



NORTH FORK SCHOOL OF INTEGRATED STUDIES

*****6th grade parents - Look for the Canyonlands trip permission and informational form in your Tuesday folder and get it back to us as soon as possible.**

March 16th, 2021

Christi's Corner:

Dearest NFSIS families,

It has been exactly a year since school shut down, and the covid-19 pandemic began affecting our community and our lives. A year ago, we started distance learning, started wearing masks, stayed at home, shifted our way of being. It has been quite a year! For many of us, it was a time of togetherness with our families, watching the Spring grow in our Valley from our own homes. For our global society, for many, it was a tragic time, with loss and fear prevailing.

Our little Community here in Paonia is getting through it. I think we all agree that we are so lucky that we have been in school all year, with minor disruption. Communities around the country have suffered with online schooling, and children losing their ability to socialize with their peers. It has been a blessing to be here.

It has truly been quite a year for our school as well. As many of you know, we are the only Elementary school that has grown this year - even though we lost some children to homeschooling due to the pandemic, we still grew in numbers, inviting in some wonderful new families. Our message is clear, our Waldorf-inspired, Arts and Music based program is gaining in popularity in our Valley, and all over the country. Citizens are recognizing the value of this type of education, and the importance of allowing children to be children and develop and learn at their own pace.



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There have also been many changes in the community around the North Fork schools. As most of you know by now, the North Fork schools are reconfiguring, and Paonia Elementary is moving up into the Paonia High School building next year to become a K8 school. Paonia and Hotchkiss high schools are combining to become a North Fork High School in the Hotchkiss High location. As a result of all of this, NFSIS will be using our current building as our permanent location. We recognize the challenge this brings for our Paonia Elementary colleagues, and we will do everything we can to help them make their transition. We are very excited what this means for our school, our potential growth, and our visibility in the community. With this change, we take responsibility to continue to grow as a shining star in our community, with love and respect for the building and neighborhood that we are a part of.

At this time, we have almost all of our distance learners back in the building. It is wonderful to be together. As we approach Spring, let us all remember to have gratitude for the blessings of this year.

Much love to all,
Christi Gubser
NFSIS Principal

Calendar:

This week

- After school math club with Ms. Ziccardi, today through April 9th
- 3/18 - Class Pictures - order forms are in your folder

And beyond

- 3/29 - Parent Teacher conferences by invitation or request
- 4/12 - 4/16 - NFSIS - CMAS testing
- 4/14 - 4/15 - 1st grade play
- 4/19 - 4/23 - Spring Break
- 4/30 - May Day celebration, weather permitting
- 5/1 - Wine and Watercolor, 2-5PM - Outdoors



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Gratitudes: Thank you to the parent chaperones who joined us at Powderhorn last week. Thanks to reading group helpers.

Middle School Team

Would you like to see a Non-Traditional Middle School become part of your child's educational path here in the North Fork? Our school is to create a parent group to promote this to the district. Our contact for this group is Josh Langille- Hoppe. Please email him at **jlangillehoppe@sbcglobal.net** To participate in this group. This push must come from a parent group, so get on board!

Class Pictures

Class picture order forms are coming home today in Tuesday news. Please fill one out and send back with the appropriate amount of money. Class pictures will be on Thursday morning, so please be sure your child is in attendance.

Meal Train for Sean Hannon - our beloved Games teacher

Sean Hannon, our beloved games teacher, just welcomed another child into his family. We would love to see plenty of NFSIS support for him through his Meal Train organized by Christi Gubser and Moriah Whoolilurie. Please sign up at: <https://mealtrain.com/qm5vq5>

Community Council Notes

Arlyn Deva Has written up the community council notes for all to read. Thank you Arlyn! Please see them as an attachment in your email so that you can know what goes on in these meetings. There is a lot of important information that was shared last week.

Fee Letters

Fee letters were in Tuesday folders last week. Please bring what you can to contribute to your child's fees this year. This money is critical for keeping our excellent programs going.

Intent to Enroll



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We hope all of your children are planning to re-enroll at NFSIS next year! Please fill out the intent to enroll form and send it back with your child. Also, if you know anyone else in our community who is interested in our school, please let your classroom teacher or Christi know.

Candice's Plant Starts

Tomatoes, Eggplant and Peppers... Oh MY!

This year, students at NFSIS will be planting seeds for a fundraiser for the school. Once planted, they will be loved and taken care of in a warm greenhouse until they make it to your garden. There will be a wide array of heirloom tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, sweet and hot peppers and eggplant. An order form will be coming out in the next few weeks. They will be \$5 each and pick up will be on May 24th at the school or anytime at Rock 'n Roots Farm. Contact Candice with any questions.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences for Spring are coming up on March 29th. These conferences are by request or invitation. If you would like to conference with your teacher about your child, please email them directly. Teachers will also reach out to families who need a conference in the spring. More details to come.

CMAS testing

NFSIS will hold CMAS testing starting on April 12th. These are for 3rd - 6th grade students. Please talk with your child's teacher or Christi if you have any questions.

Highlights

Kindergarten

In Kindergarten, we have begun a springtime circle. During this movement journey, we are in search of "Tippory Tim," a "man dressed all in green, the tiniest man you have ever seen." He is guarding the gold at the end of the rainbow and we are trying to catch a glimpse of him. We travel through the roots of a tree and across a rickety bridge, under the waterfall, and then all the way over the rainbow to roll down to find the pot of gold in Tippory Tim's valley. We hop like springtime bunnies and "kick our legs in the air, like the lambkins so white and fair." This circle matches the growing energy of spring as we move and sing and dance together each morning.



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Our story right now is about a man named Donal O'Malley, who chances upon a leprechaun as he walks down the lane. Even though Donal tries and tries not to be outwitted, the little man is too crafty! Your child might be able to tell you how the leprechaun tricks Donal. We have also been learning a lovely new song. The first line is, "May troubles be less and blessings be more..." The children sing it so sweetly.

Thank you to all who have volunteered to come on our field trip to meet the baby goats on Friday, April 2. I think we have plenty of drivers now, but everyone is welcome to join us. Please let me know if you are planning to come.

This Friday it looks like warmer weather is returning. We will go to the river and all are welcome to join us. Please let me know if you are able to come.

First Grade

The First Grade is working hard on our play *The Seven Ravens* and we are looking back at our math operations and multiplication by 2, 3 and 5. We are also moving along quite well with our reading groups. Children should be bringing home some of the leveled readers that they have mastered in their groups this week. Please ask your child to read these books to you.

Last Friday the First Grade planted microgreens in gardening. We are going to start another batch this week and when they are grown up and ready to harvest we are going to have a salad party! We finished the fourth book about *Limindoor Woods* which had a recipe for birdseed small cakes which I am hoping we can make for our salad party as well.

This week we will begin the last book in the *Limindoor Woods* series, the children have loved this book so very much. We are starting a new running story that I am telling about *Beatrice and Bartholomew*, a fairy and a gnome that will be having many adventures throughout the rest of the year. I will tell this story each week and there will be many characters brought in to help support the social dynamics in the class in a healthy way. This Friday we will go on a hunt for Spring! We are going to walk to *Apple Valley Park* and see what signs of Spring we can find along the way. If you are interested in coming along with us please let me know by email.

Second Grade

The class had a wonderful day at *Powderhorn*. Thank you parents who helped make it such a success! We are in the 4th week of our Math block and the children will be learning how to borrow. They are also practicing their 7 times tables. This week the class will also learn about *Saint Patrick* and continue their reading and spelling practices.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Parent-Teacher conferences are on the 29th by parent or teacher request. I will be sending out a separate email to schedule meetings with those families that I would like to meet with.



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- I am still looking for a parent who could read a story during Handwork on Mondays or Wednesdays from 2:15 to 3:00.

Third and Fourth Grade

Powderhorn was a great success. Thank you to all the chaperones for driving and supporting the kids on the mountain. Everyone advanced their ability and had a GREAT time. I know skiing can be costly so I appreciate everyone pitching in!

On Wednesday, we are lucky to go on a field trip to the Eureka! McConnell Science Museum in Grand Junction for the day. Thanks to the Friends of Nature and Youth Association for scholarshiping this trip. We will get to enjoy hands-on learning of the Colorado Watersheds. Please make sure you send your kids with a packed lunch or let me know if they will need a sack lunch from the school and a water bottle. We will leave around 8:20 am and return around 3:00 pm.

We are finishing our Colorado Geography block on Friday. This week, we are learning about the ecology of the state and how the waterways influence our geography. We will conclude by sculpting a 3-D map of Colorado.

Remember our after-school math tutoring starts today and goes through April 9th, Tuesday/ Thursday 3:30- 4:30. The kids will be provided healthy snacks and time to play between school and tutoring.

Fifth and Sixth Grade

Our final day at Powderhorn for the season was on Friday and we had such a fun time. Mrs. T even got to ski a few runs with the kids.

The 5th and 6th Graders are finishing up our Acoustics Block this week. Last week we did our final experiments on the origins of sound. We learned how the pitch of sounds is influenced by friction using crystal wine glasses and water. We also learned how the amount of water in a bottle and the size and shape of the bottles change the pitch of the sound. On Monday, we did our final experiment of the block by using the Chladni Plate to watch how sound "moves." It was fun watching the salt on the metal plate dance around and make shapes depending on the frequency of the sound. This has been a fun block of learning all about Acoustics.

On Wednesday, we are lucky to join Miss Ziccard's class on a field trip to the Eureka! McConnell Science Museum in Grand Junction for the day. We will get to enjoy hands-on learning of Physics and Acoustics. Please make sure you send your kids with a packed lunch or let me know if they will need a sack lunch from the school and a water bottle. We will leave around 8:20 am and return around 3:00 pm. It should be a fun day of learning.



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Next week, we will start a block on Creative Writing. Students will learn all about writing Narratives and how to use dialogue in their writing. It will be a fun informative block that will bring out their creativity!

We will also start our CMAS (State Testing) test practice next week in preparation for CMAS testing that will be in Mid-April before Spring Break. Students in 5th and 6th grade will be taking tests on English Language Arts and Math. 5th Graders will also take the Science Test this year. If you have any questions about these tests, please feel free to ask me or Ms. Christi. Thank you for supporting your kids this year. We are so fortunate to have been in-person all year! Have a great week.

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