



Bright Spots and Big Moments in Mapleton

Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025

Welcome to **Spark! Bright Spots and Big Moments**, your biweekly roundup of feel-good stories, standout moments, and celebrations from around Mapleton. From student achievements to staff highlights, this community newsletter is all about what makes Mapleton shine.

Spark stories are organized by:

Bright Spots – shout-outs and recognitions

Big Moments – experiences, milestones, and celebrations

Behind the Spark – staff profiles or features

Community Connections – events, partnerships, family highlights

High Fives!

[Share your good news!](#)

[Send a "High Five"!](#)

Past issues of all our employee newsletters are available [on our website](#).

Bright Spots

Be Present, Be Proud, Be You! – Message from Student-Athlete, Analise B.



Be Present, Be Proud, Be You! – Message from Student-Athlete, Carlos C.



You're present, you're proud, and this week is all about being YOU!

Our very own Skyview Wolverine varsity athletes remind us that showing up matters. Being at school on time, every day, is what keeps them at the top of their game. Attendance builds more than grades—it builds confidence, skills, and consistency that help you shine in the classroom, on the field, and in life.

Check out the special attendance messages from our student athletes!

[Be YOU video - Skyview Wolverines starting quarterback, Carlos C.](#)

[Be YOU video - Skyview Wolverines varsity volleyball player, Analise B.](#)



We want to see your bracelets! Now that you've collected all four of your bracelets, we want to see them! Share pictures of students and staff sporting their bracelets at your school to communications@mapleton.us.

This October, join us in celebrating Mapleton's classified employees and school principals!

During their September business meeting, Mapleton's Board of Education unanimously adopted proclamations recognizing **October 6-10 as Classified School Employee Week**, and the month of **October as National Principals Month**.

We are proud to recognize **Mapleton's dedicated classified employees** who play an essential role in the success of our schools and the growth of our students. While they may often work behind the scenes, their impact is felt every single day in every corner of our district.

Classified employees:

- Clean and maintain our school facilities, creating safe and welcoming spaces for learning.
- Safely transport students to and from school each day.
- Prepare and serve nutritious meals that fuel learning.
- Keep our main offices organized and running efficiently.
- Maintain important records and systems that support student success.
- Hire and onboard new staff while supporting the needs of current staff.
- Balance our district's budget and steward resources wisely.
- Keep our technology systems up and running.
- Assist in classrooms and on playgrounds to support students directly.

Together, these vital contributions ensure that our schools run smoothly and that students, staff, and families feel supported and cared for.

Each year, the National Association of Secondary Schools, the National Association of Elementary Schools, and the American Federation of School Administrators designate **October as National Principals Month** in recognition of the dedication and tireless efforts of administrators to provide excellence in educational leadership. In celebration of our outstanding school principals and assistant principals, and in support of their daily contributions to the education of our students in Mapleton Public Schools will recognize the month of October as National Principals Month.

We invite you to help us celebrate our classified employees and school administrators! Take a moment to share your gratitude for a staff member or administrator who has made a positive impact on you or your child's school experience. **Send your messages to communications@mapleton.us.**

Big Moments

Adventure Elementary Fun Run tops goal, welcomes new mascot

A big thank-you to Adventure Elementary students Sebastian, Iker, Viviana, and Camilia for kicking off this year's *What's Right in Mapleton* presentations at the Board of Education Business Meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 24.

The students shared an update on their third annual Adventure Fun Run, which raised an incredible \$13,000—exceeding their goal by more than \$1,000! These funds will support student recognition programs, bring in guest speakers and authors, and provide exciting field trip opportunities.



The highlight of the evening came with the debut of “Chispa,” Adventure’s brand-new marmot mascot. As the school continues to grow its robust dual language program, students wanted a mascot that symbolizes their belief that bilingualism is a superpower.

The marmot was the perfect choice—these Colorado mountain dwellers are known for their unique whistles and chirps, a special language of their own. Just like Adventure students, marmots are natural communicators and proud of their voices! Families helped select the name during the Fun Run, and “Chispa,” meaning *spark* in Spanish, received the most votes.

Students also shared a revised version of their school song, featuring Chispa, which added to the celebration. Thank you, Adventure Elementary, for sparking so much joy and pride in Mapleton with your energy, creativity, and school spirit.

Global Leadership Academy students explore careers at Rockies’ Business of Baseball Day

Last week, students from Global Leadership Academy's graphic design, student news, and sports marketing classes took their learning to Coors Field for **Business of Baseball Day**.

Colorado Rockies staff from broadcasting, operations, engineering, retail, client services, event planning and graphic design shared career paths, described day-to-day work and answered questions about life inside a Major League Baseball organization.



To cap the real-world lesson, students attended the afternoon game and saw how each role contributes to the fan experience.

Thanks to the Colorado Rockies for inspiring students and showing how classroom skills connect to exciting careers.



AFJROTC cadets virtually meet Apollo 13 astronaut, explore "space art"

Mapleton's Air Force JROTC Raider Squadron cadets were treated to a special presentation on Thursday, Sept. 11, where they learned a little about space art and history and virtually met a famous astronaut.

At the district's Skyview Campus, the cadets first listened to Logan Jaeren, founder of the nonprofit STEAM4Space, which connects students to STEAM using real mission patches and storytelling about human spaceflight and space exploration. He showed how design choices such as star counts, color palettes and hidden symbols capture the story of each mission.

Then, through Zoom from his home in Houston, cadets spoke with Fred Haise, the last surviving member of the three-astronaut crew of Apollo 13. Known as NASA's "successful failure," in 1970,

Apollo 13 was forced to abort its planned lunar landing because of an onboard explosion but still managed to return its crew safely to Earth. Haise shared stories of his career as a test pilot, the challenges of astronaut training, and the teamwork that saved the mission.

“Not many students get to meet an astronaut,” said Lt. Col. (Ret.) William Arrington, Mapleton’s senior aerospace science instructor. “This gentleman went into space and lived through a remarkable event. He’s living history, and this gives the students an unforgettable experience.”

Behind the Spark

MEC students lead professional development on youth voice and restorative practices

Seven Mapleton Early Career Prep (MEC) students led a four-hour professional development session for staff on Friday, Sept. 19, focused on youth voice and restorative practices. Restorative practices help people talk through conflict, repair harm, and rebuild relationships. The session launched a new partnership with UP for Learning, a nonprofit that empowers students and adults to improve schools together.



At MEC, restorative practice is central to the school model. It shows up in everyday interactions and in how discipline is handled, shifting the focus from “Who broke a rule?” to “Who was harmed, and how do we make it right?” Most importantly, students help lead the work, preventing and fixing conflicts while strengthening community.

Now, a student team of ninth- and 10th-graders from MEC will carry the work forward, with two upperclass students serving as paid UP for Learning interns. The program was brought to the school by Christianna Brown, a MEC Restorative Practices Lead and one of the school’s in-house Big Picture coaches.

Together the team will:

- Learn what restorative practices are, why they matter, and how to use them
 - Use student-led research to hear from students and staff and co-create fair, welcoming routines and supports
 - Review data and feedback to improve school systems and handle peer conflicts in ways that repair harm, not just punish
-



Welby celebrates student growth

Welby Community School of the Arts is celebrating a milestone year as Mapleton's highest-performing school on the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS). For the third year in a row, Welby earned a green "Performance" rating, a testament to its strong academic culture and commitment to student growth.

Staff say the secret is a strong academic culture, high expectations, and helping students build confidence while

keeping testing week fun and stress-free. From creative traditions during CMAS week to year-round focus on standards and student voice, Welby is proving that academic excellence and joy in learning go hand in hand.

[Read the full story here!](#)

Community Connections

Homecoming 2025 Parade Route

Ruta del Desfile de Homecoming 2025

THE GREAT HOMECOMING 2025

Skyview Wolverines VS The Academy Wildcats

Friday, September 26, 2025 | Viernes, 26 de septiembre de 2025

ACHIEVE ACADEMY

PRESCHOOL ON POZE

SKYVIEW CAMPUS

The 2025 Homecoming parade will begin and end at the Skyview Campus, 8990 York St., Thornton. Starting at the Skyview Campus the parade route is as follows:

- Right on York Street, follow York Street to Clayton Street
- Left on Poze Boulevard
- Left on 91st Avenue
- Right on Clayton Street, ending back at the Skyview Campus

Schedule of Events

- 2:45 p.m. | Parade staging at the Skyview Campus
- 3:00 p.m. | Parade begins
- 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. | Festivities at the Skyview Campus (Food, games and more!)
- 7 p.m. | Kickoff at DiTirro Stadium. Cheer on the Skyview Wolverines as they take on The Academy Wildcats!

El desfile de Homecoming 2025 comenzará y terminará en el Campus Skyview. Empezando en el Campus Skyview, el desfile tomará una:

- Derecha en la calle York, siga la calle York hasta la calle Clayton
- Izquierda en Poze Boulevard
- Izquierda en la Avenida 91st
- Derecha en la calle Clayton, terminando en el Campus Skyview

Horario de Eventos

- 2:45 p.m. | Desfile en el Campus Skyview
- 3:00 p.m. | Comienza el desfile
- 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. | Festividades en el Campus Skyview (Comida, juegos y más!)
- 7 p.m. | Inicio en el Estadio DiTirro. ¡Animemos a los Skyview Wolverines que se enfrentan a los Academy Wildcats!

Mapleton Public Schools

Visit www.mapleton.us for more information

Homecoming is this Friday: “The Great Homecoming”

- Homecoming weekend is here, **Friday–Saturday, Sept. 26–27**, with this year’s theme “The Great Homecoming,” inspired by “The Great Gatsby.”

Friday, Sept. 26

- **Two-hour early release** for all schools. Afternoon (PM) preschool is canceled.
- **Parade staging** begins at 2:45 p.m. at the Skyview Campus. (*Staff: please do not park in the main lot or move vehicles before 2:30 p.m.*)
- **Homecoming Parade: 3–4:30 p.m.** | [View the parade route map](#)
- **Tailgate: 4:30–6 p.m.** at Skyview Campus with food, games, and school/group fundraisers.
- **Homecoming football game: 7 p.m.** at DiTirro Stadium vs. The Academy Wildcats. Mapleton students and staff enter free with a Mapleton ID. PreK–6 students must be with an adult.

The Great Homecoming 2025

Friday, Sept. 26

2-HOUR RELEASE

3:00 pm (APPROX.)

PARADE

STARTS AT SKYVIEW CAMPUS

3:45-6:00 pm

TAILGATING CELEBRATION

AT SKYVIEW CAMPUS

7:00 pm

Skyview Wolverines

VS.

The Academy Wildcats

FOOTBALL GAME AT DITIRRO STADIUM

SKYVIEW CAMPUS

Saturday, Sept. 27

- Homecoming Dance — “The Great Homecoming”
- 7 - 10 p.m., Skyview Student Center (8990 York St., Thornton)

A promotional poster for the Mapleton Education Foundation Gala 2025. The background is dark with a starry, night-sky effect. On the left, there is a large, glowing Ace of Spades playing card and two dice. In the top left corner is the Mapleton Education Foundation logo, which consists of a stylized sunburst icon and the text 'MAPLETON EDUCATION FOUNDATION'. In the top right, the phrase 'Take a chance for change' is written in a white, cursive font, with a small starburst icon below it. The main title 'GALA 2025' is in large, bold, yellow capital letters, with 'MAPLETON EDUCATION FOUNDATION' in smaller yellow capital letters underneath. Below the title, the text 'Save the Date' is in white, followed by 'Friday, Oct. 3, 2025 @5:30 pm'. A horizontal line separates this from the venue information: 'Westin Westminster' in white, followed by '10600 Westminster Blvd' and 'Westminster, 80020'. At the bottom, the website 'WWW.MAPLETONEDFOUNDATION.ORG' is written in white.

MAPLETON
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Take a chance for change

GALA 2025
MAPLETON EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Save the Date
Friday, Oct. 3, 2025 @5:30 pm

Westin Westminster
10600 Westminster Blvd
Westminster, 80020

WWW.MAPLETONEDFOUNDATION.ORG

The Mapleton Education Foundation Gala is coming up fast. Get your tickets today!

The Mapleton Education Foundation's 21st Annual Gala is next Friday, Oct. 3, 5:30 to 10 p.m., at the **Westin Westminster**. We hope you'll join us for this special event with a new format: a Vegas-style casino night experience with no formal program or live auction. Just eat, play, dance, and support opportunities for Mapleton students!

Enjoy an Italian buffet, casino games with prize drawings, a DJ and dancing, more than 100 silent-auction baskets, wine and whiskey pulls, and purchase-only travel opportunities like an African safari for two and a Grand Luxxe Mexico villa stay.

[Purchase your tickets here now!](https://www.mapletonedfoundation.org)

Proceeds support scholarships, teacher grants, extracurricular programs, and imaginative learning experiences for Mapleton students.

Help us reach \$50,000 so every Mapleton student can dream big.



Mapleton Reads - coming soon!

This year marks the 13th year of Mapleton Reads, the district's community reading Initiative. From October 2025 through January 2026, Mapleton Public Schools will promote the following book titles:

"All the Books," by Hayley Rocco and Caldecott Honoree John Rocco (*K-3rd Grade*)

"All the Books" introduces us to Piper Waterstone—a charming, book-obsessed little chipmunk who treasures her collection of books so much she refuses to share it. She takes her beloved books everywhere, hauling them through every season, until the burden of her growing pile becomes truly cumbersome. After a mishap—in the rain, of all places—she's gently guided into a grand, welcoming library by a kindly mole (the librarian), who shows her that she can enjoy all the books she wants... as long as she's willing to share them with her neighbors

"All Thirteen," by Christina Soontornvat (*4th-8th Grade*)

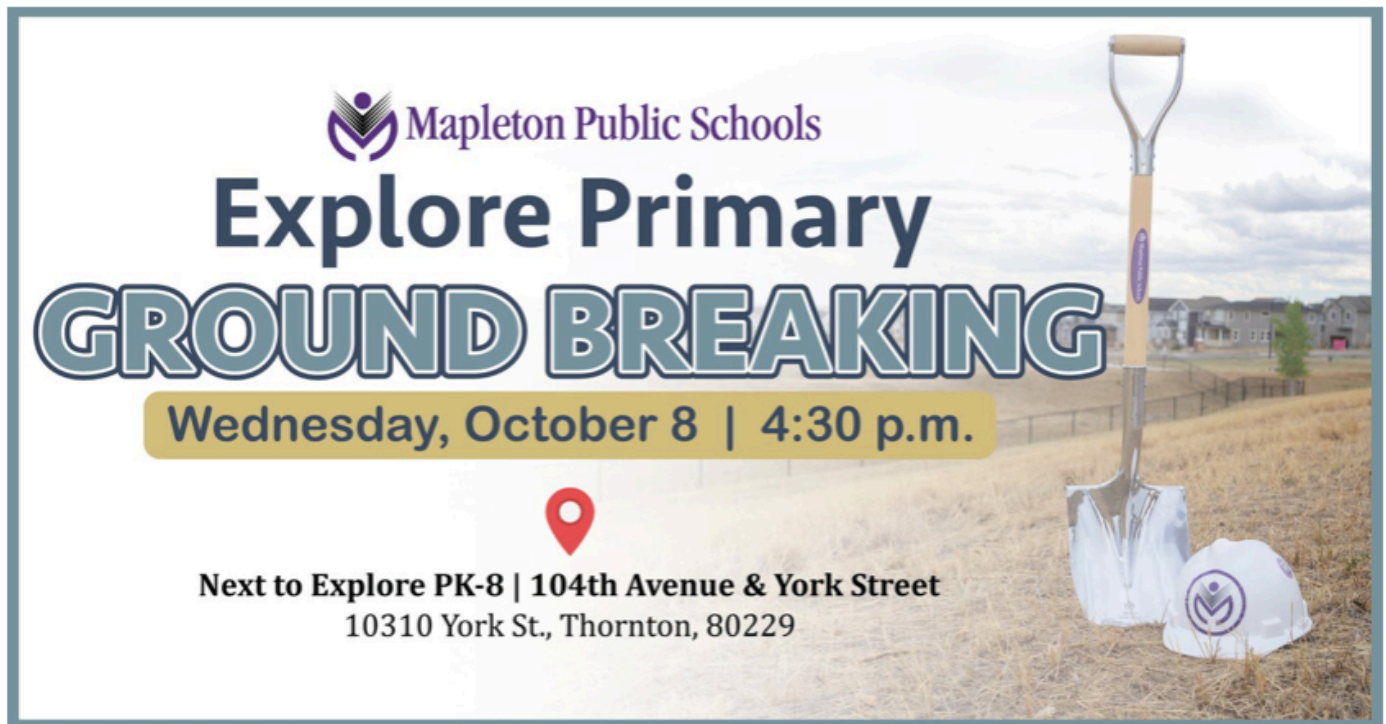
"All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team" tells the gripping true story of the 2018 Tham Luang cave rescue in Thailand. When twelve young soccer players and their coach became trapped deep underground by sudden flooding, the world watched in suspense as an international team of divers, engineers, and volunteers raced against time to bring them out safely.

Through vivid storytelling, photographs, and firsthand accounts, we learn about the boys' courage, the dedication of their rescuers, and the global cooperation that made the seemingly impossible rescue possible. This inspiring account of this story shows the power of hope, teamwork, and resilience.

"A Monster Calls," by Patrick Ness (*9th-12th Grade*)

"A Monster Calls" is a captivating and beautifully told story about love, loss, and the courage it takes to face the truth. Every night since his mother fell ill, Conor has been visited by nightmares. But one night, when the clock strikes 12:07, something different comes—something ancient, wild, and elemental. A monster arrives at his window, not to scare him, but to tell him three stories. In return, Conor must tell his own: the truth he has been hiding, the one he cannot bear to say out loud. Woven with myth, tenderness, and deep compassion, "A Monster Calls" is a powerful exploration of grief, healing, and hope.

Pick up copies of each title at any Mapleton school or the Administration Building and read along with us!



Join us for the Explore Primary groundbreaking, Wednesday, Oct. 8

Mapleton will break ground on **Explore Primary**, a new school designed for preschool through first grade, on **Wednesday, Oct. 8, at 4:30 p.m.**, near the current Explore PK-8, **10310 York St., Thornton.**

Explore Primary will serve our youngest learners. Once construction is complete, the existing Explore school will be renovated to house second through eighth grades, adding classroom space in one of Mapleton's fastest-growing neighborhoods.

Explore Primary's design features: barnyard-inspired elements, pastel colors, natural wood tones, and bright, welcoming spaces. Dedicated areas for a library, music, and gym are tailored to early learners.

This project is the second of Mapleton's "Final Four" capital improvements, made possible by community support in 2022.

Everyone is invited to join us for this special celebration!

High Fives!



"High Fives" are a quick and fun way to celebrate the people who make Mapleton shine. From kind gestures and creative ideas to everyday excellence, these shout-outs recognize those who go above and beyond and remind us of the many ways our community makes a difference.

If you know someone who deserves a "High Five", submit your appreciation using this form.

Zuleika Leon, Operations

"Zuleika works endlessly to keep up with the demands of her job and I don't think she ever says 'No,' (lol). Keep up the good work and keep shining that beautiful smile! The team and I are so happy to have you working with and for us."

Submitted by Tara Clemons

Suzy Ott, Integrated Services

"Suzy is always willing to go that extra mile for you, even if you aren't in her department. I've watched Suzy take on a bit of just about everything over the years. You go, girl! We need more people with your spunk and work ethic!"

Submitted by Tara Clemons

Enid Nieves, Tiffany Dragoo, Ronaldo Ortiz, Beronica Gutierrez, and Brittany Martinez; Integrated Services

"A big 'Thank You' to our team for helping sort and distribute all the attendance bracelets for all the schools!"

Submitted by Suzy Ott

All members of Mapleton Staff and team who helped make the 9/11 ceremony a success

"Thank you to everyone who was involved with the 9/11 ceremony. It was a big event with lots of community visibility."

Submitted by Lt. Col. (Ret.) William Arrington

Rebecca Borrego, Bobbi Kyle, Robert Martinez, Zuleika Leon, John McCafferty, Mel Garcia and many more

"The Operations campus has been without a custodian for the past few weeks, and these individuals have stepped up by taking out the trash, stocking bathrooms, cleaning, and more. I greatly appreciate their help during this time of low staffing to make sure our buildings stay clean

and usable for all of the staff who use these spaces on a day-to-day basis. Thank you very much everyone for your extra help and efforts!"

Submitted by Tara McMachen

Mike Reynolds, Global Primary Academy

"Mike works hard every day to ensure that our school is well taken care of for our students and staff. He always has a positive attitude and goes above and beyond to help us. He takes pride in his job and GPA is so lucky to have him as part of our team."

Submitted by Laura Nelson

Nicole Woodruff, Monterey Community School

"Nicole has been an amazing coach. She is welcoming and gives awesome feedback. Since starting at Monterey, Nicole has been a huge help for me with navigating the Benchmark curriculum as well as just being an overall positive light! I'm so grateful to be able to work with her!"

Submitted by Elyse Katz

Brandi Thorman, Global Leadership Academy

"You are my 'go to' person for all things related to high school math! I appreciate your expertise, insights, and responsiveness! You have answered so many questions and I have learned so much! Thank you, thank you, thank you!"

Submitted by Veronica Shea

Global Leadership Academy's Noble Cafe

"A huge shoutout to the GLA Noble Café' students and Cheryl Gerde for brewing the best coffee on Broadway! We appreciate you, your hard work, & dedication. Keep the caffeine flowing!"

Submitted by Business Services Staff

Tessa Crooks, Explore PK-8

"Ms. Tessa goes above and beyond by serving as the heart and face of the front office, greeting every student, parent, and staff member with warmth and professionalism. Her contributions extend far beyond daily tasks, as she helps create a welcoming environment that keeps the school running smoothly. She ensures that families, staff, and students alike feel valued, heard, and supported. Her presence reflects the school's commitment to care, community, and excellence, making her an essential part of our school's success. Thank you for all that you do!"

Submitted by Explore PK-8 Staff

Mapleton Literacy Partnership Teacher Leaders: Ashley Martinez, Benny Trujillo, Frances Fisher, Lauren Hamner, Mahalia Weber, Monica Romo, Carrie Parker, Katie Bakanec, Moriah Lerma, Nicole Lehman, Quinn Carney, Randi Grasmick, Nicole Nemchek, Anna Scarlet, Amber Bornemeier, Cadence Litt, Charley Bolster, Gretchen Hundemer, Mariah Martinez, Savannah Martella, Michael Durga, Louis Baldwin, Amanda Murphy, Jessica Schafer, Micheala Draper, and Nicole DiPaolo

"Teacher Leaders across Mapleton have come together as the Mapleton Literacy Partnership to continue to prioritize and align K-3 literacy practices across all of our Mapleton elementary

schools. Through this collaborative partnership, these teachers are continuing to develop their practices as they support their K-3 colleagues, ensuring strong reading outcomes for all Mapleton readers."

Submitted by Karla Gruenwald

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



Spark! Bright Spots and Big Moments – Call for Submissions

Do you have a bright spot or big moment to share? Email communications@mapleton.us, or call 303.853.1020 to share your ideas!

Email: communications@mapleton.us

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

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

Facebook: facebook.com/MapletonPublicSchools

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



Mapleton Public Schools

Mapleton is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

