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Maple Run Unified School District

The Maple Run Unified School District is where inquiring minds, compassionate hearts, creative expression, healthy lives and service to the community develop so all can learn, achieve and succeed.

- Bellows Free Academy
- Collins Perley Sports Center
- Fairfield Center School
- Northwest Technical Center
- St. Albans City School
- St. Albans Town Educational Center
- September 2018

Celebrating Successes Across Our District



Maple Run Unified School District's first day of school was Wednesday August 29 at all of the buildings. Administrators and staff have been preparing for weeks. On August 16 and 17 the Administrator retreat was held at the new Hampton Inn on Lake Street. A great deal of work was accomplished, and a path to moving forward on the five-year plan was made. This year's wellness/team building activity was a scavenger hunt through historical St. Albans, with activities to be done along the way. [Continued....](#)

Convocation 2018



Convocation 2018 was held on Friday August 24 at Collins Perley Sports Complex. This year focused on student leadership and it was a resounding success. The Keynote – students presenting Maple Run SpeakChorus – was the highlight of the day. Students also led an activity for the adults. A "Perfect Attendance" was acknowledged, the Leadership award was announced, and a VT-NEA representative spoke.

Over-all roughly 550 employees attended and left motivated for the new school year. It was a great day ending with a great lunch by The Abbey Group. #

Maple Run SpeakChorus



The 2018 keynote presentation will be a hard act to follow. Board member Jeff Morrill, who attended the event summed it up better than I could:

"I'm not sure exactly what made it so powerful, but it was. There were so many messages -

- *Everyone is included, everyone has a part to play, everyone has a role in making something better.*
- *Everyone has a different time when they are needed to lead.*
- *We are better/stronger working all together than we are alone. Together, our voice is loud.*
- *We can't just hear, we need to listen.*
- *We can't just talk, we need to communicate.*

- *We need to look to the future, and pass things on to those who come after us.*
- *We need to keep getting better.*

Most importantly, I heard the kids say, "If you let us, we've got this." Just like Kevin had to let go of the convocation controls.

"We've got this."

Those kids were clearly talented and special. But I also felt like they weren't special. There are thousands of other kids in the district, that go to school with them every day, who are just like them. We just need to give them the tools they need, the opportunity to lead and get the job done. To take care of each other. To take care of our community.

Their confidence was incredible. And inspiring. First one stepped up and knocked it out of the park. Then the next one did the same. And the next one. And the next 25. They were all terrific."

Here is a link to the Maple Run SpeakChorus presentation. <https://youtu.be/yGcmvFbUfLY?t=1371>

Mental Model



Following the keynote presentation staff was divided into 25 teams and students led them in a Mental Model activity. The activity was to turn over 30 images and place them in order. The students provided the instructions – one person inside the circle at a time – you must hold your breath while in the circle – those outside of the circle cannot speak while someone is in the circle. It provided a chance to work with staff from different buildings and in different positions. The challenge was to determine what the order was – there were hidden numbers in the images – and work together to complete the task. It was harder than it sounds and was very interesting to see how different people process things differently. The picture sets are available for teachers to use as tools with their students. #

Perfect Attendance



This was the first time a staff member was recognized for perfect attendance. Mary Cronin was recognized for not missing any time for the entire school year. No time at all - not one-hour! This is quite the feat for anyone, and in her position as Paraprofessional at City School it was appreciated! Well done Mary. #

Superintendent's Leadership Award

At the Maple Run Unified School District convocation Lorna Jerome, Administrative Assistant/Registrar at St. Albans Town Education Center, was named for the Superintendent's Leadership award for 2018. Nominations for the Award is open to any non-administrative employee of the Maple Run Unified School District who displays exceptional performance in their action and behavior to continue the SU's tradition of excellence in support of our member schools' missions.

Consideration is given to nominees who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Displays exceptional performance in their action and behavior above and beyond their required duties
- Takes extraordinary steps to achieve results that enhance instruction and operation of the district
- Generously and positively impacts the school and community through selfless acts
- Displays exceptional dedication, leadership, initiative and respect to carry out the mission of MRUSD
- Demonstrates a high quality of work performance including creativity and initiative
- Exhibits a positive attitude towards fellow employees, students, the public and work demonstrated by availability, cooperation, courtesy, friendliness, helpfulness, and presence on the job.

Only one person is chosen from roughly 600 staff annually to receive the award. This year, to a standing ovation, Ms. Jerome was given the title. It was a well-deserved honor as sited in the letter entering her name was read to those present. In part it stated: To say that Lorna is the heart and soul of our school would be an understatement. Lorna is the first face and voice to greet our new students



and their families. After her first meeting she will know their names and the names of their siblings. Families instantly feel connected to SATEC at a personal level because of the way they are greeted by Lorna on each and every visit to our school. Families will often share sensitive information with Lorna that they are uncomfortable sharing with a teacher but know will be important for the school to know. For all things families need Lorna is most frequently their go to person. #

VT NEA President, Don Tinney



This former BFA teacher, now President of the VT-NEA, addressed the group. He spoke of the need to continually work together towards common goals, and of the important roles that teachers play. Mirroring the theme of convocation, he spoke of students and their needs. Mr. Tinney stated "Hope is our only option. As educators, our reason to hope is always right in front of us. Our students. We are surrounded by our Mission; our purpose, and our reason for going to work every day. Our kids." View the speech at this link: <https://youtu.be/yGcmvFbUfLY?t=3880> #

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First place went to the Green team consisting of Joan, Dave, Michelle and Shannon. They received a trophy that it was determined would be a rotating trophy to be passed along to next year's winners. The other teams were the Purple team, consisting of Angela, Joanne, Sean and Chris; the Gold Team, with Leeann, Mona, Lisa, Stacie and Kevin; and the Blue team with Heather, Jason, Martha and Melanie. Brenda worked with Al Corey to create the script and had Alex Lehning at the Historical Society and Central Office staff participate by handing out envelopes when the answer or task was completed. #

