

Vision
Maplewood Middle School
2016-2017

We believe in and strive for excellence. We hold high expectations for all students. We care for one another and for our students. We educate the whole child while maintaining high achievement standards and **providing rich supports**. Each child is capable of meaningful growth.

Moving forward together

Making gains

Supporting our students

Ms. Gronau's Principal Letter
February 27, 2017

Dear MMS Families,

It was a joy to see our students shine in *The Addams Family* this past weekend. Over 150 students from diverse backgrounds participated in the cast and crew. Their talent and commitment were truly impressive. Thank you to the directors Ms. O'Sullivan, Mr. Palmgren, Ms. Duffey and Ms. Bradshaw did a fabulous job.

This week we close out Black History Month with 2 assemblies. 8th grade will participate in a Q&A session with the creators of *I Shall Not be Silent* on Monday, February 27..

On Tuesday, February 28, all grades will participate in an assembly entitled *The Right to Dream* from the *Living Voices*. This event is sponsored by your HSA. *Please note that there is some graphic language in the piece, but it is age-appropriate. Please reach out to a member of the MMS Leadership team if you have concerns about your child's participation.

Here is a description of *The Right to Dream*.

The Right to Dream is told either from the point of view of a young woman (Ruby) or a young man (Raymond). Ruby/Raymond Hollis is a young African American growing up in a small town in Mississippi on the brink of the American Civil Rights movement, the child of a World War II African American soldier and a domestic worker who is respected in their small Mississippi town.

Early on, Raymond/Ruby feels and sees the daily impact of racism. As a child, her/his best friend is a young white neighbor to the house where her/his mother works—until they are separated and forbidden to see each other. Ruby/Raymond is then introduced to leaders like Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr., showing him/her that something different may be possible for blacks in America.

Dedicated to joining these leaders, Raymond/Ruby receives a scholarship to attend Tougaloo College. Raymond/Ruby begins his/her involvement in the movement when s/he leads a sit-in at a local lunch counter. When friends are hurt, and civil rights workers are killed, Ruby's/Raymond's dedication to creating an equal society is tested. But s/he becomes a part of SNCC (Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee) and is a participant in the voter registration drive, the March on Washington, Freedom Summer and the March from Selma to Montgomery.

Ruby/Raymond and the civil rights workers are rewarded with the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act—but Ruby/Raymond is dedicated to continuing the fight against racism and raising America above intolerance.

****Please scroll to page 2 for reminders**

Reminders

Black History Month Essay Contest-Please encourage your children to participate in the Black History Month Essay contest (page 2 of this letter). Your HSA has sponsored 3 Amazon gift card prizes for top essays.

Save the date--Math Night-There will be an informational meeting for parents/guardians with children currently in grades 5-7 with the K-8 Math Supervisor Ms. Beane in the MMS Library on March 8, 2017 at 7pm. More information and flyer is forthcoming.

Women's History Month-Student Council is planning Women's History Month activities including a "Shero" door decorating contest. More info to follow. If you'd like to be a guest speaker, please reach out to me at dgronau@somds.k12.nj.us

Budget Update-There is a Board of Education budget meeting on March 7, 2017. Please plan to attend so that we can advocate for MMS needs.

Request for survey response-your voice counts!**Important**-Please complete this 5 minute survey. The link is below <https://homerom5.doe.state.nj.us/climate/Parents.php>

Notes and Reminders from Ms. Gronau:

- **After School Tutoring:** Every **Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 3:20-4:20pm** in the MMS Library there is a tutor available to students who need extended time on assessments or who required additional support. These are 4 highly qualified MMS teachers. Please remind your students about this opportunity for support.
- **Saturday Academy** continues every Saturday from 9am-12pm for students in need of additional support. Please reach out to an MMS Leadership team member or a school counselor if you have questions.

Regards,



The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically.

Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education. -Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.