NORTHSIDE ELEMENTARY & COULEE MONTESSORI

COMMUNITY SCHOOL REFLECTION
March 2025

We had a busy March at Northside Elementary and Coulee Montessori! We celebrated March Madness with a tournament of books, started our Forward testing, attended field trips, Northside participated in our music concert and art show, and lots of other things leading up to our last Intersession break!

This month, Ms. Hulbert's 2nd graders visited the Harry J. Olson Center for their monthly lunch, along with a 100th Birthday Celebration! Our kiddos spent the afternoon playing games, making crafts, and celebrating with Shirley Hefti and others in our community.







One of the 6 pillars of Community Schools is **Family & Community Partnerships!**

Needs & Asset Assessment Updates!

Our Community School Leadership Team, consisting of community partners, families, staff, administrators, and our Community School Coordinator developed our Needs and Asset Assessment for students, families, staff, and community based on Needs from our 2021-2022 Assessment, Student Climate Survey, and questions we wonder about as a school community. We heard from **98%** of students, **83%** of (NSE) families, and **88%** of school staff.

Themes:

Our Needs

Students:

Bullying/Behaviors/SEL Support
After School Activities
School Day Recreational Activities (NSE Only)
Change in Academics/Rigor (CM Only)
Welcoming Physical Environment (CM Only)

Families:

*NSE Only
Bullying/Behaviors
Safety & Traffic Management
Inclusivity & Equity
Family & Student Programs/Events

Staff:

Behaviors
Communication
Staffing/Resources/Flexibility
Family & Student Programs/Events
Neighborhood Concerns

Our Assets

Students:

Teachers & Peer Connections
Specials & School Activities
Community Connections (CM- Neighborhood)
Family Involvement (CM- Home Support)

Families:

*NSE Only
Supportive Staff
Family Engagement/Communication
Inclusive/Positive Environment

Staff:

Collaboration & Teamwork
Supportive Environment
Special Programs/Activities

Northside Elementary follows the NEA Community School Model, which includes 6 Pillars of Practice, with an integrated approach and focus on the Whole-Child. All of our practices fall under one of these 6 pillars: Strong & Proven Curriculum, High-Quality Teaching, Inclusive Leadership, Positive Behavior Practices, Family & Community Partnerships, and Community Support Services.

Needs & Asset Assessment Updates!

Our team is currently investigating the areas of Bullying & Behaviors and Safety & Traffic Management. We want to know if this is what you meant and what our next steps are!Northside would like to investigate if there is a link between **neighborhood/community/school safety** and **student attendance**.

Thank You to our families who stopped by during Family Conferences to provide your thoughts around this.

What we heard...

Families feel traffic around our school is unsafe and would like to see:

- Lower speed limits
- More crossing guards
- Safer Crosswalks
- More cameras/street lights/ security around school
- Better system for drop off and pick up

Provide Feedback HERE!

Our current activities to support needs:

- Before & After School Programs
  - Pop up Bingo before school for 3rd-5th Grades
  - Jiu Jitsu after school club for 3rd-5th Grade every Tuesday
  - Coming soon- Cub Scouts After School Program for K-2nd Graders!
  - Strong partnership with the Boys & Girls Club! No Cost Programming and transportation to the club provided
  - REAL Girls Spring Running Club for 4-5th Grade
- Learning and Engagement Opportunities for Students & Families
  - Monthly Parent Cafes with the Parenting Place starting on April 30th!
  - SEL Family Night with Dr. Rob Dixon on April 17th!
- School Traffic Safety
  - Our team is currently planning and problem solving ways to make end of day pick up safer for students & families!

Northside March Students of the Month

Our behavior focus for March was Leadership! Students of the month were selected from each class for being leaders and models of positive behavior at school and got to celebrate with a special Student of the Month lunch.



Our specials classes of the month were:

PE- Mrs. Sheriff's Class
Music- Mrs. Brott's Class
Art- Mrs. Perz's Class
LMC- Mrs. Ray's Class
Guidance- Mrs. Hilker's Class



March Madness Tournament of Books

Our school celebrated March Madness and National Reading Month with a "Tournament of Books". School staff, Dr. Engel, family members, Logan HS Basketball players, and other community members read stories from the list of Caldecott Medal Winners. Each day, students listened to the recordings and voted on the book they liked the best.

Mr. Arnost's awesome reading of *This is Not My Hat* was chosen as the winner by our school.



Classes completed a bracket before we began to predict which book would be the winner. Congrats to Ms. Maddie and Mrs. Brott's classes for getting theirs right!







Every Monday, 2nd graders meet for 4H programming! This month, the Northside Stars got to spend the day at Rainbow Ridge Farm.









Coach Chris and the NS/CM Jiu Jitsu After School Club invited family members in to try out skills we've been learning so far!



Our Northside Title Team put together snacks with motivational messages for each day of testing for our 3rd-5th graders!



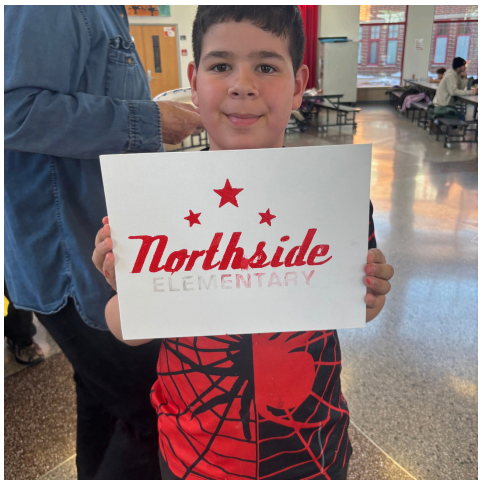


This month, we celebrated our school social worker Mrs. Sweeney as she prepares to welcome her baby girl! Our school Psychologist, Mrs. Mitchell, also welcomed her baby boy, LLewyn, this month!

March Family Night

This month's family night welcomed published illustrator,Terri Einer, who presented to students and families how she illustrates for books. Students also got to paint and take home their own canvas! We had over **130** people in attendance!







Battle of the Books

Congrats to Mrs. Lysne and 16 4th & 5th graders from Northside and Coulee Montessori for their participation in the 2024-2025 Battle of the Books! Students met with Mrs. Lysne 2-3 times weekly for about 6 weeks leading up to our March 14 competition. Students participated in teams of four. All four of our teams competed at UWL with all other elementary schools in the district. Each team in the district read 10 selections, ranging from graphic novels to fiction and non-fiction categories.

Students competed in 3 rounds of questioning, with a total of 55 questions. Questions were regarding the content, characters, and events of each book. Students answered questions using title and author cards. Our Coulee Montessori team #2 was one point away from placing in the top 3 finishing teams!

NS Team #1: Issac, Key, Kyle, & Vanessa

NS Team #2: Diego, Miles, Greg, & Yazan

CM Team #1: Rose, Sawyer, Bryant, & Gwen

CM Team #2: Grace, Leo, Phoenix, & Tucker



Upcoming Events & Important Dates

- **Tuesday, April 15-** NS PTO @ 6 and CM SET @ 5:30
- **Tuesday, April 15-** R.E.A.L. Girls Begins
- **Wednesday, April 16-** Spring Walking School Bus resumes (Leave from Roosevelt School Apartments at 7:35a!)
- **Thursday, April 17-** Family Night at 5:30!
- **Friday, April 18-Monday, April 21 -** No School (Spring Break)
- **Tuesday, April 22-** K-2 Cub Scouts Afterschool club begins
- **Thursday, April 24-** Coulee Montessori Music & Art Show
- **Friday, April 25-** NSE All School Bowling Field Trip
- **Wednesday, April 30-** Parent Cafe w/ the Parenting Place at 5:30!
- **Friday, May 9 & Saturday, May 10-** PLANT SALE! Check out our FB page for updates!





We want to hear from you! If you are interested in volunteering, supporting our school, or have information to share, please contact our Community School Coordinator, Jenna Anfang at janfang@lacrossesd.org.