

Our mission is to maximize learning for all students

MAXEY Messenger



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Important Dates Coming Up:

- Tues., Dec. 16: Early Release Day (PLC)
Grades K-5: Start at 9:00 a.m., Dismiss at 2:18 p.m.
ExCITE: Start at 11:00 a.m., Dismiss at 2:30 p.m.
- Tues., Dec. 16: Cici's Pizza Night (percentage of sales go to Maxey)
- Tues., Dec. 16: 5th Grade Band performs for students
- Tues., Dec. 16: 5th Grade Band Concert for parents 7:00 p.m. (M.P. Room)
- Thurs., Dec. 18: Orchestra performs for students
- Thurs., Dec. 18: Orchestra Concert for parents 7:00 p.m. (M.P. Room)
- Dec. 22 – Jan. 2: NO SCHOOL -- WINTER BREAK
- Mon., Jan. 12: PTO Executive Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m. (Conference Room)
PTO General Meeting 7:00 p.m. (Annex)
- Mon., Jan. 19: NO SCHOOL -- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Tues., Jan. 20: NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS -- Teacher Work Day
- Tues., Jan. 20: Cici's Pizza Night (percentage of sales go to Maxey)
- Tues., Jan. 27: Early Release Day (PLC)
Grades K-5: Start at 9:00 a.m., Dismiss at 2:18 p.m.
ExCITE: Start at 11:00 a.m., Dismiss at 2:30 p.m.
- Wed., Jan. 28: Report Cards go home with Students

Professional Learning Communities at Maxey Elementary School

No doubt you have encountered the acronym "PLC" (Professional Learning Community) throughout the past two years through information you have received from Lincoln Public Schools. As you know, each LPS School designates one hour and 20 minutes monthly where students are dismissed early and teachers and administrators meet to determine how we can get our students to learn better. Maxey School has seven "Professional Learning Communities". Each grade level of teachers makes their own "PLC", and our special education teachers form the seventh "PLC".

At Maxey School we begin our annual "PLC" process each August. Team leaders and members of our Maxey PLC Council (a representative from each grade level "PLC") along with the school administration meet to analyze all of the previous school year's student achievement data. We call this meeting our annual "Maxey Data Retreat". We analyze all student report card grades for all instructional quarters, look at student criteria reference test results, Metropolitan Achievement Norm Referenced test results, chapter

test results and reading theme test results. We look for trends to see if our Maxey students are improving their academic achievement, staying about the same, or decreasing. This process takes two days. Once the analysis of student achievement is completed, we make conclusions and develop a broad action plan for the upcoming school year.

When teachers return to work for the new school year this information is provided to them and distributed to each grade level and special education "PLC". Each "PLC" develops their action plan to improve student achievement at their grade level by writing "SMART Goals". SMART goals are student achievement outcomes that are **Strategic, Measurable, Attainable**, and show **Results** over **Time**.

In the information below you will note our "Maxey Goal Alignment" where we state the LPS District Goals, Maxey School Wide Goals and the 2008-09 SMART Goals for each grade level:

Maxey Elementary School Goal Alignment

District Goals:

We will improve the graduation rate. We will increase student achievement, K-12. We will close the achievement gap, K-12.

Maxey School Wide Goal:

All students will increase their academic achievement in literacy and math in grades K-5.

2008-2009 SMART Goals:

Special Education: By implementing interventions and strategies we will increase math vocabulary knowledge with SpEd students, thereby increasing the % of students who pass the **Math** CRT from 70% to 83% by June 2009.

By providing support modifications and strategies for the students in SpEd, we will increase their **reading comprehension** understanding, thereby increasing the % of passing from 80% to 83% on the CRT by June 2009.

Kindergarten: At the end of the 2007-2008 school year, the goal of 96% of Maxey Kindergarteners will score proficient on the LPS District Reading Assessments (alphabet knowledge, phonological awareness, and vocabulary) was met. By the end of the 2008-2009 school year, we will raise that percentage to 97%.

First Grade: Last year 96% of first graders were proficient (3 or 4 on report card) in the area of fluency on the DRA. This year we will maintain 96% (or higher) of first graders proficient (3 or 4 on report card) in the area of fluency based on these same assessments.

Second Grade: Based on 3rd Grade Report Card Data from June of 2008, 82% of students were on or above grade level in reading fluency. Our 2008-2009 goal is to have 90% of 2nd graders on or above grade level in reading fluency.

Third Grade: In the spring of 2008, 71% of 3rd grade SPED students passed the **math** CRT. Our goal is to raise the percentage of SPED students passing the 2009 spring math CRT to 85%.

On the spring 2008 MAT, the mean NCE **Reading Comprehension** for 3rd grade was 78.6%. Our goal is that the mean NCE Reading Comprehension for third grade on the spring 2009 ITBS will be 80% or higher.

Fourth Grade: Our goal is for 97% of 4th grade students to meet AYP on the District Reading Comprehension CRT in the spring of 2009.

Fifth Grade: 5th Grade students will have a mean score of 68.6 NCE or higher on the ITBS (reading vocabulary).

If you have questions or need clarification about our grade level SMART GOALS for the 2008-09 school year, please contact Mr. Decker or Tracey Peterson, Chairperson of the Maxey School Improvement Team.

Nicole Selzer – “Future Forecaster”

"Nicole Selzer has been selected as a 10/11 Future Forecaster. She will be featured Friday, December 12th on the 5 p.m. newscast and read part of her award winning essay on the air. Fifth graders across the state are asked to submit an essay describing what Nebraska's weather means to them. Entries are accepted through December 31st with an essay selected weekly through the school year. If interested in more information see: www.kolnkgin.com/futureforecasters."

THE SPIRIT OF GIVING PROGRAM

The response to the Spirit of Giving program has been wonderful again this year! As of this point, for a variety of reasons, the coordinator at Hartley is unable to obtain any more wish lists from Hartley families for Maxey families to sponsor. If you would care to participate there are still a couple of ways to do so.

1) Provide gift cards in smaller denominations (i.e. \$15, \$20, \$25) to a store. Any store is fine, but the stores like Wal-Mart, Walgreens, Super Saver, Shopko, etc. have a wide range of items and each recipient may have a different need. These individual gift cards would be given out to various families in need by the coordinator at Clinton or Hartley who know the kids and their families. The gift cards can be dropped off in the Maxey office and we will deliver them to the either of the schools.

2. Collect new items that the school nurse can distribute as needed for emergencies or necessities. These are items such as socks, sweatshirts, sweatpants, sweaters, pants, underwear, gift cards to a shoe store, hats, scarves, gloves etc.. These items can be dropped off in the Maxey office and we will deliver them to the other schools.

We apologize for not being able to line up more individual families to sponsor. Obtaining wish lists of a meal and gifts does take a great deal of time and effort on their part. We are disappointed with this news. However, Maxey's generosity in this area has exceeded what their coordinator can handle and we are overjoyed with this news.

Thank you to all of you who are making this program so successful! The donations and generosity of Maxey is tremendous.

If you have any questions or would like to help you can contact Doug or Jody Wilken at 489-0299 or at Cacey_Chance@msn.com. Thank you.

Lost and Found items to be donated December 12

Our parent volunteer will be collecting any unclaimed items from the lost and found and donating them to Hartley Elementary School this Friday, December 12th. Please check the lost and found asap for any missing items.

Student Medications

With the cold and flu season upon us, here is a reminder about school health policies for administering medication. All medications need to be sent to the Health Office. School personnel can administer medication to a student with a doctor's written prescription and a signed school medication consent form from the student's parent or guardian. Medication must be brought to school in the prescription container with a label stating the student's name, physician's name and direction for administering the medication. Over the counter medication can be given with a written order from the doctor and school medication consent form from the parent. Over the counter cough drops should be left at the health office with a school medication consent form or a note from the parent. If there are any questions, please call the Maxey Health Office at 436-1153, x 2.

New LPS Permit Policy for 08/09 School Year

If after the first day of school a student who is attending an elementary or middle school closed to transfer moves from their area of attendance address or from their permitted address, the student will be allowed to finish the current school year. They would not be allowed to continue the following year. If we are looking at a family situation, all requested grade levels would need to be open for a family to be approved to continue at a school closed to transfer. Upon receipt of the denial, the transfer appeal procedure could be followed. Please call Student Services with any questions at 436-1688.

The Nutcracker Ballet

The Lincoln Midwest Ballet Company would like to congratulate the following Maxey students that are performing in this year's Nutcracker Ballet:

Elise Clayton
Nicole Fintel
Lacey Jessen
Carrie Keating
Elyse Kohler
Turner Linafelter
Brooklyn Sailer
McKaylee True

The ballet will take place December 13th and 14th at the Lied Center for the Performing Arts.

In order to be in the Nutcracker, the dancers first go through an audition process. Over the past two months they have put many hours into preparing for the show. The ballet has a cast of over 200 local dancers, and is seen each year by over 6000 people.

Tickets may be purchased by calling the Lied Center at 472-4747. They are also available at the Lied Center on the day of the show.

Please acknowledge them during school as they have worked very hard and deserve recognition for their accomplishments!