

# The Tuesday Takeaway

Tuesday, Dec. 17

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The *Tuesday Takeaway* is designed to be a quick-hit-style newsletter with stories most pertinent to employees at the top and stories including student celebrations toward the middle. If you scroll toward the bottom, you will find information relevant to specific employee groups, such as important updates from Teaching and Learning for teachers.

If you have an idea for a story, like one about your school, students, or department, [please send it our way!](#) We'll do our best to fit them in an upcoming issue.

[Past issues of the Takeaway are available on our website.](#)

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## Tuesday Tech Tip of the Week

Welcome to **Tech Tip Tuesday**, where every Tuesday, we spotlight handy tech tips and tools designed to streamline your workflow.

### Tech Tip: YouTube keyboard commands.

Keys 0 through 9 skip through a video. Press "1" for 10%, "2" for 20%, etc. When a video is paused, you can use the "J" key to rewind, the "K" key to pause, and the "L" key to fast forward.

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## Mapleton News

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### Mapleton's Annual Ugly Sweater Day is TOMORROW!

Get ready to break out those ugly sweaters! Mapleton's annual ugly sweater celebration is happening this Wednesday, Dec. 18. Staff members who wear an ugly sweater are also invited to wear jeans. Remember, your sweater doesn't have to be holiday-themed—any and all ugly sweaters are welcomed and encouraged!



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## School tours for 2025-26 enrollment season begin Jan. 13

School tours for prospective families will begin on Monday, Jan. 13. School tours are a vital tool for enrollment because they give prospective families a firsthand experience of the school's environment, culture, and offerings. Tours also provide an opportunity to showcase unique programs, highlight student achievements, and address specific questions, making families feel more informed and connected before choosing the Mapleton school the is best for them.

You can view the [calendar of school tours and open house events here](#).

Help us spread the word by sharing Mapleton's calendar of enrollment events with your friends and family!

Enrollment/Annual Update for the 2025-26 school year opens on Monday, Jan. 13.

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## Upcoming district closures and 260-day calendars

Per the Board approved 2024-25 academic calendar, the District (all schools and offices) will be closed on the following dates:

- Monday, Dec. 23, 2024: Non-workday
- Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024: Board Holiday
- Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2024: Board Holiday
- Thursday, Dec. 26, 2024: Board Holiday
- Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024: Board Holiday
- Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025: Board Holiday

**The District will be OPEN (limited services and offices) but closed for public business on:**

- Friday, Dec. 27, 2024
- Monday, Dec. 30, 2024

\*Please note that District services, including but not limited to technology and custodial support, may be limited or unavailable on Dec. 27 and Dec. 30.

\*\*260-day employees are the only employee group scheduled to work on Dec. 27 and Dec. 30.

### FOR 260 DAY EMPLOYEES ONLY:

Please note that per the [260 Day Employee Calendar](#), both Dec. 27, and Dec. 30, are scheduled workdays, even though district schools and offices will be closed for public business. 260-Day employees are required to choose one of the following options:

- Report to work
- Use a vacation day
- Use a personal day

If you are a 260-day employee, please ensure that you notify your direct supervisor (as soon as possible) of your choice for Friday, Dec. 27, and Monday, Dec. 30, to ensure appropriate plans can be determined for the department.

**FOR ALL EMPLOYEES:**

To view and access your employee calendar, please visit [Mapleton Public Schools website](#) and select the appropriate calendar to view.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Human Resources directly at [hr@mapleton.us](mailto:hr@mapleton.us).



**Please unplug your electronics over the holiday break**

Please help us reduce our carbon footprint and save some district funds by unplugging your appliances and electronic equipment over the holiday break. Doing this can bring down our “phantom electricity” usage, which could save us as much as 10% on our electric bills. **In fact, last year we saw considerable savings following this process.**

Some examples of things to unplug are coffeemakers, extension cords, televisions, and computer stations. Also, lighting and HVAC schedules have been adjusted for the break so if you have something planned in a building during this time, please have it scheduled in SchoolDude.

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## Teaching and Learning

### PLTW Program implementation plan for K-5 classrooms

Thank you to all K-5 teachers who participated in the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) survey. Based on your valuable feedback, Mapleton will implement a three-year, full implementation plan for the PLTW program in K-5 classrooms, with 67% of teachers selecting this option.

As part of this plan, the units taught during the 2024-25 school year will be repeated in the 2025-26 academic year. The remaining PLTW units will be introduced in the 2026-27 school year.

Please note that all K-5 teachers teaching science will need to complete the PLTW training before the start of the 2025-26 school year. For questions or more information, please contact [Karla Gruenwald](#) at extension 1021.

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### **Collaborative Structures survey for instructional staff**

Please take a few moments to complete the Collaborative Structures survey by the end of the day **THIS Friday, Dec. 20**. This survey is designed to gather feedback on how Instructional Design Teams (IDT) and Instructional Leadership Teams (ILT) are being implemented and impacting your school. Your responses will help guide our next steps in supporting and strengthening these collaborative structures.

The survey is divided into two sections: one focusing on the weekly IDTs and the other on the impact of your school's ILT. Your feedback is essential!

Please [complete this survey](#) by end of day on **Friday, Dec. 20**.

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### **CogAT Universal Screening Training for second and sixth grade teachers on Jan. 16**

Mapleton's annual training for the CogAT Universal Screening of all second and sixth grade students will be held virtually via TEAMS on Thursday, Jan. 16, from 4:30-6:00 p.m. This will be paid time for all participants upon submission of a complete, signed claim for payment (provided at the training).

- **Gifted and Talented (GT) Leads:** All GT Leads at schools that have second and/or sixth grade students should plan to attend. High school GT Leads do not attend.
- **Second and sixth grade teachers:** It is a district expectation that second and sixth grade classroom teachers be the primary test administrators as they know their students best and can ensure a positive, well-managed test environment.
- **Referred K-11 students:** We will also test any referred K-11 students during the same testing window. We will provide District Test Administrators, who will complete all testing for students in grades other than second and sixth grade, as well as any make-up testing needed.

A calendar invitation will be sent out in January. For questions or additional information, please contact [Brad Russell](#), at extension 1905.

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## Points of Pride



### Mapleton's Transportation team delivers joy through holiday toy drive

Mapleton's Transportation Department made the holidays extra special for about 300 students by hosting a toy drive and festive giveaway event last night, Monday, Dec. 16. Families enjoyed cookies, hot chocolate, and a visit from Santa and his elves as students excitedly exchanged "golden tickets" for gift packages.

The Transportation team launched the toy drive in November, with bus drivers generously contributing most of the gifts. Students were selected based on need or exceptional behavior, and the joy on their faces as they hugged Santa and opened their presents made the event a heartwarming success. "We're a big family here, and our kids are part of that family," said Heather Cooper, Transportation Director.

Read the full story on our website, in the ["News from the District," here](#).

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### Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts students explain biology through manga

Last week, students in Dr. Searing's biology class at Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts (MESA) wrapped up their unit on cell processes by combining science and art.

The students created manga pages, Japanese-style comics, to illustrate concepts such as the cell cycle/mitosis and photosynthesis—essential processes that explain how cells grow, divide, and, in the case of plants, create food to sustain life. The class chose to use manga because it's a medium the students enjoy, and the project sparked high levels of engagement.

"There were some students who really shined with both their art skills and their biology knowledge," said Dr. Searing. "I think the fact that they had to represent their thinking visually and in writing, in a story format, supported their understanding of the ideas."

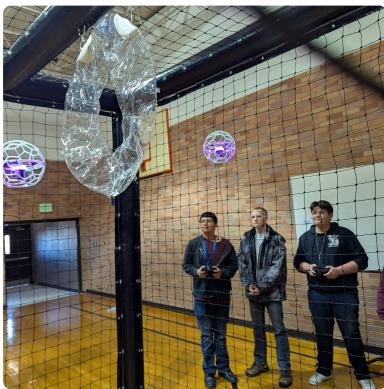
The completed manga pages are displayed in MESA's first-floor hallway, outside the biology classroom, showcasing the students' creativity and mastery of the material.

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# Where is? MAPLETON!

 Mapleton Public Schools



## York International School students learn technology through drone soccer

What's all the buzzing at York International School? Students in the Intro to Engineering Design class are building and flying drones as part of the school's Drone Soccer program. From assembling their own drones to preparing for a state tournament, these students are gaining hands-on experience in STEM while exploring potential career opportunities in the growing drone technology field.

Want to learn more about their exciting journey? [Click here to read the full story!](#)



go Adventure!"

## Here are this week's "High Fives"

**Sarah Kopperud, Marisa Abreo, Brie Shoemaker; Adventure Elementary**

"Adventure leaders continue to focus on ensuring literacy practices are in place and how this work fits into the Dual Language Model at Adventure. Sarah, Marisa, and Brie are focused on developing collaborative structures that ensure student learning is the north star through thoughtful feedback, teacher leaders, and coherence in their school's Big Rocks! Way to

*Submitted by Karla Gruenwald*

**Randi Grasmick, Clayton Partnership School**

"Shout-out to Randi Grasmick, Clayton's outstanding first grade teacher, for collaborating with multiple classrooms to showcase effective whole-group literacy instruction and expertly model the Phonics Lesson Plan (PLP). Your efforts are making a significant impact on instructional growth and student learning!"

*Submitted by Lanaye Smith*

**Nick Johnson, Clayton Partnership School**

"Nick has been spreading joy with our grades 5/6 orchestra students. They have been caroling for classrooms and in the hallways at Clayton. It is wonderful to see students engage in this way and show so much pride in all they have learned. Thank you, Nick, for letting them show off!!

*Submitted by Jolene Durrant*

**Kurt Dennis, Explore PK-8**

"I have taught for many years and have had great administrators over that time. This year, Kurt joined our crew at Explore. He has demonstrated something that an administrator has not done for me in such a long time. Teachers love when we are recognized for our hard work but he goes above and beyond and acknowledges the little things we do as well. He shows and appreciates all that I and our staff do daily. I walk away with him saying thank you and with a smile on my face. Explore is lucky that you joined our crew. "

*Submitted by a Joyce Martinez*

[If you know someone who deserves a "High Five", submit your appreciation using this form.](#)

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## Mapleton Education Foundation

### Thank you for your support of the Mapleton Holiday Shop

This past Saturday, the Mapleton Education Foundation and the Integrated Services team partnered to host a successful Holiday Shop for more than 71 Mapleton families, serving 225 kids this holiday season. Thanks to generous Mapleton employees and community partners, including A Precious Child, Latter-day Saints, and Northglenn-Thornton Rotary Club, more than 500 gifts were available for children of all ages.



Families were able to "shop" for their children and select the perfect gifts. Families also received winter weather gear and personal resources through the Kiwanis Club. While their guardians

shopped, kids had fun making holiday crafts. Thank you to our generous staff and the many volunteers who participated in making this memorable holiday event possible.

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## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, Dec. 18 - Mapleton's annual ugly sweater celebration!**

**Wednesday, Dec. 18** - Board Business Meeting, 6 p.m.

**Monday-Friday, Dec. 23-Jan. 3** - Winter Break

**Monday, Jan. 6** - Teacher Work Day - No school for students

**Tuesday, Jan. 7** - Professional Development Day - No school for students

**Wednesday, Jan. 8** - Board Study Session, 5:30 p.m.

[Skyview Wolverines Athletics Calendar](#)

[District Performing Arts Calendar](#)

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### Tuesday Takeaway Call for Submissions

Let's brag about it! Is something happening in your school that you would love to highlight or "show off?" We know you are awesome, so let's celebrate it! Please submit a paragraph and pictures detailing your good news to [communications@mapleton.us](mailto:communications@mapleton.us).

**Email:** [communications@mapleton.us](mailto:communications@mapleton.us)

**Website:** <https://www.mapleton.us/>

**Location:** [7350 Broadway, Denver, CO 80221, USA](#)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/MapletonPublicSchools](https://www.facebook.com/MapletonPublicSchools)

**Twitter:** [@mapletonschools](https://twitter.com/mapletonschools)



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