



NORTH FORK SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED STUDIES

October 20, 2020

Christi's Corner:

Calendar:

Upcoming important dates

This week:

- 10/23 - National Forest visit with 4th grade

Later on:

- 10/29 - Parent Meetings for 1st grade and 3rd/4th grade families - 4:30 - 5:45
- 10/30 - Teacher Inservice, no school
- 11/2 - Parent Meetings for 5th and 6th grade families - 4:30 - 5:45
- 11/5 - Parent Meetings for Kindergarten and 2nd grade families - 4:30 - 5:45
- 11/11 - Community Council
- 11/12 - Lantern Walk
- 12/9 - 12/10 - 2nd grade play - THIS DATE HAS CHANGED!!
- 11/23 - 11/27 - Thanksgiving Break

Gratitudes:

Thanks to parents for joining us and helping with reading groups. Thanks to Sami Akert and Ursula for getting our Orchestra program up and running again! Thanks to Jamie Gilroy for coming in over October break and doing some classroom Improvement in the first grade room.

Parent Meetings

Please mark your calendars for parent meetings coming up over these next few weeks. Please see above for your meeting time. All meetings will take place from 4:30 to 5:45. These meetings are an opportunity for you to learn more about what is going on in your child's classroom and why it is appropriate developmentally for your child's age. These parent nights are very enjoyable and an excellent learning experience for all. It also allows you the opportunity to connect with other parents of children in your class. Please mark the dates and times on your calendar and plan to attend!



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Halloween

Believe It or Not, Halloween is approaching. Students are welcome to wear costumes on 10/29, which will be our last school day before Hallowe'en. We encourage storybook type costumes that relate to something that children have read. However, children can wear the costume they choose, as long as faces are not covered, there is no blood or gore, and absolutely no weapons. We will have an all school field trip to Orchard Valley Farm that day to frolick, enjoy the fall and pick a pumpkin. Please plan to send \$2 with your child for a pumpkin.

School Directory

NFSIS Puts together a directory of phone numbers of all the students to share with the school so that children can connect with other families outside of school. Please let us know if you do not want your name, or phone number published in this directory. Email Christi Gubser if you do not want to be in the directory.

Health and Vitality

We will be starting our health and vitality curriculum for all grades in the next few weeks. Please find an informational letter enclosed about this curriculum. If you do not want your child to participate, please send in the bottom portion of the letter.

Orchestra for 3rd/4th grade

3rd and 4th grade -Thanks to most of you for getting your kids outfitted with violins. Their classes will be on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please make sure their instrument comes with them to each of these sessions.



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Highlights

Kindergarten

From Ms Heather:

We had a sweet last week of school together. We continued our rhythm outside in the kindergarten.

We went to the town park on Tuesday to play and have lunch.

We had a visit from my 4 mini lop bunnies on Wednesday. They had a lot of fun with the children hopping around the classroom. The children were very gentle and enjoyed watching them and each held a bunny.

Thursday we went to Orchard Valley Farm to enjoy the beautiful day and pick pumpkins. It was an amazing day. Thank you to our parent volunteers Amy, Derek, Brian and Wesley along with Marta.

Friday they had a sweet gardening class with Candice Orlando learning about the harvest & met with Mr Kuda for their first art class.

Many blessings to you all and a wonderful welcome to Mrs Thompson to the kindergarten class. I will see your children in handwork with Ms Sara !

From Mrs. Thompson:

This week the Kindergarten is settling into a slightly shifted rhythm with a new teacher (I'm so happy to be here!) as well as welcoming our new class member. Welcome to Hunter and his family; we are so glad you've joined us here at NFSIS!

I could not be happier to begin the school year with this kind, bright, and happy group of children. We begin a new circle this week about a "little round bun" who escapes. As we become the little round bun, the rabbit, bear and the fox, we are repeatedly crossing all midlines to support midline integration. This is one part of building a strong foundation for future academics. And we are having fun too!

We will begin making lanterns next week, so please send a wide-mouth, 16 oz. mason jar to school with your child. Please continue to bundle your little ones for our chilly mornings outside.



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First Grade

Welcome back from Fall Break! First Grade will be exploring the four mathematical operations and working with our beautiful humble helpers this week before we move into nature studies and then back into our next language arts block. It is going to be a busy month before Thanksgiving break and we are hoping to spend time outdoors while the weather is still so lovely.

We will be heading to Orchard Valley for an all school trip to the pumpkin patch on the 29th of October and we would love to have some parent volunteers. Please email Miss Christi or Miss Chelsea if you are available to join in the fun.

Our parent night will be the same evening, October 29th, from 430-530 with Ms. Thesa. Stay tuned for more information about this wonderful offering coming in the next week.

Second Grade

I hope you had a wonderful fall vacation. The children returned relaxed, happy and eager to learn.

For the next few weeks we will be working on our Language Arts block. We will focus on word families and long vowels. I also introduced the class play this week. We will perform the class play on December 9th and 10th. As we get closer to that date I will be asking for more parent involvement.

Reading groups are now happening on a regular basis. If you would like to volunteer for reading groups please let me know. We will continue to have weekly spelling words and work on regular math facts.

Important Dates:

10/27 12-3 Mountain Biking in Hotchkiss with the Nature Connection

11/5 2nd grade Parent Night

11/12 Lantern Walk

12/9 -12/10 Class Play



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Third/Fourth Grade

Hello and welcome back from break. I had a wonderful time in Moab, on a women's river trip. I am learning to row my very own boat! I hope the break was rejuvenating for you all and you find some solace in the seasons change.

We have entered into a new math block. We'll begin with a thorough review of the arithmetic work that the class has done over the past three years: the four operations, place value, manipulations with multiple-digit numbers, long division, and long multiplication.

Nine and ten year olds develop a passion for patterns and "codes," and this will be a point of departure for us. We'll review the multiplication tables by searching for patterns in numbers, and we'll learn about factors, abundant and deficient numbers, and amicable numbers. We'll develop some shortcuts to help with mental arithmetic, and we'll do a lot with word problems.

In addition, the orchestra has begun. We are lucky to have hired great violin teachers. Thanks to you all for helping your kids remember to bring their instruments Monday every week (they can leave their instruments at school through Wednesday.)

The last bit of this Tuesday newsletter is expressing my need for chaperones. The class size has grown to 20 children. I can only hold 14 in the mini-bus. As of now, I need two chaperones to drive for any field trip we take out of town.

- We'll have a trip to the river park this Friday afternoon (1:00-3:00) if I can find some chaperones.
- Please let me know if you are available for a forest Friday adventure on October 23rd, November 6th, or November 21st.
- The Nature Connection is hosting us on Monday the 26th for biking at their pump track. Let me know if you can be a part of that experience.



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Fifth/Sixth Grade

Welcome back. I hope everyone had a restful Fall Break. The 5th and 6th graders are finishing up our Business Math block this week by hosting a pop-up General Store on Thursday and Friday. Students will be selling keychains, brownies, rice crispy treats, friendship bracelets and pins, face masks, and other goodies, and even offering Tarot card readings. On Wednesday, we are going to the Nature Connection in Hotchkiss to go mountain biking in the afternoon. Next week, we will start a block in American geography and history and focus the next few weeks on election history and democracy. Have a great week!

Special Gratitude to Ms Heather from Mrs. Thompson

Dear Ms. Heather,

Words really cannot express how grateful I am for you. Your willingness to come and teach these sweet kindergarteners with such warmth and gentleness has been a gift. This has been a particularly difficult year for teachers to begin the school year, and instead of just saying “no,” which would have been so easy, you said “yes.” And you have gone above and beyond. Through working together through these months, I know that you love each of the children and are deeply invested in creating a nurturing, loving, developmentally appropriate school experience for them. They are so lucky to have you, as is our school community. You stepped in and saved the day with grace and selflessness and love. I am so grateful.

With love,

Andrea