Mount Arlington Public School District

LAKER INSIDER

Issue No. 25-26-3 November 26, 2025

2025 Veterans Day Celebration

Our school proudly hosted a Veterans Day program and breakfast to honor the local heroes within our community. Students and staff came together to recognize the service and sacrifice of the veterans who have protected our freedoms. The morning included heartfelt student presentations, words of gratitude, and musical performances by our band and choir. It was a meaningful opportunity for our school to express its deep respect, and thanks to the men and women who have served our country.

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LAKER INSIDER

Issue No. 25-26-3 November 26, 2025

Principal's Corner

I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for the hard work our entire staff puts in every day on behalf of our students and their success, as well as the families of our wonderful district. With Thanksgiving tomorrow, I am especially thankful for the privilege of serving as the principal of Decker and MAPS. I truly love working with all of you, seeing our students each day, and experiencing the tremendous support we receive from the Mount Arlington community.

I hope everyone enjoys an amazing, restful, and delicious Thanksgiving and a well-deserved long weekend—especially the dedicated teachers at both Decker and MAPS.

2025 Veterans Day.....continued

Mount Arlington Public School District

LAKER INSIDER

Issue No. 25-26-3 November 26, 2025

World Languages

Sugar skulls:
Students are creating sugar skulls as part of our exploration of the Día de los Muertos tradition. Through this hands-on activity, they learn how calaveras honor loved ones who have passed and celebrate the blending of art, symbolism, and cultural heritage. This project helps students deepen their understanding of the holiday's significance while expressing their own creativity.

Quinceñera Skit:
Students are performing a skit that highlights the traditions and cultural significance of a quinceañera. Through acting, script and props, they bring to life key elements as well as Chapter 5A vocabulary of this milestone celebration, deepening their understanding of its cultural roots, learned vocabulary and values.

Mount Arlington Public School District

LAKER INSIDER

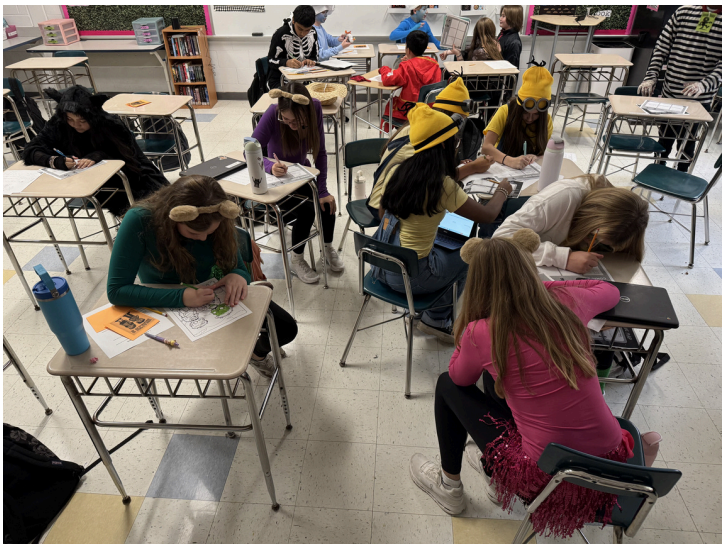
Issue No. 25-26-3 November 26, 2025

Thank You!!

Thank you to Melanie Quichimbo Tamayo and Salma Fetiha for spending part of their recess time collecting bottles and cleaning up our outside play area. We appreciate your good deed!
Let's all do what we can to keep our school grounds clean and free of trash!

6-8th Grade Zombies

6-8th grade students investigated the origins of a zombie outbreak at MAPS this Halloween. During their academic classes, students studied herd immunity, developed a comic to depict the origins of the apocalypse, created a survival plan using maps of school and the community, and completed a STEM shelter activity. For an extra layer of fun, every student began the day with three health cards. Throughout the day, they challenged each other to Rock, Paper, Scissors. Each time they lost, they surrendered one health card. If a student lost all three health cards, they became a zombie.



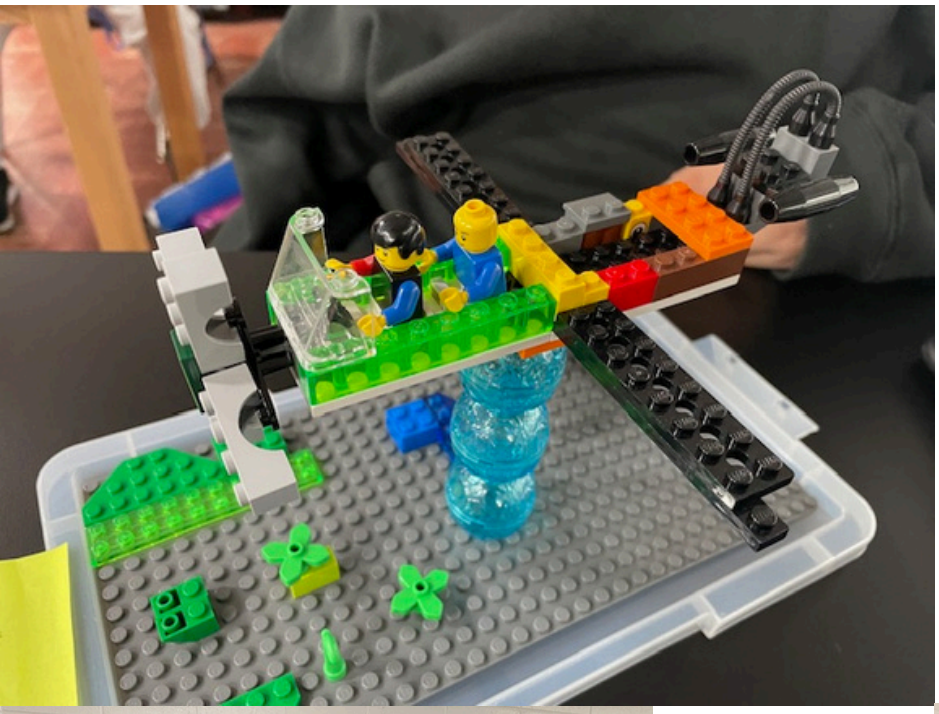
Mount Arlington Public School District

LAKER INSIDER

Issue No. 25-26-3 November 26, 2025

Mrs. Chow's 5th Grade ELA

Students in Mrs. Chow's 5th grade ELA have been reading the novel Hatchet. The class utilized Lego Kits to create either predictions of the novel or recreated main events from the book.



Mount Arlington Public School District

LAKER INSIDER

Issue No. 25-26-3 November 26, 2025

8th Grade Science

In 8th grade science, students recently designed and built their own marble roller coasters to explore the relationship between potential and kinetic energy. Using cardstock, tape, and plenty of creativity, they experimented with hills, loops, and turns to see how energy transforms as the marble travels along the track. Students loved testing their designs, troubleshooting challenges, and watching physics come to life in a hands-on, collaborative way.

Mount Arlington Public School District

LAKER INSIDER

Issue No. 25-26-3 November 26, 2025

3rd Grade Balloon Parade

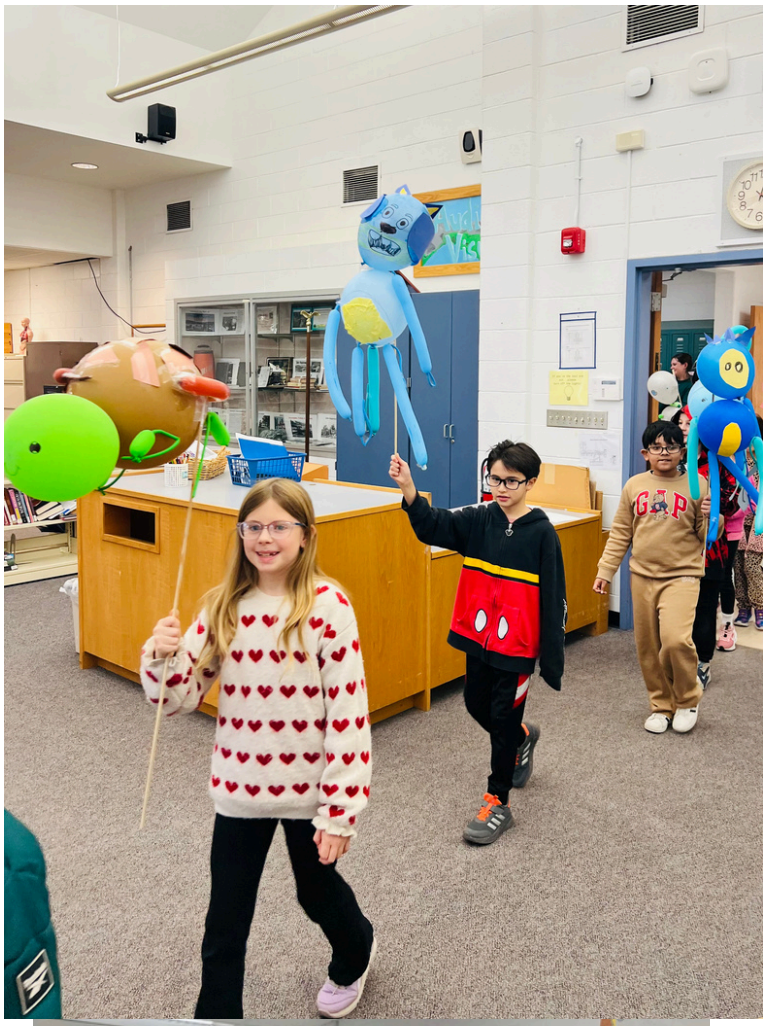
Third grade celebrated another successful Day-Before-Thanksgiving Day Parade! Over the past two weeks, they have learned about the history of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade through the book Balloons Over Broadway and photographs and videos from parades throughout the years. Then, they completed a STEAM project, coming up with their own original balloon creation, planning, gathering materials, and building it all themselves! We are so proud of everyone for their hard work, and hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving!

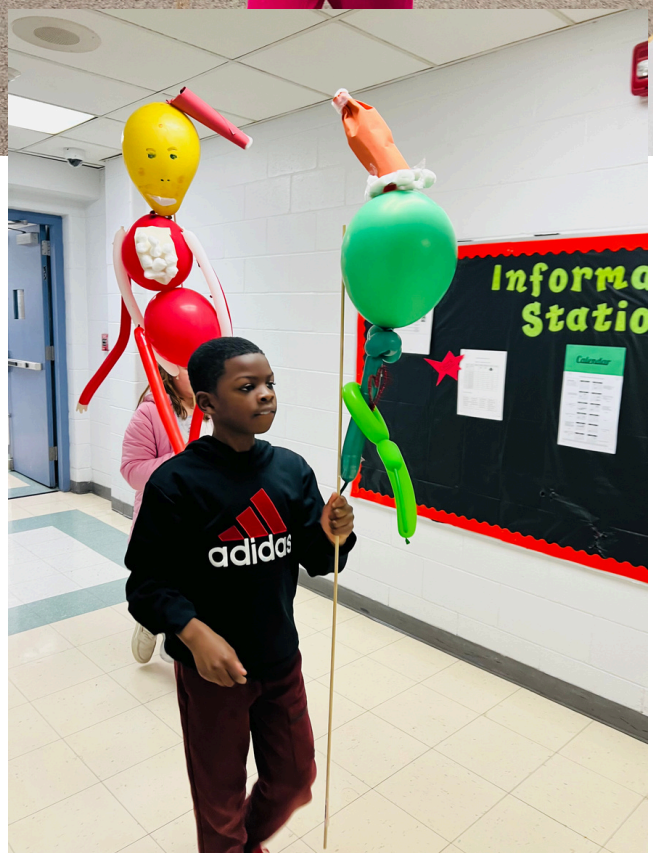
Mount Arlington Public School District

LAKER INSIDER

Issue No. 25-26-3 November 26, 2025

3rd Grade Balloon Parade....continued





Mount Arlington Public School District

LAKER INSIDER

Issue No. 25-26-3 November 26, 2025

Spreading Kindness

Students collaborated with Mrs Dean and made kind cards for the Thanksgiving baskets and will be put into Sharing snowman gifts. They are also getting distributed to Mount Arlington Senior Center. Spreading kindness in the community

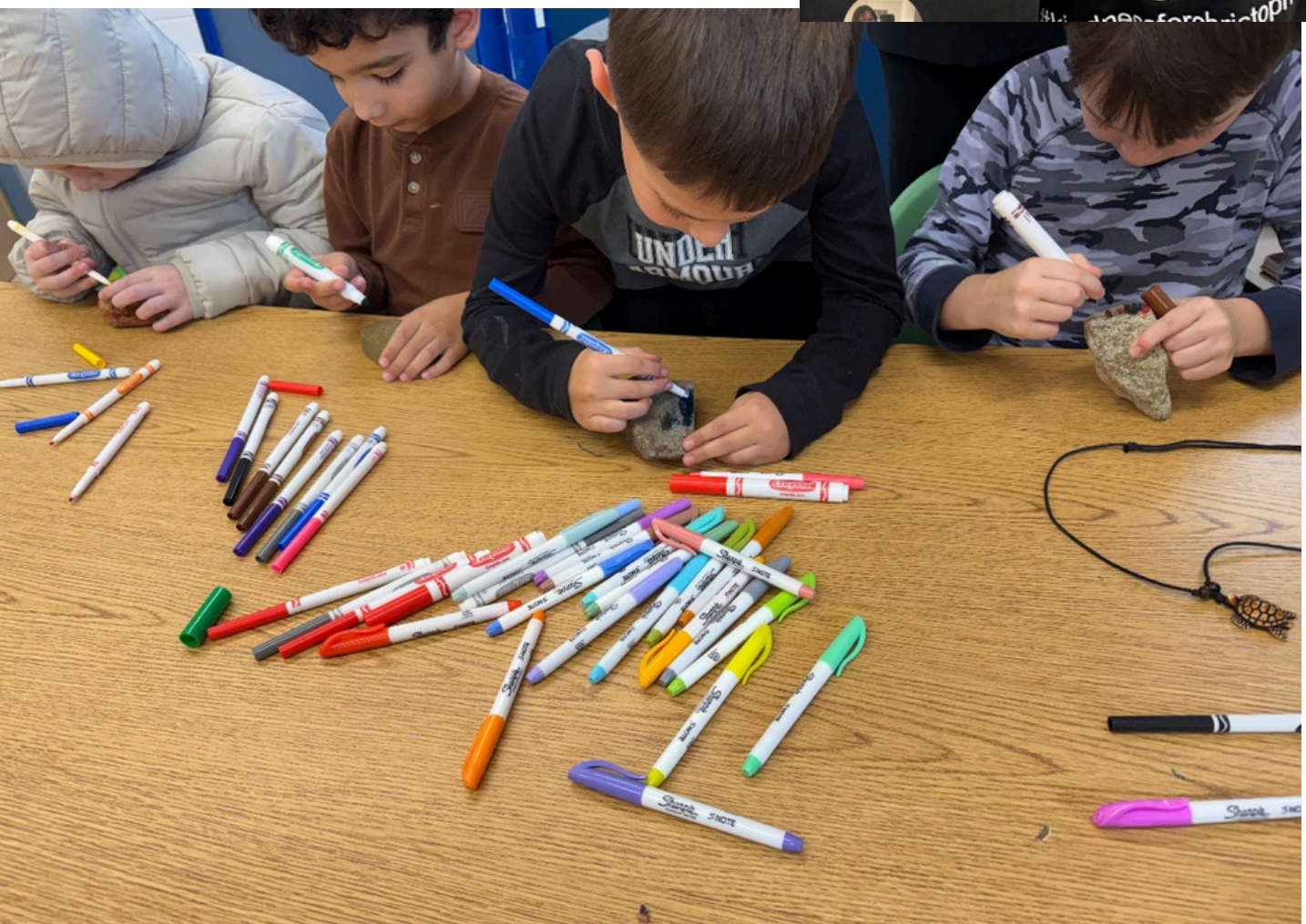
Mount Arlington Public School District

LAKER INSIDER

Issue No. 25-26-3 November 26, 2025

Spreading Kindness....continued

Miss Errichiello's class painted rocks for National Kindness Day



Mount Arlington Public School District

LAKER INSIDER

Issue No. 25-26-3 November 26, 2025

MAPS Athletics

The MAPS middle school basketball season is off to an exciting start! Both the boys' and girls' teams have hit the court with determination and a strong focus on teamwork.

The Lakers opened their season with impressive energy, securing two solid wins through quick passing, smart defense, and great communication on the floor. Their hard work is showing and they are motivated to keep building on that momentum as the season continues.

The Lady Lakers have also jumped into their season with enthusiasm and steady improvement. Their coaches have been proud of the effort they bring to every practice and their positive attitude during games. They look forward to strengthening their play and having a great season!

Check out the "Live Calendar" on the MAPS website for game information and come cheer on our student athletes. GO LAKERS!!

Mount Arlington Public School District

LAKER INSIDER

Issue No. 25-26-3 November 26, 2025

MAPS Athletics....continued

Mount Arlington Public School District

LAKER INSIDER

Issue No. 25-26-3 November 26, 2025

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MT. ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

DEC PTO MEETING

Everyone is welcome!

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

6:30PM - MAPS GYMNASIUM

On the agenda: Holiday Shop, Candy Grams, Sharing Snowman, assemblies, upcoming events, and more!

DURING OUR MEETING WE WILL BE FEATURING AN E-BIKE Q&A WITH THE MOUNT ARLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT. ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

PLEASE EMAIL MTARLINGTONPTO@GMAIL.COM WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

We hope to see you there!

Mount Arlington Public School District

LAKER INSIDER

Issue No. 25-26-3 November 26, 2025

- 12/9 - PTO Meeting @ MAPS Media Center - 6:30pm
- 12/10 - Concert Band/Choir Winter Concert - 7:00pm
- 12/11 - MAPS Gala Concert - 9:00am
- 12/16 - Concert Band/Choir Winter Concert SNOW DATE - 7:00pm
- 12/17 - BOE Meeting - 7:00pm
- 12/18 - Breakfast & Winter Concert for Community Seniors - 8:45am
- 12/23 - Early Dismissal - Holiday Recess
- 12/24-1/4 - Holiday Recess
- 1/5 - School Resumes