



# NORTH FORK SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED STUDIES

September 22nd, 2020

## Christi's Corner:

### Calendar:

#### Upcoming important dates

##### This week:

- 9/25 - Festival of Courage at Peace and Plenty Farm

##### Later on:

- 9/28 - NO SCHOOL - Parent Teacher conferences
- 10/7 and 10/8 - 3rd and 4th grade play
- 10/8 - Make up picture day
- 10/12 - 10/16 - October Break

### Gratitudes:

*Thanks to Josh, Francois and Chloe for helping out with the 5th/6th grade backpacking trip.*

### Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are on Monday of next week! There will be no school that day. Please make sure that you have signed up for a conference slot in the blue Google Docs that has come to all families. Contact your child's teacher if you are having a hard time signing up, or if you need alternative options.

### Orchestra for 3rd/4th grade

3rd and 4th grade - please order your violins from SHAR ASAP! Although they are not ready yet, we need to get our kids on the waiting list so that we can start Orchestra after fall break. Please follow the instructions on the attached hand out to rent your instrument. Please rent a 3/4 size, unless your child is the size of an adult. In addition, please make sure you rent a shoulder rest.

### Community Council

#### Notes from Community Council:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18SDAPMv0thszss82aYgnjwZiATFPxW9Q2js1Kcdhq4U/edit?ts=5f61004a>



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### New information for making decisions on when to keep kids home

The big change is that **only major symptoms** are considered for remaining home. If someone has 2 major symptoms that last for more than 24 hours, then we will proceed with 10 days out of school and additional days as advised by the school nurse. Minor symptoms should only remain home if the symptom affects student learning. As always, you as a parent need to assess your child's health and ability to learn and their health's impact on their cohort.

#### MAJOR SYMPTOMS of COVID-19

- Feeling feverish, having chills or temperature of 100.4 °F or greater
- Loss of taste or smell
- New or unexplained persistent cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

#### MINOR SYMPTOMS of COVID-19

- Sore throat
- Runny nose or congestion
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Nausea, vomiting
- Diarrhea

### Festival of Courage

Waldorf-inspired schools across the world celebrate the Festival of Courage during this time of year. The festival celebrates good triumphing over evil, courage over cowardice. The celebration of this holiday teaches the importance of facing fears and strengthening resolve. The festival of courage falls near the autumn equinox, marking the end of the harvest and the summer. The seasons will soon begin to change, and the days grow ever shorter. This shift marks a time of turning inward, a time of gathering strength to face the growing darkness.

This year, we will be celebrating at the peace and plenty Farm up on Redlands Mesa. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, the celebration is not open to all parents. Talk to Christi if you have questions.



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### Highlights

#### Kindergarten

We had a sweet week in Kindergarten. We began sewing shooting stars for the Festival of Courage and finishing our nature bags.

Osha's grandma Diane came often to visit the children. We went to the park on Tuesday & Thursday with Ms. Marta and played in the warm sun.

We heard the story about "The Wolf and the Seven Kids," another sweet tale shared by Mrs. Thompson. I am enjoying learning new stories and sharing with the children.

On Friday we spent the Morning in the garden with Grandma Pat & Candice and we learned the sweetest song about little gnomes.

Sami came to help dye silks with the dried marigolds. It was like magic to see the white silks change to golden yellow. We gave gratitude to the sun and the blessings of the summer that will bring us light through the winter to come. Thank you Sami!

We look forward to celebrating the Festival of Courage this week.

#### First Grade

First Grade is still working hard on our Language Arts block for the last week before we begin our first Math block next week where we will explore the quality of numbers. We have started doing some kid writing which is helping students to match sounds with letters, I am so impressed by how eager they are to figure out how to write what they hear.

This week we will visit Thistle Whistle Farm to learn about goats, do some milking/cheese making, gather seeds and create paper mache fall fruits. We will follow up with another visit next week to paint our fruits, and see what happens with the seeds that we have collected and planted.

Friday we will celebrate the Festival of Courage and we will share our poem with the school. I am inspired by how quickly the children learned this very long poem and are now working on speaking with clarity and purpose. Remember to dress in layers for the chilly mornings and care for ourselves as we move through seasons and weather changes!



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### Second Grade

The second grade has been practicing their poem and songs for our all school Friday Michaelmas Celebration at Pat's farm. This week we also began our Math block with much enthusiasm. This block will focus on larger math problems, multiplication tables, and we might even get to discover larger numbers with Place Value. Please look for our first week of spelling words in your Tuesday Folder. Spelling quizzes are Friday morning.

Last week ended our Language Arts Block with the children writing multiple page summaries. It always amazes me how quickly their stamina increases. They heard about the Monkey Bridge from the Jataka Tales and George and the Dragon to prepare for Michaelmas. They begin "kid writing" and some math worksheets. We began our weekly reading groups. The children also each adopted a tree in the town park and will be observing that tree all year long. On Friday, we had a lively trip to the River park that was filled with catching crawdads and making willow crowns.

Volunteer opportunities:

- I am looking for at least one parent volunteer who can help with reading groups from each day. Reading groups are Monday and Wednesday from 12:30 - 1:10 and Tuesdays from 10:45 - 11:40.
- Parent volunteers are also welcome to help at Pat's farm for Michaelmas this Friday.

### Third/Fourth Grade

We have wrapped up the shelter block by all the children presenting their narrative stories and mini-shelters. Please help all the bike riders and walkers get their shelters home this week by giving them a ride.

Onward! The drama block begins. This year we are producing Jacob's *Multi-Colored Coat*. We will be practicing a lot the next 2 weeks and my hope is that children will have their lines memorized by next week so that we can be ready for the performance on October 7th and 8th. Please bring the script back and forth from home to school.

As you may have seen in the email, orchestra is on the docket for mid-October. Filling out the application for instruments is crucial for violin learning to commence.

### Fifth/Sixth Grade

The 5th and 6th Graders finished up our Botany Block last Thursday and Friday with a backpacking trip up to Lost Lake and Dollar Lake on Kebler Pass. We carried our packs and gear two miles and camped out at Dollar Lake. The students observed Botany in the mountains, including lichen, moss, and the different types of trees. We also got to know each other better and learned how to persevere when we were struggling. The kids had a great time and there were mostly smiles at the end of the trip. Thank you to Francois, Chloe, Josh, Ms.



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Christi, and our School Counselor, Amy for helping me make this trip successful and fun for the kids.

This week, we started our Business Math block. We will be learning about different business people, types of economies, businesses, percents, interest, markup and discounts, taxes, interest (on savings accounts and on loans), budgeting, fiscal responsibility, stocks, gratuity, and banking. At the end of the block, the students will open a popup store to sell goods and services. This block will be fun and engaging.

Don't forget to sign up for Parent/Teacher Conferences on the Google Sheet I sent you last week. The conferences are on Monday, September 28th from noon to 8 pm. We don't have school next Monday due to the conferences. I am excited to meet with every one to talk about each student individually. Have a great week!