The Bear

ISSUE #6

GLOBAL EDITION



MapleBear

The best of Canadian education for a global future.

ISSUE #6 2026

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THE BEAR

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About Maple Bear

Maple Bear Global Schools brings the best of Canadian bilingual education to the world. Founded in Vancouver in 2004, we combine Canadian pedagogy with a global mindset to nurture confident, curious, and resilient learners. With more than 500 schools worldwide, Maple Bear delivers a rigorous academic program rooted in Canadian principles and enriched by local culture and language.

MapleBear Canadian School
MapleBear CANADIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MapleBear CANADIAN HIGH SCHOOL

The best of Canadian education for a global future.



Five Hundred Schools. One Direction Forward.

This year, Maple Bear opened its 500th school in Singapore. It is a number worth stating because it represents 500 communities around the world that chose the same promise: a Canadian bilingual education built for children growing up in a fast-changing world.

Reaching this milestone is a credit to every school owner, teacher and family who has built Maple Bear alongside us, one classroom at a time, across 38 countries. But a number like 500 is not a finish line. It is a foundation for what comes next.

The world our students are growing into looks different than it did even five years ago. New tools, new ways of working, new demands on how children think and adapt are reshaping what it means to be ready for the future. Maple Bear's task has never been to predict exactly what that future holds. It is to build learners who can meet it with curiosity, confidence and resilience, whatever form it takes.

That is the work ahead of us. As we grow, we are investing in the systems, the training and academic frameworks that keep our schools at the forefront of education, not just in scale, but in how we prepare children to think, adapt and lead. This is what innovation has always meant at Maple Bear, giving every child, in every country we serve, the strongest possible start.

Five hundred schools is proof that families trust us with that responsibility. The chapters ahead are about continuing to honour that trust, school by school, for the next 500.

Together in education,

José Henrique Melo
Chief Executive Officer
Maple Bear Global Schools







COUNTLESS FUTURES

Reaching 500 schools is our milestone. Shaping futures around the world is our legacy.

In 2026, Maple Bear reached 500 schools worldwide with the opening of Maple Bear Junior Club Thomson Campus in Singapore, a milestone the network is proud to mark.

It reflects the work of franchise partners who brought the model to their communities, educators who deliver it in the classroom every day, and families who chose Maple Bear for their children's education. It also reflects twenty years of experience refining a model built to scale: a consistent academic framework paired with the flexibility to adapt to local markets, allowing each new school to open with the same standard of quality as the one before it.

Five hundred schools means five hundred communities now connected through a shared commitment to bilingual, high-quality education.

Today, our network spans 38 countries across five continents, serving more than 70,000 students. Each new school extends access to Canadian-based bilingual education to families who may not otherwise have it in their community, while continuing to invest in the teachers and school leaders who carry the model forward.

For students, our growth translates into more than a place in a classroom. Maple Bear's model is designed to nurture curiosity, critical thinking, and confidence from an early age, preparing students not only for academic success but for life in a multilingual, multicultural world. Whether in Nairobi, Guatemala City, or Seoul, students in a Maple Bear classroom share a common thread: an education built to help them think independently, communicate across cultures, and see themselves as part of a global community.

This milestone marks a moment of reflection for Maple Bear, and a starting point for what comes next, one that builds on that same commitment.

A Global Trend

Maple Bear's growth reflects the broader trends across global education.

According to ISC Research's 2025 Global Market Overview report, the international schools sector grew 8.2% between 2020 and 2025, with more than 15,000 schools and 7.6 million students worldwide.

Demand for bilingual education specifically has grown even faster, up 18% since 2015, with bilingual schools now representing 36% of all international schools worldwide. This aligns with the model Maple Bear spent two decades building and refining to meet exactly that demand.

Maple Bear is well positioned to capture this structural growth, combining a proven bilingual education with a scalable global network and significant room for further expansion.

Part of Seb Education, recognized by ISC Research as a leading force in global education consolidation



500
SCHOOLS

38
COUNTRIES

5
CONTINENTS

70,000+
STUDENTS

Voices from our network

"What I value most about the Maple Bear methodology is that students are really at the centre of education. We foster our kids' autonomy from the beginning, which leads to higher levels of critical thinking, problem-solving, and group work. These are the skills needed for the future.

Alessandro Queiroz,
Executive Director/Owner, Maple Bear Maceió, Brazil

"When I think collectively about what Maple Bear around the world has accomplished, I always think about the students. It's really about bringing our Canadian-based education system to students and families in communities where that opportunity might not otherwise exist.

Martine Lewis,
Chief Academic Officer

"From our very first school to 500 today, our growth has been driven by passion, partnerships, and a belief that education changes lives.

Sunil Sudhakar,
Chief Operations Officer

"I am overjoyed to be a Maple Bear owner. To witness children learning so happily through play is a joy; they acquire English language skills, mathematical skills, and so much more, guided by our skilled educators.

Assel Kozhabekova,
Director/Owner, Maple Bear Astana, Kazakhstan

With 500 schools now open worldwide, Maple Bear's legacy is only just beginning.

A JOURNEY OF GLOBAL EXPANSION AND IMPACT

A single classroom in Ghaziabad, India, in 2005 has grown into a network spanning five continents today. What travelled with it was the belief in Canadian pedagogy and a student-centred approach to learning, delivered consistently wherever a Maple Bear school opens. Alongside that belief grew a franchise system built to adapt to each new region and culture without compromise.

On the pages that follow, we trace that story as it actually happened, era by era, country by country, community by community. This is how one Canadian bilingual model found a home around the world.



The Founding Decade

Canadian bilingual education takes root beyond its origin country

South Asia Region
Brazil
Korea

Building Momentum

New regions open and the network becomes truly international

Morocco
China
Vietnam
LATAM Region

Accelerating Growth

Expansion picks up pace across three continents at once

Asiawide Region
Gulf+ Region
Central & Eastern Europe Region
Hong Kong (SAR)
USA

The Newest Additions

The most recent countries to join the Maple Bear family

East Africa
Iberia
Australia
Democratic Republic of Congo

What's Coming Next

New regions are already on the horizon

Egypt
Greece
Costa Rica
Iraq

The Pioneer

Maple Bear South Asia



In 2005, the first Maple Bear school opened its doors in Indirapuram, Ghaziabad. Over 20 years on, that single classroom has grown into 109 schools and more than 7,190 students across South Asia, all built on the same founding belief that a Canadian bilingual model of early education could take root anywhere and thrive.

South Asia is Maple Bear's flagship growth market and one of the strongest examples of our franchise model's scalability. Continued expansion into smaller, fast-growing cities beyond South Asia's major metropolitan cities points to years of growth still ahead. With a mature franchise system, strong local execution and a proven ability to replicate successful schools, South Asia serves as the benchmark for Maple Bear's long-term expansion strategy.

Ms. Sonali is part of this extraordinary expansion story in this region.

Over 20 years ago, she walked into the first Indirapuram classroom as a teacher, helping shape the earliest Maple Bear students with the dedication and excitement of a young teacher eager to inspire young minds.

Today, her granddaughter is taking her first steps in learning at Maple Bear Canadian Preschool in JP Nagar 8th Phase, Bangalore.

The trust Maple Bear built in its earliest years has passed from one generation to the next.



> **"I feel proud to be part of a brand that truly focuses on quality education.**
>
> ***Dr. Vihag Raman,***
> School Owner, Maple Bear Canadian Pre-school, Patna







Maple Bear Brazil

Maple Bear Alphaville and Maple Bear Jundiaí opened their doors in 2006, becoming the first Maple Bear schools in Brazil. From the start, the schools paired Canadian teaching practices with the values and identity that have shaped them ever since.

Over the past two decades, Maple Bear Alphaville has watched its students grow, discover their strengths, and reach goals that once felt out of reach.

The school celebrated its first graduating class, saw students accepted into leading universities in Brazil and abroad, and watched one of its own become the first Brazilian, and the only student in the world in 2026, to receive the Cora Martinson International Scholarship from the University of Alberta.

Its greatest pride lives in the stories that never appear in rankings: former students who return as parents, families who have stayed for years, and educators who have built their careers there. Maple Bear Alphaville has become a place where people belong.

Maple Bear Brazil validates the scalability of the Maple Bear brand. With more than 200 schools across the country, the network has reached a scale where strong brand recognition, established operating systems, and experienced multi-unit owners reinforce each other, making Brazil a clear leader with a strong competitive advantage that few others can match.

As Brazil marks twenty years and Maple Bear Global marks 500 schools worldwide, the purpose remains the same as it was in 2006: nurturing curious minds and preparing students to make a difference in the world.



> **“For the past twenty years, we’ve brought the best of Canadian education to Brazil, but what has truly made the difference is the passion of our educators and the trust of our families.**
>
> ***Marcelo de Castro**, School Director, Maple Bear Alphaville*









Maple Bear Korea

On July 1, 2006, Maple Bear Songpa Campus introduced a new way of learning to children in Korea. At a time when families placed great value on academic achievement and measurable results, Maple Bear brought a Canadian educational philosophy that asked different questions: not only what children knew, but why they thought that, and how they could apply what they had learned.

Earning that trust took time. Teachers embraced new methods, and Maple Bear Korea worked to show that meaningful learning is not always reflected in worksheets or test scores alone.

Gradually, parents began to see the difference for themselves, watching their children grow more confident, inquisitive, and independent. Those same parents became Maple Bear Korea's greatest advocates, helping the network flourish one child at a time.

Korea's story is one of resilience. Even as the country faces one of the world's lowest birth rates, demand for premium-quality bilingual early childhood education has remained strong, with families staying with Maple Bear well beyond the preschool years. Twenty years in, Maple Bear Korea has earned the trust of dedicated franchise partners and built a lasting business model in one of the most competitive education markets in the world.

Together with its families and educators, Maple Bear Korea has helped broaden the conversation about what great education can be: one that values what children know, how they think, how they grow, and who they become.

> **"Maple Bear is a gift of life. Every child deserves the chance to discover who they are, to find their voice, and to believe they can achieve anything.**
>
> ***Crystal Han**, Managing Director, Maple Bear Korea*

Maple Bear Morocco

Maple Bear arrived in Morocco in 2008, opening Maple Bear Rabat-Souisi, the country's first school of its kind, and has since continued to bring Canadian bilingual education to Moroccan families.

Morocco was one of the first countries in the region to welcome Maple Bear, and nearly two decades later, that early presence still shows. In a market where Arabic and French bilingualism is the norm, Maple Bear adds a third language and a pathway to Canadian and internationally recognized academic standards, all while meeting local baccalaureate requirements. Today, the brand is well-known across Morocco, with a solid foundation for growth nationwide and in the wider region, and a clear competitive advantage in a market where demand for quality bilingual and international education continues to rise.



Maple Bear China

Maple Bear entered the Chinese market in 2009, opening the Maple Bear Preschool East Campus in Zhengzhou. Since then, the region has grown across the city's five main districts, each school built around the same philosophy: don't teach English, teach in English. Foreign and Chinese co-teachers work side by side in every subject, from science to the arts, giving children a continuous bilingual path from nursery through elementary school.

That commitment extends beyond the classroom. In June 2026, the school hosted its third Future of Education Dialogue, inviting parents to join a conversation about protecting children's curiosity in the age of AI. Local educator Guo Wenxiang joined the discussion, reminding the room that a strong parent-child relationship remains the foundation of every child's education.

China shows what Maple Bear can achieve in one of the world's most tightly regulated education markets. Years of institutional know-how, paired with strong collaborations with provincial governments that offer support and subsidies, speak to the strength of the model, one that continues to prove itself as a foundation for scalable growth in similarly regulated markets.







Maple Bear LATAM

In 2011, Latin America opened its first Maple Bear school in Chihuahua, Mexico. When the school first opened its doors, there were no guarantees of success, only a strong conviction that children deserved an education built on curiosity, confidence, and a lifelong love of learning.

Fifteen years later, that conviction has paid off. Chihuahua has grown into one of the network's most established and respected schools, with more than 500 students and a full educational journey from Nursery through Year 9. As one of the first Maple Bear schools in the region, its leadership and commitment to excellence helped lay the groundwork for everything that followed, inspiring many of the schools that came after it.

That groundwork has since grown into a family of schools across four countries, including Guatemala, Paraguay, and Peru. The LATAM region has doubled its number of schools and students in the past three years.

Latin America shows just how repeatable the Maple Bear model really is. The same education and franchise systems have taken root across multiple countries, each with its own regulatory landscape, proof that the model does not just work once. It works again and again.



> **Fifteen years leave a mark. They are measured not only in time, but in lives transformed, lessons learned, and communities built along the way.**
>
> ***Maple Bear Chihuahua,*** 15th Anniversary





Maple Bear Vietnam

In 2011, Maple Bear Ba Trieu became the first Maple Bear school in Vietnam. Fifteen years later, the region has grown into a nationwide network built on a child-centred Canadian approach and full bilingual immersion. Much of that growth comes through existing school owners who trust the model enough to expand their own campuses and open new ones.

Few signals speak louder than reinvestment. When existing franchise partners invest more capital in new campuses, it reflects confidence in the economics of opening a school, coming from the people who know the day-to-day operations best. It points to real opportunity for further growth.

The result is a network that brings world-class Canadian education to Vietnamese families while staying rooted in local culture, helping thousands of children build bilingual confidence and a life-long love of learning.

Maple Bear Asiawide



Maple Bear Asiawide began in 2013 with a single nursery in Singapore, led by Patricia Koh, an educator with more than 50 years of experience across the country's public and private sectors. The network has since grown into a regional leader with a strong brand presence, blending Canadian early-years education with Singapore's renowned strengths in mathematics and science, while encouraging children to take the lead in their own learning.

That philosophy came to life earlier this year, when students partnered with Singapore's Mandai Wildlife Group on the Aquatic Guardians campaign, raising more than SGD 100,000 to support wildlife conservation across Southeast Asia.

In 2025, Maple Bear launched Junior Club, an innovative after-school program for children aged seven to twelve. The success of this program came from trust already built through the preschool years. Families who already knew and believed in Maple Bear were a natural fit for this initiative, giving the network a new revenue stream and lower acquisition costs than reaching new families would require.

The network has since expanded across Southeast Asia, with schools open in Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.



Maple Bear Gulf+



Maple Bear Gulf+ opened its first nursery in Dubai's Business Bay in 2014. From one single location, it has grown into a close-knit community built on family events, parent workshops and a shared sense of belonging in a region where many families live far from home.

In 2026, regional disruption closed Gulf+ locations for seven weeks. In response, teachers built learning pods in children's homes, arranged private tutors and partnered with local play centres to keep children connected. Home visits kept families supported throughout until schools reopened.

This resilience, matched by strong family loyalty, operational adaptability and franchise partner commitment, reduces long-term investment risk. Combined with a strong brand presence and real market growth potential, Gulf+ stands as a key driver of Maple Bear's future expansion.

The network has since expanded across the Gulf and beyond, with schools open in Angola, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Oman and Uzbekistan.







Maple Bear Central and Eastern Europe

Maple Bear Central and Eastern Europe began its journey in Sofia, Bulgaria. The first school opened just as the pandemic was reshaping education worldwide, and the years that followed brought further uncertainty from geopolitical challenges across the region. Opening new schools under those conditions was a bold step, and Sofia and the schools that opened, including Kyiv in Ukraine, proved the model could not only survive but thrive.

From that first campus, Maple Bear Sofia quickly became the foundation of the regional network. Families in the city were introduced to the Canadian bilingual approach for the first time, and the school earned their trust through results they could see in their own children. The immersion model, combined with a warm, student-centred learning environment, set a new standard for early and primary education in the city and established Maple Bear as a recognized and respected name in Sofia.

This fall, Sofia reached another milestone: the first cohort of students entered Maple Bear High School in Sofia. For the first time, students in the region can follow the full Maple Bear journey from early years through to graduation, and it is fitting that this step was taken in the city where it all began. And the growth in Bulgaria goes well beyond high school: from a single campus in 2020, Maple Bear now has five schools in two cities.

Bulgaria's success became the blueprint for what came next. Building on that experience, Maple Bear has expanded across the region and now has schools in Albania, Bulgaria, Czechia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine. What started as a single school in one city is now a growing community of schools across eight countries.

The next chapter is already underway. Vantage Best in Class has committed to Maple Bear's growth in Poland and Czechia, accelerating the development of new campuses in both countries. Backing from an investor of this scale strongly validates the model and the path first proven in Sofia.

Most importantly, families feel the impact every day. As one Sofia parent put it simply: "Immersion works! My son speaks English beautifully."



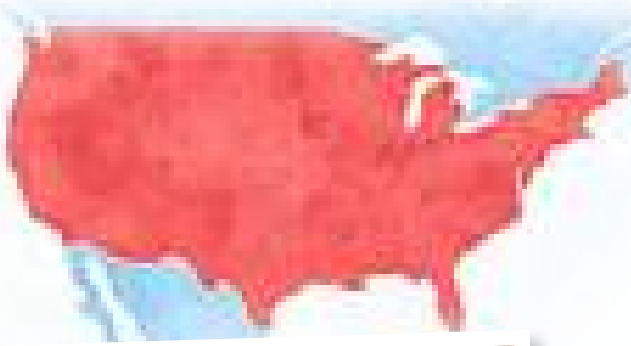




"What the ISC report shows is something that Maple Bear has long believed: families across the region are increasingly seeking premium bilingual education that combines the best of local and international curricula. This is precisely where Maple Bear stands out. Our Canadian-inspired, blended model is not a trend we are chasing - it is the foundation we were built on, and it puts us in a strong position to lead as this demand continues to grow globally.

Yann Bidan, General Manager,
Maple Bear Central and Eastern Europe

Maple Bear USA



Maple Bear USA opened its first school, Maple Bear Tempe, in Arizona in 2014. A decade of steady leadership has built deep trust with families, reflected in an NPS score of 92 across the network's two schools.

What distinguishes Maple Bear in the U.S. market is a globally established bilingual model paired with strong local leadership and rigorous quality assurance. With schools in Arizona and Texas, Maple Bear USA is building a foundation for thoughtful, sustainable growth.





> **What makes Maple Bear special in the United States is the dedication of our school teams and the trust they have built with families in their communities.**
>
> ***Janel Villegas,*** Operations and Expansion Manager, Maple Bear USA

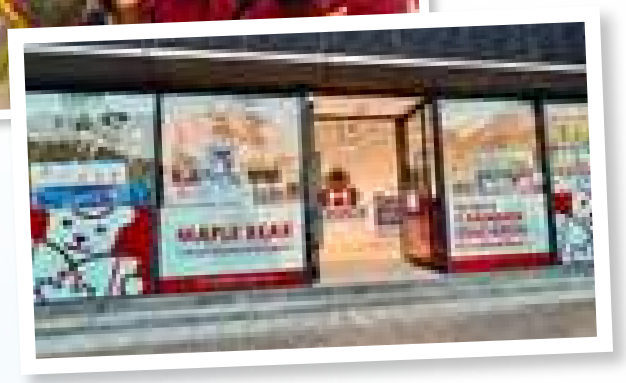
Maple Bear Hong Kong



Maple Bear Hong Kong opened its first school, Maple Bear Canadian International Kindergarten, in 2019. Operating in one of the world's lowest-birth-rate markets, the network stands out for its open houses and hands-on community events that let families meet teachers before enrolling, an openness reflected in a mother who, years after enrolling her son as a toddler, opened her own Maple Bear school once he graduated.

That kind of loyalty, converting a parent into a franchise owner, is a powerful proof point: the education model can generate demand and drive expansion even in a market where the underlying demographics work against it.





> **Inclusion is a process rooted in love. We welcome each child not just as a student, but as a cherished member of our family, walking alongside them with compassion.**
>
> ***Julie Chu,*** Education Development and Operations Director

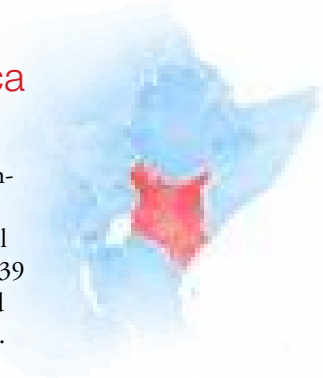
The Newest Additions

In the last five years, Maple Bear has welcomed four new regions into its global family.

What's Coming Next

Maple Bear's growth continues, with new schools planned across four continents in Costa Rica, Egypt, Greece and Iraq. Maple Bear Global Schools welcomes these four countries to its growing network, extending its model of bilingual, Canadian-rooted education.

Maple Bear East Africa



Maple Bear arrived in Kenya in 2022, bringing English-French bilingual immersion to families from as early as age two, and today its school community includes children from 39 nationalities, with more than a third enrolled in full bilingual immersion. Kenya serves as a strategic proof of concept for Sub-Saharan Africa, laying a strong foundation for the growth still to come across East Africa.



Maple Bear Iberia



Maple Bear entered the Iberian Peninsula in 2023 with the opening of Maple Bear Estoril in Portugal, later expanding with a second school as demand grew for bilingual, values-driven education rooted in Canadian pedagogy. With plans now underway to expand into Spain, Iberia brings Maple Bear into one of Europe's most established regulatory environments, strengthening its presence within the European Union.



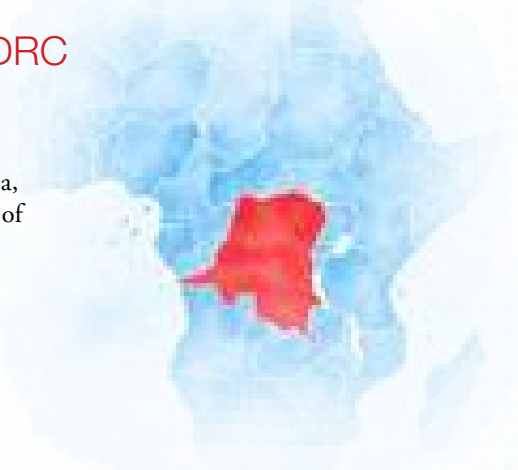
Maple Bear Australia



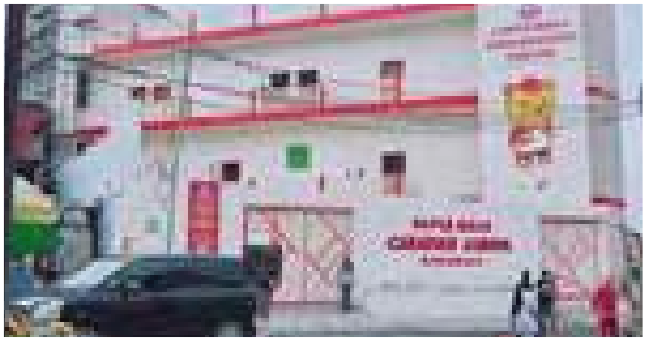
Maple Bear Norwest, the network's first Australian school, opened in February 2025. Australian families found a natural familiarity in the Maple Bear model, and the centre blends Australia's Early Years Learning Framework with the Maple Bear curriculum. The school has quickly demonstrated its ability to thrive within a demanding, government-subsidized system and is laying a strong platform for continued growth in the region.



Maple Bear DRC



In 2026, Maple Bear also opened its first school in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, extending the network's presence in Sub-Saharan Africa.



A YEAR FOCUSED ON WHAT MATTERS MOST



By Martine Lewis,
Chief Academic Officer

As Maple Bear celebrates its 500th school, people often ask what I am most proud of. The answer is not the number. What makes this milestone meaningful is that, despite our growth, the heart of Maple Bear remains unchanged. Five hundred schools across dozens of countries are connected by the same belief: every decision must begin with what is best for students and teachers.

Growth can easily pull organizations away from their purpose. Systems become larger, processes become more complex, and efficiency can start to matter more than people. Our challenge has been to grow without losing sight of who we serve.

I believe we have done that by holding firmly to a simple principle: scale should strengthen quality, not replace it.

Why Our Curriculum Matters

Our curriculum was never built to make teaching easier for us. It was built to improve learning for children and to give teachers the freedom to do their best work within it. It establishes a clear destination and then trusts our teachers, all over the world, to use their professional judgment and cultural understanding to guide students on the journey there.

That balance between consistency and trust is a promise we make to families.

Why Our Coaching Model Matters

Real, ongoing coaching takes more time and effort than handing a teacher a manual and calling the job done.

We invest in it anyway.

Through planning together, teaching together, and reflecting together, we support teachers as they continue to develop their practice. We believe teaching is a craft that deepens over time, not a task to be completed.

Every time I see a teacher grow more confident because a Canadian coach sat beside them in the classroom rather than simply handing them a checklist, I am reminded why we built our coaching model this way.

Why Our Approach to Appraisal Matters

It would be easy to reduce a teacher's year to a single score.

We refuse to.

Our school leaders and coordinators take the time to understand a teacher's practice over months, not minutes. They provide support, guidance, and opportunities for growth before drawing conclusions.

This reflects how we want our teachers to treat our students: with patience, with belief in their potential, and with the understanding that meaningful growth takes time.

What the Maple Bear Classroom Looks Like

Curriculum, coaching, and appraisal are not separate initiatives. They come together in classrooms every day.

I was reminded of this recently while visiting a Maple Bear school where students were sharing their learning portfolios with their families. What struck me was not only the quality of their work, but also the confidence with which they spoke about it. Students explained what they had learned, what had challenged them, and what they would do differently next time.

Skills like these do not emerge by accident. They come from spending a year reflecting, revising, and taking ownership of learning. They are the result of the same principles that underpin our curriculum, our coaching, and our approach to appraisal.

Watching those students speak with such confidence, I could see the entire system doing exactly what it was designed to do.







What 500 Schools Really Means

As we celebrate 500 schools this year, I hope people see behind the number: growth measured not only in scale but also in care. A commitment to keeping students and teachers at the centre of every decision.

To our families, thank you for your trust and partnership. Education works best when schools and parents walk the same path, and we are grateful that you have chosen to walk it with us.

To our teachers and school leaders, thank you for the patience, care, and belief you bring to your classrooms every day.

And to our students, thank you for reminding us, again and again, why this work matters.

> The true measure of our growth is not the number of schools we open, but how well we continue to place students and teachers at the centre of every decision.

MAPLE BEAR SCHOOLS WHERE CURIOSITY IGNITES LEARNING

How do plants and animals depend on one another to survive in a habitat?

It's the question that turned one Grade 4 Maple Bear student into a young ecologist for a week. He researched a wetland ecosystem, sketched ideas, glued together a habitat diorama, peeled pieces apart to improve them, and proudly carried his finished project home.

But the learning didn't end when the model was complete.

He was already preparing to explain why each plant and animal belonged in his habitat and to justify how the food chain worked when classmates asked questions. Watching him confidently describe the relationships within his wetland, it was clear this wasn't memorized information. It was genuine understanding, worn like a badge.

Somewhere between the research, the design process, and thoughtful discussions with his peers, he developed far more than scientific knowledge. He built curiosity, creativity, critical thinking, and the confidence to explain how living things depend on one another to survive.

Moments like these don't happen by chance. They grow from a curriculum designed to engage students in meaningful learning experiences. And this year, Maple Bear has taken that work even further.



What's New This Year

Behind every engaging classroom experience is a thoughtfully designed curriculum.

This year, Maple Bear Global Schools has strengthened that foundation with updated curriculum documents for every grade level and subject area, a brand-new Nursery Program, and new Grade 4 English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science programs. These give teachers even more tools to create meaningful, engaging learning experiences for every student.



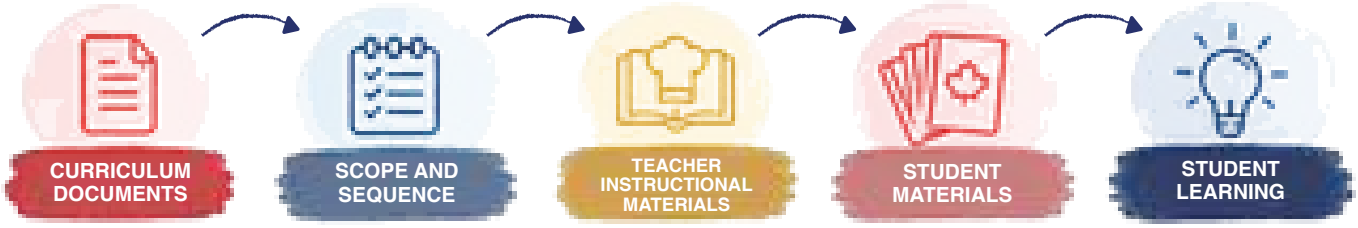
A Recipe for Learning

So how does one question in a Grade 4 classroom turn into a rich, hands-on discovery? Think of it like following a recipe.

The Maple Bear Curriculum Documents define what students are expected to learn—the big ideas and learning outcomes that guide each unit—much like a recipe tells you what you're making and the ingredients you'll need. The Scope and Sequence maps out when each part of the learning takes place throughout the year, just as a recipe lays out each step in the right order. Teacher Instructional Materials then provide the detailed guidance teachers use to bring the learning to life, while Student Materials engage children in meaningful, hands-on experiences.

Together, these resources transform a single question about habitats into opportunities for students to explore, investigate, create, collaborate and build lasting understanding.





Guides the teacher in how to bring the learning to life

Maps out when each part of the learning takes place throughout the year

Provide the detailed guidance teachers use to bring the learning to life, with lesson plans, teaching strategies, and support

Engage children in meaningful, hands-on experiences with activities, resources, and opportunities to practice and apply their learning

Explore
Investigate
Create
Collaborate
Understand

One Approach, Everywhere in the World

Just as two experienced cooks can follow the same recipe while adding their own expertise, Maple Bear teachers use their professional judgment to adapt learning experiences to the needs of their students, while working toward the same high-quality learning outcomes.

This connected curriculum system, spanning from purposeful play in Nursery to inquiry, problem-solving, and critical thinking in Grade 4 English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science, enables Maple Bear schools around the world to provide a consistent educational experience while responding to local curricula, cultures, and the unique strengths of every learner.

Whether a child is taking their first steps in Nursery or confidently explaining the relationships within a habitat in Grade 4, the goal remains the same: classrooms where children are engaged, challenged, supported, and inspired to become curious learners, critical thinkers, and compassionate global citizens.

And that Grade 4 student? He's already wondering what he'll discover next.

> The Curriculum Documents are the foundation for everything else. Everything works together as one connected system, so every child, in every Maple Bear classroom, is working toward the same high-quality outcomes.

GROWING WITH EVERY GRADE

My Maple Bear Learning Materials

At Maple Bear, learning happens every day, in many ways. Students, teachers and families each play a part, and My Maple Bear brings those parts together into one clear, consistent experience. This year, that experience grows further, with new materials for our youngest and oldest primary learners and continued investment in the digital tools that carry learning home.

Student Learning Materials

Maple Bear's Student Learning Materials have grown to meet the needs of our youngest and most advanced learners. New Nursery and Grade 4 materials join our full lineup from Junior Kindergarten through Grade 3, giving every stage of the classroom a consistent, curriculum-aligned resource.

Each book is used directly by students during daily lessons, scaffolding literacy, numeracy and inquiry skills as they progress. From songs and hands-on activities in the early years to structured, skills-based content in the primary grades, the materials are built to grow alongside each child and support ongoing assessment along the way.

Early Years: Nursery | JK | SK



Elementary: Grades 1-4

English Language Arts



Math



Science



Digital Resources

My Maple Bear extends the classroom experiences through a secure digital platform built for students, teachers and families.

We've partnered with resource providers who share our vision: building literacy and numeracy in ways children genuinely enjoy.



SCHOLASTIC SUITE OF PRODUCTS

Earlybird
Young readers

Early literacy support for developing foundational reading skills.

BookFlix
Primary readers

Paired fiction and nonfiction texts that strengthen reading comprehension.

Scholastic Literacy Pro
Practice and assessment

Personalized reading practice and assessment to support literacy development.

Scholastic Math Pro

Structured math practice aligned with grade-level expectations.

Britannica

A modern research online platform built on a long history of trusted information, Britannica gives children a safe, curated space to explore fact-checked, age-appropriate content with confidence. It's designed to build real research skills, curiosity and critical thinking, the foundation for lifelong, independent learning.

Simple Access for the Whole Family

Every resource is integrated to reinforce classroom learning, so families can follow and support their child's learning at home with confidence. One login brings it all together, with simple access designed for students of all ages and teachers who want to support their learning by reviewing and monitoring student progress.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING, EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING





Think back to a teacher who made a difference in your own life. Chances are, you can picture them right now, the one who believed in you, made a hard subject finally click, or simply made you want to show up each day. That feeling is not an accident. It is the result of great teaching, and great teaching is the most important thing any school can offer to your child.

In fact, decades of educational research from around the world consistently point to the same conclusion: of everything a school can control, the quality of the teacher in the classroom has the greatest impact on student learning, more than the building, the resources, or even the technology.

As one major international study of the world's best school systems put it:

> "The quality of an education system cannot exceed the quality of its teachers."*

That is exactly why, at Maple Bear, we invest so much care in our teachers, not only in choosing wonderful ones, but in helping every teacher keep growing throughout their career.

Here is a look behind the scenes at how we do it.

What We Look For In A Maple Bear Teacher

A great teacher is much more than someone who knows their subject. The qualities below are the ones that make the greatest difference for your child. They are also the qualities our school leaders look for, support, and help strengthen as they work alongside teachers throughout the school year.

- A teacher who truly knows your child, understands how each student learns best, and creates a warm, inclusive classroom where every child can succeed.
- A calm, caring, well-run classroom where clear routines and strong relationships help children feel safe, focused, and ready to learn.
- Active, engaging lessons built on Maple Bear methodology, where children explore, ask questions, work things through with their classmates, and gradually take ownership of their own learning, rather than simply sitting and listening.
- Thoughtful feedback from teachers who notice how each child is doing through their work, their conversations, and everyday moments, and use what they see to guide each student's next step forward.
- Strong communication with parents, because you are your child's first teacher, and the partnership between home and school matters enormously.
- A teacher who never stops learning, reflects, collaborates with colleagues, and is always working to become even better at their craft.

**Source: Barber, M., & Mourshed, M. (2007). How the World's Best-Performing School Systems Come Out on Top. McKinsey & Company.*

Together, these qualities form the heart of Maple Bear's Teacher Performance Appraisal, one of the many ways we invest in the professional growth of our teachers. Grounded in Canadian educational methodology, we support our teachers through continuous learning, reflection, and professional growth because great teachers never stop learning themselves. This ongoing commitment to teaching excellence helps foster learning environments where students are encouraged to ask questions, think critically, collaborate with others, and develop the confidence to become independent learners.

Looking At The Whole Picture, All Year Long

We would never judge a teacher on a single lesson on a single day. Just as a good teacher gets to know your child over time, our school leaders come to know each teacher's practice throughout the year by visiting classrooms, reviewing lesson plans and samples of student work, and talking together about what is going well and what could be even stronger. This provides a fair and complete picture of a teacher's practice, and most importantly, of how it supports student success.

From Evidence To Excellence

Here is the part that matters most: this process is about growth, not grading.

Our school leaders work with teachers; they do what we ask teachers to do with students: notice strengths first, ask thoughtful questions, and offer coaching, encouragement, and support wherever it will help. Our commitment is to ensure every teacher has the encouragement, feedback, and professional learning they need to continue growing throughout their career.

Why It Matters For Your Child

Great teaching does not happen by chance.

Every classroom visit, every coaching conversation, and every step of Maple Bear's Teacher Performance Appraisal reflects our commitment to nurturing, supporting, and strengthening exceptional teaching. This ongoing commitment to our teachers helps foster learning environments where students are encouraged to explore, think critically, collaborate, and grow into confident, independent learners.

> Across our LATAM schools, I've seen it firsthand: when teachers receive regular observations and thoughtful feedback through the Teacher Performance Appraisal, their practice grows stronger, every time.

Laura Ann Pellegrini,
Coordinator, Maple Bear LATAM









GROWING GREAT TEACHERS: THE COACHING CYCLE



As parents, you want to know that your child is learning from teachers who are continually growing, learning, and refining their practice. At Maple Bear Global Schools, we believe that great teaching doesn't happen by chance. It develops through ongoing collaboration, reflection, and support.

That's why Maple Bear uses an instructional coaching model built around three connected practices: **co-planning, co-teaching, and co-reflecting**. Together, these practices help teachers strengthen their skills and ensure students benefit from high-quality learning experiences every day.

A Coaching Model Designed To Support Student Success

The Maple Bear Instructional Coaching Cycle includes three key phases:

Co-Planning
Teachers and coaches work together to design effective learning experiences.

Co-Teaching
Coaches support teachers in the classroom as lessons are delivered.

Co-Reflecting
Teachers and coaches discuss what students learned and identify ways to strengthen future instruction.

While all three phases are important, the reflection process is often where the greatest professional growth occurs.

PLANNING WITH PURPOSE

The cycle begins with co-planning.

Teachers collaborate with experienced Canadian Instructional Coaches to think carefully about student needs, learning goals, and teaching strategies.

Together they consider questions such as:

- What do students already know?
- What do students need to learn next?
- Which teaching approaches will be most effective?
- How will we know students are making progress?

This collaborative planning helps teachers make informed decisions that support student learning and engagement.

LEARNING TOGETHER IN THE CLASSROOM

Next comes co-teaching, where planning is put into practice.

During this phase, Canadian coaches work alongside teachers in the classroom. They may model instructional strategies, observe student learning, or collaborate with teachers during lessons. This support allows teachers to try new approaches, respond to student needs in real time, and continually strengthen their practice.

For students, this means learning experiences that are thoughtful, responsive, and focused on their success.

GROWING THROUGH REFLECTION

After the lesson, teachers and Canadian coaches take time to reflect together.

They discuss questions such as:

- What worked well?
- How did students respond?
- What evidence of learning did we see?
- What might we do differently next time?

These conversations are focused on growth and improvement. They help teachers better understand the impact of their instructional choices and identify strategies that can make future learning even more effective.

Simply put, reflection helps transform experience into expertise.

WHY TEACHER GROWTH MATTERS FOR STUDENTS

Research consistently shows that students benefit when teachers engage in ongoing professional learning. When teachers feel supported, confident, and equipped with effective strategies, they are better able to meet students' needs and create positive learning environments.

Over time, the coaching cycle helps teachers become:

- More confident in their instructional decisions
- More responsive to student learning needs
- More reflective about their practice
- More willing to innovate and try new approaches
- More effective in supporting student success

As teachers grow, students benefit from stronger instruction, richer learning experiences, and greater opportunities to succeed.

BUILDING A CULTURE OF LEARNING

One of the unique strengths of Maple Bear is that professional growth is embedded in the work of the Canadian Instructional Coaches. Rather than relying solely on workshops or training sessions, teachers learn through ongoing collaboration with coaches.

This creates a culture where educators continuously learn from one another, share expertise, and work together to provide the best possible educational experience for every student.

THE MAPLE BEAR DIFFERENCE

At Maple Bear, we believe that professional growth is most effective when it is collaborative, practical, and focused on students.

Co-planning creates purpose.

Co-teaching creates opportunity.

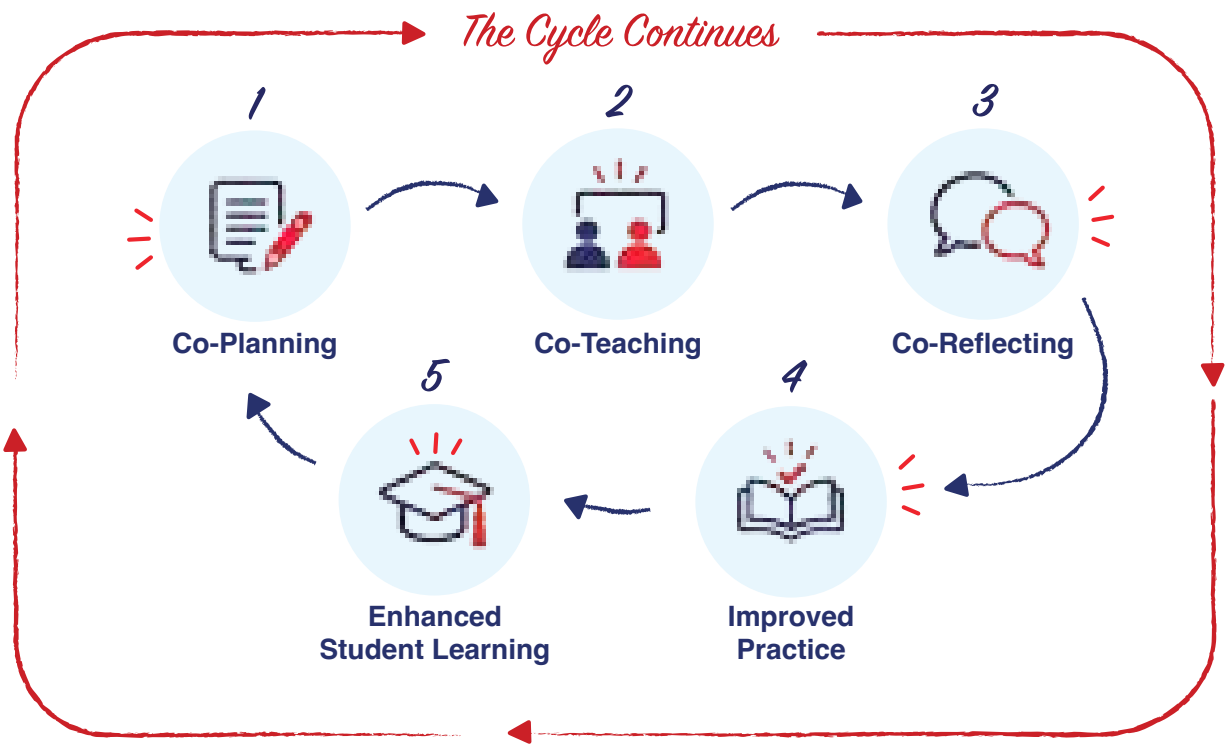
Co-reflecting creates transformation.

Together, these practices help teachers continuously improve their craft, so that every student benefits from engaging, effective, and meaningful learning experiences.

> When educators plan together, learn together, and reflect together, students thrive.

The Teacher Coaching Cycle

A continuous cycle of collaboration and reflection that builds confident teachers and creates real impact for students.



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS IN ACTION

One of the things that sets Maple Bear apart is our extensive network of English-immersion schools. With more than 500 schools in over 35 countries, we have an incredible opportunity to connect students across borders so they can learn with and from one another.

That opportunity comes to life through our Global Connections projects.

Each project extends the Maple Bear Curriculum and pairs at least one United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) with an Inner Development Goal (IDG), giving even our youngest students a reason to think critically, communicate across cultures and practice global citizenship in English, the common language of all our students.

LEARNING ABOUT ANIMALS, TOGETHER

When Maple Bear Suseong in South Korea partnered with Maple Bear Yau Tong in Hong Kong, their Junior Kindergarten (JK) classes set out to answer a simple question: what makes an animal special?

Guided by SDG 15 (Life on Land) and the IDG of Openness and Learning Mindset, students researched animals and their habitats and built a shared class book to present what they discovered, page by page.



JK students' class book about owls, a project between MB Suseong, Korea, and MB Yau Tong, Hong Kong about Life on Land.



SK students in Maianga, Angola, share their work on ocean life and water conservation.

FROM ANGOLA TO POLAND, PROTECTING WATER

Senior Kindergarten (SK) students at Maple Bear Maianga in Angola and Maple Bear Krakow in Poland took on SDG 14 (Life Below Water), exploring why clean water matters and how filtration systems work.

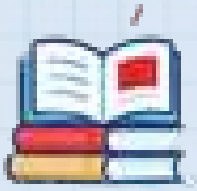
In Krakow, learning moved outdoors: students visited Bagry Lake, pulled on safety vests and collected litter along the shore, connecting a global goal to a very local act of care.



SK students in Krakow, Poland, take their Global Connections learning outdoors with a cleanup at Bagry Lake.

Global Connections at a Glance



100+
schools currently registered

25%
year-end target

11
classroom projects

JK-Grade 8
current project range

BUILT TO GROW WITH EVERY GRADE

What began in January 2025 as three projects for Junior Kindergarten, Senior Kindergarten and Grade 1 has grown into 11 projects spanning JK through Grade 8, each pairing a specific SDG with an IDG skill such as critical thinking, empathy or resilience.

And high school integration is underway, starting with Grade 9 and 10 projects.

Every student and classroom that completes a project receives a certificate from Maple Bear Global Schools, and highlights are shared in the program's digital Global Connections classrooms for other schools around the world to see and be inspired by.

> The Global Connections project was a valuable and enriching experience. It provided meaningful opportunities for cultural exchange, collaboration and learning with students from another country.

JK Teacher

WHY IT MATTERS

As Nancy Steinhauer, Global Connections Lead, explains:

> **"Teachers tell us their students are highly engaged and love meeting children from around the world. These projects show us that our students are not just the leaders of tomorrow. They are the leaders of today."**

From a class book on animal habitats in Korea to a lakeside cleanup in Poland, Global Connections shows what happens when learning turns into action, one classroom and one country at a time.

GET YOUR MAPLE BEAR SCHOOL INVOLVED!

Schools that haven't yet registered can email **globalconnections@maplebear.ca** to connect with the Global Connections team and get started.



FROM EARLY YEARS TO GRADUATION

The Maple Bear OSSD Pathway

Families choose Maple Bear because they value an education that nurtures curiosity, confidence and a lifelong love of learning. Now, that journey can continue all the way through graduation.

Through the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) pathway, offered in partnership with Maple Bear International School Toronto (MBIST), students can graduate with both their local high school diploma and the Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

The OSSD awarded through MBIST is the same government-issued diploma earned by students graduating from public and private high schools across Ontario, Canada. Recognized by universities around the world, it allows students to continue their Maple Bear educational journey through high school while expanding their post-secondary choices.

The OSSD pathway complements a school's local curriculum rather than replacing it. Students continue to meet local graduation requirements while working toward the OSSD, allowing them to graduate with two respected credentials. Through Ontario's Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) process, previous studies are recognized so students build on prior learning rather than repeating equivalent coursework.

One Educational Journey. Two Diplomas.

Recognizing that every Maple Bear community is unique, schools can implement the pathway in different ways. Some schools choose to offer a comprehensive Maple Bear high school program from Grades 9 to 12, while others introduce the OSSD pathway during the later years of secondary school. Regardless of the model, every student follows the same Ontario curriculum and graduates having met the province's high academic standards.

An Education That Prepares Students for the Future

Every course in the Maple Bear OSSD pathway is designed and written by certified Ontario teachers and built to meet Ontario Ministry of Education expectations.

One of the defining strengths of an Ontario education is its focus on helping every student succeed. Rather than relying on a single high-stakes examination, students demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways throughout each course and receive regular feedback that helps them strengthen their understanding, build confidence and continue improving over time. This balanced approach helps students master academic content while developing critical thinking, communication and problem-solving skills for life beyond graduation.

As students progress through the program, they also develop the independence, time management and personal responsibility expected in post-secondary education and today's workplaces. Students access course materials, learning activities and ongoing feedback through D2L Brightspace, a trusted learning platform used by educational institutions around the world. Grade 12 OSSD courses are assessed by Ontario Certified Teachers, and final assessments are supervised to ensure the integrity of the credential.



What You Get

- Local high school diploma + Ontario Secondary School Diploma
- Regular feedback to support learning and build confidence
- An Ontario diploma recognized by universities worldwide
- Recognition of prior studies through PLAR
- Ontario curriculum alongside local graduation requirements
- Course materials and activities through D2L Brightspace



A Milestone for the Maple Bear Network

The impact of the OSSD pathway is already being seen across the Maple Bear network. This year, **41 students from Maple Bear Benfica in Luanda, Angola**, graduated with the Ontario Secondary School Diploma through MBIST. Their achievement is an exciting milestone and a testament to what students can accomplish as they continue their Maple Bear journey through graduation.

As Dr. Martine Lewis, Chief Academic Officer at Maple Bear Global Schools, reflects: "I believe that the true measure of education is not the diploma a student earns, but the person they become. The Maple Bear OSSD pathway allows us to guide students through a seamless learning journey, intentionally building the skills, character, agency and global mindset that will enable them to contribute meaningfully to their communities and thrive in the opportunities and challenges of the future."

Students graduate with two respected diplomas. More importantly, they graduate with the knowledge, skills and confidence to succeed wherever their future takes them.

CONFERENCES THAT CONNECT

Maple Bear's global community came together this year to celebrate milestones and strengthen connections.



CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE TEACHERS' CONFERENCES PRAGUE AND SOFIA

In April, Maple Bear Central and Eastern Europe hosted two teacher conferences in Prague, Czechia and Sofia, Bulgaria, under the theme *We Grow Together*.

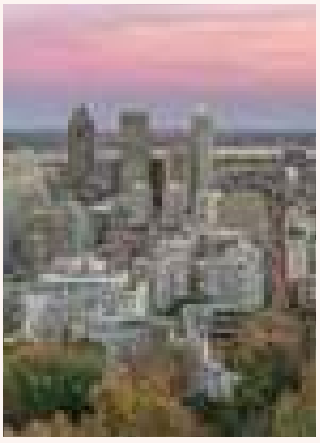
The events brought together educators, school leaders and academic teams from across Eastern Europe, with sessions led by Martine Lewis, Chief Academic Officer, and Tammy-Lynne Peel, Director of Training and Professional Development.



BRAZIL ANNUAL CONVENTION 20 YEARS STRONG

The Maple Bear Brazil Annual Convention took place in São Paulo, bringing together school leaders from across the country to celebrate 20 years of Maple Bear in Brazil. Tammy-Lynne Peel presented on the legacy of Canadian education, and José Henrique, CEO of Maple Bear Global Schools, shared remarks on global trends and our growth.

COMING SOON



MAPLE BEAR GLOBAL CONFERENCE

Montreal
October 21 to 23, 2026

Maple Bear's annual gathering comes to Montreal, Canada, bringing together leaders, faculty and school owners from across the global network for three days of dialogue and collaboration under the theme *Learning Without Limits*.



MAPLE BEAR ASIA EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Seoul
November 12 to 14, 2026

Maple Bear Korea and the Maple Bear Global Academic Team welcome the network to Seoul for two days of professional learning and shared best practices, marking 20 years of Maple Bear Korea.



TWO WEEKS OF LEARNING, ADVENTURE AND LIFELONG MEMORIES

This summer, students from Maple Bear Mexico and Maple Bear Guatemala crossed paths in Canada, encouraged to speak English with one another throughout the camp, an immersive twist that turned new friendships into daily practice, over two unforgettable weeks at the Maple Bear Canadian Summer Camp.

The group took in the very best of Ontario together: the view from the CN Tower, a harbour cruise through Toronto, the roar of Niagara Falls and a Blue Jays baseball game under the amazing Skydome. There was time on campus too, with a visit to McMaster University, and time for celebration, with Canada Day festivities bringing the group together in a shared moment of Canadian culture.

Then the adventure moved to our northern camp location. Days on the water gave way to canoeing, kayaking and paddle-boarding, while rock climbing and Treetop Trekking pushed campers a little further outside their comfort zones. Evenings wound down around the campfire, where the day's outdoor games and leadership activities gave way to quieter conversation and the kind of friendships that only two weeks of shared adventure can build.

The feedback from campers was overwhelmingly positive, with Canada's Wonderland, the CN Tower, Treetop Trekking and the evening campfires named again and again as highlights.

We are grateful to all of our campers, families and staff for making Summer Camp 2026 such a tremendous success.

Join Us in 2027!

Planning is already underway for the Maple Bear Canadian Summer Camp 2027, and we can't wait to welcome another group of students for an incredible Canadian adventure. If you're looking for a summer filled with learning, exploration, new friendships and unforgettable experiences, we invite you to join us next year.

Registration details will be made available soon.

If you would like more information, please reach out to us at **info@maplebearglobal.ca**

We look forward to seeing you in Summer 2027!

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