

NORTHERN ELEMENTARY

STRENGTH

A RIVER CUTS THROUGH A ROCK, NOT BECAUSE OF ITS POWER BUT ITS PERSISTENCE.

NES YEAR OF STRENGTH 2015



DATES TO REMEMBER:

August 26	5PM - 6PM: KinderCub Connection 6PM - 7:30PM Kindergarten Orientation
August 27	6:30PM - 7:30 PM GR 1-5 Open House
September 7	No School
September 10	Back To School Night: 6-6:45PM Grades K-2 6:45-7:30PM Grades 3-5
September 18	Early Dismissal
September 23	Picture Day!

WELCOME BACK POLAR BEARS!

What a summer this has been... full of personal adventure, inspired collaboration and productive planning for our 2015 Year of Strength. As I enter my seventh year of guardianship as Northern Elementary principal, I am humbled by the heartfelt support of our students, faculty and parents. 2009 marked my first year, a Year of Gratitude, which evolved into our School Wide focus of giving thanks for the many blessings in our lives. My quirky affinity for alliteration led us to the Year of Generosity and Year of Grace, sparking our school family to adopt a Platoon of American Heroes and establish our motto of, Lead By Example. Yet, after three years, it was time for our students, remarkable and spirited, to take ownership of our yearly focus. Northern Polar Bears vote each year for the following year's theme and they have selected a host of heartened core characteristics with the Year of Joy 2012, Year of Peace 2013, and Year of Love 2014.

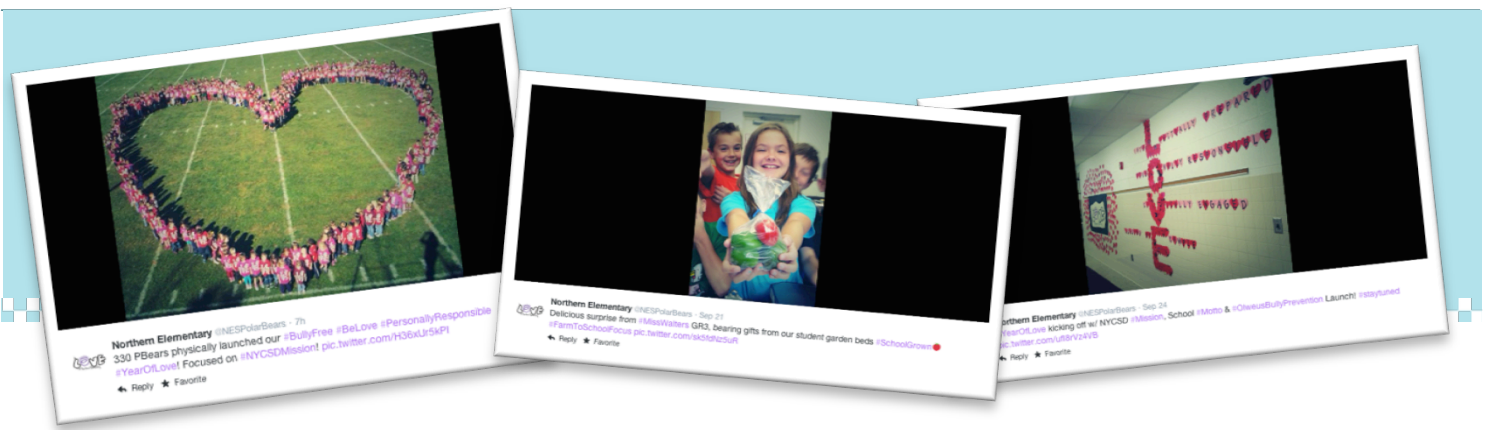


GIRLS ON THE RUN: GRADES 3, 4, 5

SEPTEMBER 8: (9AM) REGISTRATION OPENS FOR FALL SEASON.

SEPTEMBER 22: FALL SEASON BEGINS (TU/TH MEETINGS)

DECEMBER 5: (9AM-1PM) 5K RACE IN YORK



YEAR OF STRENGTH – LIGHTING THE SPARK, FUELING THE FIRE!

So, welcome to our Year of Strength, selected by our Polar Bears and aptly shaped with our strategic goals in mind. Our vision, centered on the NYCS D mission: Intellectually Prepared, Personally Responsible, Civically Engaged, underscored by our NES motto: Lead By Example, and the core concepts of 21st Century Learning: Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity fuel our passion for student centered success and innovation.

With this, we have focused on several key components for enhancing our Northern climate, inspiring our community of learners, and increasing opportunity for innovation and engagement.

SUNSHINE CAFÉ = A comfortable setting designed to highlight good food, great conversation, and opportunity for engaging experiences. Pouring through research based outcomes on school lunch and student engagement led to making pertinent changes in the structure of our schedule, physical facility and hour of engagement. Students will have recess before lunch, optimizing their opportunity for energy exertion and increased appetite for lunch! We have prioritized the implementation of round tables, underscoring our family centered approach, while celebrating the differences in each other: our sunshine (yellow) table is reserved for nut-free lunches and can be moved daily to offer a varied experience for these students. Lunch condiments will be located on each table to increase independent usage, and students will be charged with keeping their space clean, while supporting the collaborative spirit of this space. Clean plate challenges, market basket features, fruit/veggie infused water, smoothie sampler carts and farm to school spotlights will be emphasized and encouraged. Stay tuned for the many ways these new features align with our Year of Strength!

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @NESPOLARBEARS

SPARK SPACES = Spaces that offer opportunity for students to discover, explore and extend their SPARK, aka personal interests! Your Polar Bears will participate in an interest survey identifying their personal interests, skills and strengths with the goal of empowering students to explore current and new interests, share their unique knowledge, collaborate and learn from each other. Our playground will be organized with several spaces for students to explore: TEAM SPORTS- opportunities for students to engage in team/sports games; TABLE TOP TEAMING- strategic games such as chess, jenga, connect four; ARTS/MUSIC- music, movement and motion; CREATIVE EXPRESSION- chalk project gallery, tinkering and building; and HORTICULTURE HUB- caring for our garden beds. Our Cubs will have the opportunity to participate in strategic planning for these spaces via Cub Collaboration – offering input and working to enhance the innovative culture of our school!



NEW STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM: SAPPHIRE

Sapphire Parent Access to the Community Portal

This year, NYCSD is switching to a new Student Management System. All schools will be moving from Power School to **Sapphire**.

Parents will receive information on how to request a parent account during Back to School Night presentations. This system will permit for increased ease of both communication and access of student records.

We appreciate your patience as we transition to this new database.

NEW ADDITION OF ENCORE CLASS: GUIDANCE

NYCSD GR 1-5 students will have a Guidance Lesson (30 mins), once each 6 day cycle, followed by class family meeting (15 mins). KiDG students will have a monthly Guidance Lesson.

This 45 mins block of time will be devoted to supporting school-wide Character Counts, Spark Lessons, Mindfulness and Olweus Bully Prevention components. Stay tuned for more information on this new addition to our schedule!

NEW LUNCH & RECESS SCHEDULE

RECESS BEFORE LUNCH		LUNCH SCHEDULE
Extended K	10:45-11:00	11:05-11:35
Mrs. Bobby	10:45-11:15	11:15-11:45
Grade 1	10:45-11:15	11:15-11:45
Grade 2	11:20-11:50	11:50-12:20
Grade 3	11:25-11:55	11:55-12:25
Miss Rodriguez	11:55-12:25	12:25-12:55
Grade 4 AND 5	11:55-12:25	12:25-12:55

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AT NORTHERN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

Kindergarten Orientation will take place on August 26 at 6PM.

Please enter via the Kindergarten Doors, where your child will be escorted to his/her classroom by a NES staff.

Parents will gather in the Sunshine Cafè, our school cafeteria at 6PM.

While parents receive information on the school year, students will engage in activities in their classrooms.

At 7PM, parents will be dismissed to meet their child for an Orientation Bus Ride. To ensure sufficient seating, we ask that only one parent, accompany the student on the bus.

BUS SAFETY & PROCEDURES

Grade K students will not be released from the bus unless an adult is at the stop for pick up. Students will be returned to school for parent pickup.

Grade 1 students will be released only if parent has provided written consent for dismissal without adult pick up.

Please complete all good-byes in advance of bus arrival. This assists with pacing of bus pick up and on-time arrival.

State Law forbids parents from stepping on to the school bus.

Please affix your child's bus tag daily for the first week of school.

View the Transportation Manual on our District website.

BUS ARRIVAL AND DROP OFF

We appreciate your patience and flexibility during the first few weeks of school, as bus drivers gauge the timing of arrival for pick-up and drop off. They may arrive a few minutes earlier, or a few minutes later until the pacing is synced with the number of student travelers.

BUS CAUTION

Be sure to wait for the Bus-Arm to fully extend before escorting your child to the bus.

GRADES 1 TO 5 OPEN HOUSE NIGHT

VISIT US BETWEEN 6:30PM AND 7:30PM ON
THURSDAY, AUGUST 27:

- ♡ Meet your classroom teacher!
- ♡ Reconnect with classmates!
- ♡ Visit the SUNSHINE Café for hydrating refreshments & PTO information.
- ♡ Get information on extra-curricular opportunities such as Cub Scouts, Brownies, Girls on the Run, Bible Release, and more—located in our GRATITUDE Gateway, our office lobby.
- ♡ Visit our STRENGTH center, located in the gymnasium, sponsored by Geisinger Health & Kohls Cares:
 - Wii Fit: strong skills
 - Dance Revolution: strong interests
 - Germ City: strong body
- ♡ Visit the NES COMPUTER LAB if you wish to complete volunteer clearances on-line.
- ♡ If you've not done so already, stop in the GRATITUDE Gateway, our school office, to swipe your license for our School Gate Guardian System.



NES: Where Family Matters

CHECK OUT OUR BLOG FOR
THE NEWEST MEMBERS
OF OUR FAMILY!

MRS. MOLLY NGUYEN-
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

MS. CARLY LYON-
GRADE X^K TEACHER

MS. AMBER BRILLHART-
GRADE TWO TEACHER

MISS ASHLEY DELUCA-
GRADE FIVE TEACHER

SUPPORT STAFF & AIDES:

MS. JAMARA HESS

MRS. KAREN LANDIS

MRS. MICHELLE MYERS

MRS. CATHY NEUBAUM

MISS KAYLA TOPOLKSKI

MRS. DONNA WILLIAMS

MR. ABRAM ALBERT

NEWLY WED. MISS
WEICHT, NOW MRS. BARRY:

AUTISM/EMOTIONAL
SUPPORT TEACHER, CAN BE
REACHED AT

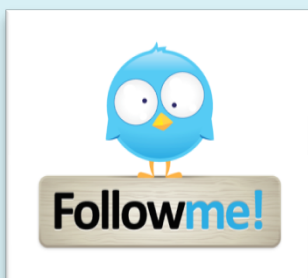
[lbarry@nycsd.k12.pa.us!](mailto:lbarry@nycsd.k12.pa.us)



FIND MISS CAL'S
BLOG
SPOTLIGHTING
STAFF AND
STUDENTS ON
WORDPRESS:
**BEYOND THE
PRINCIPALSHIP**



FIND US ON
FACEBOOK AT:
**NORTHERN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**



FIND US ON
TWITTER AT:
NESPOLARBears

STAY CONNECTED:

Yes, this blog is intended primarily for the parents of the children I am so humbled to call my own, and to additionally spotlight the staff I am honored to serve. THEY are the sparkle and shine. THEY are the true heroes/heroines and I am determined to bring their stories to the forefront of what can otherwise be overshadowed by the political nature of high stakes testing and snapshot performances. There is so much more that happens in "school," so much more that speaks to the collective core of why we teach.



PARENTS:

PLEASE SEND IN WRITTEN
NOTIFICATION IF YOU DO
NOT WISH FOR YOUR
CHILD TO BE SPOTLIGHTED
ON ONE OF THESE SITES.

LAST NAMES ARE USED
ONLY WITH PERMISSION.

MISS CAL WILL ACQUIRE
WRITTEN CONSENT FROM
PARENTS FOR BLOG AND
PODCAST SPOTLIGHT.



CHECK OUT OUR
SCHOOL WEBSITE:
**NORTHERN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

NORTHERN ELEMENTARY FRIDGE FRIEND

SEPTEMBER 2015				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8/31 = D1	9/01 = D2	9/02 = D3	9/03 = D4	9/04 = D5
9/07 = OFF	9/08 = D6	9/09 = D1	9/10 = D2	9/11 = D3
9/14 = D4	9/15 = D5	9/16 = D6	9/17 = D1	9/18 = D2
9/21 = D3	9/22 = D4	9/23 = D5	9/24 = D6	9/25 = D1
9/28 = D2	9/29 = D3	9/30 = D4	10/1 = D5	10/2 = D6

DATE	NORTHERN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EVENT
08/31	FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL- WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!
09/04	RACE FOR EDUCATION PACKTS COME HOME.
09/07	NO SCHOOL- HAPPY LABOR DAY!
09/08	PTO MEETING AT 7PM IN OUR NES LITERACY LOUNGE!
09/10	GRK, GR1, GR2 TEACHER PRESENTATION NIGHT- 6:00-6:45PM
09/10	GR3, GR4, GR5 TEACHER PRESENTATION NIGHT- 6:45-7:30PM
09/15	BIBLE RELEASE PROGRAM BEGINS WITH PARENT CONSENT
09/18	EARLY DISMISSAL (AM KDG AT 9:50 AND GR XK-5 AT NOON)
09/21	DILLSBURG LIBRARY/CLIFFORD THE DOG VISITS GRADE 1
09/23	PICTURE DAY- "SAY STRENGTH!"
09/25	OLWEUS BULLY PREVENTION DAY- YEAR OF STRENGTH!
10/02	RACE FOR EDUCATION DAY- WEAR YOUR STRENGTH TEES!

FOLLOW US FOR MORE INFO AT:

TWITTER	@NESPOLARBears
FACEBOOK	NORTHERN ELEMENTARY PAGE
WORDPRESS	BEYOND THE PRINCIPALSHIP
WEBSITE	WWW.NORTHERNPOLARBears.COM

NORTHERN ELEMENTARY

LIGHTING THE SPARK, FUELING THE FIRE

Our Northern Elementary PTO
continues to support the
GREAT things happening in
our school!

Wish to get involved?

Check out:

www.timetosignup.com/nespo/

Your HELPING HANDS are
appreciated!

2015-2016 NORTHERN ELEMENTARY PTO OFFICERS:

Co-President: Elizabeth Ayers- elizabeth.ayers@rocketmail.com

Co-President: Mimi Culbertson- mlcpens@hotmail.com

Vice-President: Shauna Sober- slr824.@comcast.net

Secretary: Heather Waybright- heatherwaybright@gmail.com

Treasurer: Pat Sullivan- pat.sullivan26@gmail.com

LIGHTING THE SPARK, FUELING THE FIRE

STAY TUNED FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO
ENGAGE IN OUR STRENGTH FOCUS
THIS YEAR! WE WILL BE SEEKING
PARENTAL SUPPORT IN LIGHTING THE
SPARK FOR OUR CUBS = PERSONS
WILLING TO SHARE THEIR SKILL SET
WITH STUDENT GROUPS.

STUDENT SURVEYS ON INDIVIDUAL
INTERESTS WILL ASSIST THIS PROCESS!

ONLINE DOCUMENTS THAT PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION INCLUDE:

NES HANDBOOK = SPECIFICS ON
ROUTINES THAT KEEP US ON
TRACK.

PARENT HANDBOOK = DISTRICT
PROCEDURE AND POLICY

TRANSPORTATION HANDBOOK
AND CODE OF CONDUCT
HANDBOOK