



# North Park Horizons

Seeking 21st Century Equity and Excellence



## PTA Happenings

By Denise Davino

The North Park PTA would like to wish everyone a very healthy, happy and safe holiday season! To help during the hustle and bustle of this busy month, here's a quick reminder list of important PTA dates to remember:

- \* Tuesday, December 6—Phase III Capital Improvement Vote at Haviland Middle School—6:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m. Please encourage everyone to get out and VOTE.
- \* Friday December 16—Holiday Fair. Children can shop for holiday gifts for their family and friends. Snow date Monday, December 19.
- \* Wednesday, December 21 (snow date December 22)—Brotherhood Pageant—Please send your child in with a non-perishable food item. All donations will help NPE families in our own community.

## From the Principal



As we approach Winter Break, it seems like we are speeding through yet another school year. When we return in January, we will have just a few weeks until we have reached the halfway point. Between now and then, we are likely to have many disruptions to our daily routines with holidays, vacations, snow days and delays. In order to maximize learning time, I would like to make the following suggestions/reminders:

**Attendance:** Even with delays and bad weather, it is so important that students come to school to be here for their instruction on every day that school is open.

**Homework:** Keeping up with homework is a good way for students to practice and reinforce skills. Sticking to your regular homework routine is best. At the same time, homework is not intended to add to stress at home. If your child is having a difficult time managing his/her homework with other family obligations, please speak to your child's teacher.

**Rest and Nutrition:** Students pledge here at school to make one healthy choice every day to keep their "engines" strong. Please help them balance healthy snacks with holiday treats and get plenty of rest!

I hope all of you have a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

## Happening This Month!

### DECEMBER

- 12/1 SPECIAL BOE  
7:00PM DO
- 12/6 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT  
VOTE— HMS 6am-9pm
- 12/7 NPE WINTER CONCERT  
7:00PM FDR
- 12/8 BOE MEETING  
7:00 PM VAS
- 12/9 K-12 EARLY RELEASE  
SUPERINTENDENT'S DAY
- 12/13 PTA MEETING  
7:00 PM
- 12/16 HOLIDAY FAIR  
(SNOW DATE 12/19)
- 12/21 BROTHERHOOD PAGEANT  
(SNOW DATE 12/22)
- 12/23 WINTER WORKSHOP
- 12/26-1/2 NO SCHOOL  
WINTER RECESS

### JANUARY

- 1/3 SCHOOL REOPENS
- 1/10 PTA MEETING  
7:00 P.M.
- 1/12 BOE MEETING  
FDR
- 1/16 NO SCHOOL  
MLK DAY
- 1/26 BOE MEETING  
7:00 P.M. DO

## The North Park Pledge

I pledge to have the courage to do the right thing, to care about myself, my friends, my family, and my school, to show respect by using kind words and actions, and to take responsibility for my own behavior and learning. I promise to make one healthy choice every day to keep my engine strong. I pledge to do this even when no one is watching.

Vol 4 Number 4

hydeparkschools.org/npe

December 2011/January 2012

### SCHOOL SAVINGS PROGRAMS

#### OFFICE DEPOT

5% Back to Schools Program

Help NPE earn FREE SUPPLIES!

Our school will earn credits equal to 5% of your qualifying school supply purchases to use for FREE supplies. You can credit the school year round!

Every time you shop at Office Depot, remember to give our school ID#70072986.

- At any store in the U.S.
- At [www.officedepot.com](http://www.officedepot.com) in the U.S.
- When calling 1-800-GO-DEPOT

#### Stop&Shop

#### A+ School Reward Program

- Earn CASH for NPE just by shopping with your Stop&Shop card. You will earn 1 point for every dollar spent.
- Eat healthy and earn TRIPLE points on Healthy Ideas labeled items.
- Earn DOUBLE points on other participating products. Look for DOUBLE point labeled products throughout the store
- Questions or concerns please contact 877-275-2758

#### Price Chopper

#### Tools for Schools

- Register your card at [www2.pricechopper.com/toolsforschools](http://www2.pricechopper.com/toolsforschools).
- School Code: 16149
- NPE earns FREE equipment

### BOOK NOOK

BY SARAH FELDMAN



The biggest highlight in the library during the last month was undoubtedly the book fair. For one week, the library was

transformed into a literary wonderland and every class was excited to come to the fair to buy or browse books. The library was buzzing with parents and happy costumed customers during the family Halloween party — it was a fantastic event! Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to run the fair, with special thanks to Mrs. Davino for all her hard work organizing and running the fair.

What else have the students been up to in the library? The kindergarten students and first graders discussed and retold classic stories including *The Mixed-UP Chameleon* by Eric Carle; *There's an Alligator under My Bed* by Mercer Mayer; *Miss Nelson Is Missing* by Harry Allard; and *The Five Chinese Brothers* by Claire Huchet Bishop. The students made up their own endings or extensions to the stories, described their observations, and offered their own interpretations of the plots and characters. The second grade students have been exploring favorite early chapter book series including the *A to Z Mysteries* by Ron Roy; *The Bailey School Kids* by Debbie Dadey; *Amelia Bedelia* by Peggy Parish; and, of course, *The Magic Tree House* series by Mary Pope Osborne. They have also

started learning how to use a simplified version of Microsoft Word so they can produce their research about community helpers. The third graders have “traveled” all over the globe by reading trickster stories from many different cultures. They have also been learning the terminology associated with using computers and the Internet and are developing skills in evaluating Web sites. Fourth graders have been reviewing how to use the library online catalog. They have also begun an in-depth study of the non fiction area of the library, which is organized into 10 “neighborhoods.” This study will continue during the next few weeks as we “travel” from neighborhood to neighborhood. The fifth graders have been doing research projects and learning how to navigate safely on the Internet. They have also been discussing what it means to behave respectfully and ethically when they use photographs and other materials they find on the Web for their projects.

Finally, in answer to last month's question, here are the bridges across the Hudson River from New York City going north: Tappan Zee Bridge; Bear Mountain Bridge; Newburgh-Beacon bridge; Mid-Hudson Bridge; Walkway Over the Hudson (Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge); Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge; Rip Van Winkle Bridge.

I hope you have a joyful Holiday season and I look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!

## Reading Room

By: Katie Niezgoda

### WHEN READING AT HOME BECOMES A BATTLE

**Problem:** The books are too hard. (Don't trust the level on the back of the book!)

**Solution:** Believe it or not, the publishing companies really underestimate the level of difficulty of their books. If your child needs help with at least five words on any given page, the book is too hard! In that case, don't make them struggle through it. Either jump in, tell them the words they don't know, or take over reading the book all together. If you have trouble choosing books your child can read independently, contact your child's teacher and he or she will be able to help.

**Problem:** Your child just does not enjoy books or reading.

**Solution #1:** Make reading a special, positive experience you can share together. Before your child goes to bed, choose a fun story (fairytales are always great) and read aloud to your child. Don't be afraid to use different voices. This doesn't just apply to younger children. Although they might not ask for it or even admit it, older children enjoy being read to as well. For a great list of recommended, grade-appropriate read-alouds, visit <http://www.readaloudamerica.org/booklist.html>.

**Solution #2** Let your child see that you enjoy and value reading. Children need to see that reading isn't just something you do for school. We want them to see that people (especially their parents) enjoy reading books as well.

## Health Office

By Patricia Jacco, School Nurse

### Adult Vaccinations Protect Children

**Less than** one third of adults in the United States get an annual flu shot and only two percent are vaccinated against tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough (pertusis). Adults should stay current on their vaccinations for many reasons. Doing so not only protects adults against many diseases, it prevents them from transmitting those diseases to family members, infants and elders, and bolstering public health in general. It is now recommended that pregnant woman in their 2nd and 3rd trimester be vaccinated with Tdap to protect themselves and their baby. If everyone in a family is vaccinated, it confers a cocoon of protection.

## Good Counsel

By Marla Sherman

### STRESS BUSTERS

**During the holiday season, it is especially important to set aside time to relax and find ways to prevent stress. This is important for children as well as adults. Here are four tips to help your family this holiday season and beyond.**

1. **Laugh together.** In addition to being a great stress reliever, sharing a laugh can strengthen relationships. Find ways to make each other laugh throughout the day. Tell funny stories at dinner about things that happened at work or school. Or make up knock-knock jokes and riddles while riding in the car.

2. **Get exercise.** Physical activity is fun—and it can reduce stress. To help your youngster let off steam, go outside together to take a walk or throw a beach ball around. If it snows this winter break, try to spend some time outdoors having fun.
3. **Plan downtime.** Your child may be busy with school projects, sports practices, and holiday parties. Be sure that she also has time to enjoy relaxing activities (toys, puzzle, board games).
4. **Stick to a routine.** Even during the hectic holiday season, have a regular schedule for meals, homework, and bedtime. Knowing what to expect is comforting to children and helps eliminate arguments. Note: If your youngster's habits change during a school break, help him/her ease back into her regular routine a few days before school starts again.

## Lunch & Recess

Breakfast costs \$1.25 per meal.

Lunches cost \$2.50 per meal.

Grade	Recess	Lunch
1/2	10:50	11:15
5	11:10	11:35
K/1*	11:40	12:05

\*Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Gray

3	12:05	12:30
K/1*	12:25	12:50

\*Mrs. Boryk, Mrs. Farrere, Mrs Semancik

4	12:45	1:10
---	-------	------

If you are packing your child's lunch, please include a napkin, fork and spoon as needed!

# DON'T WAIT PARTICIPATE---JOIN THE NPE PTA TODAY!!

## North Park PTA Membership Form

\$6 for an individual or \$10 for two family member

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Contact #'s: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail addresses: \_\_\_\_\_

Student name(s), Teacher(s), Grade(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Here are the programs the PTA proudly brings to our students and families:

Arts in Education Parent Socials Reflections Program

Brotherhood Pageant New Parent Folders Science Fair

Book Fair Newsletter Staff Appreciation

School Pictures Movie Night Student Directory

Family Fun Night Parents as Reading Partners (PARP)

Fundraisers Popcorn Day Web Page

Halloween Party Pre-School Yearbook

Holiday Fair PTA Membership



If you have any questions about any of our events, please contact Lisa Phillips, membership Chair/Secretary at [Imp104@aol.com](mailto:Imp104@aol.com) or 229-8658. Or any of our officers, President- Michele Ligouri, Vice President-Suzi Faber, Treasurer- Wendi Huff.

THANK YOU FOR BECOMING A MEMBER!!! WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM in the NPE Library, come join us.