

Northwinds Express

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Notes from the Principal

Greetings Northwinds Elementary Families,

I would like to thank you for your generous support, patience, grace and flexibility as we started this school year under unique circumstances.

We have had a successful beginning of the year with students showing great motivation to be back in school, growth in learning and resilience to the new procedures.

I am reminded, this year especially, that no matter the circumstances our community or school may face that our purpose and the “why” of our daily work at Northwinds needs to remain strong.

The best description of our purpose and vision for all students at Northwinds is summarized within our mission statement.

Our mission at Northwinds Elementary School is to provide an inclusive educational environment for our learners. We are committed to each child’s academic, social, and emotional growth. We prioritize and value relationships with our students, families, and our community.

We recognize the importance of keeping this vision and purpose at the forefront of all of our decisions, instruction, planning and relationships.

The Northwinds staff continue to live this mission daily and no matter where you are physically learning from this year, whether at school, at home or a combination of both, we are here to support and serve.

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Buffalo, MN 55313

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www.bhmschools.org/schools/northwinds



Northwinds Elementary School

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Important Dates



November:

2nd—PTO Meeting 4-5pm
(virtual)

5th, 10th & 12th—Virtual Con-
ferences 3:30-7pm

13th—NO SCHOOL

25th—27th—NO SCHOOL
(Thanksgiving Break)

December:

7th—PTO Meeting (virtual)

24th - Jan 1—NO SCHOOL
(Winter Break)

January:

4th—PTO Meeting (virtual)

18th—NO SCHOOL (Martin Lu-
ther King, Jr. Day)

29th—NO SCHOOL (Teacher
Workshop)

Front Office Notes

- Please call the office at 763.682.8800 by 1:00 if there are ANY changes to your child's normal end of day transportation. It's a good idea to notify the teacher by email as well. Keeping as much of a regular schedule for your child each week is always best.
- Please be sure to call the bus company (Vision Transportation at 763.682.3232) if there are ANY changes to your child's drop off or pick up destination. Please also notify your child's teacher and/or the office.
- If your child will be absent, please call the Attendance Line at 763.682.8804
- When dropping off in the morning or picking your child up after school, please follow the arrows to "snake" through the parking lot and make your drop off or pick up as quickly and safely as you can **after you drive past the crosswalk**. The diagram for pick ups and drop offs is attached on pages 7 & 8 of this newsletter.

Health Office

What a great start to a new school year! It is hard to believe it is October already and the first month of school is behind us!!

A few updates and reminders from the health office.

Mask request: As we get used to this new requirement of wearing masks at school, please remind your student(s) to take them out of their backpack at home so they may be washed routinely. It is easy for young children to get in the habit of taking them out of their backpack in the morning, putting them back at the end of the school day and forgetting about them until the next morning. It is important that these masks get washed regularly. Your help with this is greatly appreciated!

Medical notes for phy ed exclusions etc: When your student is seen in clinic and restrictions are recommended for school, please obtain a written note from the provider at the time of the visit (it should include specific activities, duration of exclusion etc). Many clinics no longer fax to the schools, so it is important for you to provide that information in order for us to provide ongoing accommodations. Students may be allowed to sit out of physical education for one class without medical verification. In that case, they will also remain indoors for recess on that day.

Illness at school: We are coming to that time of year where we start hearing a lot about illness and influenza season in the media (in addition to COVID-19). As is typical for this time of year across the district, we are seeing a variety of illnesses; viral, strep throat and gastrointestinal illnesses among them. Please continue to monitor your student(s) health and incorporate strategies to keep them healthy. Some things you can do to help prevent the spread of illness are:

- For the safety of all students-do not send your student to school if they are ill.
- **Please review the *COVID-19 Information* available on the BHM's main webpage. Information specific to COVID-like illness can be found by clicking next on the **COVID-19 Screening link**. This page also contains information regarding student illness at school and the impact on siblings.**
- Continue to encourage your student to cover their cough by coughing into their elbow.
- Wear masks in school and as recommended while around non-household members.
- Continue to wash your student's masks routinely.
- **Handwashing is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of illness.** Hand sanitizer is okay to use when soap and water are not available.
- Assure your child is getting adequate sleep. Elementary aged children need 9-11 hours of *sleep each night*.
- Encourage a colorful diet, filled with fruits and vegetables and lean meats.
- Review and follow the school district's exclusion policy for illness.
- When calling in your student's absence, please note the specific symptoms your child is experiencing.

Vote 2020

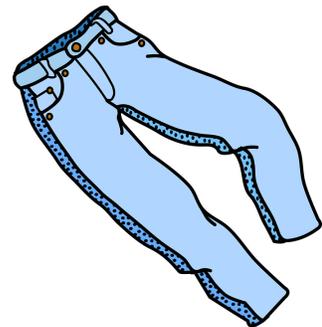
Don't forget to Vote!



Please visit Bhmschools.org and click on Vote 2020 to find your polling place, how to vote early and read information about the school board candidates.

Donations

NES is looking for donations of gloves/mittens and elastic waist pants size 6-12 for girls and boys. These can be dropped off in the office. Thank you!



Music

Warm greetings from the NES Music room!

Our music room is hopping with activity and music! During October, students were working on playing with and finding rhythms and beat in the music. We have also been experimenting with finding the beat and playing on our mallet instruments. We were so lucky to have been given 5 gallon buckets from Menards this year! A HUGE thank you to Kevin Dahl from Menards for donating 30 buckets to our music room. The older grades have been experimenting with bucket drumming to music. It is loud, but FUN!

This year students have been coming to music on a weekly rotation to minimize the amount of students who use the music room every week. For grades K-4, your child's class comes to music every third week and 5th grade comes to music every other week. This seems to be working out well for everyone. We are always very active in the music room, so sometimes it feels like phy-ed, too!

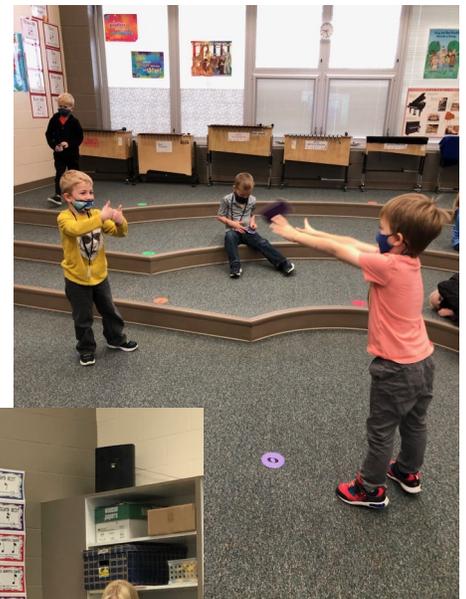
During November, music students will be participating in Thanksgiving activities. We will discuss Native American music and its importance to Native American tribes.

In December our focus will be on Holidays around the world. We will also learn more about ballet music by studying The Nutcracker Ballet, instruments heard in the ballet and we will learn about the composer, Peter Ilych Tchaikovsky. This is always an exciting time of year to learn together and appreciate music from all over the world!

I hope your November and December are amazing! Happy Thanksgiving!

Mrs. Wagner

kwagner@bhmschools.org



Cafeteria Corner

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. It is a great time to take a moment and remind ourselves about all we have to be thankful for. We have fantastic students, staff and parents at NES. We have all been working extra hard to keep everyone safe. It is amazing what we can accomplish when we all work together.

Our breakfast and lunch routines look different this year. Students grab their hot or alternate breakfasts and lunches and sit at tables with their designated classrooms. Their meals are pre-cupped/bagged to minimize extra contact or exposure. We offer free nutritious hot meals daily. It is perfect for warming tummies on cold days. Uncrustables are also offered for those who prefer a sandwich. Milk is available for purchase for those who bring a cold lunch from home. The cost is \$0.50. Milk, by itself, is an ala carte item so it does not qualify for the free rate. Tables are sanitized between groups.

It has been so great to see the student's faces—even if it is just their eyes. I am so impressed by how well they are managing. They have their routines down.

Thanks for all you do. It is appreciated. You do make a difference! If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call at 763-682-8838.

Sue Van Lith

Nutrition Services Manager



Phy Ed/Outside

Please make sure your child has warm winter gear EVERY DAY! Students are outside A LOT between Phy Ed, mask breaks and recess. If you are in need of any particular items, please let the office or your child's teacher know. The kids seem to be enjoying the early snow and building snow forts! Great team work!



Note:
Masks are optional outside



Substitute ESP's and Teachers Needed to Join Our Team!

The District is looking to hire substitute Teachers, Special Education and Instructional ESP's (paras) for the school year. If you love working with kids, this is the perfect job! You choose when you are available to work and if you want to work at Northwinds and/or other schools in the District. If interested go to the [BHM Website](#) to see qualification requirements and to fill out an application. If you have any questions, feel free to call the Northwinds Office at 763-682-8800.

[PTO News]



PTO NEWS.....READ ALL ABOUT IT!!

From October 22nd-29th we had our first PTO Fundraiser, "Goo-Goo for GAGA BALL" so stay tuned to see if we met our goal of \$10,000!

PTO is planning a Bison/Northwinds Apparel fundraiser. Watch for more information to come!

With the shopping season right around the corner please remember to use Amazon Smile for all your Amazon shopping, so our school can earn some rewards (.5% back to NES).

Here's the link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/83-0880999>

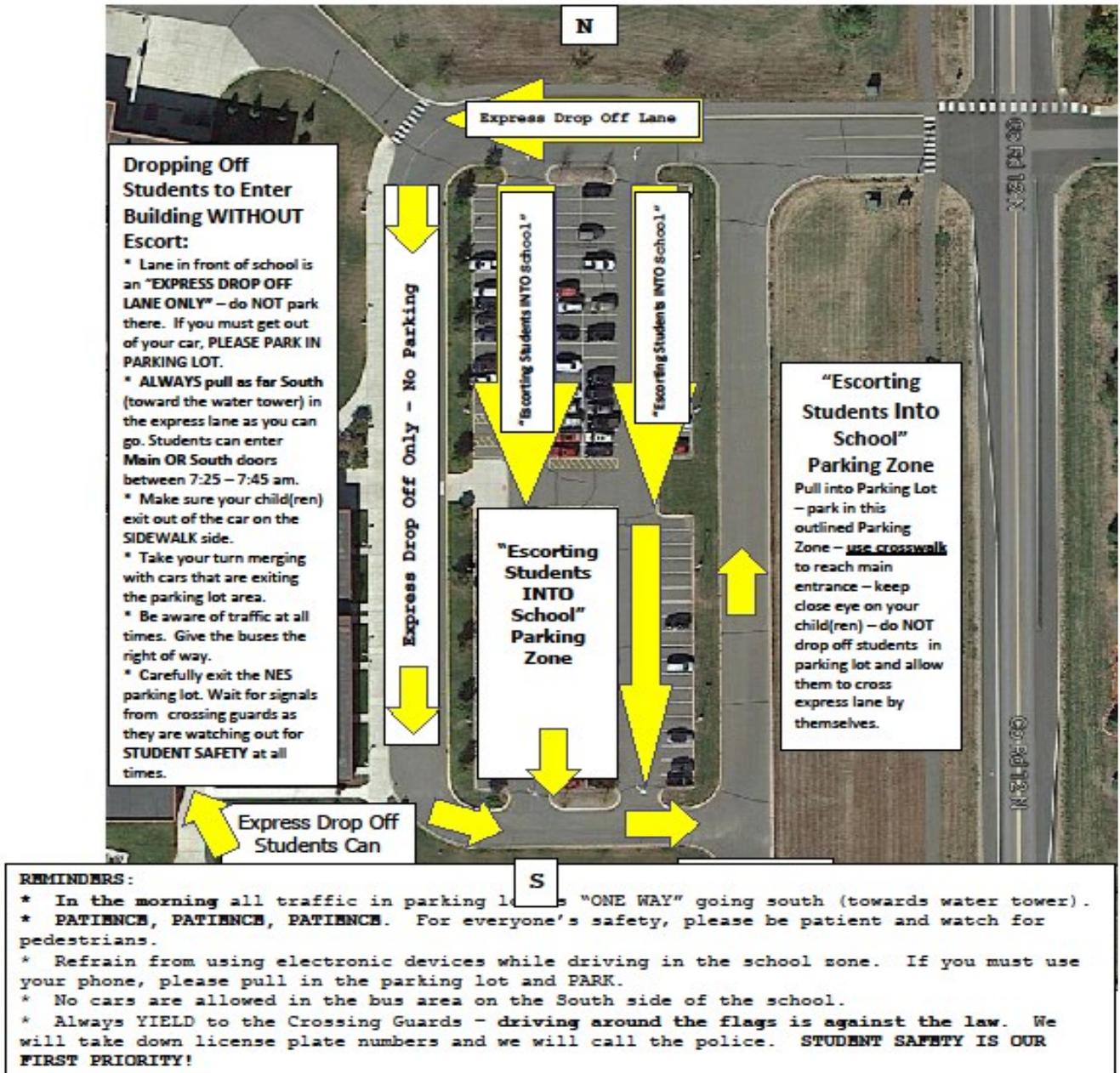
Stay tuned for some upcoming events on our Facebook page,
<http://www.facebook.com/NorthwindsPTO/>.

And as always we welcome people to come join our NES PTO(Parent Teacher Organization) meetings the first Monday of the month at 4:00pm virtually. Please send an email to Northwindspto@gmail.com to get the link for the meeting and get on our email list!

PLEASE NOTE: Currently, we are NOT allowing parents to escort students to their classrooms. For pick up, you may still park in the “escort” zone of the parking lot and wait for your child on the parking lot side of the cross walk and meet him/her there.

Thank you for your understanding!

Northwinds Elementary Morning Drop-Off



PLEASE NOTE: Currently, we are NOT allowing parents to escort students to their classrooms. For pick up, you may still park in the “escort” zone of the parking lot and wait for your child on the parking lot side of the cross walk and meet him/her there.

Thank you for your understanding!

