

MAPLETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Make a difference in Mapleton

A new fundraising campaign hopes to engage the community in a cycle of service

Established: 1955
 Location: Main Administration Building
 591 E. 80th Ave., Denver
 303-853-1000

Mapleton's 16 schools are spread out over a 25-mile radius. The district boundaries are Huron, Zuni and Franklin Streets on the west, 52nd Avenue on the south, and the South Platte River and Colorado Boulevard on the east. On the north side, the boundary reaches in one place to 108th Avenue.

Owner: Mapleton School District Community

Staff reductions, larger classes sizes, fewer school buses on the road, and cuts to school programs are only a few of the steps Mapleton is taking to prepare for the double impact of the current state of the economy and hardships brought on by the failure of the 2008 bond and mill levy override elections.

But instead of thinking about what they will lose next school year, students in Mapleton are focusing on what they can give back to their community.

Students have begun plans for a Make a Difference campaign where they hope to demonstrate how important schools are to ensuring a vibrant and healthy community.

Mapleton's Student Leadership Group brought the idea for the campaign to Superintendent Charlotte Ciancio during a conversation about how to raise funds for textbooks, science materials and academic programs. Edward Huss, a junior at Skyview Academy, slipped a note to Superintendent Ciancio during the meeting. It read simply, "It's not about what we want; it's about what we need."

The idea quickly turned into a call for action for the entire Mapleton community to be a part of a cycle of service to one another.

"We as students see the needs of our school and know that we need money for textbooks and science labs, and it costs lots of money," said Huss. "We want to show the community that every dollar counts and that each person can make a difference."

Students hope that by demonstrating how every hand helps when it comes to service, they can also show how every dollar or volunteer helps when it comes to funding the materials necessary for learning.

Fund raising efforts are now underway and the District has identified three areas of immediate, short-term needs:



Mapleton's Student Leadership Group meets with administrators once a month to discuss ways to improve student life and academic success in the District.

Purchase Classroom Supplies and Materials

This will include things such as math textbooks (the current series is more than ten years old), science lab kits (the kits allow students to perform classroom experiments and need to be refreshed), language learning materials and classroom-to-home book sets. A donation of just \$68 can provide a student with a math textbook.

Address Immediate Safety Needs

This focus area includes security cameras for three schools which do not have line of sight visibility to the front entrances, bus cameras, and fire alarm repairs. Every building the Mapleton school district is using today was built between 1950 and 1963. Welby New Technology was renovated in 2006, but the other nine buildings have only received minor upgrades.

Maintain Essential Student Programs

This includes athletic programs and uniforms as well as musical instrument purchase and repair. This area of resource support will include securing resources for a variety of extra curricular and academic support programs that students need beyond their core academics. Just \$250 can send a classroom full of students on an enriching field trip that could shape their academic career for years to come.

Every gift donated to the Make a Difference campaign represents a gift to the mission of Mapleton - to guarantee that each student achieves his or her dreams and contributes enthusiastically to his or her community and world.

Ciancio assures families that Maple-



Skyview Academy junior Edward Huss outlines plans for the Make a Difference campaign with other student leaders. The Student Leadership Group brought the idea for the campaign to Superintendent Ciancio as a response to the District's budget shortfalls.

ton is not giving up on providing a safe, secure and healthy learning environment for Mapleton students.

"We have an incredible team of teachers and staff who are committed to delivering positive results," Ciancio said. "We have business owners, including some who opposed our bond and mill this fall, who have told us that they have not given up on our schools and will continue to keep open communications as we move forward with a plan that meets everyone's needs. Some have conceded that they had false information in the fall and regret being a part of a negative campaign. They are committed to working with the District and moving forward to raise money for the resources needed in our schools."

The District will continue to ask for voter support, work with legislators, and write grants to pursue every pos-

sible funding opportunity that is aligned with the District goals around student achievement.

In the coming months, Mapleton will continue to ask for community participation and will seek guidance and suggestions in consideration of the November 2009 ballot. Community members are also encouraged to contact the Superintendent's office directly at 303-853-1015.

Make a Difference and become a part of the Action!

If you want to become a part of the Mapleton Make a Difference campaign please contact us at 303-853-1000 or e-mail us at makeadifference@mapleton.us. For news releases and event calendars, visit www.makeadifference.mapleton.u.