

September 22, 2017 - From the Principal

Dear Mapleshade Families:

I would like to thank every parent and guardian for your necessary support, encouragement and positive energy that makes the beginning of the school year such a success. It is evident from how happy your children are and how well they respond to being in school, that all of the adults in their lives are doing the very best they can to make them grow in remarkable ways. We also appreciated your attendance and attention during our Open House. We spoke to you about “Growth Mindset” and wanted to embed a few resources for you in this newsletter (click on the links).

1. 5 Min. Video from Angela Duckworth, Author of Grit.

<https://youtu.be/H14bBuluwB8>

2. Take the Mindset Survey to become familiar with your own mindset to help your children grow.

<http://blog.mindsetworks.com/what-s-my-mindset>

Makerspace

We also mentioned that our district now houses a Makerspace in Birchland Park Middle School for all children in grades 3-8. Your children will all have access to participate in Maker education projects and engage with a multitude of materials to problem solve, design solutions, use models and prototype. This is a fully hands-on experience that challenges children to work hard, think critically, and have fun learning by doing. Some of last years highlights were but not limited to:

1. Building personalized flashlights and fans (gr. 4)
2. Designing solutions to make colonial life in America easier/better (gr. 3)
3. Open ended building challenges that serve a purpose / specific function (gr. 5)



Look for the Good / Caring Cafe

Every year we “catch students caring” and invite them onto the stage to have lunch with their principal in the cafeteria. This has been so impactful as a component of our positive school culture that we decided to grow this experience for children through a new “Look for the Good” Project. The Look For the Good Project is a program that helps kids think differently about themselves and others. Beginning in October, we will create a school program and awareness campaign around the core belief that gratitude changes mindsets, reduces violence, and improves everything. Below is a link to program information, its mission and positive impact.

<https://www.lookforthegoodproject.org>

Perfect Attendance

Each year any child with perfect attendance and only 1 excused time tardy and/or 1 excused time dismissed receives a pizza party with the principal at the end of the year. We will continue this incentive. Last year we partnered with Horace Mann to give each child their choice of a bicycle, Kindle Fire or a Lego Kit (14 Total!) that has perfect attendance, with no times tardy and no times dismissed! **We are continuing this tradition this year for PERFECT, PERFECT, PERFECT attendance: no times tardy, dismissed or absent. A student that accomplishes this will be offered the choice of a a Kindle Fire, or a Lego Kit (valued up to \$100.00)! GOOD LUCK!**