



NORTHPOINT NEWS

www.district16.org

November 12, 2009

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

Principal
Mike Callahan

Main Office
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
Services
763-786-1338

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Wednesday, November 18
Volunteer Opportunities
(NP and Community)
Meeting ~ 6:00 p.m.

Friday, November 20
Staff Folleree
7 p.m.

November 23 - 25
Coat, Hat and Mitten Drive

November 26 - 27
Thanksgiving
No School

Principal Points

By Mike Callahan

How can I help my child in the area of Math; it's so different than how I was taught? As a principal I hear this question often coming from parents. At Northpoint Elementary and in the Spring Lake Park School district we employ a math program called Everyday Mathematics. This curriculum is used as a resource to support kids in acquiring the skills to be proficient at their grade level and beyond. As parents, becoming actively involved in your child's mathematical education will only enhance their opportunity to meet and/or exceed grade level targets. Here are some suggestions about how you can learn about the mathematics your child is studying in school, and how you can help reinforce their math learning at home.

A Home Link or Study Link homework assignment is included with almost every lesson in the program. Periodically these homework assignments include a letter to parents explaining various aspects of the program. Be sure to read these letters and discuss what's going on in math class with your child. Whenever possible work with your child on their Home and Study Links. If there is something unfamiliar to you in these assignments, encourage your child to "teach" you about what they are working on in class. If an assignment is confusing or difficult for you or your child, jot a note explaining your difficulties on the Home or Study Link paper and return it to your child's teacher.

Encourage your child to teach you the math games he or she is learning in school, and play these games whenever you have an opportunity. You might even enjoy inventing some of your own math games together! Wright Group/McGraw-Hill offers Family Games Kits for purchase. You can find out about them at [Wright Group's site](#).

If your child needs additional basic fact practice ask his/her teacher to send home a set of fact triangles and spend a little time each day practicing fact families.

Many Everyday Mathematics teachers set aside special days for math activities like Explorations, Games Days, and Projects. If possible, volunteer to help in the classroom on these days.

Whenever you find yourself using math in your daily lives point out this fact and discuss math's usefulness in real-life situations. Encourage your child to experiment with and use everyday "math tools" like rulers, tape measures, measuring cups and spoons, clocks and calculators.

Again, if you have questions regarding supporting your child at school do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or me. Have a GREAT weekend!!

Our Northpoint PTO will be sponsoring a Coat, Hat and Mitten Drive
November 23 thru the 25th.

Please see the flyer coming home in your Thursday folders for more information.

~Also, the PTO is looking for new opportunities for parents to get involved outside of our traditional events and school-day hours. Please join us on Wednesday, November 18 at 6 p.m. in the front office if you are interested in brainstorming Northpoint and community volunteer opportunities.

~Our next PTO Meeting will be
Tuesday, Dec. 1st at 6:30 p.m.



**Save the Date! Staff Folleeez returns
on Friday November 20 !**

Spring Lake Park School District staff members will organize and participate in their annual fundraiser for the Panther Foundation on Friday, November 20, at 7:00 p.m. The Staff Folleeez will feature a little talent, a great deal of folly, and numerous attempts at humor by faculty and staff, administrators, and school board members. Tickets are available here at Northpoint ~ \$6 for adults and \$4 for students/children. There will also be pizza and beverages available for purchase starting at 5:30 p.m. - so come early! Please call the office if you have any questions and we hope to see you there!

ha ha ha ha ha ha ha



Please remember to send a note to school with your child if you will be picking them up early for any reason, or picking them up rather than having them ride the bus. We also appreciate that if you forgot to send a note, that you would try and call as early as possible with arrangements. It is difficult to reach teachers or find classes at the end of the day for multiple students leaving early.

Thanks for your cooperation!