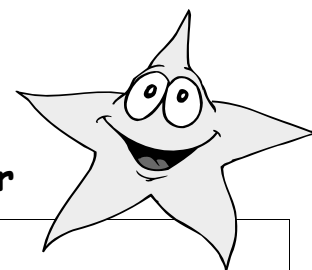


The North Star

North Street School's Monthly Newsletter



January 2012

Message from Mr. Ferreira:

Dear Parents/Guardians:

While many of you may disagree with me, I do miss the snow. I don't even get to appreciate snow days as I will come to work anyway! Maybe we'll luck out next week.

Just as a quick reminder, the snow that we had in October did change the school calendar. We did lose some vacation days in February. Your children will be home on Monday, Feb 20th and Tuesday, Feb 21st, but **there will be school** on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of that week.

Thank you for having your children fill out their star on how they will fill someone's bucket. The stars are filling up our front window. Please come by to view their work.

My MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) data wall is up in the main hallway. Once our students have finished the winter testing, I will add their results to the wall so you can see progress. Our teachers are working hard to make sure your children are engaged and learning.

We are entering our budget season. Once I have the dates for the budget presentation and workshops, I will post them on our website

I will be having a Principal's Parent Advisory meeting on Wednesday, Jan 18th at 6:30 pm right before the PTO meeting. Please try to stop by.

A few reminders:

- Lost and Found. PLEASE sift through our bin if you can't find that coat or sweater that you knew your child had. Once you find it, PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME IN IT!! (Wow- you just got scolded by the principal—I am sure it was the first time for all of you ☺)
- If your child is too sick to come to school, you can leave a message on our Nurse's line at 292-5029, anytime. You don't have to wait until school starts. If you don't call to let us know that your child is absent, then we are required to make the call home which can be very time-consuming. Thank you for helping us out.

- Snow day info:
 - Please watch the local TV stations during inclement weather. You will also be getting a call from the superintendent. If there is a delay, NSS opens at 9:55. Please do not drop your child off earlier as there is no one to supervise.
- Keep encouraging your child to read at home and fill out the reading incentive paper. Little Mr. Ferreira is making his way around the school too slowly. We need to speed him up!

Sincerely,

Jeff Ferreira
Principal

Pre-K

In January, the Pre-K classes theme will be Winter. The children will be participating in various stories related to winter topics such as building a snowman, ice skating, winter clothing, and arctic animals. We will also do an author study on the books written by Jan Brett. Our learning centers will incorporate theme related manipulatives to reinforce concepts related to early literacy skills such as rhyming, letter identification and initial letter sounds. Mathematic skills include one to one correspondence in counting, sorting, graphing and extending patterns. We will continue to work on the Handwriting Without Tears curriculum and letter formation with horizontal, vertical and curved lines.

Kindergarten

In Reading Workshop students will be working on print strategies to help them independently read leveled books. During Writing Workshop the children will be zooming in and writing details about a small moment in their lives. In math, we will practice counting by 1's and 10's to 100 as we get ready for our 100th day of school. Students should be able to recognize the numbers 0-30 and the dime will be introduced. Kindergarten classes will begin differentiated word sorts in small groups. We will discuss and learn about Martin Luther King Junior. We are still working on many self-help skills including: putting on our coats and zipping them without teacher assistance and tying shoes. Please practice these skills at home. Please send labeled boots and snow pants when we have snow on the ground.

Grade 1

First grade is working on finishing up our writing unit on How-To books. The students have enjoyed writing to teach others how to do all the things that they are really great at. Soon we will be starting our writing unit on persuasive letter writing. Our reading unit this month is Non-fiction. The students are very excited to be reading this genre and are excited to learn more about the features of non-fiction books as well as to learn more about the topics that are interesting to them. In math, we have begun work with standard measurements and we will also review and extend the use of thermometers and clocks. In social studies, we will be learning more about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Please remember to send in your reading logs to help Little Mr. Ferreira move along!

Grade 2:

Reading Workshop - Our unit focus for this month is Series Reading and Cross Genres Reading Clubs. This unit is a way for students to practice using the numerous strategies that they have accumulated to develop deeper comprehension, with opportunities to learn more about prediction, characters, and recognizing patterns. Series books are a great way to support students to think across books and get "hooked" on some of their favorite characters. Students will continue to practice stop-and-jots to prepare them for being accountable during partner talk and opportunities for written responses. By paying close attention and recognizing patterns, whether it's a recurring setting and environment, or patterns of behavior, students will anticipate the next thing, and push their thinking further. Series partner clubs will provide for opportunities to share understandings and refine ideas. Readers also will go back and forth between their series books and nonfiction books to find out how new information makes them feel and think about a topic, perhaps even changing ideas or growing new ones.

Writing Workshop - This month's writing unit is **Opinion Writing: Persuasive Reviews**. This unit will give second graders the power to use their writing to persuade others to believe what they believe, and ultimately, to take action as a result of their writing. This is a unit that allows students to really recognize that they have a voice and that writing can be a great vehicle to share what they think with others. Our second grade students will write reviews of restaurants, books, video games, movies, plays, hotels or stores! They will be pulling out all of their editing and revision techniques to make their reviews even better. Watch out, our writers will be sharing their opinions with the world!

Mathematics - In our current unit, second graders will be working with 3-D and 2-D shapes, as well as continuing on with double digit addition practice. Students are learning to draw and name line segments, including parallel line segments, and learning to find lines of symmetry in objects. Students are also learning to identify the names and characteristics of quadrangles and to construct pyramids to help learn about faces, edges, and vertices.

Library

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a fun, safe and relaxing December vacation
My best wishes for a healthy and happy 2012!

In January, kindergarten classes will be listening to and learning how to find "just right" *beginning to read books* such as "Biscuit," "Elephant and Piggie," and "Spot." They will also listen to "The

Hat" by Jan Brett and "The Mitten" by Jim Aylesworth to identify the main character and setting of the story.

Grade 1 and grade 2 classes will be finishing their Eileen Christelow author study by listening to "The Five-Dog Night."

Grade 1 will continue locating "just right" reading books in the media center. They will be introduced to some *beginning to read books*, such as "Pooh's Sled Ride," "Frog and Toad All Year," "Little Bear," "Mr. Putter and Tabby Paint the Porch" and "Elephant and Piggie." They have learned where the "just right" green labeled books are in the library media center and how to use the five finger rule to select their "just right" book. Grade 1 classes will also listen to the nonfiction book "Do Polar Bears Snooze in Hollow Trees" to identify the main idea.

Grade 2 will listen to Iditarod stories, "Togo" and "Painter and Ugly" and learn to read for information about the Iditarod sled race from the Internet.

Also with the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday coming up, all classes will discuss what a biography is and where to find them in our media center.

Art:

Second Graders have started off the New Year with a bang as they demonstrate their knowledge of color and value by mixing and painting a variety of tints and secondary colors to create painted papers. Student will be using these papers in the weeks to come for illustration and puppetry projects. First Grade has begun a drawing unit that focuses on animals and will be exploring printmaking by examining Japanese woodblock prints. Kindergarten students are working on constructing shape sculptures and will be starting another painting based on the artwork of Wassily Kandinsky while the preschoolers are creating their own version of Vincent Van Gogh's Starry Night.

Music

Happy New Year! This month is full of fun projects for our music students. The second graders are taking their musical knowledge to new heights, composing and performing their own xylophone songs to be recorded on Miss Page's laptop! The first graders have started to learn about Saint-Saens' *Carnival of the Animals*. Just this week, they got to practice their lion roar! Kindergarteners are learning what instruments sound like by playing the Mystery Instrument game. Our PreK students are learning to waddle and sing like penguins. Stay warm, everyone!

Gym:

I hope everyone had a great vacation. In Physical Education class we're starting a new unit on Basketball skills. Students will learn and practice such skills as passing, dribbling, shooting. Students will also learn basic rules of the game. With snow right around the corner, many students are wearing snow boots to school. Just as a reminder, if they have gym that day, be sure to have them bring their sneakers to change into. It's very hard for them to move in class with boots. Thanks.

-Mr. Lepak

PBIS Corner

Our December PBIS celebration was a huge success!! North Street Stars who earned three buckets were able to vote for a movie. Popcorn and water were served during the celebration. January's PBIS celebration will be Game Day. Stars who earn 3 buckets will select an activity such as board games, puzzles, crafts, etc. to celebrate their bucket accomplishments. Go North Street Stars!

Reading Room:

From the Reading Room...Focus on Fluency...

You may wonder why your child brings home the same books to read many times. Research shows that as a reader reads a text orally several times, he/she begins to bridge phrasing in oral speech and appropriate phrasing in reading written text. This knowledge of phrase patterns transfers to other, familiar passages. Repeated oral reading leads to fluency not just in decoding but also in meaningful phrasing. Improved fluency leads to better reading in general and better comprehension in particular.

You can try **paired reading** at home to help build your child's fluency. All it takes is 10 to 15 minutes per day to accelerate reading growth. Sit side by side with your child and a just right book he or she has chosen. Begin reading aloud together. Whenever your child reads a word incorrectly give the correct pronunciation quickly and continue the reading to avoid disrupting fluency. Happy reading!

PTO

We hope that everyone had a wonderful winter/holiday break and a Happy New Year! The Leadership Team of the North Street PTO would like to say **THANK YOU** to all the students, staff & parents for making all of our events & programs a huge success so far. As the New Year begins the PTO is hard at work putting together more events for our students, parents & staff to enjoy.

Star Cards are currently for sale. The card provides discounts to numerous local businesses from Jan '11 to Jan '12. The cards are \$20 and can be purchased by sending in your child's name, teacher name & check made out to North Street PTO. Thank you Sarah Oberg for organizing this fundraiser and filling orders!!

January Family Fun Night is Friday, January 20th @ 6:30. Our first family fun night of 2012 is one that will get you up and moving. We are hosting a family zumba class. A flyer with more details will be coming home in your child's folder. Thank you Patsy Smith for coordinating this event.

Square One Art fundraiser is underway thanks to Claudia Trigs (Art Teacher) & Jim Cannon (Kindergarten Aide). Proceeds from the purchase of your child's art work will help fund enrichment activities for our students. More information will be sent home in your child's folder.

Cinco de North Street is at Chili's in Windsor to celebrate our students on Monday, March 5th. Come down and have dinner, a portion of your check will benefit North Street School.

Help Wanted Section:

- Coordinators for **Family Fun Nights** for the months of February & March
- Coordinators for **Teacher/Staff Appreciation** in May
- Volunteers for Square One Art fundraiser, Field Day, Yearbook/Memory Book, Scholastic Book Fair, PTO Bylaw & Election Committee, Vehicles & Vendors Fair
- Suggestions & Ideas

Next PTO Meeting is Wednesday, January 18th @ 6:30.
Come for some fun!! Children are welcome & encouraged to attend. We will have games and crafts for them to do.
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Freebies



Continue to clip and save through out the school year!



Don't forget to read to your children!