



Bright Spots and Big Moments in Mapleton

Friday, March 6, 2026

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:

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"!](#)

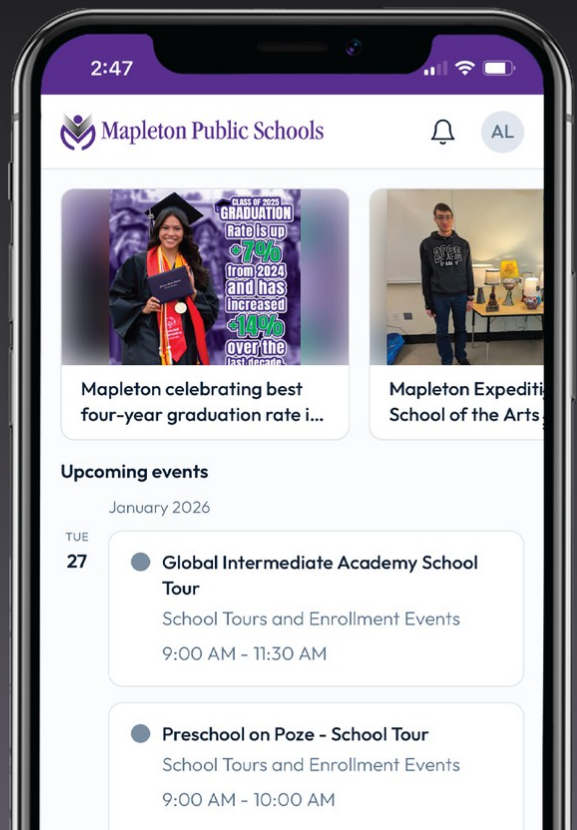
Bright Spots

Mapleton's App is now live!

Search

 Mapleton Public Schools

in the app store.



Mapleton has an app!

We are excited to announce the launch of our new District app!

Designed to keep you connected, the new app allows you to stay up-to-date with real-time school news, district calendars, breakfast and lunch menus, and alerts and push notifications.

1. Download the Mapleton Public Schools app from the App Store or Google Play.
2. Search "Mapleton Public Schools"
3. Under "Account" (gear icon, top right)
4. Set Notifications (The Chat feature is coming soon! Stay tuned!)
5. Schools – Subscribe to individual schools and Mapleton Public Schools
6. Language – Set preferred Language

[Download from the App Store](#)

[Download from Google Play](#)

Innovation and curiosity were on full display at the 2026 District Science Fair!

Thank you to the many students, families, staff members, and community judges who joined us for a great turnout as our K–12 students showcased projects exploring fascinating scientific questions and real-world ideas.



Judges evaluated projects based on how clearly students explained their process, their depth of scientific understanding, their ability to answer questions, and how well their hypothesis, experiment, and results connected.

Prizes were awarded to 1st–3rd place winners, featuring fun science games, toys, books, and more. This year, first-place winners also received two tickets to a Colorado Rapids game!

Congratulations to our 2026 District Science Fair first-place winners!

🏆 K–2nd Grade

- Individual Project: “Shapes & Bridges” by Noah G., Explore PK-8
- Group Project: “Does the Wingspan of a Paper Airplane Affect How Fast it Travels?” by Oliver L. & Damian G., Trailside Academy

🏆 3–5th Grade

- Individual Project: “Trailside’s Trees” by Liliana G., Trailside Academy
- Group Project: “Soak it Up: Floods and Soil” by Avery K. & Arabella M., Adventure Elementary

🏆 6–8th Grade

- Individual Project: “No Place Like Foam” by Lilian R., Welby Community School of the Arts
- Group Project: “How Does Science Explain Depression?” by Abi R., Isabella G., & Sophia L., Meadow Community School

🏆 9–12th Grade

- Individual Project: “Volcano Feedback” by Natas A., MEC Prep
- Group Project: “The Glittery Measure of Paper Towels” by Alma R. & Gaby S., Academy High School

📣 We’re proud of every student who participated and shared their curiosity, innovation, and passion for science. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year’s event such a success! 📸👏

#OneMapleton



Unified Wolverines basketball game brings community together

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Monday's Annual Unified Wolverines basketball game against the Thornton Police Department Dancing Bears. This beloved community tradition always brings out the very best of Mapleton, as the stands were filled with district students and staff, many holding supportive posters and proudly wearing their Unified Wolverines shirts.



At halftime, the gym turned into a dance floor during the Cupid Shuffle, with players, cheerleaders, and fans joining in together. It was a perfect reminder that inclusion means everyone has a place on the court and in the celebration.

Proceeds from the game support Mapleton's Special Olympics athletes and Unified programs. Thank you to the players, volunteers, staff members, and fans who helped make this event such a memorable start to Inclusion Week. Check out more pictures on our Facebook page!



From Mapleton to the Sheriff's Office

What started with a sticker and a simple hallway conversation more than a decade ago has grown into a budding career in law enforcement.

As a fourth grader at Global Leadership Academy, Esteban Munoz stopped to talk with Adams County Sheriff's Deputy Hessler, a

Mapleton school resource officer whose encouragement left a lasting impression.

Now a 2023 GLA graduate, Munoz has been sworn in as a commissioned, non-certified deputy with the Adams County Sheriff's Office and is completing academy training. One day, he hopes to return to schools as a school resource officer himself.

[Read the full story here](#)

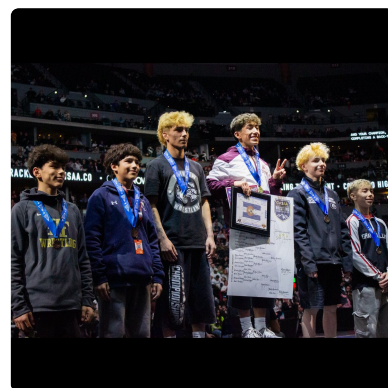
Big Moments

Skyview wrestlers shine at State

Skyview's boys and girls wrestling teams threw down a strong showing at the **2026 CHSAA State Wrestling Tournament**, held Feb. 19–21, at Ball Arena. Nine Mapleton student-athletes competed against the top wrestlers from across Colorado, representing Skyview with grit, sportsmanship, and Wolverine pride.

Three Mapleton wrestlers earned state podium finishes:

- **Andrew P. (Academy High School)** – 2nd place, 106 lbs
- **Ariyah A. (MEC Prep)** – 3rd place, 105 lbs
- **Anthony G. (MEC Prep)** – 6th place, 144 lbs



Reflecting on the season, Coach Fienz Rodriguez shared that the team's success was built on hard work and growth, noting that many student-athletes begin the program with little or no wrestling experience and develop into state qualifiers.

Congratulations to the wrestlers, coaches, families, and supporters who made this season one to remember. Go Wolverines!

MESA sophomores dive into "Lord of the Flies"

Sophomores at Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts have spent the quarter immersed in the novel "Lord of the Flies," by William Golding, exploring themes of leadership, teamwork, and group dynamics through a hands-on literacy unit.

As part of the experience, students imagined they had landed on an island, formed groups, selected leaders, and designed flags to represent their teams. Those groups then worked through reading



discussions and creative projects, including visual models of the island and camps described in the novel.

To mirror the challenges faced by the characters, students were responsible for supporting one another, with assignments accepted only when every group member completed their role. Groups also had opportunities to revisit leadership decisions or reorganize, reinforcing collaboration, accountability, and reflection throughout the unit.



Adventure Elementary welcomes bilingual author and performer

Earlier this week, Adventure Elementary students welcomed children's author and performer Sonia De Los Santos for a special reading of her new book, "La Golondrina."

De Los Santos read the story in both Spanish and English, bringing it to life through music and songs that had students smiling, clapping, and dancing along. A bilingual children's performer and

Latin Grammy-nominated artist, she has shared her music and stories with families nationwide.

The visit offered a joyful, interactive celebration of language, culture, and the power of storytelling, leaving students inspired and engaged.

Clayton Partnership fourth graders learn rhythm in canon

Fourth graders at Clayton Partnership School have been mastering the art of musical multitasking by studying and practicing rhythms "in canon."

What's "in canon"? Think "Row, Row, Row, Your Boat," often sung in a round, where a melody is played or sung by one person, and is precisely imitated by another person after a set amount of time.



Using hand drums, rhythm sticks, and xylophones, half the class begins a rhythm while the other joins shortly after. Students must hold their own part without getting thrown off by what they hear around them.

The lesson helps students learn how different parts fit together while building focus and listening skills, which are especially important as they prepare for band, orchestra, and choir in later grades.

Mapleton highlights the importance of school breakfast

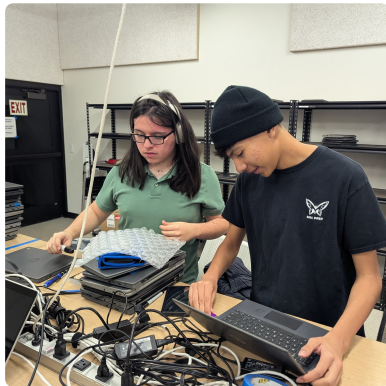
As National School Breakfast Week comes to a close, we're reminding our community of the important role a healthy morning meal plays in helping students arrive ready to learn, grow, and succeed. Each day, Mapleton's Nutrition Services team works to ensure students can start their morning with a good breakfast.



Across the district, students have access to free, nutritious breakfasts that include fresh fruit, whole-grain options designed for K–12 learners, and rotating favorites such as breakfast sandwiches, cinnamon rolls, and yogurt smoothies, all meeting federal nutrition standards.

"Breakfast is an important part of every student's learning day," said Lindsay Hull. "When students aren't distracted by hunger, they can focus, participate, and learn."

Families can view daily breakfast menus and nutrition information by [visiting the MealViewer website here](#).



Mapleton's IT intern program builds skills and supports schools

Behind the scenes, a small team of Mapleton interns is helping keep thousands of student devices up and running while gaining hands-on experience in information technology and workplace skills.

Through Mapleton's IT intern program, students and recent graduates assist with repairing Chromebooks, organizing devices, and supporting technology projects across the district. Their work plays a key role in maintaining Mapleton's one-to-one technology model, ensuring students have access to the devices they need for learning.

Interns build practical skills such as troubleshooting, communication, and problem-solving, while also helping reduce device backlogs and supporting schools districtwide. For many students, the experience offers an early look at careers in technology and the professional skills needed to succeed.

Read more about Mapleton's IT interns and their impact [here, in our "News from the District" section](#).

Trailside Academy celebrates Community at annual Multicultural Celebration

Trailside Academy hosted its annual **Multicultural Celebration** last Friday, bringing together students, families, and staff for an evening of culture, connection, and community pride.

The celebration featured interactive activities, art, music, and dance that reflected the many traditions represented at Trailside. Live performances by Artistico Dance Academy energized the evening, while fourth-grade students shared meaningful “I Am From” poems highlighting their personal stories and cultural roots.



Families also contributed homemade dishes for an international potluck, allowing guests to enjoy foods from around the world and learn more about the traditions behind them.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the event a success.



Achieve Academy families come together for Literacy Night

Last week, K–2 families at Achieve Academy stayed after school for a **Family Literacy Night** focused on building early reading skills and strengthening the home-school connection.

The event highlighted the school’s commitment to ensuring every student builds essential reading and writing proficiency in the primary grades. Families rotated through staff-led sessions on reading fluency, sight words, and comprehension strategies they could use at home. To ensure access for all families, the school provided childcare and free books for students to take home.

“We are working to increase a sense of belonging at Achieve, and our primary grades were the perfect place to start,” said Principal Carla Frenzel.

The event built on the school’s two “Books and Breakfast” gatherings earlier in the month, where parents and guardians joined their children in the classroom to read together. Thank you to our families and staff for making literacy a community celebration!

High Fives!

Submit a High Five!



"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.](#)

Internal District Interpreters

"I would like to give a huge shout-out and high five to all the internal interpreters who worked extra hours to support parent-teacher conferences this month. Our internal interpreters picked up 36 assignments across the district in the month of February. I know from each of the schools that your work and presence are truly appreciated. Thank you for your dedication and support!"

Submitted by Paloma Bonilla

Drew Faustin, Phil Faustin, and Eric Jimenez; Operations

"These guys keep all of district vehicles safe and in the best possible working order. Since joining the mechanics shop, they have brought a strong work ethic, a positive approach, and a clear commitment to quality that shows in everything they do. From keeping buses running safely to maintaining shop vehicles with care and attention to detail, their work speaks for itself. Mapleton is fortunate to have such a skilled and dedicated team supporting our students and staff every day."

Submitted by John McCafferty

Submit a High Five!

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!



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Contact



