



# The Takeaway

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

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Welcome to “The Takeaway,” your weekly source for news and updates from across the district.

If you have a news item or update to share, we’d love to hear from you. [Send your ideas our way.](#) and we’ll do our best to include them in a future issue.

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

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## Mapleton News

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### Share your feedback in annual District Services Survey

Mapleton staff,

As part of our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, we are inviting you to share your feedback in our annual District Services Survey.

We launched this survey for the first time last year and used your input to create action plans that helped us strengthen the services we provide to each other. This year, we want to continue building on that progress.

The data from this year's [District Services Survey](#) will further assist departments in identifying and implementing opportunities for improvement. You will be asked to select all departments or locations you have interacted with over the past twelve months. For each department that you have interacted with, you will be asked to evaluate each department in five categories:

**Accessibility:** Can we reach a live person or use an electronic tool to reach someone?

**Accuracy:** Did we receive the right product/service, or was a variation communicated?

**Attitude:** Was it a nice experience? Did you receive service with a smile?

**Operations:** Do day-to-day operations run efficiently and effectively?

**Timeliness:** Was the response or solution delivered when promised?

To maintain the confidentiality of the District Services Survey, our partners at Studer Education will administer the survey, manage the data collection, and aggregate the data to provide results reports to department leaders.

Your voice matters, and your feedback helps us learn, grow, and improve. Thank you for taking a few minutes to share your thoughts and perceptions.

The **District Services Survey** can be accessed here:

[Survey Link: Mapleton Public Schools District Services Survey](#)

Sincerely,

Mike Crawford  
Superintendent

## District Services Survey



### Star Trak Wellness Challenge registration now open

Registration is open for Mapleton's latest wellness challenge, **Star Trak**, which will run **Monday, Oct. 20, through Sunday, Nov. 16**. [Register here](#) and get ready to track steps or convert more than 100 activities (swimming, biking, rowing, badminton and more) into step equivalents.

#### How it works

- Track your steps with your preferred device and explore seven eras of space exploration in the Star Trak platform.
- Earn red, yellow, or blue stars (worth 3, 4, or 5 points) each day by walking 6,000 steps up to 10,000+.
- Aim for 15 points per week and 60 points overall during the four-week program.
- Features include optional team participation, consistency badges, a wellness wall, and more than 200 healthy recipes.

#### Teams

- Participate individually or form a team of **up to five members**.
- Team formation deadline: **Wednesday, Oct. 22**.
- The challenge ends **Sunday, Nov. 16**; you may update activity until team scores freeze on **Tuesday, Nov. 18**.

## Register for Star Trak!

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### **Celebrating Mapleton's classified employees and school principals!**

In September, 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, we will recognize the month of October as National Principals Month.

**We invite you to join us in celebrating our classified employees and school administrators!** Take a moment to share your gratitude for a staff member who is making a difference in Mapleton. **Send your messages to [communications@mapleton.us](mailto:communications@mapleton.us).**

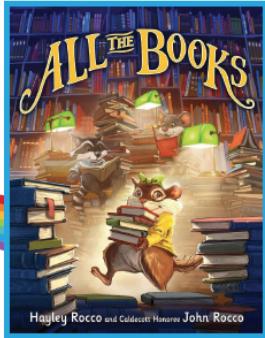
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Mapleton Public Schools

# MAPLETON READS

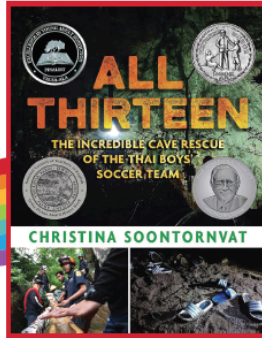
## Community Reading Program



### ALL THE BOOKS

Written by Hayley Rocco  
and Caldecott Honoree John Rocco

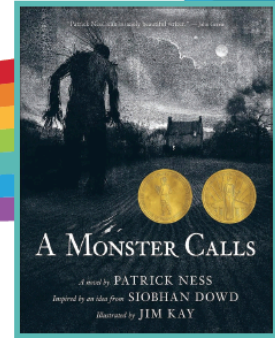
Reading Level: Grades K-3



### ALL THIRTEEN

Written by Christina Soontornvat

Reading Level: Grades 4-8



### A MONSTER CALLS

Written by Patrick Ness

Reading Level: Grades 9-12

## Mapleton Reads

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!

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## **Mandatory cybersecurity awareness training: Two courses required by Friday, Oct. 31**

All employees should have received an email last week from software company **KnowBe4** with links to **two mandatory online courses** on spotting phishing, protecting accounts, and keeping district data safe.

### **Courses:**

2025 Your Role: Internet Security and You (*20 minutes*)

Phish Alert Button in Microsoft 365: Identify Spam and Report Phishing (*10 minutes*)

### **Please complete both courses by Friday, Oct. 31.**

Didn't see the message? Check junk/spam or request a resend.

The training is designed to help every employee recognize, prevent, and respond to cyber threats. Your participation strengthens our collective defense. For questions or concerns, contact the [Mapleton Help Desk](#).

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## **New Phish Alert Button now available**

As part of Mapleton's new Cyber Security Awareness program, staff can now use the **Phish Alert Button** (PAB) to easily identify and report suspicious emails. The **Phish Alert Button** appears as an orange hook icon in the Outlook ribbon.

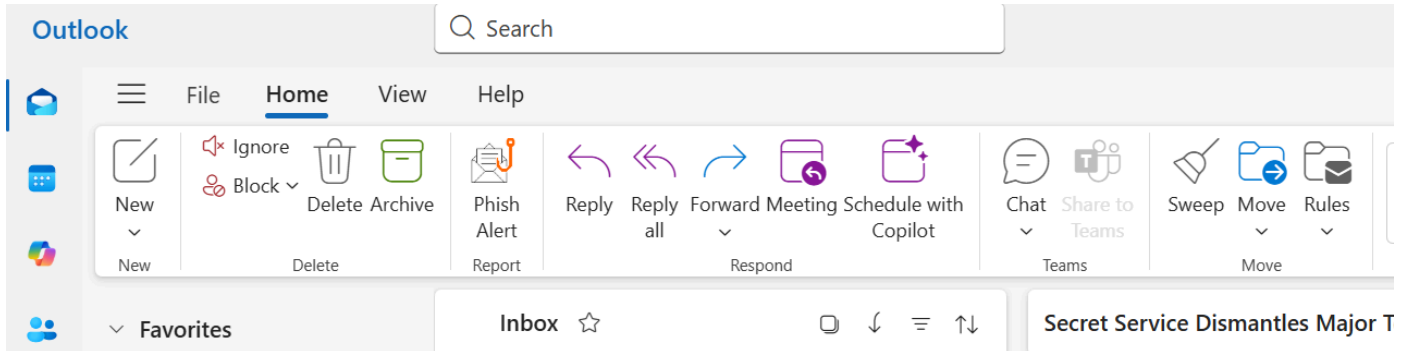
### **To use the PAB:**

Select the suspicious message

Click "Phish Alert"

Choose whether the email is "phishing" or "spam"

The message will be removed from your inbox and forwarded to the Technology team for review, saving time and eliminating the need to enter a ticket. A [step-by-step guide for the Phish Alert Button](#) is also available.



Recognizing the difference between phishing and spam is important:

- **Phishing** emails are fraudulent attempts that imitate trustworthy senders, often using alarming language to urge immediate action. These should always be reported as phishing using the PAB.
- **Spam** messages are unsolicited advertisements for products, services, or websites. They typically emphasize offers, discounts, or benefits and should be marked as spam.

By staying alert and using the Phish Alert Button, staff play a vital role in keeping Mapleton safe from cyber threats.

## Phish Alert Button – User Guide

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# Explore Primary GROUND BREAKING

Wednesday, October 8 | 4:30 p.m.



Next to Explore PK-8 | 104th Avenue & York Street  
10310 York St., Thornton, 80229



## Join us for the Explore Primary groundbreaking TOMORROW, Oct. 8

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

Once construction is complete, the existing Explore school will be renovated to serve 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!**

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## Watermelon Trophy Watch: York defends its title!

The final results are in: York International School pulled ahead at the finish and defended its Meal Benefit Watermelon Trophy, ending at 89.2% completion. Welby Community School of the Arts finished a close second at 88.6%, with Achieve Academy third at 82.3%. Congratulations to York, and thank you to every school for the strong push.

Even though the race has ended, families can still complete [the Meal Benefit Application](#). Continued submissions help ensure important funding for our schools and resources for our families.

For questions or support, contact [Lindsay Hull](#) at ext. 1126.

Schools	Percent of Free and Reduced Lunch Applications Submitted
Academy High School	79.5%
Achieve Academy	82.3%
Adventure Elementary	71.7%
Clayton Partnership School	73.3%
Explore PK-8	71.2%
Global Primary Academy	79.1%
Global Intermediate Academy	75.2%
Global Leadership Academy	69.4%
Mapleton Early Career Prep	64.5%
Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts	70.0%
Mapleton Online	N/A
Meadow Community School	77.8%
Monterey Community School	76.6%
North Valley School for Young Adults	54.3%
Performing Arts School on Broadway	73.8%
Preschool on Poze	80.1%
Trailside Academy	68.9%
Valley View Innovation School	74.1%
Welby Community School of the Arts	88.6%
York International School	89.2%

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## Assessment and Accountability

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### Kindergarten TS Gold ratings due Monday Oct. 13

Kindergarten teachers, please enter ratings in TS Gold for all six domains: social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and mathematics, by Monday, Oct. 13.

- Enter data in KEA First Term (2025–26). If data is not entered into the correct term, it will need to be re-entered.
  - For instructions on navigating the KEA survey, [click here](#).
  - After finalizing data for all children’s objectives, please [print student report cards](#) and share them with parents/guardians.
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## New PSAT/SAT onboarding survey now open

PSAT/SAT onboarding opened yesterday is now completed in the new **SAT Suite Ordering and Registration (SSOR)** system, replacing the former emailed survey. Schools must use SSOR to enter testing staff information, testing device details, and other required testing data.

**Access:** Each testing school should have received an email on Monday, Oct. 6, with its first-time **SSOR access code** (similar to the K-12 Reporting Portal). Use the code to log in and begin onboarding.

**How to complete:** Follow [this guide](#) to access SSOR and finish the onboarding steps.

## SSOR Onboarding Guide

## Integrated Services



### Support the Unified Wolverines with a team shirt

Show your support for the Unified Wolverines by purchasing one (or both!) of their 2025-26 team shirts! Shirts are \$20 each, and all proceeds go directly to our Unified program and athletes.

Unified Sports, created in partnership with Special Olympics Colorado, is a program that brings together athletes with and without intellectual disabilities to train and compete on the same teams. This fosters friendship, understanding, and inclusion on and off the field.

[Click here to order your shirt.](#) Thank you for celebrating the power

of inclusion with us!

Please contact [Clare Murphy](#) at x1107 for any questions or to find out more ways you can support our athletes!

**Order your Unified Wolverines T-Shirt!**

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## All special education staff meeting this Wednesday, Oct. 8

Integrated Services invites all special education staff to the first of four 2025–26 all-staff meetings TOMORROW, Wednesday, Oct. 8, from 8 to 11 a.m., in the Administration Building (Garden Level).

ILC teachers: Enter a substitute in Frontline as Professional and note that the Department of Integrated Services will pay for the a.m. half-day substitute.

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## Teaching and Learning

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### Participants needed for Instructional Design Team rubric work group

Teaching and Learning is forming a district work group to update the **Instructional Design Team (IDT) rubric**. About 20 participants are needed, including teachers, Instructional Guides (IGs), and school administrators from across all our PK–12 schools.

The group will begin meeting in November to revise the IDT/DDI rubric and strengthen districtwide practices that support student growth and achievement. Members will meet three to five times after school and will be compensated at the current extra-duty rate for time outside contract hours.

Interested staff should [complete this interest survey](#) by **this Friday, Oct. 10**.

[IDT Interest Survey](#)

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## Upcoming Events

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

**Thursday, Oct. 16** - End of First Quarter

**Friday, Oct. 17** - Professional Development Day

**Monday, Oct. 20** - Instructional Planning Day

**Wednesday, Oct. 22** - Board Business Meeting, 6 p.m.

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

**Friday, Nov. 7** - Teacher Trade Day

[Skyview Wolverines Athletics Calendar](#)

[District Performing Arts Calendar](#)

[Share your good news!](#)

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

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## **"Spark! Bright Spots and Big Moments" 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)



**Mapleton Public Schools**

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