



NORTHPOINT NEWS

www.district16.org

January 28, 2010

Northpoint Elementary School
2350 124th Court NE
Blaine, MN 55449

Principal
Mike Callahan

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763-754-9700

Attendance
763-230-0304

Transportation
763-785-5512

Bus Company
763-786-2510

Food Service
763-785-5529

District Office
763-786-5570

Community
Education
763-786-1338

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Thursday, January 28
Early Release

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Friday, January 29
NO SCHOOL

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February 1, 4, and 5
Winter Conferences and
Usborne Book Fair

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Monday, February 8
Rescheduled
February PTO meeting
6:30 p.m.

Principal Points

By Mike Callahan

February is **I LOVE TO READ** month! As a result many parents ask the question, "What is the most important thing I can do at home to help my child strengthen their reading skills?"

Well, the bottom line is to provide your child with lots of opportunities to read. Look for ways to make reading a central part of family life, and let them know the value of reading. It starts with looking at your schedules. The best time will depend on other activities and commitments. Is before dinner better for your family to read? Bedtime?

Choose a variety of age appropriate materials – newspapers, magazines, library books (both fiction and non-fiction), etc. Try to limit the distractions around you, such as the TV and telephone. Also, be realistic about how often and for how long you can set aside time. Each evening for 10 to 15 minutes would be a GREAT start! Once you get rolling, ask your child(ren) to tell you about what they are reading, learning and enjoying. In addition, reading and writing go hand and hand, so encourage your child to keep journals and write letters, too. Lead by example. Show your child how much you enjoy your reading time and they will look forward to it as much as you do!



We'll be kicking off I LOVE TO READ MONTH on Monday morning, February 1st with an All School Meeting in the Northpoint gymnasium. It will be an opportunity for us to gather together and impress the importance of learning to read and reading to learn while having some FUN as a school! Students will also learn about a school reading challenge in conjunction with I Love to Read Month. We will be asking students to read five days a week, 20 minutes a day. Doing so will earn each student a Dr. Suess hat each week to display in the main hallway. Each hat earned will go toward achieving our school wide reading goal. You are welcome to join us!

**THERE IS EARLY RELEASE TODAY AT 1:45 P.M. AND
NO SCHOOL FRIDAY, JANUARY 29.**

PLEASE READ

We are very concerned about the safety of everyone in the parking lot in dropping off/picking up children. **PLEASE** remember that you may drop children off in the line before the crosswalk or you may park and walk them in - but under no circumstance should children be walking from the parking lot to the school by themselves. Also, parking in handicapped spots, even "for a minute", is not legal or tolerated. Thank you for your cooperation.

Music Notes

Northpoint students are making great gains in first grade music in 2010! Since the beginning of the year, students have used their ears and voices to listen and sing new songs. This month we get to use our eyes to see the "picture of music." Our new vocabulary words: staff and treble clef with pitches so and mi. Then add: beat (steady pattern), rhythm (clapping every word), and tempo (speed). Students can clap rhythms of quarter notes and eighth notes, and listen to identify which of two rhythms they hear. Wow!

Second graders are completing their unit 3 music tests with targets of identifying and clapping rhythms with half notes, and identifying four families of unpitched instruments: wood, metal, drum, and shaker-scraper.

Third graders have begun unit 3 with rhythms we called "jogging" and "skipping" last year. This year we give those same rhythms math names: EQUAL & UNEQUAL. Ask your third grader to clap or move to equal or unequal rhythms! On the music staff, we will be finding low la and low so, pitches below DO – much to their surprise!

On Tuesday, March 2nd, third graders will be presenting their music and art program called "STARS on BROADWAY" at the Fine Arts Center at our Spring Lake Park High School. Time of arrival is 6:35 p.m. WHAT TO WEAR: Black bottoms (pants, capris, or skirt) and white long-sleeved top. White shirt will be tucked into black bottoms because the students will add a red cummerbund for the waist when they arrive at the high school to fit the "Broadway" look! Parents, we expect every third grader to participate in this grand event. Please let your child's teacher know if you need help finding a ride for the evening performance or getting the outfit. We can help!

Keep singing!

Mrs. VanBurkleo & Mrs. Flaten



For the eighth consecutive year, Minnesota dentists are providing free dental care to less fortunate children Feb. 5 and 6.

The Minnesota Dental Association is sponsoring the outreach. The free care will be offered at nearly 200 locations statewide. Organizers say 3,000 appointment slots are available, and they hope to raise that to 5,000.

Dr. Robert Templeton, president of the association, says volunteer dentists are trying to close the gap at a time when government programs for families have been cut.

The Give Kids a Smile program is open to patients under age 18.

Appointments can be made by calling United Way at 211 or the statewide toll-free number, 800-543-7709.

A list of participating clinics is available at mndental.org [<http://mndental.org>].



The NORTHPOINT PTO also wants to remind you that the next PTO meeting is Monday, February 8 at 6:30 p.m. This is a change from District calendar ~ hope to see you there.



If your child would like another Northpoint 2009/2010 folder, they are for sale in the office for \$1.



Teachers ask that you do not bring large cupcakes for your child's birthday treat. Not only are they full of sugar, they are extremely messy. Check with your child's teacher for other food and non-food suggestions for birthdays.