



## NORTH FORK SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED STUDIES

*September 15th, 2020*

### **Christi's Corner:**

#### Calendar:

#### Upcoming important dates

##### **This week:**

- 9/15 - NFSIS picture day
- 9/16 - 3rd -6th paddle Boarding at Crawford State Park
- 9/17 - 9/18 - 5th and 6th grade backpack trip

##### **Later on:**

- 9/25 - Festival of Courage at Peace and Plenty Farm
- 9/28 - NO SCHOOL - Parent Teacher conferences
- 10/8 - Make up picture day

#### Gratitudes:

*Thanks to Franco and Jessica for a beautiful veggie soup treat that all of the staff enjoyed on Friday. Thanks to Erin for working hard to get air filters in all of our classrooms. Thanks to our volunteers who are showing up to help in classes and on field trips.*

#### Community Council

Thank you to Hannah Stevens for volunteering to be our Community Council lead! We had a robust group of families attend last week, which was wonderful. Here is the message from Hannah:

Interested in shaping the future of NFSIS? You are invited to join two new exploratory committees:

1. Committee to explore **future School of Innovation or Charter School status**. This committee will be responsible for gathering details on what these options are, what they could mean for NFSIS, and ultimately making a recommendation to the Community Council.



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2. Committee to explore establishing a "Friends of NFISIS" 501c3 organization. This committee will be responsible for gathering details on the structure, needs and vision of such an organization, and make recommendations to the Community Council.

Please contact Hannah Stevens by end of this week if you are interested in one of these committees or have any questions:

[hannah.i.stevens@gmail.com](mailto:hannah.i.stevens@gmail.com)

### Picture Day

Picture Day make ups will be: October 8th. Full class pictures will be taken in the spring.

### Reduced "farm days"

Farm Days will become less frequent after October break..... but you can expect plenty of outdoor excursions. We found that sticking to one location meant establishing a classroom. We want to widen our outdoor experiences to the Forest Fridays and *Nature Connection* locations.

### Orchestra for 3rd/4th grade

We are so happy to be able to offer Orchestra again this year! We found two wonderful teachers, Sami Akert and Ursula Ostrander. They will be teaching beginning and intermediate violin to the third and fourth grade starting soon. Please keep your eyes out for violin rentals coming soon.

### Highlights

#### Kindergarten

The kindergarteners have learned the song about Michaelmas Time! As we come into the fall, we are learning about the change of the season, coming into the darkness and finding the light within us to guide our way.

In circle we've learned the song "The knight and the Lady" & have acted this out about a knight and lady who come into a forest to find a fiery red dragon that the knight tames in the end.

Our circle is symbolic of our story "Taming the Dragon". Which is a twist on the St Michael story which is a little lighter and very sweet. Thank you again to Mrs Thompson for sharing this story with us - it's the best I've heard yet!



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We ended the week at Candice Orlando's farm picking apples, playing in the sun and finding the warmth as the sun returned.

We look forward to the beautiful weather, playing outside and dyeing silks on Friday with the marigolds we gathered & dried.

### First Grade

First Grade is working hard on our Language Arts block. The children love working with the letters and creating their own little letters books. We have been playing letter games and they love coming up with long lists of letters with the same beginning sound which I have to make a story out of!

We are going to be visiting town park and the river park again this week since the weather is nice. We will begin working on a long term project of weaving a fall tree into a willow hoop.

Coming up..... Field trips to Thistle Whistle Farm and the Festival of Courage at Peace and Plenty Farm! Please be sure that your children dress in layers for the changing seasons.

### Second Grade

Thank you Erin for getting an air filter for our classroom and working on getting air filters for the whole school!

We are completing the last week of our Language Arts block this week. The children got to hear stories about compassion and bravery with the Lion and the Mouse, Hiawatha, and the Monkey Bridge from the Jataka Tales. Their stamina for writing stories has greatly increased and this week they began independent writing or "kid writing".

Next week will be our math block and we will also jump back into spelling words. Yesterday a baby bat came to visit the school which some students brought food offerings and flowers for.

We will have a Friday field trip this week so look for a message from me in the next couple of days. If you have any questions or concerns please let me know.

### Third/Fourth Grade



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Thank you to Jacque for joining us on farm days the last couple of weeks. The shelter is coming along nicely and Mr. Ryan has taught us a great deal about weaving sticks. We are also investigating 'viable egg's from a brooding hen. Did you know if they float, there may be an embryo inside?

The children have worked hard on creating a narrative for the families that live in their mini shelters. Thanks for viewing the gallery this week at school.

To end the block, we are paddleboarding at Sweitzer Lake on Wednesday! Children need to be prepared with towels, suits, lunches, sunscreen, and hats. There will be archery, fishing, and paddleboarding. Let me know if you would like to join us Wednesday.

We begin our new block, Hebrew Myths and Drama this Thursday. Mark your calendars for an Oct. 7/8 performance.

### Fifth/Sixth Grade

The 5th and 6th Graders are finishing up our Botany block this week. We made Sushi on Monday. We applied some of the Botany concepts we learned over the course of the block to make different kinds of sushi. Since sushi uses nori (seaweed), we used that as our base along with rice to make rolls. Students had many types of fruits and vegetables to choose from to put in their rolls. It was a tasty learning experience.

We are finishing our "treesearch" papers on different kinds of trees. The students learned how to complete research and also how to cite sources and create informative essays.

On Thursday and Friday this week, we will take our final two days of the Botany block up Kebler Pass to observe botany in the mountains on our first backpacking trip. Please make sure to send your students with all their backpacking gear so we can pack up everything on Wednesday. If we have anything that students don't have, we will know on Wednesday and I can fill in the gaps. Please let me know if you need more packing lists and I will email them to you. If you are still missing some of the gear, please let me know.



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