



NORTH FORK SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED STUDIES

December 1st, 2020

Christi's Corner:

Calendar:

Upcoming important dates

- 12/9 - 12/10 - 2nd grade play

Later on:

- 12/11 - Spiral Garden during school hours
- 12/18 - In school Winterfaire celebration

THERE WILL BE NO HOLIDAY CONCERT/POTLUCK THIS YEAR DUE TO COVID.

Gratitudes:

Thanks to our intrepid teachers who continue to show up every day with vigor and love for all children! Make sure to give great appreciations to these "essential" workers.

Please help keep NFSIS staff safe!

Delta County school district is planning to keep school open if possible during this holiday season. If you have plans to travel and see people from outside the North Fork, please keep in mind the health of the NFSIS staff by continuing with good hygiene and other COVID preventive measures. **If you have been exposed, stay home!!** We all come to work each day to serve your children, and partnership with our families is critical in this during this unusual time of tricky public health. In addition, please remember to mask up at pick up time, again to keep our staff safe.

Looking for Winterfaire sponsor

Usually our Winterfaire brings in about 2,500 per year of fundraising dollars. Due to Covid-19, we will not be holding the celebration, and will therefore lose these funds. We are looking for a Winterfaire Angel who may be able to donate all or part of these funds to the school so that we can continue to help families in need with fees.

In addition, we still plan to hold an in-school winter fair with wonderful winter crafts. This day will cost approximately \$400 in materials. An angel for this event would also be very appreciated. Please contact Christi Gubser if you can be this angel or know of someone we should reach out to.



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Fundraising Addresses

Please fill out the enclosed Grandparent/Aunt/Uncle address sheet if you can. We are starting our annual fundraising drive and would like to reach out to as many family members as possible to support our school. Thank you!

Basketball! Update

Message for Jessi Heinritz, bball coordinator: Attention Pee Wee basketball players! Due to COVID-19 the Health department has postponed basketball for the next two weeks. Parents will be contacted when our organization becomes aware of what our basketball season will look like. Thank you!

Call it in!!

If your child is absent, please call it in every time! 970 527 3639. We need to know why children are absent during this uncertain time for the health of our school. We all want to stay open as long as possible and we need your help to make this happen. Thank you.

Advent

We have entered into the season of Advent. Traditionally celebrated the four Sundays before the winter solstice, it marks a time of introspection as we all await the return of the sun and lengthening days. This seasonal remembrance of light takes place in many cultures across the globe. At our Waldorf school, we celebrate with Advent spiral walks and Advent tables.

An Advent table may be a tradition to take into your own homes to mark this season of darkness turning towards light. Each week items are added to a small table and an additional candle is lit, taking a quiet moment to celebrate and recognize the strength and beauty of the natural world around us. By remembering the light surrounding us in nature, we are helped to kindle a sustaining light within to help us through the dark days of winter.

Here are some ideas on how to incorporate an Advent table into your winter celebrations:

As the verse above guides, in the first week of Advent, we remember the light of the mineral world, of the earth, and our connection to it. Perhaps you can plan a hike together so different than in the exuberant summer, collecting stones to add to your Advent table.



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The second week of Advent we honor the plants that nourish both our bodies and our spirits. This is a great time to remember the food growers and preparers, and add some winter boughs or fall leaves to your Advent table.

The third week of Advent we celebrate the animal kingdom for their companionship. We can remember to help our backyard companions through their own difficult winter with full bird feeders and treats for the squirrels, and add a small animal figure to your Advent table.

Finally, in the fourth week of Advent we remember our fellow humans. We can reflect on the special people in our lives who may have helped light the path for us in their own way. Perhaps we can find a way to be a light in someone else's life this week, and add a little figure to your Advent table.

By marking our seasonal journey out of darkness with the quiet contemplation of an Advent, we make space in this hectic time of celebration and busyness to remember our connection to the earth and each other. In this way, we kindle the light of our own spirits and perhaps help light the way for others.

Advent Verse:

*The first light of Advent is the light of the stones
that sparkle through seashells, crystals and bones.*

*The second light of Advent is the light of the plants
that reach to the sun and in the breeze dance.*

*The third light of Advent is the light of the beasts
that swim, crawl or fly, be they great, be they least.*

*The fourth light of Advent is the light of you and me,
in love and in our hearts, to give and understand.*



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Highlights

Kindergarten

Hello Kindergarten Community!

This week we begin a new circle which offers many opportunities for integrating midlines and primitive reflexes. We are singing and hopping, jumping, skipping, and galloping rhythmically each day. Every morning we are also jump-roping together. I turn the rope for the children and it is amazing how quickly they are feeling the jump rope rhythm and learning the old-school jump rope songs. I love to watch their faces as they get more and more confident jumping rope.

We also begin a new story this week. I am telling the familiar fairy tale, "The Shoemaker and the Elves." This is an engaging story about a poor Shoemaker who is helped by two industrious elves. The children love when the "two cute naked little elves scamper into the room." This is one of my favorite Winter stories.

We are continuing to make our "gnome/fairy cradles." The children are sewing the little hats and wet-felting the heads for their gnomes. Then we tuck them into their milkweed pod cradles and cover them with a tiny blanket. We have just a few more to make before these sweet creations can come home.

Please continue to send winter gear every day, coats, warm hats, gloves/mittens, snow pants (even if there is no snow), warm socks, and shoes/boots. Please also remember a daily water bottle, and resting things if they haven't come back to school yet.

Thank you to all who responded to my email this past weekend. I appreciate your support right now so very much!

First Grade

First Grade is finishing up our vowel work this week working on the long and short sounds of vowels. We are also going to start warming up our acting muscles by doing some short fable plays in class for each other.



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We are planning on a hiking trip this Friday to Dominguez Canyon with the Second Graders to enjoy the sunshine that we have been having! Looking for volunteers to accompany us on that adventure so please email if you are interested in coming along with us!

Next week we will jump back into some math operations and work with those until break. At home, you can create a ritual to celebrate this special time of year. We will be celebrating the light of the stones this week.... Simply lighting a candle on Sunday each week, one for each of the kingdoms of earth is a great way to mark this season with your children.

"The first light of Advent is the light is the light of the stones, the light that shines in seashells and crystals and bones."

Second Grade

Please read my class letter for more details!

It sounds like many of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving break. I know it was a special time for me to be home with my girls. There is a lot going on in these next few weeks so please read the details with care. In the classroom, the children returned full of enthusiasm and joy. Our class is starting to grow. It is a delight to have Miria in our class and Zion rejoined this week.

This Friday we will head to Dominguez canyon for our Forest Friday with the 1st grade. We will leave at 9am and return by 3pm.

We will also be working on our play which will be performed on the 9th for the school, and on the 10th for the parents. Please continue to practice your spelling words at home and stay tuned for information about the Spiral Garden.

Third/Fourth Grade

Before break, the students began their study on the Norse worlds with braided form drawing and the creation story. We will dive more fully into our language arts block with the study of Odin, Loki, Thor, and other Norse gods and goddesses. Children will be writing, reading, and thinking every day with Norse Myths as their backdrop.

The Norse myths that we study are filled with laughter -- raucous laughter, hilarious laughter, and sometimes derisive laughter. With their powerful wills, their



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contentious natures and their love of adventure, the Norse gods serve as a remarkably accurate reflection of the fourth graders who study them. Underlying these extroverted tales, however, is a hint of pathos and tragedy, for the Norse gods know that, in spite of their power and beauty, they are doomed to be overcome by the giants and trolls who wait in their subterranean lairs

Although these millennium-old myths may at first appear quite distant from modern life, we will learn about the impact that the Norsemen have had on life in Europe and even North America, and how the Norse gods live on in America's "tall tales," and even in our language (*sun, moon, night, day, east, west, love, hate*, are all of Norse derivation, and that's just a sampling).

Thanks to Ms. Jenna, who is watching over and teaching the 3rd and 4th grade while Ms. Ziccardi is safely quarantined at home.

Spelling:

1. They found warmth and strength in the labyrinth.

(th-Meaning: state or quality)

2. The teacher, preacher, and dancer are helpers.

(-er Meaning: someone who performs an action)

3. The girl is eating and running at the same time!

(ing- meaning the present)

4. They searched for the escaped person.

(-ed meaning the past)

Fifth/Sixth Grade

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a restful Thanksgiving Break. I enjoyed family time and spending time hiking and cross country skiing.



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Since we have a few students missing, we are going to put off our Physics block until all students are in-person. We are going to continue our North America Geography and History Block by completing a State Report project during the weeks leading up to Winter Break. Students will dive into one state to learn all they can about their state. Their project will include a travel brochure and poster, a professional letter sent to the tourism bureau to get information, pictures of certain facts, and a map of the state that includes major rivers, mountain ranges, major cities, and any other important information. The students are excited to start their projects and have already picked their states.

This Friday, we are going to go get our cross country skis at the Nature Connection. Please make sure your student is at school at 10 am or meets us in Hotchkiss at noon. Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great week.