

December 2023 Newsletter

Greetings, Bear Creek families,

December has arrived!

As we near the second semester of school, it is wonderful to reflect on the progress made by our students and staff and consider the possibilities and opportunities ahead. Thank you for being an integral part of our extended community and for all you do to promote the success of our students. Your dedication and support of our school, students and staff is deeply appreciated.

The month of December marks a busy time at Bear Creek. With just a short time until our winter break, the coming weeks prove a critical instructional window for all students. During this stretch, we often see some of our greatest academic gains and overall student growth. It's a time to reinforce what has been working well, celebrate achievements and milestones, as well as renew focus on goals and outcomes centered on academic and social progress. Please continue to lean on our instructional staff, advisors and support team to identify ways to further student learning and avenues of support to ensure each of our students are reaching their fullest potential.

As always, we deeply value the dynamic partnership we enjoy with our families. Looking forward to a tremendous month of growth.

In partnership,

Brian Matthias

Principal

Northshore Networks/Northshore Family Partnership/Northshore Online Academy

bmatthias@nsd.org

Join NLO's new Student Body Council starting this January!

The Student Body Council is a group of students who care about making a positive difference in our community at Northshore Learning Options. All are welcome to join. As I'm sure you are aware, the nature of our three programs here on the Bear Creek Campus and in Northshore Learning Options allows for three unique schedules and groups of students to complete their education. As we create this new Student Body Council (SBC) we are going to try to use the uniqueness of our programs to our advantage. We hope that the SBC can become a place where students can get involved with their school community.

Our overall goal is to create a sense of belonging at school through leadership, service, voice, and engagement. All Student Body Council members work together to plan activities, confront and resolve problems, and gain leadership skills through the implementation of

beneficial activities during the school year. Students involved build beneficial leadership skills, make new friends, and have fun while working in teams.

On the logistical side of things, we have created a system that we think will work to keep all of our programs working together to help our K-12 community. This student council will consist of 3 main groups - an elementary council (Leadership Club) with an advisor (grades K-6th), a secondary council with an advisor (grades 7th-12th), and an elected executive leadership board (which includes a President, Vice President, Secretary, 2 representatives from both the Elementary and Secondary Council).

Elementary Council (Leadership Club) will meet with advisor Leslie Harwood in Room 113. Meeting dates and times = 1st Wednesday of each month from 9-10a

- Jan. 3 (1st Meeting)
- Feb. 7
- Mar. 6
- April 3
- May 1
- June 5

Secondary Council will meet with advisor Mary Mendenall in Room 222. Meeting dates and times = Wednesdays @ 12:30p-1:30p

- Jan 3 (1st Meeting)
- Jan 31
- March 6
- April 17
- May 1
- May 29

If you are interested in joining the Student Body Council, please attend our first meeting (Secondary Council) on Wednesday, January 3rd at 12:30p to 1:30p in Room 222 or (Elementary Council) on Wednesday, January 3rd from 9-10 in Room 113.

Feel free to reach out with any questions!

SBC Contacts:

President, Amalie Landry at 1082673@apps.nsd.org

Vice President, Norah Cherry at 2007351@nsd.org

Leslie Harwood, K-6 advisor at [lharwood@apps.nsd.org](mailto:harwood@apps.nsd.org)

Mary Mendenall, 7-12 advisor at mmendenall@nsd.org

Yearbook Team

"This year our schoolwide Yearbook Advisor is Liam Miner, a NOA teacher who works in the NOA Room 123 on campus. You may see Liam taking photographs with a camera at school events, but feel free to share any photos that you take with Liam at lminer@nsd.org for them to possibly be included in the yearbook. Please also know that if you feel strongly that an image of your student should *not* be included in the yearbook (with the yearbook being public information), you must contact the Bear Creek Front Office staff. Additionally, the Yearbook team is still looking for 1-2 NFP students to join, so that all three NLO programs are represented on the team. The Yearbook team will be meeting once a week starting after Thanksgiving break."

PTSA at Bear Creek Campus

Did you know that Bear Creek has a PTSA that is dedicated to serving all three programs?

We'd love your input to make our PTSA the very best that it can be! Our mission is to serve the Northshore Networks, Northshore Online Academy, and Northshore Family Partnership communities and your voice matters! Whether you'd like to be a member or serve in one of our chair positions, we'd love to have you join us.

Haven't bought a membership yet?

No problem! You can sign up for a membership [here](#). In addition to having a vote at meetings, you'll also have [special member savings](#) through the Washington PTSA.

Want to volunteer your time to chair a position?

We are currently looking for interested volunteers to take on the following chair positions:

- Fundraising
- Excursions
- Staff Appreciation
- Membership
- Volunteer Coordinator

General PTSA meetings are held on Zoom every other month and our first general meeting is September 28 at 6:30 pm. We hope to see you there!

General PTSA Meetings for 2023-2024

Thursday, January 11, 2023

Thursday, March 14, 2023

Thursday, May 9, 2023

Please join us to learn about exciting events, excursions, clubs, and other PTSA sponsored activities and share your suggestions for the 2023-2024 school year!

Giving Tree

The Bear Creek Campus will be hosting a giving tree in the front office from December 5th until December 12th. Please consider picking up a gift tag and purchasing an item for a child in our community. We will be collecting items in the front office up until December 12th. They will be distributed to families December 14th. Please return your purchased item wrapped with the gift tag attached. Your help this holiday season will be greatly appreciated.



Library News

November
2023

Bear Creek Campus Library

Serving Northshore Learning Options NFP, NN, and NOA

Librarian: Todd Parker (425) 408-4112; tparker@nisd.org

Ask the Librarian

Curriculum Update

A mostly complete listing of NFP Curriculum is now available. [Click this link](#) to access it and email to Alma Dicks on availability. Thank you to Alynda Silcox for completing this lengthy project!

Library Catalog Link

Book Fair

Bear Creek Campus Library
December 4th - 7th
8:30 - 3:30
December 7th
4:30 - 7:00 P.M.

Open Library Hours

Parents can browse/ checkout curriculum and students may check out books.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
8:40 to 9:00 AM
9:50 to 10:15 AM
12:00 to 1:00 PM
3:00 to 3:30

Wednesday and Friday
Contact Todd to arrange a time

Seminole Potterywork Dolls by Mary Boozer's Arts and Cultures Around the World



COUNSELING CORNER

December 2023

Generosity

Willing to give and share what you have

Being generous doesn't have to cost a thing. Here are some ways for your student to show generosity:

1. Smile
2. Say good morning and good bye
3. Ask a new friend to play
4. Ask someone new to sit with you at lunch
5. If someone seems upset, see if they are doing OK or need help.

Giving Back at Home

It is an important time to reflect on all that you are grateful to have and to teach your children the importance of being generous. Here are a few inexpensive ways to spend time as a family and give back this season:

1. Write cards to Soldiers
2. Donate old blankets or toys to animal shelters
3. Donate perishables to organizations that support the less fortunate
4. Bake cookies for neighbors or friends
5. Host a party
6. Visit a nursing home

Books Recommendation About Generosity



The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
Boxes for Katie by Candace Fleming
The Giving Book by Ellen Sabin
Give me Half! by Stuart J. Murphy
A Kid's Guide to Giving by Freddie Zeller
My Friend Fred by Hiawyn Oram

Kindness is like snow it beautifies everything it covers- Khalil Gibran



Repeat:
If you haven't had a chance to fill out the parent needs assessment please do so. It lets me know counseling topics you are interested in as well as counseling topics for students



Winterfest

This PTSA sponsored event will be on Thursday, December 7 from 5-7:30pm and feature fun activities like

- gingerbread decorating (if you have pre-purchase a kit), snowflake crafts, obstacle courses and more in the gym
- Card making for staff in the music room
- Book fair in the library

Photo Retakes now available for pick-up in the Main Office

[Calendar of Events](#)

- Giving Tree - December 1 - 14
- Scholastic Book Fair - December 4 - 7
- Winterfest - December 7
- Winter Break - December 18 - January 1

[Tuesday, Jan 2 at 3:13 PM]

Reminder!

Join NLO's new Student Body Council starting this January!

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