

# Northwinds Express

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## Notes from the Principal

Greetings Northwinds Families,

I wanted to communicate to parents and families that I am due to go on maternity leave in mid-May. We currently have a plan in place for principal coverage during this time and I plan to return in time for the start of the 2019-2020 school year. Kris Harlan, a retired principal from the Maple Lake School District, will be filling in while I am gone. Mrs. Harlan was a principal for 12 years and a classroom teacher for 23 years prior to that. She lives here in Buffalo where she has resided for the past 40 years. She spends time volunteering at Northwinds already so she will be a familiar face to many. Mrs. Harlan and I have had time to meet and plan together to help make the transition as positive and smooth as possible. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. Mrs. Harlan is looking forward to spending time at Northwinds and would be pleased to meet you so feel free to stop by, introduce yourself and say hello!

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[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



## Are You Dressed for the Weather?

| If the temperature is | You should be wearing   | This looks like   |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| 29 degrees and below  | Jackets,<br>Headwear,<br>Mittens,<br>Boots and<br>Snow Pants<br><br>(If you do not<br>have boots<br>you must stay<br>on Tar Area) |    |
| 30-40 degrees         | Jackets,<br>Headwear<br>and Mittens   |  |
| 41-49 degrees         | Jacket Only   |  |
| 50 degrees and above  | No Jacket   |  |

## Musical Notes— Mrs. Wagner

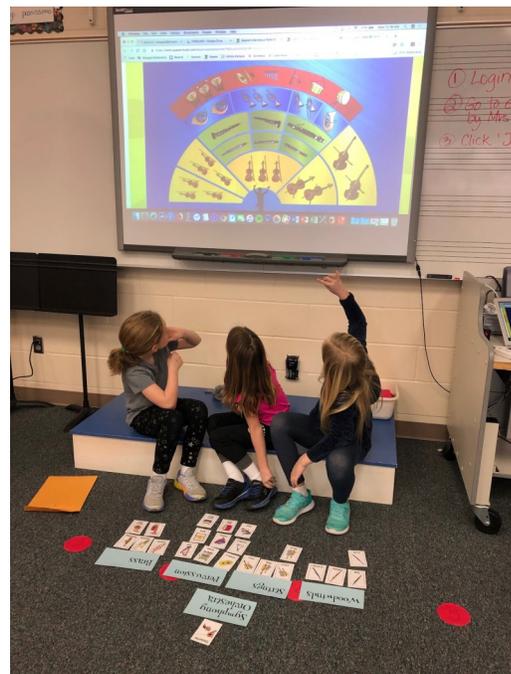
Musical greetings to you all!

Our music room is full of music with lots of recorder playing, performance on classroom instruments and singing! Our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are wrapping up their recorder unit with a performance test. We are fulfilling the Minnesota and National Music Standards for performing on an instrument with this performance assessment.

Our 2nd graders at NES are working on their spring musical, "It's A Hit!" We have been listening to and singing along with the music. Lots of fun! I will be asking for parent/grandparent volunteers to help with our stage decorations. **You will need a BHM background check on file if you sign up to help!**

Please contact the office for information on how to apply for the background check. Watch for a letter from me coming home before spring break if you want to volunteer. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

***2nd grade students will be wearing a fun "It's A Hit" t-shirt for our musical, too! Watch for a letter coming home with ordering instructions. The t-shirts are inexpensive and will have a great design with 'Northwinds Elementary 2019' on the front. Awesome! If you are able to sponsor a child who can't afford a tshirt, that would be wonderful.***



Students in Kindergarten and 1st grade are working on listening to music to decipher opposites, such as loud and soft, fast and slow, high and low, strong and weak beats, and short and long sounds to name a few. We have also been exploring the Instruments of the Orchestra and took time to sort instruments into their families!

In March, most grades will be working on Improvisation, or making music on the spot. We will be using drums to create question and answer rhythms and we will experiment with making up melodies on the xylophones, too. This is always a fun unit for kids to explore.

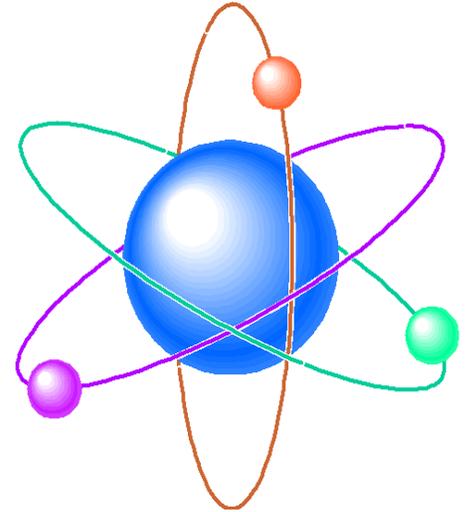
Have a fantastically warm March! *Mrs. Wagner*

## Innovation Station— Mrs. Franzen

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Hello families!

We have been working really hard on innovation in reading and writing! In March, some of us will work on innovation in math projects, while others will work on makerspaces. We call this Makerspace March! Makerspace is where students have the creativity and critical thinking to put together, or make, projects using a variety of materials. It is similar to STEM projects, but with more focus on creativity and the freedom to have the time and space to make their vision come to life.



Kindergarten students will be starting mystery science lessons in March. Mystery Doug will help guide us through different science experiments! I will also be sending out the class ABC books as soon as they are finished!

First graders and second graders will be working on Makerspace March! They will have many options to choose from so look for some fun projects coming home.

Third graders will be starting to put together their animal reports. This is a third grade research project and they will be using their notes done in class about their animal to pick an app or website presentation method to share with others.

Fourth graders will be working on google drawings by sharing about one vocabulary word in figurative language. This will help us with the upcoming MCA tests while at the same time help us practice design skills.

Finally, fifth graders will be able to choose if they are going to design a restaurant or a dog park. Budgeting, planning square footage, materials, etc. will all be considered. If time, we will even get to do the blueprint in a program on the computer.

Thanks for reading and stay warm! I know I am looking forward to warm weather very soon!  
-Mrs. Franzen



## World Cultures— Mrs. Berg

Greetings Families!

We wrapped up our unit on China by using chopsticks, puzzling with tangrams, and writing/drawing things we want to remember in our passports.



Now we're taking a tropical turn as we study the Caribbean! We'll learn about the island life by studying their land, foods, music, games and more.

As the older students study the Caribbean, the kindergarten students will focus on North America. We will learn about the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The kindergarten students are excited to study their home continent!

The winter weather has made it difficult for the high school exchange students to make it over for their presentations. Thankfully we did have Maria from The Netherlands, Ella from Sweden, Sofia from Denmark, and Rosita from Paraguay present to half of our 4th and 5th grade students last month. We're hoping the weather cooperates so we can have the other 4 exchange students present to our remaining 4th and 5th graders on March 5th.



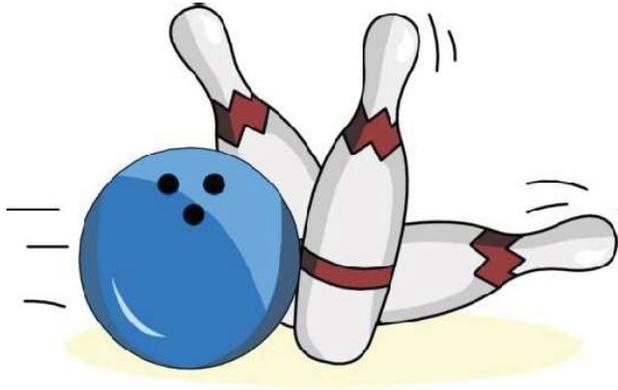
Rosa— Paraguay

Remember to ask your child what they're learning about in World Cultures. There's so much to learn!



Maria— Netherlands

## Phy Ed— Ms. Johnson



Hello Northwinds families! Your scholars have been busy down in the gym.

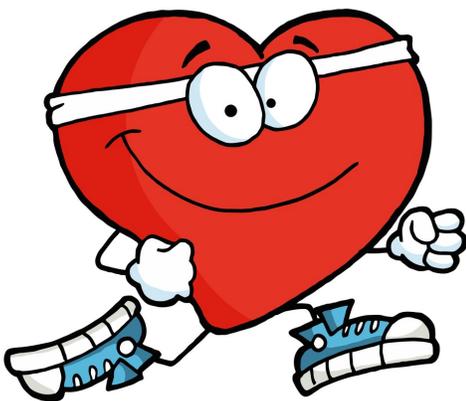
Fourth and fifth graders just wrapped up a mini unit on bowling. Since we are not a fancy bowling alley, students took turns being the bowler, taking care of the pins, and returning the ball to the bowler. The groups did a variety of exercises depending on how many pins were left standing for each turn.

Kindergarten through third grade students were able to enjoy a lot of parachute activities such as making a mountain, crawling up the mountain, going inside the mountain to tell each other stories, and blasting balls up to the ceiling. A lot of wonderful memories were made.



Over Valentine's Day week students learned or reviewed a lot of information about our hearts. Students learned that our hearts "beat" and do not "beep" (unless attached to an EKG), how to feel their heart beat and your student could probably tell you that your heart has to beat faster when we exercise. Students learned

that the heart is a muscle and becomes stronger with exercise. Your student should be able to tell you where your heart is, about how large it is, and what shape it is. Northwinds students are heart smart!



As we look forward to March, please help your student to remember to wear appropriate shoes for physical education. **NO SLIP-ON SHOES.** Although some slip-on shoes may feel secure, generally if shoes can slip on they can also slip off. Our feet need to be covered for safety. If your child cannot tie his or her laces yet, Velcro shoes work just fine as long as the Velcro material is not too old and loses its stick. Thank you for helping your student come prepared to school!

Ms. Johnson

## Conferences Reminder

Conferences are being held on March 7th, 12th, and 14th from 3:30-7:00 PM. You should have signed up for time to meet your child's teacher at fall conferences. Reminders were sent home in February. Please make every attempt to attend your child's scheduled conference. If you are unable to make that time and need to reschedule, please contact your child's teacher ASAP!



Lost and Found: There will be tables set up in the hallway with lost and found items. Please look through these items during conferences for your child's belongings. Items not claimed will be donated after conferences.

## Spring Break —March 29th—April 6th

There will be NO school from **March 29th** through **April 5th** due to Spring Break!  
Enjoy your time off!



## Spring Testing

### MCA

Grades 3-5 will be taking the MCA Reading and MCA Math tests between April 9th and May 3rd. Grade 5 will also take the MCA Science test May 6th– May 8th.

### MAP

Grade 2 will be taking the MAP Reading and Math tests May 13th-17th.

Teachers will send out specific days and times that their class will be testing.

## Yearbooks on Sale

Yearbooks are still on sale. Price is now \$15.00 until March 20th. Order now at [ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com). Northwinds order code is: 8699719. Additional inserts and personalization available for purchase.



## Summer Skills Books

Summer skills books are an opportunity to reinforce your child's learning over the summer. They are a comprehensive review of materials taught the previous school year. These are great resources for students to use during summer break. These books are only available online at [www.sumerskills.com](http://www.sumerskills.com). They are \$19.00 plus shipping and they will ship directly to your home.

## Classroom Placements for 2018-19

It's time to start planning our classes for the next school year. If you have specific information about your child that you want to share with us for this process, we invite you to stop in the office and pick up a form to fill out regarding your child's strengths, learning styles, and settings that would nurture the child as a person and learner. We appreciate any insight you can give us that will help us learn your perspective of your child.

**We will NOT be taking specific teacher names on the request form.**

**ALL FORMS WILL BE DUE TO MRS. TUBBS  
by APRIL 19th AT 3:00 PM- NO EXCEPTIONS**



**NORTHWINDS  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Would you like to spend time in a fun learning environment? Want a flexible working schedule? Have you ever considered being a substitute teacher? If you hold a 4 year degree, but not in the field of education, you can apply to be a substitute teacher. For more information contact the Northwinds Office at 1-763-682-8800.

## Battle of the Books



March 21st will be here before you know it!

Keep reading the ten MAUD HART LOVELACE BOOKS!

8:00 am- 3/4th grade will compete

1:00 pm- 5th grade competition

**Parents are welcome to attend!**

Any questions? Email Lisa Berg or Sara Graham at NES.



## Arts and Academics

Spring is coming and later this month your student will bring home a form to sign up to "show their stuff" about a National Park or Monument. Projects will be displayed during the Ice Cream Social on Thursday, May 9th. There are so many great options to learn about....Mount Rushmore,

Yellowstone, The Grand Canyon, Rainbow Bridge, Voyageurs, The Statue of Liberty, The Washington Monument, and the list goes on and on! Students will be displaying projects they have worked on at home in one of several categories: Visual Art, Historical Project, Creative Writing, Technology, and Research Project, all centering around a National Park or Monument. Start talking about it now, and look for more details to be coming your way very soon! It's always wonderful to see the extended learning and work that students do for this fantastic event!



## Social Emotional Focus— Mrs. Hageman



Welcome to March! Last month's social and emotional focus was on self-awareness. Self-awareness is the ability to identify one's thoughts, feelings, and strengths, and to be able to recognize how they influence one's choices and actions. This month's focus is on self-management.

CASEL (ie Collaboration for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning) defines self-management as the ability to successfully regulate one's emotions, thoughts, and behaviors in different situations. When we have strong self management skills, we are able to handle stress and control impulses. We are also able to step outside our own thoughts and emotions and see others' perspective. When we have strong self-management, we are able to set goals for ourselves, break down the goal into steps, and persevere to obtain those goals.

There a lot of ways students may apply self-management skills at school. When a student tolerates frustration when making mistakes while reading out loud, is able to manage the stress of a quiz or test, or says "I want to get better at math" and works towards that goal, they are using self management skills. Often times students need help from a teacher or parent to use or develop self-management skills. There are several ways that you as a parent/guardian are able to facilitate your child's growth in self-management. Listed below are 3 things you can do to help your child develop self-management.

1. Model to your child how to manage emotions in a strong manner. Children learn from what they see others do.
2. Assist your child in dealing with emotions in a healthy manner and verbalizing feelings. Just stating what you see your child is feeling, a tool or something they can do to help manage that feeling, and offering support goes a long way! For instance, "I see you are really anxious right now. Let's take some deep breaths and then talk about it some more".

Model breaking down tasks into smaller steps. This helps your child learn how to pursue through challenges and continue on towards a bigger goal. Even if it as small as breaking down a homework assignment into steps, you are helping your child develop self-management skills.

If you feel that your child may be struggling in the area of self-management and would like resources or assistance in helping your child, please talk to your child's teacher or contact me at 763-682-8848.

To learn more about self-management, you can visit the CASEL website at <https://casel.org/>.



**Educating Hearts.  
Inspiring Minds.**



### **Please consider helping children in need**

Wright County has a pressing and continuous need for foster families. All children need a safe home where people will nurture and respect them. Children enter foster care due to significant life factors, often including abuse or neglect. This is an extremely difficult time for children. They are struggling and need extra support. The overall goal of foster care is to provide children with a temporary, stable, and caring family setting until they are reunited with their family or until a permanency plan is established for them.

Wright County is seeking families who live in Wright County and are willing to welcome children into their home. If you would like more information about becoming a foster parent, please contact **Marisa Ferguson at 763-682-7484 or [marisa.ferguson@co.wright.mn.us](mailto:marisa.ferguson@co.wright.mn.us)**.

**Those interested in learning more about foster care are invited to attend one of the upcoming orientations on April 9<sup>th</sup> or May 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm** at the Wright County Law Enforcement Center located at 3800 Braddock Ave. NE, Buffalo, MN 55313 in room S2021A.

# I Love to Read Week

Northwinds students and staff had a great time celebrating I Love to Read Week February 25th– March 1st with the theme of Live, Laugh, Love to Read...



## PTO NEWS



Jump into Spring with Ice cream & BINGO and BOOKS nights!



Spring is right around the corner, hopefully! PTO is planning some extra fun this March!

1. Tuesday, March 12th from 4:00-7:00pm stop by What's the Scoop to check out the amazing artwork created by our students at NES while eating some ice cream and a portion of the sales from the night will go right back to NES. It's a win win situation for everybody! ENJOY!
2. Tuesday, March 19th will be BINGO and BOOKS night at NES from 6:00-7:00pm! Come play BINGO and participate in the Book Swap. Bring the whole family for a fun hour of chances to win prizes, use your book swap money to get a book, enjoy some popcorn and water ALL for FREE!!!!

**See the flyer sent home about the guidelines on the Book Swap.  
Books can be brought to your child's scheduled conferences.  
There will be a collection table near the main office.**

**\*\*Correction to the flyer that was sent home, book donations will also be accepted on the mornings of 3/18 & 3/19 \*\***

Stay up to date on our Facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/NorthwindsPTO/>.

And as always we welcome people to come join our PTO meetings the first Monday of the month at 4:00pm in the back of the lunchroom at NES.

### Important Dates:

#### 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

#### April:

1st —5th— No School  
Spring Break  
8th— PTO Meeting 4-5 PM  
25th—Grade 2 Musical  
6:30pm  
30th—Choir Concert 6:30 PM

#### May:

6th—PTO Meeting 4-5 PM  
9th— Ice Cream Social 5-7 PM  
27th—No School  
Memorial day

