

Northwinds Express

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Notes from the Principal

Greetings Northwinds Families,

I hope you all enjoyed your spring break. It was so nice to see all of the students and their smiles as they returned to school!

I wanted to take some time this month to highlight makerspaces. What is a makerspace? A makerspace is an educational term that describes a space that is used for exploring, making, creating and learning. It may or may not use technology but it will allow students the opportunity to learn and create or 'make' using manipulatives and a variety of tools.

Its purpose is to allow time for creativity and learning through doing. The expectations and procedures for utilizing the makerspace are structured but the learning is more open ended for students to explore. At Northwinds we currently have makerspaces in our 2nd and 3rd grades.

This year the PTO supported the addition of the makerspace in 2nd grade and we are grateful to expand this opportunity for students and thankful for your support as families in helping the PTO fund this.

Below you will see a few pictures of students enjoying their time using the makerspace area and materials.

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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



Northwinds Secretary Saying Farewell after 31 Years with the District



Kim Goelz, Northwinds Elementary Secretary, will be retiring on Friday, April 26 after 31 years with District 877. Mrs. Goelz was one of the first staff hired when Northwinds opened 13 years ago. Mrs. Goelz said "I am excited about starting the next new chapter in my life by spending more time with my 2 children and 5 grandchildren, doing traveling, quilting and lots and lots of reading. I am going to miss the staff and families that I have gotten to know over the many years here in District 877. But mainly I am going to miss the students. I love my job - I get to see smiling and excited students when they enter the building and get to see them mature each year they are here. NES is an awesome school with caring staff who assist students every day. I am proud to be part of that staff. It is going to be totally different heading into retirement and not seeing the students, but I may have to volunteer to get my kid fix."

Cafeteria Corner— Mrs. Van Lith

April 2019

The Northwind's Food Service staff is busy preparing for our Annual Beach Day. This year it is scheduled for Wednesday April 17. Mark your calendars and remind your children to sign up for lunch and enjoy some great food, music and fun. We will be serving up lunch, picnic style, with the help of some special guests. School Board members Sue Lee and Melissa Brings will be joining us to hand out Hawaiian leis to the students participating in the lunch program that day. The menu will consist of corn dogs on a stick (does not contain pork), baby carrots, chips, apples/tangos, cookie and milk. The alternate sandwich will be turkey. Students will eat at their normal lunch times and will use their pin numbers.

Our Golden Guest Grandparent Luncheon has been rescheduled to Friday, April 26th. Students beam when they come through the line with their special guests. If you are interested in joining your child for lunch, the cost is \$3.75. It really helps us out when you bring exact change or small bills. I want to extend a special thanks to those who can call ahead and let us know they are coming. It makes planning so much easier on our end. The menu is Turkey Gravy and Mashed Potatoes with a dinner roll. Please RSVP to abar-kley@bhmschools.org only if your original RSVP has changed or you were not scheduled to come on the original date.

Once again, thanks for all you do. You do make a difference. As always, if you have any questions or wish to join us for lunch, please give me a call at 763-682-8838.

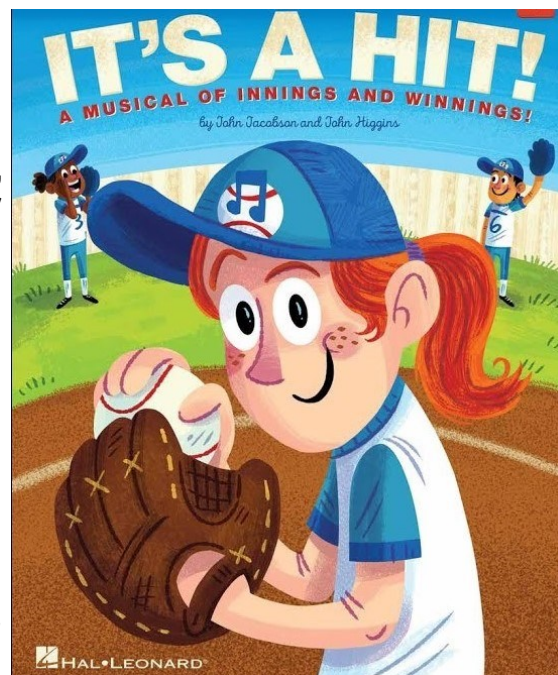


Sue Van Lith, Food Service Manager

Musical Notes— Mrs. Wagner

Awesome April greetings, everyone!
April is in full swing, and so is our music room. This month is hopping with music learning.

Our second graders are in the middle of perfecting their musical, “It’s A Hit!” to present to the public on **Thursday, April, 25th. We will perform twice that day: 1:30pm for the school ONLY, and 6:30pm for parents, relatives and friends.** Please make sure your 2nd grader is in school that day. Students will be wearing blue jeans, jeggings or capri jeans (blue leggings are fine, too) and tennis shoes, along with their t-shirts we ordered. We are very excited to present this fun, inspiring show for you! I will be looking for parent volunteers (with a background check on file) to help decorate the stage area the week of April 15th. Watch for a letter coming home explaining this opportunity.



Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 are learning to play ukuleles this month! Our very generous PTO approved a grant for a classroom set of ukuleles for us. THANK YOU PTO!!! This is very exciting, and sometimes frustrating for kiddos. With diligent, hard work we will learn three chords: C, F and G7. We will also learn a little bit about playing melodies on the ukuleles and the history of the ukulele, too.

Kindergartners and 1st graders will continue exploring music by moving our bodies to the music and playing instruments. We will be focused on learning *ta and titi, or quarter notes and eighth notes by sight. We will also be exploring mi, so and la and finding those pitches on the music staff. Lots of active listening occurs in kindergarten and 1st grade!*

Finally, our 4th and 5th grade NES Choir is working hard to perform a great concert for the public on Tuesday, April 30th at 1:30pm and 6:30pm. We have 30 fantastically enthusiastic singers who are presenting some pretty awesome music!

As we wind up the school year in music, kids will be learning to play pianos in May. We will utilize our iPads and review note names on the music staff, as well as learn about the piano keyboard. Exciting!

Have a wonderful month!
Mrs. Wagner

Phy Ed— Ms. Johnson

Hello Northwinds families!

As usual, we have a lot going on in the gym. The week before Spring Break I set up a pretty elaborate obstacle course in the gym. It takes a long time to set up so it is a special once-a-year type of activity. Kids were rock climbing, scooting, climbing on ropes, pretending they were on kayaks, balancing, pulling, and going up, down, and around all sorts of obstacles.

Now that we are back to the swing of the school year, a small handful of older classes (4th and 5th) are focused on finishing their fitness tests and the younger students (k-2nd) are still working hard on the tricky skill of catching.

As the weather starts to warm up, please help your student(s) remember tennis shoes. Now that the weather is warming up, keep in mind that shoes need to cover the entire foot and sneaker/sandals will not be allowed. Regular tennis shoes that tie, Velcro, or in some other way “latch” onto the foot are all ideal.

Fingers crossed that the weather improves so we can go outside for PE class and Pavement Pounders.

Ms. Johnson



Battle of The Books -Competition Results



The 9th Annual Northwinds Elementary School Battle of the Books competition was held Thursday, March 21st in the NES cafeteria. Nearly 90 students in grades 3-5 read the ten Maud Hart Lovelace nominees in preparation for the battle. Teams of 2 or 3

students worked cooperatively in the battle. The competition consists of three rounds, the first round involving all participants as they are asked to answer 10 questions. After the results are tallied, 8 – 10 teams move on to the second round to answer 8 more questions. After those results are tallied, the top three remaining teams move on to the final round. In this round, students use Knowledge Bowl strips to “ring in” much like the game show in Jeopardy. Ten final questions are asked and first, second, and third place prizes are awarded.

This years 3rd and 4th grade winners were Allison Mix and Zainab Akram in first place, Jane Jayson and Adeline Brenny, and Addison Jessen and Kate Siemek in third place. The 5th grade winners were Kelsey Kumpula and Bridget Karvonen in 1st place. 2nd place went to Avery Bjorklund and Lauren Berg, and third place went to Ben Leintz and Charlie Rosso.

Congratulations to all participants! It was an exciting day filled with great competition based on some wonderful books. This spring students across the state of MN will be voting for their favorite book from the list of nominees. Northwinds students that read three or more of the books will submit their votes and statewide votes will be collected. In May the 2019 Maud Hart Lovelace award winner will be announced!



Innovation Station— Mrs. Franzen

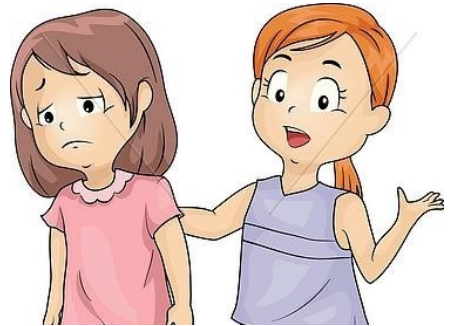
We have been hard at work in innovation station since I last wrote to you. In April, we are going to be headed out on virtual reality field trips on the iPads using google expeditions. Try it out at your house by downloading the google expeditions app! Kindergartners will get to try it out for the first time. In first grade, we are going to work on some mystery science lessons before heading out on our virtual field trips. Second graders will also be working on another digital book, this time based around the story If you Give a Mouse a Cookie. Third graders are finishing up their animal reports, which will be able to be viewed on the eportfolios! Third graders worked hard on this research project. In fourth grade, we are finishing up a poster we made using google drawings and then will head out on our virtual field trips after planning a trip of our own following a budget. Fifth graders will be starting on their own research project on a country and we will be collaborating with World Cultures to create the project. On another note, it is bittersweet to tell you that I will not be teaching innovation station next year. With the crazy winter we've had, my husband and I will be moving to North Carolina! I will be here through the end of this school year. I have had a blast creating and teaching innovation station and Northwinds will always be with me! I hope you all had a fantastic spring break!



Social Emotional Focus— Mrs. Hageman

Spring is finally here and I hope everyone had a great spring break! The last two months, the social emotional focus has been primarily on how students manage their own emotions and thoughts. April's social and emotional focus switches to focusing on others and is on the skill area of social awareness.

Social awareness is a broad skill set area. Based off of CASEL's (ie Collaboration for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning) definition, social awareness skills include the ability to see others' perspectives, have empathy, respect others, and appreciate diversity. Social awareness skills also includes understanding social and ethical norms for behavior. The ability to recognize family, school, and community resources and supports is also part of being socially aware.



When children have age appropriate social awareness, they are more successful at school. When students are doing well socially, they are able to focus more on their academics. Staff at Northwinds seek to model social awareness to students and to guide students in developing social awareness. Northwinds has a school-wide focus on the character traits of being respectful, responsible, and safe to assist students in recognizing social and ethical norms for behavior. Each teacher also establishes class norms to guide students.

There are several ways that you as a parent/guardian are able to facilitate your child's growth in social-awareness! Listed below are 3 things you can do to help your child develop self-management.

1. Help your child identify how others may think or feel during conflicts. This helps your child see different perspectives.
2. When your child makes a mistake and is not respectful to others, show them how they can "fix" it. For instance, if they are disrespectful to a friend, fixing it may mean apologizing to the friend.
3. Remind your child who is in their support system. Let them know who they can go to if they have a problem or need support.

If you feel that your child may be struggling in the area of social awareness 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 this skill area, you can visit the CASEL website at <https://casel.org/>.



**Educating Hearts.
Inspiring Minds.**

Arts and Acedemics Update

ARTS and ACADEMICS - Thursday, May 9, 2019

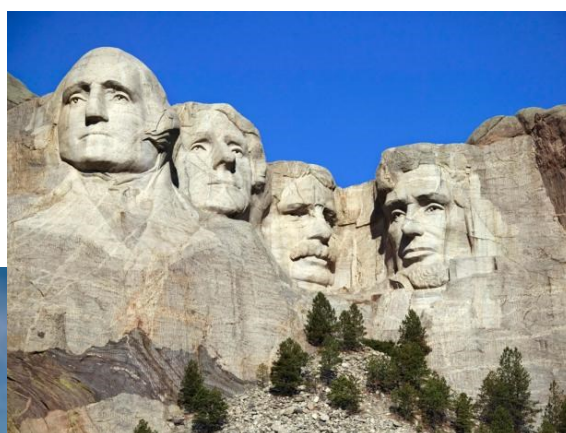
Pride of USA - National Parks and Monuments

Our annual Arts and Academics/Ice Cream Social Night is coming up on May 9th! Students that are submitting a project for display should turn in the bottom slip of their yellow paper by Monday, April 15th. If your slip comes in a day or two late, we'll still be happy to put your name on our participation list. :) . We want lots of students to participate in this great event!

Students are encouraged to fasten a picture of themselves to their project. **Projects can come to school May 6-8.** Bring your project down to Mrs. Berg in the art room before the school day starts. Projects will then be displayed in the gym on May 9th. Classes will be invited to view all of the projects during the school day. Families are invited to attend the evening event (5 pm - 7 pm) to appreciate and enjoy the projects. Projects can be picked up at the end of the night on May 9th, or they can be collected from the art room before school on May 10th.

We look forward to seeing all kinds of great projects this year!

Questions? See Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Graham, or Mrs. Berg



PTO NEWS



“YOU scream, I scream, we ALL scream for Ice Cream!”

Join us on **Thursday, May 9th from 5:00-7:00pm** for our NES Ice Cream Social! Enjoy some ice cream from What's The Scoop as you check out creative and impressive projects that our students have created about our National Monuments. There will also be a silent auction of gift baskets that our students and adults have put together to help raise money for our school. And Scholastic Book Fair will also be available. It will be a **FANTASTIC** night!

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:



April:

**25th—Grade 2 Musical
6:30pm**

26th— Golden Guest Luncheon

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

June:

**3rd—NES Fun Field Day Gr.
K--4**

3rd— PTO Meeting 4p.m.

6th— Last day of School