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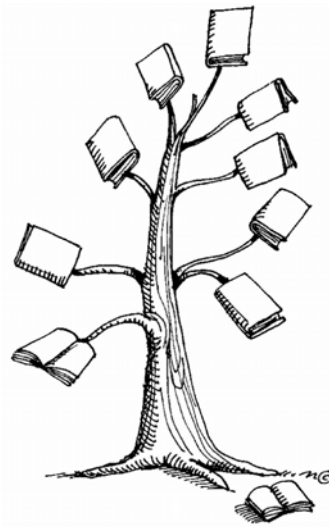
# Maple H.S. E.L.L. News

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## A Note from the Editor

Semester 1 at Maple saw a lot of changes in our Department. Our office moved, we welcomed back Ms. Sitt, and we offered many new courses for the first time. Students benefited greatly from the opportunity to study Science, Geography, Careers & Civics in a class of only English Language Learners. Perhaps next year Maple High will offer even more ELL sections of courses. In the meantime, thanks to Mr. Weinstein from our Guidance Dept. & Ms. Del Bove who worked

so hard last year to make these new course offerings a reality. This semester we're even offering a section of ELL French. What better way to help you learn English than by studying French, a language which shares a lot of roots with English.



## Parents' Night on April 1

It's hard to believe Semester 2 has already begun. Soon students will receive their Interim Report Card. This report gives parents & guardians a glimpse of how their kids are doing. Though the report does not give

them a mark, it does evaluate students' learning skills, such as their work habits, organization & all-important teamwork skills. Watch for this report card to go home the week of March 9-13. Then do make an appointment to meet each of

your son/daughter's teachers on the evening of April 1, from 6:30-8:30. If this time is not convenient for you, don't hesitate to contact us to arrange an alternative time to discuss your student's progress in our courses.

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MAPLE H.S.  
50 Springside Rd.  
Maple ON  
L6A 2W5

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

Ms. A. Sitt: 905.417-9444  
ext.229  
Voicemail: 564

Mr. B. Hassanally: 905.417-  
9444, ext. 229  
Voicemail: 513

Ms. M. Straka:  
905.417.9444, ext. 229  
Voicemail: 566

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# Improving Digital Literacy With MOODLE

Have you used a Moodle? Do you know what one is? It's a teacher-created web-site students can use to look at & download assignments, do research, turn in assignments & also chat with each other online. Of course the chat is supposed to be about the course!

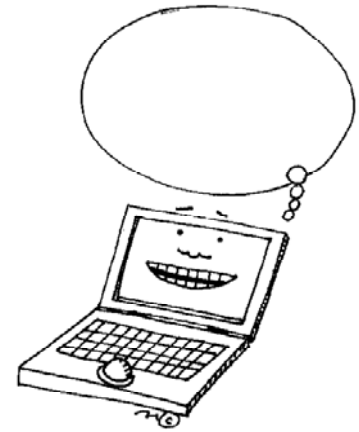
Moodle can in this way become a wonderful tool for teaching kids how to use a PC and the Internet, while still making it relevant to the courses we teach.

Student can work at any time of day & from home as well as school. This encourages them to spend time on schoolwork outside school hours. I've seen posts to the ESL E Moodle as late as 2 am in the morning!

When students were debating controversial topics, many of the other students also gave their own opinions on the Moodle. This allowed them to say what they thought without needing to feel shy in front of the class.

This is one of the beauties of the technology; students can work at their

own pace & anywhere they have access to a computer with Internet.



## ESL D — Semester 2

This semester ESL D has 12 students who are already hard at work on their first essay. We have been studying poems and will also read a number of short stories on the theme of *Coming of Age*. Very soon the students will be going to the school library to choose a novel for their Independent Novel Study. By the end of the semester, each reader will write an es-

say about his/her novel, including quotations to support his/her opinions. This semester will also see the students leading seminars as teachers teaching the class. They will study media & complete a "Media Watch" as part of their research of cultural groups who have immigrated to Canada over its history. During our last unit, we will look at some of the

rights and responsibilities of citizens in Canada today. Ms. Straka's goal is to constantly challenge the students to think critically & to become fully independent lifelong learners.

## ESL E at University of Toronto

ESL E spent the day at the University of Toronto on Nov. 25 to see the gorgeous campus and to participate in drama workshops about *Romeo & Juliet*. The morning was interrupted by a fire alarm, which was quite exciting. You could really smell the wood smoke in the halls as we left the building. In the afternoon, we watched a live performance of Shakespeare's famous play about the



two lovers. The kids found the pre-show activities of the cast, such as selling drinks & telling jokes, quite funny. Everyone thought Romeo was very handsome. In fact Kyle, the actor who played Romeo, was definitely the most popular member of the cast by the time the play ended. Too bad Mercutio was injured during a fight!

# Our Students Write

The best part of the field trip was when: we went to the lunch and walked all to the food street; we decided to eat at McDonald's and talked to Ms. Straka more about *Romeo & Juliet*. (Sobia Tahir)

We walked little around and watched university and learned quite bit about University of Toronto. (Asifa Jat)

The most interesting thing for me was:

The climax of the story was the most interesting because I never knew what will happen next but after I felt so pity about Romeo & Juliet because they both died; this shows a true story of real lovers. Also their parents learned a lesson that nothing is more important than their kids. (Sobia Tahir)

(It was) when Ms. Straka showed to us the "building of Ghost". It was right in front of us. (Asifa Jat)

It was funny when:

The funniest part was when Mercutio was making fun of Tybalt in embarrassing way. The acting of the actors was funny. (Sobia Tahir)

It was funny at the start of the play when they came around all of us and created the scene like it's all real and we are part of this real world. (Asifa Jat)

## Semester 2 ESL Trip

The Department is busy planning another field trip. This one will also be on a winter theme. We are hoping to go skiing, snowboarding or snowtubing sometime very soon. That would be while there is still snow on the ground! Watch for more information on this trip in the very near

future. It will be an all-day trip & will be loads of fun, as our trips always are.



## Good Luck to all our ELL's for Semester 2!

