



NORTH FORK SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED STUDIES

December 15th, 2020

Christi's Corner:

Calendar:

Upcoming important dates

- 12/21 - 1/1 - Winter Break
- Jan 4th - In school workday - no school for children
- Jan 5th - Back to school
- 1/18 - Teacher Inservice - NO SCHOOL
- 2/2 - Candlemas
- 2/15 - 2/19 - February Break

Gratitudes:

Thanks to families for helping keep school safe last week by reporting health and keeping kids home until they were certain about positive and negative tests! We so appreciate everyone's compliance and flexibility.

Looking for Winterfaire sponsor - LAST CALL

We have an incredible match donation! A sponsor has put up \$1250 in matching to support WinterFaire. So far we have \$990 donated, so we just need \$360 to complete the match! Can you contribute some today? Please speak with Christi or email her.

Please help keep NFSIS staff safe!

Delta County school district is planning to keep school open if possible. 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.

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.



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Advent

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

In the Kindergarten, Ms. Heather will continue to be with the children all day. I feel so fortunate to have such a loving, thoughtful, and capable teacher to hold the class during this time. Ms. Heather, you are a gift to our community! The children are working hard on holiday surprises, singing winter songs, and exploring winter's magic outside. Please continue to send all of the winter gear each day. It makes an enormous difference in our days if we are able to spend time enjoying ourselves outdoors. Please continue to send snow pants, mittens, warm hats, warm socks, coats, and boots every day.

I am happy to say that I will return to school on Thursday. I miss you all very much and am glad to be able to close the semester together. During Thursday and Friday we will practice our winter songs (I promised the children I would bring my guitar, and I am glad to be able to fulfill that promise!), have the puppet play for The Shoemaker and the Elves, and we will continue to work on our winter surprises.

I'm sending love to you all and I look forward to being with the children on Thursday!

First Grade

First Grade has been busy making beautiful crafts for the season, working with the Vowel gestures and finishing up our narratives about Dominguez Canyon.

Coming up this week we will finish several crafting projects, write some Holiday cards and count by tens with walnuts which we will then turn into beeswax candles for the children to take home on the last day of this week.

We are planning a sledding adventure on Friday so please be sure that your child is equipped with a sled, snow gear, plenty of warm layers and if possible a warm lunch. In addition, please plan to pick up your child on Friday if possible with a box to carry all of the things that they will take home.

There are many paintings and other things that I will send home this Friday. Happy Holidays to everyone, and here is to a beautiful new year in 2021.



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Second Grade

We are bringing this semester to a close with our Class Play and many wonderful end of year winter activities. There will be no spelling words or reading groups this week. The class will perform for the school on Wednesday at 11:15. Sadly, we cannot do a parent performance in the school building due to COVID. There have been many requests to perform the play outside, which could happen Thursday at 11:15. I would like 4 parents to help with setup and takedown to make this happen. Please talk to me if you wish to see the play on Thursday.

This week:

Wednesday

Class Play Wed @ 11:15 for school

Thursday

Outdoor play Thurs. @ 11:00 (weather and parent permitting)

Outdoor spiral garden on at the River Park Lower grades 1:15-2:00

Friday

Sledding at Grand Mesa (3 parent volunteers/drivers)

Third/Fourth Grade

The Third and Fourth graders are working on finishing their Norse main lesson books, we have included multi-genre expressions of the Norse worlds. Their drawing and writing are beautiful, they have worked hard on crafting quality work this semester. I look forward to showing it off to you all when reports go home in January. We will continue our advent celebrations and walk the spiral garden at the river park this Wednesday or Thursday.

Each child can bring a gift for the earth when we walk the advent spiral. However, there is a fine line between offerings to the natural world and litter. Think peanut butter pine cones, feathers with beads or cotton string, shells with holes drilled in to make a bead, unfired clay animals, orange Pomadores.....fun hands-on biodegradable. If the gifts don't come from home, we will create some in school.

Merrymaking ensues as we close out the week. This Friday, we are planning on going sledding up on the Mesa to finish out the semester and usher in Winter Break. Please see the list of items for the students to bring on Friday. In addition to the regular winter gear, please make sure they bring their sleds!



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Fifth/Sixth Grade

The 5th and 6th graders are completing our state report projects. The students are working hard to get their posters finished. They have learned all about their individual states and have created colorful marketing posters and have drawn beautiful pictures of state birds, trees, state seals and state flags. They have included many facts about their states including the size and population as compared to Colorado. On Friday, the students will present their states to the class. This Wednesday and Thursday, we will watch Hamilton to conclude our block.

This Friday, we are planning on going sledding up on the Mesa to finish out the semester and usher in Winter Break. Please see the list of items for the students to bring on Friday. In addition to the regular winter gear, please make sure they bring their sleds!

Enjoy the final week of school in 2020; I for one am happy to say goodbye to this year and am looking forward to a new year!