



CONNECTIONS

Connecting to Your World

Where is Spring?

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Where is spring	1
Spring Basket Draw	1
Important Dates	1
Maple Syrup	2
Recipe Corner	2
Economic Growth and Civil Engagement	3
Sponsors	4
Writing Corner	4
Build a Word	4

Spring Basket

We are selling tickets on our spring basket. They are still only \$1.00 each and the draw takes place on April 17, 2013 at the Adult Learning Centre. The basket is on display at the Lakeview Restaurant.

Spring is taking its sweet time getting here. Days are getting longer and we have had Easter. It is the time of year for warm sunny days and melting snow and possibly some buds, showing the promise of leaves on the trees. This year, this is not what is happening. Every couple of days we are putting on the warmer sweaters and turning up the heat again, wondering what is the hold up.

In the meantime, students are moving along into the spring time activities. The rush is starting to finish up those courses and get ready for those exams that mark the end of another school year. Fifteen weeks left to hand in lessons and then it is

exam time. We have a lot of hard working students this year. We have a possibility of 7 or 8 graduates this June.

There is a lot of progress happening in all subjects. Some are learning to read for the first time, some are mastering fractions and others are learning the English language. It is very exciting for them no matter where they are in their learning. It is exciting for us to be a part of this process.

Important Dates

- June 7th – Last Day for Graduates to hand in lessons
- June 10th – Last Day to write exams for Graduates
- June 12th – Last Day for lesson submission for all other students
- June 18th – Graduation (Dryden Cultural Centre)

Maple Syrup

Though all trees produce sap, maple trees produce greater quantities with sweeter taste. Only a few varieties have the high sugar content necessary for maple syrup. Sugar maple is the most commonly tapped species.

With spring thaw, enzymes change the starch in maple trees to sugar, which mixes with water absorbed through roots. This sap is only sweet enough to make maple syrup a few weeks a year. Sap needs frosty nights and warm sunny days in order to flow, so production is usually in February, March and April. As soon as the weather turns warm enough for buds to form, the sap turns bitter.

Maple sap contains about 97% water, so it must be boiled to transform it into syrup, which has no more than 34% water. Since sap doesn't keep, it must be boiled the day it is collected. If it is not boiled long enough, mould will form. If boiled too much, it will crystallize.

Maple Syrup Facts:

- ✓ Canada produces about 85% of the world's supply of maple syrup. Quebec produces more than 90% of the Canadian market, while Ontario and the Maritimes each contribute about 4%.
- ✓ During the sugaring season, the average tree yields 35 to 50 litres of sap, which produces one to 1.5 litres of maple syrup. On average, it takes 40 litres of sap to make one litre of syrup.
- ✓ Birch syrup, made from birch trees, is used the same way as maple syrup but is more difficult to make and this is reflected in the price. On average, it takes 80 to 100 litres of sap to produce one litre of syrup, twice that needed for maple syrup.

Recipe Corner

Maple Mustard Pork Tenderloin

1 whole pork tenderloin

3 tsp sage

Salt and pepper to taste

1 tbsp butter

1 cup chicken broth

2 tbsp pure maple syrup

2 tbsp Dijon mustard

Preparation:

Slice pork tenderloin into ½" thick slices. Sprinkle with 1½ tsp sage, salt, and generous amount of pepper.

Melt butter in heavy skillet over medium high heat. Add pork and cook until golden brown on both sides and cooked through, about 1½ minutes per side.

Transfer pork to plate, leaving drippings in skillet. Add broth, maple syrup, mustard, and remaining 1½ tsp sage to skillet. Boil until syrupy and thick, about 3 minutes, scraping up browned bits, reduce heat to low.

Return pork and any accumulated juices to skillet and cook until just heated through, about 1 minute. Serve pork with sauce.

Economic Growth and Civil Engagement

As stated in last month's newsletter, here are more facts and figures concerning the essential skills in the area of

Economic Growth.

- A 1% increase in adult literacy levels could generate a 1.5% permanent increase in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita. In Canada, this would amount to about \$18 billion a year that could be re-invested in Canadians' priorities. (Literacy in Ontario)
- Investment in education is three times as important to economic growth over the long run as investment in physical capital such as machinery and equipment. (Literacy in Ontario)
- Education the least educated has a greater impact on GDP than increasing the skills of those with higher literacy skills. (Literacy in Ontario)
- Raising a country's literacy scores by 1% relative to the international average is associated with an eventual 2.5% relative rise in productivity and a 1.5% rise in national income per person. For example, a 2% increase in wages and earnings from improvements in national literacy would provide approximately a 1.8% increase in revenue in a country that is dependent primarily on value-added tax. (Literacy in Ontario)

Civil Engagement

- Literacy and essential skills are not just for understanding but are also for thinking critically and responding. To participate full in civic life, citizens must have the skills necessary to access and act upon information. Literacy is more than just a tool – it is a necessity for civic engagement. (Literacy in Ontario)
- Literacy and essential skills are key to participating in the democratic process. Literacy groups have observed that persons with less literacy skills do not generally vote. The voting process requires some sophisticated skills including: registering to vote, understanding rights, deciphering a ballot, understanding the campaign literature and feeling confident to make an informed decision. (Literacy in Ontario)

Watch next month for facts and figures on Health.

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Sponsors for 2012/2013

"It is not how much you give or do, but how much you put into giving or doing." ...and we are very grateful for those people in our lives.

Here is a list of this year's Corporate Sponsors.

- Balmer Motor Hotel
- Contact North
- Dr. Matthew Walkiewicz and Dental Associates
- Forever Green Gift Boutique
- Lakeview Restaurant
- Red Lake Lions Club
- Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre
- Red Lake Career and Employment Services
- Rubicon Mineral Corporation
- Sobey's Red Lake
- Wilson's Business Solutions

If you are interested in becoming a corporate sponsor for the 2013/14 year, we have an information package available to anyone interested. Please contact our office for more information.

Build a word

How many words of two or more letters can you build from the letters in this word?

Drive

You don't have to use every letter. You may use the letters in any order. You may also use the same letter more than once. We found at least 29 words that were not proper names. How about you?

Writing Corner

Maple Tree in Spring!

Our maple is a grand old tree
with branches thick and tall.
I love it when the leaves are red
and golden, in the fall.

Our maple tree stands dark and strong
Against the winter sky,
And offers shelter from the cold
To squirrels high and dry.

Our maple tree in summer
Gives cooling shade at noon,
And whispers to the evening breeze
A charming little tune.

But Spring is when our maple tree
Is at its most ambitious,
With buckets hanging round its trunk
To catch sweet sap, delicious?