other events. We will continue to highlight various events and holidays to bring awareness to our staff and students.

As the school moves into a new year, the library remains committed to meeting the various information needs of our users and to consistently take steps to create an atmosphere that will encourage lifelong learning and a strong reading and writing habit.

Opening Hours:

7am to 3pm

Monday to Friday

IREAD, IWRITE,

ICREATE

iRead, iWrite, iCreate was the theme for the MLIS Library's first ever summer camp. The camp was held from August 3rd to the 5th 2011 at the school's multipurpose room. The various activities included reading, writing, drama, computing and art. The camp was geared towards the age group of seven and twelve. The coordinators for this three day event were Mrs. Gisele Hobday, Student Support Services; Ms. Gena Mohammed, school librarian; and Ms. Cathy Sanders, Secondary English Teacher.

Over the days, our participants enjoyed drama, brainstorming ideas for story-writing, the use of Microsoft OneNote 2010, using modeling clay to depict a scene from their stories and read-aloud. Certificates of appreciation were handed out to all participants.

An enjoyable time was had by all and we look forward to having future summer fun days.

If any parent is interested in volunteering at the library, please contact Ms. Gena Mohammed, our Library Technician

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

THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR SCHOOL

Students who attend school regularly learn more and are more successful in school than students who do not. This holds true for all levels of school from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12. Missing a few classes seems inconsequential to many parents. However, missing school affects their learning experiences, inhibits good habits, and affects their success at school.

It is difficult for children and young people to learn if they are not in class. The teaching- learning process builds upon itself so if students miss school they miss out on carefully planned sequences of instruction. Each lesson presented to students is based upon or related to those that preceded it. They miss out on active and interactive learning experiences and class participation and they miss out on the opportunity to ask questions and clarify their understanding. Just as we never regain

a moment in time wasted, the child who misses a day of school that cannot be retrieved.

Attendance patterns are formed early in life and children who develop good attendance habits in the early grades will be more likely to continue them throughout their school career. If students do not develop the habit of good attendance and prompt completion of assignments while they are in school, when will they? The habits of good attendance and prompt completion of work are life skills that will become even more important in the work place. Parents who lead by example and instill these good habits are preparing their children to be successful in life.

From experience, most teachers know that students' success in their school years is directly related to the importance that parents attach to educa-

tion. If parents believe and act as if the child's education is important, the child is most likely to believe it as well. The same can be said for school attendance (and punctuality). When parents believe that consistent attendance is important and communicate that belief clearly to their children starting in the early elementary years, children are far more likely to understand and appreciate the importance of school and their education.

Students should attend school every day, unless illness or an emergency prevents them from doing so. Parents who have questions about their child's attendance will find teachers and administrators more than willing to work with them. Together, school and families can help students develop a positive attitude about attendance and a lifelong habit that will be invaluable.

Gisele Hobday, Support Services

GRADE 11 & 12 STUDENTS

Remember that only students from Grades 11 & 12 are allowed to leave the school compound for security reasons. If you have arranged to collect your child/children outside, you will need to advise the school and note that you are doing so at your own risk and the school will not be held liable for any reason. Thank you for your understanding



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