

W I N T E R 2 0 1 0 - 2 0 1 1

the Polar Press

WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET, BUT WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE.
WINSTON CHURCHILL

WE LOVE LITERACY!

Message from Miss Cal

Another year has passed, quickly and quietly... staff and students return renewed and ready to gear up for the second half of the school year. Our focus of Generosity has been sustained and fueled by the collective interests of staff and students. We hope you enjoy the Generous Gestures that are highlighted in this issue of the Polar Press.

Since our winter return, our staff has been engaged in data analysis of midyear benchmark assessments and progress monitoring data.

Grade level targets have been adjusted based on identified needs and our Go (Grow, Glow) Blocks have been organized for this targeted instruction. Small group instruction remains consistent for students demonstrating a need for additional intervention and assistance. Please look for an in depth review of this Data Focus Undertaking in our Summer 2011 Newsletter.



Staff and students continue to fuel a love for literacy within our Northern Elementary community! This has come in a variety of forms from the **Books for Belize** collection to our **Spotlight on Readers** via our N3 student run television station.

The numerous other undertakings are just as deserving of spotlight focus and I encourage you to seek out our Spring Polar Press which will focus on NES Literacy celebrations.

Reading Research Readers- a teacher driven club where teachers meet to discuss current research in literacy, **Collaborative practices**- kindergarten and first grade teachers working to implement common visuals for student reading success, **Exploration with Reader's Notebooks and Literacy Stations** in the intermediate grades, **Read Across America Literacy Celebration**, **York Revolution Spring Fever for Reading** and the joy of **Public Libraries**... these are just a few special topics we wish for you to check out in our next issue!

Save the Date!

PTO Meeting

March 8 @ 7PM

Please join our PTO family for this meeting in the NES Library.

Snow-Make Ups

3/18 and 3/21

School is in session for a ½ day on 3/18 and full day on 3/21.

Alice- Musical

3/24 and 3/25

High School Auditorium: Alice in Wonderland: 3/24 @ 4:15 PM and 3/25 @ 7 PM!

Important NES Reminders...

STUDENT ABSENCES

We thank you in advance for submitting excusal notices within three days of your child's absence. This is a State requirement and your consistency in providing this is essential and appreciated. **Please be sure to use the District Excuse Booklets to indicate absences.** If you are in need of another booklet, alert the office and we will be certain to send another one home. As per our District Parent Handbook, students are permitted 10 parental excuses. However, after 10 parental excuses, students are then required doctor's excuses for absences. Please refer to our District Parent Handbook for further information.

PLEASE NOTE: Absences not accompanied by a parental note and/or doctor's excuse within three days become unexcused. Per State requirements, the school will send a letter alerting parents when their student is close to the 10 day parental limit and/or when excuses require a doctor's note. We appreciate your understanding and support of this important State policy that ensures timely attendance of school age children.

A.M. STUDENT DROP OFF

To ensure the safety of our students, morning drop off procedures require parents to park vehicle and escort student to student drop off location (NES Gymnasium). Parents, we have allocated the last 2 sets of parking spots (closest to the gymnasium and band field) for morning parking drop off. Vehicles may not park on the building curb between 8:30 and 8:50 AM as this is prioritized for the safe entrance and exit of vans and buses. The school is working with the district and the vested interest of the parent community to establish a drop off area that would further streamline the safety of our students and staff. Please look for an extensive update of our progress in the Spring Newsletter.

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS

We wish to thank our parent volunteers for working so diligently to complete the required clearances permitting access to working with and supervising our students. These forms include the Child Abuse Clearance and State Police Clearance. **PLEASE NOTE:** Updated TB (tuberculosis) tests will be required for all volunteers in the 2011-2012 school year.

Individuals who have already submitted the 2 required Clearances would simply need to provide proof of an updated TB test. Your child's safety is our top priority and we are so grateful for your full cooperation in making this standard for all persons working with your child.

A LOOK AHEAD...

PSSA TESTING FOR GRADES 3, 4, 5

Grades 3, 4, 5: Math and Reading PSSA occurs from March 14th thru March 25th

Grade 5 only: Writing PSSA occurs from March 28th thru April 1st

Grade 4 only: Science PSSA occurs from April 4th thru April 9th

Please ensure on-time arrival as State Testing will start at **9AM sharp**. Additionally, please do not schedule morning doctor appointments during this time frame. Students will not be permitted to enter a session in progress and are not permitted to resume testing if they leave for an appointment. Therefore, we rely greatly on this protected morning time to test appropriately.

We are proud of the hard work of students and staff and approach this State requirement with serious dedication. A good night's rest, healthy breakfast and smile of confidence are encouraged! Thank you for your continued partnership!

PENNIES FOR PATIENTS

Northern Elementary is participating in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's "Pennies for Patients" or "Pasta for Pennies" program to raise funds to help find cures for blood cancers. We will be collecting coins in the three-week program, which will run from April 11th to April 29th. Please start saving your spare change to help a worthwhile cause. Information and materials will be sent home closer to the designated collection time.



Unleash the creative genius in your child! A hands-on science and creativity day camp so fun, they won't even realize they're learning! Experiment with nanotechnology

and polymers, explore new games, discover nature's inventors, decipher secret codes to solve a mystery, and use real tools to take apart old appliances and make your own invention. Students participate in 5 exciting modules taught by local educators each day. **Camp Invention®** is a nationally-acclaimed STEM enrichment program presented in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. To register: **1-800-968-4332** or **www.campinvention.org**

June 20-24, Dillsburg Elementary M-F, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm Students entering grades 2-6

Director: Mrs. Kane

Registration fee of \$215 includes a camp T-shirt

Save \$25! Register by March 30th (code: RERD) or with a friend (code: BAFD) for only \$190 each!

Spotlight on Mrs. Rider's Class- Angel Tree Project!

This year Northern Elementary students are participating in "Character Counts," a character education program that focuses on character building. As part of this program, students are challenged to think about various character traits and consider how these traits can be practiced to make the school and the community a better place. With this, and the building theme of Generosity, students are encouraged to be caring and generous to others.

Students in my third grade class were asked what generosity means to them. According to Elias Murgas, generosity means "giving" and "helping people that need help." Tyler Crain says, "Generosity means sharing and being kind." What better time is there to practice generosity than during the holiday season? For Christmas this year, our class decided to put this idea into practice by spreading joy to children who are less fortunate. To do this, we set up an "angel tree" in the classroom. Each ornament on the tree named a child who was staying in the **Safe Harbor Shelter** in Carlisle. The shelter provides housing for women and children who have no other place to stay. Students were given the opportunity to choose an ornament and buy a present for the child whose name was written on it. The presents were delivered the following week, just in time for Christmas! Immediately upon hearing about the angel tree project, students were eager to begin. Each morning they would head back to the tree, looking to see if the ornaments were there yet.



When we finally had the children's names, the students excitedly searched for the child for whom which they would buy a present. Maggie Ayers explains, "I wanted to participate in the angel tree project because I felt bad for the kids who don't get toys for Christmas. While my family has a lot of money and toys and has a merry Christmas every year, I wanted to make sure their Christmas was special." Jaidyn Bowen agrees saying that she wants the people in the shelter to "get a toy to play with and love for the rest of their life." The act of giving to strangers truly encompasses the spirit of generosity and the holiday season.

We often think of the Christmas season as a time to give to others. While this is a great time to share what we have with others, we need to remember that generosity is important throughout the year. There are many ways to help others. "You can share, play with others and be kind," writes Olivia Davis. Chloe Harley offers more suggestions. "Give time to help others with work or to study." If you adopt a generous spirit, you will find many opportunities to help others and may even discover that doing so makes you happier in the process. So, spread joy however you can!

NES EVENTS...



Tooth Fairy visits 3rd Grade!

Jessica Huffman, "Tooth Fairy", joined our third grade classes on February 17th. Students learned about the importance of daily cleaning and proper brushing. The Tooth Fairy provided students with a new toothbrush to practice their new knowledge and skills.



TABS FROM THE HEART

Inspired by the Generosity focus and personal desire to give back to the organization that has touched her family, Jayde Cooney presented the Generous idea of collecting pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House. Launched with a school spirit day (Teamwork from the heart) on Super Bowl Monday, students and staff donned their favorite team colors and the act of tab collecting began. Jayde, along with peer volunteers, pictured below, have diligently been counting tabs to track the school's progress. With a count of over 10,000 tabs to date, we are well on our way to making a generous contribution of heart tabs, which will in turn be used to help the children and families of Ronald McDonald House! We are so proud and grateful for the generous hearts of our students!



WE LOVE OUR PTO!

ROLLER SKATING: CURE FOR WINTER BLUES



Northern Elementary Staff and Student Families gathered at the Fountainblu Skating Arena on February 13th to skate the evening away! This PTO sponsored event provided students with free admittance as well as a free snack and drink! Our NES boys and girls wowed their parents with groovy moves, courageous attempts and

friendly assistance with those who weren't as experienced. Parents joined in on the fun... or



cheered on from the



sidelines! Without fail, the Balloon slinger provided great entertainment and remained a huge hit! Palm trees, colorful sea animals, jester caps and Disney characters roamed atop individual's heads, while glow sticks decorated the necks of prizewinners who participated in the numerous skating games. What a disco dancing, fun frolicking time for all!!!

Join the Polar Bear ARTS celebration!

THE ELEMENTARY MUSICAL, ALICE IN WONDERLAND, WILL DEBUT ON THURSDAY, MARCH 24TH AT 4:15PM. THIS EARLY EVENING PERFORMANCE IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC. FRIDAY NIGHT'S 7PM PERFORMANCE SEEKS AN ADMISSION FEE OF \$1. BOTH PERFORMANCES WILL BE HELD AT THE NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM. PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE INCREDIBLE TALENT OF OUR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS!



THE HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL, BYE BYE BIRDIE, WILL BE HELD AT THE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM ON MARCH 4TH AND 5TH AT 7PM. A 3PM PERFORMANCE WILL OCCUR ON MARCH 6TH. TICKETS FOR "BYE BYE BIRDIE" ARE \$7 (RESERVED SEATING), AND MAY BE PURCHASED IN THE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM LOBBY EVERY MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY THROUGH SHOW NIGHTS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOL AT (717) 432-8691.

Polar Press Fridge Friend

MARCH	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
	28 D1	1 D2	2 D3	3 D4	4 D5
	7 D6	8 D1	9 D2	10 D3	11 D4
	14 D5	15 D6	16 D1	17 D2	18 D3
	21 D4	22 D5	23 D6	24 D1	25 D2
	28 D3	29 D4	30 D5	31 D6	

**PTO Meeting-
March 8th @
7PM in NES
Library!**

**We hope to see
you!**

IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
					1 D1
	4 D2	5 D3	6 D4	5 D5	6 D6
	11 D1	12 D2	13 D3	14 D4	15 D5
	18 D6	19 D1	20 D2	21 D3	22 NO SCH
	25 D4	26 D5	27 D6	28 D1	29 D2

MAY	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
	2 D3	3 D4	4 D5	5 D6	6 D1
	9 D2	10 D3	11 D4	12 D5	13 D6
	16 D1	17 D2	18 D3	19 D4	20 D5
	23 D6	24 D1	25 D2	26 D3	27 D4
	30 D5	31 D6	1 D1	2 D2	3 D3

2/24: Spring Pics
HS Muscial Preview
3/2: Read Across America
3/8: PTO Meeting at 7pm
3/10: Kindergarten Forum
7PM @ HS Café
3/14 thru 3/25: Reading
and Math PSSA
3/28 thru 4/1: Writing PSSA
4/4 thru 4/9: Science PSSA
3/18: Noon Dismissal
3/21: Snow Make Up Day
3/31: Manners Luncheon
Reading Assembly
4/8 thru 4/15: 2nd Grade
Swimming Lessons
4/14: Open House/
Science Fair
4/15: Bingo Night @ 6PM
5/3: Elementary Concert
5/6: Moments with Mom
5/10 thru 5/17: 4th Grade
Swimming Lessons
5/10: PTO Meeting
5/16 thru 5/20: 4th Grade
Ag Van
5/19: Book Fair begins
5/25: Book Fair ends
5/27: Field Day