



# NORTH FORK SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED STUDIES

November 3rd, 2020

## Christi's Corner:

### Calendar:

#### Upcoming important dates

##### This week:

- 11/2 - Parent Meetings for 5th and 6th grade families - 4:30 -5:45
- ELECTION DAY! Please vote.
- 11/5 - Parent Meetings for Kindergarten and 2nd grade families - 4:30 - 5:45

##### Later on:

- 11/11 - Community Council
- 11/12 - Lantern Walk, 5 PM - location still TBA
- 11/23 - 11/27 - Thanksgiving Break
- 12/9 - 12/10 - 2nd grade play - THIS DATE HAS CHANGED!!

### Gratitudes:

*Thanks to Jess Catinella for doing the huge job of cleaning out the front closet.*

*Thanks to Ana and Sami and the Lantern Walk team for planning a lovely event.*

*Thanks to Carrie Soto and the Winterfaire team for getting up and running with that event! So much going on at NFSIS.*

### 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. Please mark the dates and times on your calendar and plan to attend!

Some meetings will be in person, some on ZOOM - please see your individual teachers desires in their highlight section.

### Lantern Walk

Lantern Walk -As the sun's warmth and light are waning, we understand that it shines on through our companionship to our friends and family and homes. In our celebration



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we symbolize this by creating beautiful lanterns that hold and protect our own lights as we walk through the darkness. We sing together as we hold our lanterns to remember that in dark times when we shine together the brighter it becomes. This year, we will celebrate Lantern Walk on Thursday, 11/12, at 5 PM at either the River Park or Town Park - location TBA. This IS NOT a drop off event - you must stay with your child as we walk through the darkness and sing. Please listen to the songs in the folder - web site below - so that you can sing along with your children.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Fs7vWQF1-gqln1dtxLQXolq8Vsb8FFG4?usp=sharing>

### **Directory**

Please see the attached directory put together by Jenna. Use this directory to create connections with other families and their children. Do not share other people's phone numbers or addresses without permission.

### **NFSIS gear**

Many of you have noticed the bright yellow, light blue and grey T-shirts and sweatshirts that students and teachers are wearing. If you are interested in purchasing some NFSIS gear - Tshirts/Sweatshirt/Baseball style shirts - Christi will have a sign up sheet for your orders at drop off and pick up in these next few weeks or email Christi with the style, color and size that you would like.

Tshirts are \$12, Hoodies are \$25 and Baseball shirts are \$18 - money is due when the item is received.



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### Highlights

#### Kindergarten

We had so much fun celebrating Halloween together on Thursday. We began the day with a NFSIS spiral, singing, and a parade. I loved watching our class as they looked at all of the older students in their costumes. They looked so wide-eyed, joyful, and inspired! We then returned to our classroom and carved a giant pumpkin together. The children shared their ideas for our jack o' lantern's face; some even sketched ideas on paper. I'll share a picture of our final product. Then we all rode the school bus to Orchard Valley for a sunny autumn picnic and a walk through the pumpkin patch. What a fantastic way to celebrate the season! (It was also such a treat to see so many of you trick or treat at my house. I love this community!)

Upcoming:

#### ***Lantern Walk ~ Thursday, November 12 at 5***

This week we will begin to make our lanterns in preparation for our lantern walk. Seasonal festivals are a unique and meaningful part of a Waldorf-inspired curriculum. They bring depth and reverence to the human experience of seasonal changes, as well as honoring Mother Earth's transitions. The lantern walk is my personal favorite of all of the festivals. During this beautiful experience, we will shine our lights together in the darkness in honor of the changing seasons and to recognize the inner changes we face as the days grow shorter and nights longer. This festival is also known as Martinmas. Martinmas originated in France in honor of St. Martin, who was known as a friend of children and patron of the poor. Legend has it that he shared his cloak with a beggar by cutting it in half, so the beggar would be saved from the cold night. Lantern Walk details will be announced very soon.

#### ***Kindergarten Parent Night ~ (This) Thursday, November 5 ~ 4:30- 5:30:***

Please plan to (remotely) attend our first parent evening together. I will send out a Google Meet invitation early this week. This will be my first time using google meet, so please bear with me as I figure it out. I will hand out various articles relating to child development and kindergarten curriculum in the children's Tuesday folders this week. If you are able, read one or two before our parent meeting and then we can talk about any arising questions or interesting points at our parent night. **Please RSVP to me by replying to this email; let me know even if you are not able to attend.** It helps me prepare to know how many will be present.

#### ***Warmth:***

Warmth is so important for young children especially. I apologize in advance for repeatedly talking about bundling up the children. I want to explain my intention behind this so hopefully you will forgive me.



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Children seven and under especially are not yet connected to their bodies in the same way as adults, and so they do not experience the cold as we do. They live in the moment and are too distracted by the joys and newness of life to notice their own body temperature. This is beautiful and it requires the adults to help children develop a healthy sense of warmth. I'm sure you have heard, "But I'm not cold!" on freezing days, or have seen children begging to keep swimming even though their lips are turning blue. These are perfect examples of children not being fully connected to their physical bodies. If a child is not kept warm, then they must use some of their potential "growth" energy to heat their bodies. This energy is better used developing their physical bodies and building the immune system. My intention in asking for warm layers is to support the children's optimal development.

Please send a warm hat and a sun hat with your child to school each day. This week we will have cold mornings and warm afternoons. Also, if your child is wearing a short-sleeved shirt, please send a light sweater, hoodie, or long-sleeved shirt to wear inside. I keep the window cracked a bit to have a little air flow, and our room is a bit chilly in the morning.

Thank you all for reading!

### First Grade

First Grade is working into our next Language Arts Block working with the vowels while also infusing Nature Studies into each week as we move closer to Thanksgiving.

This week we will be making our lanterns for Lantern walk. The children should collect leaves to bring to school on Thursday to add to their lanterns. We will also be finishing our Calendula salve this week so be sure to ask about it.

We have been having a great time working with numbers and our humble helpers to discover many ways that we can manipulate numbers using the four processes. We will now put that block to rest to be brought back up and expanded on after our break.

Please be sure that your child has a water bottle for school, there have been several children without water bottles which is challenging since we are not supposed to access the water fountains at this time.

Thanks to all the parents who joined us at Black Bridge for Halloween, it was a lovely time!

### Second Grade



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I hope Everyone had a lovely weekend. Please mark your Calendars for this Thursday at 4:30 for the 2nd grade parent night. We will go over what is coming up in the classroom and the four temperaments.

I love the time in the classroom between Halloween and Christmas. Everyone is settling in as the weather begins to change.

We are in the thick of our language arts block looking at all the long vowels and hearing about golden legends and remarkable people. We are moving more and more into practicing for our class play which will be in December.

Please continue to practice your spelling words with your children. I am seeing great growth in their writing and reading. This Friday we will go to the river park for the afternoon.

### Third/Fourth Grade

This week in our math block, children are authors in writing their own word problems. I look forward to sharing the work they are completing! Fourth graders are entering the world of long division and third grade is reviewing short division. Memorizing the multiplication table is paramount this year. If facts are memorized, math will feel like a breeze in the upper grades.

Thanks to the six people who joined me for the parent night meeting. Building a community of parents is a big mission of mine, and I appreciate the time you take out of your busy lives to do that. The minutes to the parent meeting are attached.

\* Note- the spelling words and math homework are due every Friday. If for some reason you don't receive the spelling words, email me and I will keep you in the loop.

### Fifth/Sixth Grade

The 5th and 6th Grade started our North American History and Geography Block last week. We started the block by learning about the history of the United States elections.

Last week, we learned about the timeline of the different Constitutional Amendments that affected who could vote. We then looked at the different Presidential Candidates on the ballot in Colorado and learned about where 4 different candidates stood on issues that are relevant to the students. We had a very lively and exciting



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discussion about the candidates. We also looked at the history of the Electoral College and also how the votes are calculated for each state and how it is different from the national popular vote. This week, we will hold a mock election and also look at the results by state and start coloring in our Electoral College map to see how the President is elected. We also learned about "swing" states and how they play a role in electing our next president. It will be fun to see what happens to our map and how colorful it is when the election is finished!

Thank you to all the parents who "attended" our Parent Meeting on Monday. Have a great week!