

Northwinds Express

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Notes from the Principal

Greetings Northwinds Families,

Our principal message for the month of January was written and submitted by two student leaders here at Northwinds. Enjoy their message below!

Dear Northwinds families,

Avery Russek and Autumn Halberg are organizing a fundraiser for Make-A-Wish and we need your help! Make-A-Wish is a non-profitable organization that gives one eligible wish to kids diagnosed with a critical illness. Our goal is to raise \$2,500. If everybody brings in \$5 we will be able to reach our goal! The fundraiser will be held the 28th of January to the 1st of February, 2019. We will have an assembly on the 23rd of January to present this to students and our staff. We will have a spirit week during the week of donations! You can also donate online at

<http://site.wish.org/goto/NorthwindsElementary>

Thank you for your donations they are greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Avery Russek and Autumn Halberg (5th grade students at Northwinds)

Northwinds Elementary
1111 - 7th Avenue NW
Buffalo, MN 55313

Phone: 763.682.8800
Attendance:
763.682.8804
Fax: 763.682.8805



[www.bhmschools.org/
schools/northwinds](http://www.bhmschools.org/schools/northwinds)

**Northwinds Elementary
School**

Our mission at Northwinds Elementary School is to provide a safe, child-centered learning environment which promotes learning for all students



Cafeteria Corner— Mrs. Van Lith

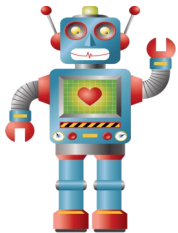
CAFETERIA CORNER

Happy New Year. I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday break. The BHM food service staff is planning a Super Bowl Menu for all the sports enthusiast and for those who are not. The Super Bowl menu will be served Feb 1. It will include Super Bowl Nachos with Touch-down Toppings, Field Goal Fruit, Quarterback Carrots, a Football Cookie and an “Underdog” Uncrustable for the alternate. We hope you are able to join us.



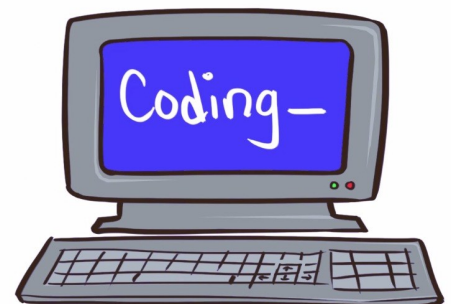
As always, if you have any questions or wish to join us for lunch, please give me a call. 763-682-8838. Mrs. Van Lith

Innovation Stations—Mrs. Franzen



Hi NES parents!

I hope your break and holidays were relaxing and full of joy! In December and January our big focus is on coding in innovation station. You may be wondering why coding is important? Coding uses all of the 4 Cs (creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration) and really allows kids to work on projects that have a start and finish, which teaches perseverance. Coding is the way we tell computers or technology what we want them to do. Coding allows us to create computer software, apps, and web-sites. We practice coding by first learning the basic codes of left, right, forward, and backward. We practice on the tiles on the floor, then build up to apps that put our codes to work, and finally, we learn how to program robots. We will continue learning about coding until the end of January! The students enjoy the challenge that coding provides, which is fun to watch. Did you know that in 2016, there were already 200,000 unfilled programming jobs in the United States?! Coding in elementary school can open up children's eyes about a new career path that they maybe didn't know existed, but furthermore, it really helps them work on critical thinking and problem solving, which is a key skill in any career, job path, or future schooling. If you want to know more about coding, feel free to email me at kjfranzen@bhmschools.org or check out the new innovation station website linked under my name under teachers and specialists on our Northwinds Elementary School website. On the innovation station website, you will find more videos about coding, apps that you can get at home that focus on coding, and other technology insights!





These are the ONLY Items to collect!



= 10¢

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Each code is worth 5-38¢!
(examples of Coke codes)



Enter codes at:
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OR:

Turn them in and they will be entered for the school.



= 5¢



Download Mobile Apps from:



Battle of the Books



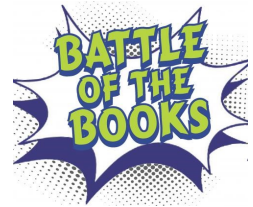
Battle of the Books

March 21, 2019 - Northwinds cafeteria
3rd and 4th grade battle will be at **8:00 am**
5th grade battle will be at **1:00 pm**

Keep on reading, the competition is less than three months away!

**Teams may sign-up in the library
between January 7th and February 1st.**

Send questions to Mrs. Graham at sgraham@bhmschools.org or
Mrs. Berg at lberg@bhmschools.org



Quest Program Assessment

The Quest program in Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose schools services highly gifted students (top two to three percent in class). The tuition free program is a school-within-a-school for highly gifted students who will be in grades 2-9. Siblings of students in the elementary Quest program may choose to open-enroll as well.

Students must make a request to be assessed for the Quest program. Students who are considered for placement should score in the mid 90th percentiles on the MAP and CogAT tests. In addition, parents and teachers submit information on students to help guide the team in making placement decisions for the program.

The curriculum in the Quest program is accelerated in mathematics and science, with students studying content above grade level. It is also highly enriched in language arts and social studies. Instructors in the Quest program receive specialized training for meeting the needs of highly gifted students. Students can expect to learn at a faster pace than in a regular classroom, and to apply what is being learned to the world through technology and connections in the community. Students have the opportunity to produce work at an advanced level, and will receive homework appropriate for their learning needs. Qualified resident students receive priority placement. All qualified students participate tuition free.

For more information and forms, you may check the [Quest program page](#) or contact Rob Nosbush, High Potential Services Coordinator.

RNosbush@bhmschools.org or 763-682-8766. Requests to assess are due by **Thursday, January 24, 2019.**



Music Notes— Mrs. Wagner

Musical Greetings to you!

In January, music students will be digging into a new music program we are piloting called Quaver. This is an exciting program to help kids learn about music. Primary grades (K, 1, 2) will be working on identifying solfege pitches by sight and sound, exploring pentatonic scales and steps, skips and repeated pitches and identifying high and low pitch in the music. Intermediate grades (3, 4, 5) will be reviewing note names of the treble clef and rhythm counting to prepare for their recorder unit. We will play recorders for approximately 6 weeks (which is about 6-7 music sessions). The recorder unit will culminate with a performance assessment for each student. We will also continue our Recorder Karate. I am sure you will hear a lot of practicing at home so students can earn those coveted Recorder Karate belts! **Recorder orders are due no later than Friday, January 11th!**



Our NES 4th and 5th Grade Choir will begin Thursday, January 31st. Your child may sign up either through Community Education, or using the letter sent home this week. Our choir will rehearse every Thursday through April 25th. We will have our final concert on Tuesday, April 30th at both 1:30pm (for the school) and 6:30pm (for parents and relatives). I hope to see many singers in choir this spring!

Have a musical and cozy January!

Kindergarten Registration

If your child will be 5 on or before Sept 1, 2019 they are invited to Kindergarten Registration for all NES students entering kindergarten in the fall of 2019 and will be held on Thursday, February 21st at 6:00 pm. Packets will be mailed out the first week of February. If you don't receive a packet by mid February, please call the office. Watch upcoming newsletters for more information.



Report Cards

NES has gone paperless for our report cards. If you haven't registered for Parent Portal, stop by the office to get signed up. Parents will be able to view and print their report cards on Parent Portal by **January 25th after 3:30 pm.**

Social Emotional Focus— Ms. Hageman

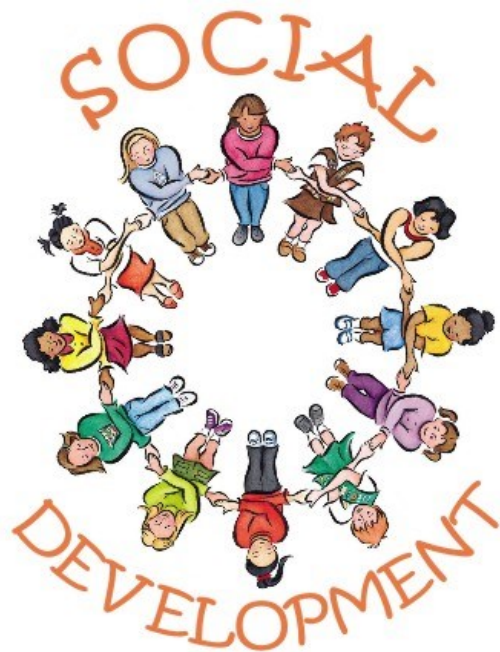
Our goal at Northwinds is to focus on the development of the whole child. This means we focus not only on academic learning, but social and emotional learning. Research has continuously shown that children who have strong social skills and emotional skills also tend to perform better academically. The Collaboration for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) defines Social and Emotional Learning as “the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions”. Simply put, our social and emotional skills helps us to be successful in our careers, manage our emotions well, and maintain positive relationships with others.

CASEL breaks Social and Emotional Skills into 5 different skill set categories. These skills sets are as follows:

1. Self-Awareness - The ability to identify one's thoughts, feelings, and strengths, and recognize how they influence one's choices and actions.
2. Social-Awareness - The ability to identify and understand the thoughts and feelings of others, respect their rights, and appreciate diversity.
3. Self-Management - The ability to establish and work toward short- and long-term goals, and handle emotions so that they facilitate rather than interfere with the task at hand.
4. Responsible Decision Making - The ability to generate, implement, and evaluate positive and informed solutions to problems, and assume responsibility for personal decisions and behaviors.
5. Relationship Skills - The ability to establish and maintain healthy and rewarding connections with individuals and groups through communication, listening, and negotiation skills.

Schools do help children develop these 5 different skill areas in a variety of ways. However, parents often have much more impact on student's social and emotional learning. Parents are one of the first people in a student's life who can help a student learn social and emotional skills. Therefore, Northwinds and parents can partner together to help children develop these skill areas. This column will focus on strategies for parents/guardians on how to develop these 5 different skill areas for the remainder of the year.

If you would like, you can visit CASEL's website at <https://casel.org> to learn more about social and emotional learning in children. I hope you have a great rest of your January!



PTO NEWS

Join us for Family Fitness Night Tuesday, January 15 from 5:30-7:00 pm.

The theme of this FREE event is tropical family fitness and the station activities will include Island Hopping, Boogie Boarding, Hula, and Beach Yoga to name a few! Each person to turn in their complete station passport will receive a lei! Water and snack will be provided as well.

*It is suggested that you plan to attend fitness night in its entirety instead of the open house format used at past activities.



We are excited to announce our upcoming Science Residency, January 24-February 1 at NES! Put on by the Science Museum of Minnesota and brought to our students through the generous donations of families to the Northwinds PTO. More information and photos to come.

Important Dates



January:

**15th—Family Fitness Night
5:30-7:00 PM
18th— NO SCHOOL
Teacher Workshop
21st— NO School
Teacher Workshop**

February:

**4th— PTO Meeting 4-5 PM
18th— NO SCHOOL
Presidents Day
21st— Kindergarten
Registration 6:00 PM**

March:

**4th— PTO Meeting 4-5 PM
7th— Conferences 3:30-7 PM
12th—Conferences 3:30-7 PM
14th—Conferences 3:30-7 PM
29th— NO SCHOOL
Teacher Workshop**