

Rushwood's Reflections

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER, 2010

UP AND COMING

October 5

OAA Testing , Grade 3

In View Testing ,Grade 4

October 6-7

Terra Nova Testing (Reading/
Math) ; Grades 2/4

October 8,

Recreation Club -Hula Hoop

October 13, PTA Mtg 3:30

October 14, Market Day

October 15, NEOEA Day

NO Students

October 18, In-Service Day

NO Students

October 22,

3rd Grade Square Dance

INSIDE STORIES:

New Teachers, Shining 2
Stars, Gifted Screening

1st Grade News 3

Cafeteria Info; Ski Club 4
Information

Kindergarten Spotlight; 5
2nd Grade in the News

Third Grade News; 4th 6
Grade News

Counselor's Corner 7

2 Hour Delay Info, 8
Parent Mentor Info.

9
Recreation Club!!!

A Message from the Principal

Rushwood Families,

I want to personally thank each of you for attending our Open Houses. It's always a pleasure meeting families and seeing the excitement in your children when we begin a new year. What a wonderful start to the year we've had! Our Kindergartener's and First Graders adapted very quickly to one concern I know many of you had—getting through the lunch line. They are doing an amazing job!

Rushwood begins year two of our school-wide positive behavioral system, which we refer to as PUBS. (Positive Unified Behavioral Supports). Each student is bringing home a calendar, or R.O.C (Record of Conduct) for nightly parental review. On the reverse of the R.O.C. is a place for notes between you, the parent, and your child's teacher.

To further highlight the positive support system, this year we are introducing a Student of the Month (one at each grade level) as well as Shining Star Awards. Grade level teachers will send recommendations to me for the final decision. The criteria

to earn Student of the Month includes: *good academic standing*, demonstrating *positive effort* in all areas including specials, *consistently following Rushwood's Rules* (Respect, Responsibility, and Always Ready to Learn), and lastly, *doing something above and beyond, making him or her stand out*. Our students of the month will be showcased in our main lobby. Shining Star Awards are meant to "catch a student" —doing the right thing. My ultimate goal is to see our main entrance wall FILLED with stars. Students are recognized daily on announcements, for the positive contribution they made during the day-whatever it may be. Look in their daily agenda (planner) book for a star, signifying their accomplishment!

Rushwood students and staff practiced fire safety, tornado, and lock-down procedures during the first week of school. In case of an emergency, students are prepared to respond according to school plans.

We celebrate Rushwood's *excellent rating from the state* for the fifth year in a row! This is a tribute to

our teachers, our students, and of course to you, our parents, for impressing upon your child the importance of achievement in school. As a district, I am proud to be a part of Nordonias Hills City Schools, who achieved the highest honor this year, *Excellent with Distinction*.

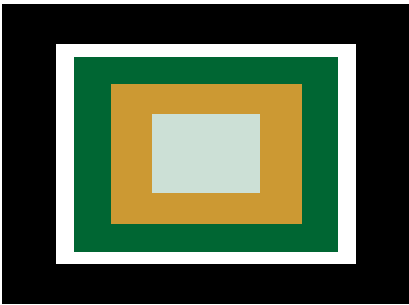
Back To School Forms are Due. In case of emergency it is vital that we have emergency information for your child! You may download these forms directly from the district home page: <http://www.nordoniaschools.org/district/forms.aspx>

If you do not have internet access to print them out, please contact Paula Maljuk or Pat Lupica at 330.467.0581.

Lastly, this newsletter is for you, our parents. Please feel free to send me your ideas or suggestions for making it most meaningful for you.

Yours for an *excellent* education,

Jacqueline O'Connor



RW Welcomes New Teachers...

Mrs. Glorioso-new to Kindergarten, but not new to RW. Mrs. Glorioso comes to us from Second Grade.

Mrs. MacRaild-new to RW teaching Kindergarten, not new to Nordonia. Mrs. MacRaild joins us from Lee Eaton Elementary School, where she was a 5th grade Math and Language Arts teacher.

1st Grade: Miss Loosa —Long Term Sub for Mrs. Wilson—Mrs. Wilson had a beautiful baby boy on Labor Day, and we are pleased to have Miss. Loosa as her long term sub, guiding your children.

2nd Grade: Mrs. Felker– new to RW but not to Nordonia, Mrs. Felker joins us from Ledgeview, where she taught 4th grade.

Miss Royski-New to Second Grade, but not new to RW. Miss Royski previously taught 1st grade here at RW.

3rd Grade: Mrs. Chaloupka-new to RW, but not new to the district. Mrs. Chaloupka has a long established relationship with Nordonia Hills City Schools serving as a parent, advocate, and many other educational experiences. Mrs. Chaloupka teaches Language Arts, Math, and Soc. Studies.

4th Grade: Mrs. Kretch-New to 4th grade, but not to RW. Mrs. Kretch previously taught 2nd grade.

Mrs. Klouda-New to Nordonia. Mrs. Klouda comes from Beachwood, and drives in all the way from Hiram, Ohio! She, too, joins our 4th grade team, teaching Language Arts, Math, and Science.

Mrs. Harris-new to Nordonia, but a long time resident of our schools, and has served as a long term substitute for many of our schools in past years. Mrs. Harris also joins our 4th grade team, and teaches LA, Math, and Soc. Studies.

“Individual
Student
Learning and
Achievement
is our Core
Business”

Shining Stars —

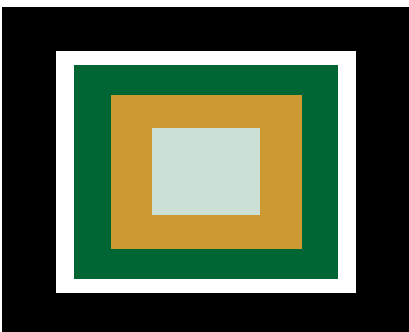
We have started 2 new positive recognition systems here at Rushwood! We will have a Student of the Month for each grade, and Shining Star Awards.

The Student of the Month will be nominated by classroom teachers and chosen by Mrs. O'Connor. In order to be nominated we will be looking for students who are in good academic standing, putting forth excellent effort in all areas, demonstrating consistently Rushwood's Rules, and going above and beyond what is expected throughout the day. The Shining Star award recognizes students daily for being good citizens, helping others, and making good choices! Student of the Month pictures and Shining Star awards will be on display in the front lobby. Please stop in to check out the positive choices students are making at Rushwood!

Fall Assessment for Giftedness...

In compliance with HB 282 all districts must screen for giftedness. The fall assessment session includes screening in superior cognitive and specific academic areas. If you are interested in having your child assessed for gifted identification, contact Sharon Pasternak in the Pupil Services Dept. by October 15th, at 330/908.6224, or via email at:

Sharon.pasternak@nordoniaschools.org



First Grade Off to a Fantastic Start...

First grade students are off to a fantastic start! They have done tremendously well adjusting to eating lunch at school, being responsible for their own desks and spending the whole day learning.

They have been very busy reading and discussing the books on the Summer Reading List. While reading these classic books, they worked on identifying the characters and settings, retelling the stories in their words and decoding words using multiple strategies.

First graders have also been busy writing. They have discovered that they can write about almost anything! The students have been practicing using the handwriting lines, using sound out spelling to write words and writing sentences starting with capital letters and ending with periods.

The students have been stretching their mathematical power, as well. They have been practicing reading, writing and comparing numbers to twenty. They were practicing using tally marks to gather information. They were also introduced to solving simple story problems.

The Rushwood Rules of Being Respectful, Responsible and Ready to Learn have been the foundation of many class discussions. First graders have been able to give many examples of student behaviors that follow the rules.

First grade families have also done a tremendous job in helping their children adjust to first grade! First Grade Teachers thank them for their support in checking their student's Take Home Folder nightly, signing their child's Behavior Calendar and Home School Journal nightly and participating in the completion of the weekly Tic Tac Toe Homework.

Mrs. Boebel, Mrs. Bzdafka, Mrs. Wilson, Miss Loosa (Long Term Sub)

Rushwood Elementary School *Green* Newsletter

Our goal is to send the school newsletter to you by your preferred method of communication. Paperless is great because it is good for the environment and more cost efficient for our school. Please return this slip to your child's teacher, as I am updating our student lists for this and other information to be sent electronically.

Family Name _____

Youngest Child's name: _____

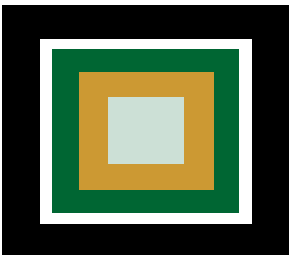
Teacher Name: _____

Please check one:

Please send the newsletter home with my youngest child.

Send the newsletter electronically to: _____

Thanks for your help!



“Individual Student Learning and Achievement is our Core Business”

News from the Cafeteria

Welcome to the start of an exciting new school year. The experienced staff of the cafeteria is ready to feed your students a nutritious breakfast and lunch.

The cafeteria offers a variety of lunches every day. We have a Main Entrée, along with the choice of a Chef's Salad with meat and cheese in separate cups, a Hot Dog on bun (Tues/Thurs. only) or a Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich. All lunches come with Fruit and Vegetable, some sort of Dessert item, and choice of Milk. Your child may refuse up to two items if they choose. We encourage the students to try new foods to broaden their tastes, but we never make a child eat anything they don't want to.

The kitchen offers a 4 ounce cup of soup for \$.50. It does not have to be ordered

in advance. The children may purchase it when they come through the lunch line. Those who pack their lunch may come up after the buyers have gone through the line and buy soup if they choose.

Our School District policy is a child must pay for their lunch every day. This may be done with cash or off their account. If a child forgets his/her lunch money, we will give them the lunch they have ordered. After three days, without money, your child will be given either a peanut butter sandwich with a carton of milk, or a cheese sandwich with a carton of milk. Since the introduction of our new computer register, our prepaid lunches have become quite the thing to do. Parents may pre-pay your child's lunch. You may purchase lunches in advance by prepaying in the cafeteria. It helps the lines to move faster. For those occasional

lunch buyers this works too. You are purchasing lunches and not days. The student's account will carry over from year to year, school to school, until they use it up. It may be added to at any time.

We offer pay from home through credit/debit cards. You may go to www.myschoolaccount.com and log in using your students ID.

Parents are always welcome and invited to come to lunch at any time. We ask that you call the cafeteria before 9:15 to reserve a lunch for you. We only prepare a limited amount of food each day to prevent waste.

If at any time you have a question about anything in the cafeteria, please call Mrs. McKenzie at 330-908-6501.

Have a great and successful school year.

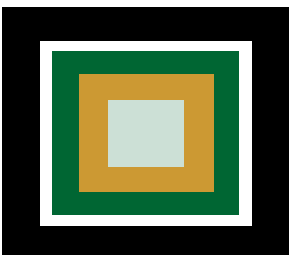
Sincerely,
Mrs. McKenzie (Mrs. Mac),
Cafeteria Manager

Prices:

Breakfast	\$1.50	Lunch	\$2.75
-----------	--------	-------	--------

OLD MAN WINTER IS ON THE WAY, SKI CLUB ARRIVES!

If you are interested in receiving information about or joining our Rushwood snowsport club this year, please contact Mrs. Cindy O'Connor at cindy.oconnor@nordoniaschools.org. We will meet at Brandywine on Monday nights starting in January. Any students who are 8 years old by January 1, 2011 can join. Parents are welcome to join as well. We are still working on scheduling a "try it" night in December. Snowsports include skiing, snowboarding and snowblading and are loads of fun!



Kindergarten Spotlight:

We are so proud of the progress the kindergarten students have made so far! It is amazing that on the first day of school they didn't even know how to line up and now they do it so well. The kindergarteners have learned the routines and are quickly transitioning into responsible, hard-working students.

In reading, we have reviewed the summer reading books and some favorite, classic stories. This week we have started the reading series with the theme, "All About Us". Many of the stories and activities will focus on the kindergarteners, including books about growing up, writing about what they can do, and making a collage of their favorites. We practiced familiar nursery rhymes and learned new poems.

We are following the *Everyday Math* series, where we have been busy sorting, exploring, counting and having FUN! We have had math class outside learning about volume to find which container held more and less. We used sand, water, and dry beans. We have created patterns using counters, beads, blocks and bingo stampers! We are also making Number Posters and our very own Number Books.

We have worked on writing the capital and lowercase letters Aa-Nn. And we have met our alpha friends that go along with each letter, by listening to their songs. Each student has started writing in their writing journal.

The kindergarteners have explored the five senses using magnifying glasses, playing a sound game, exploring feely boxes, investigating smelly bags, and describing their snacks. We have studied the four seasons and weather. We used our SmartBoard to dress a Weather Bear appropriately, we revealed puzzle pieces to guess the season, and we even made a summer tree by tearing paper to make the trunk, branches and leaves. We continue to share about the characteristics of being a good citizen. In the upcoming weeks, we will learn about important American Symbols and the past, present and future.

Sure sounds like a lot, doesn't it? Every day is a busy day full of learning and most importantly FUN! We are so excited to see what this year will bring!

2nd Grade News:

Cluster B is the place to be for second grade! We love our home away from home where students come to work hard practicing skills and learning new concepts. This year we welcome 87 students and Mrs. Felker and Miss Royski to our Cluster B family. We are so happy to start a new year of learning together!

Our day is so busy with learning. We start our day with math and language arts. In the afternoon we continue reading and writing and enjoy our specials of gym, art, library and music. We end the day with social studies and science and then our intervention time.

In content classes we have been working on a Citizenship unit. During this unit we have talked about vocabulary words: persistence, honesty, cooperation, responsibility, self-assurance and patriotism. We have made connections to being good Rushwood citizens with these concepts. Next, our content lessons will focus on weather and then voting and government.

Second grade students are learning about the responsibility of homework. In addition to math homework that is assigned to the lesson we complete, teachers ask students to learn basic math facts. Study at home is important for quick recall of basic facts. Also, students are responsible for reading twenty minutes each night. We will collect the reading calendars for September on Friday, Oct.1. Writing three good sentences in the home school journal is also homework if it has not been completed at school. The teachers of Cluster B are so excited to have such motivated and happy learners to work with each day.

Third Grade News:

Third graders in Cluster C have gotten off to a great start this school year! Not only has this group of students demonstrated how well they follow the Rushwood Rules, but they have also impressed us with their academic capabilities! We finished our first math unit and had an extraordinary passage rate over 90% on our first assessment! During the upcoming unit each teacher will be working on differentiating each lesson every day through a new approach to our instruction. This new approach will allow each student to be more active in their learning while receiving direct instruction of the learning goals in a small group setting.

Our language arts block begins each day with daily journal writing, followed by whole group grammar, vocabulary, or comprehension lessons. We end our day with centers that help us practice skills across the curriculum by integrating activities from all subject areas. During our science and social studies time we have been using the computer lab to learn about technology, and discussing rules and laws to help us become better citizens. We are looking forward to learning about rocks and minerals in our upcoming Earth Science studies, and creating a flag to represent Cluster C which will be displayed at the entrance to our cluster!

Miss Monsman, Miss Siracusa, Mrs. Solkiewicz, Mrs. Chaloupka

4th Grade off and running...

Welcome to fourth grade!

Not only are we welcoming 93 new fourth graders, we also welcome Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Klouda and Mrs. Kretch. We are off to a fantastic start. Our students are enthusiastic, helpful and ready to learn! We have spent the past few weeks building a community, getting to know one another and getting to know the students academically. Looking back, we have accomplished quite a bit since school started. We have completed our first unit in Math, geometry. Our tools and measurement unit in Science is finished, as well as map skills in Social Studies. As we move forward, we are excited to begin our Land and Water unit, Ancient Ohio history and our mystery unit in Language Arts.

We would like to remind you of a few things in order to achieve fourth grade success. First, our student planners are used every day as a means to stay organized and plan our week. As teachers, we break down assignments daily so that our students are not overwhelmed. We would be happy to help if you feel that your child is not organizing their nightly study time effectively. Also, our number one way of communicating academic progress is via ***Progress Book***. If you are having trouble logging on or have lost your password, please let us know immediately so that you are up to date on your child's fourth grade achievement. As always, we appreciate your constant support and thank you for sharing your children with us.

Mrs. Ramsay, Mrs. Kretch, Mrs. Klouda, Mrs. Harris

10 Ways to Help Your Child Make Friends at School

Don't push or panic

Not all children are social butterflies. Some like to take their time, watching the scene before getting involved. Also, there are kids who will only ever have one or two close friends, while others will have a wider circle of friendship.

Support extracurricular activities

By joining clubs or teams, your child can meet others who share the same interests. It's easier to connect when you have something to talk about.

Put food in their lunchbox that's easy to share.

If she has a problem making the first move, sharing something from a lunchbox can be a great icebreaker.

Make your home welcoming

Welcome visiting children into your home. When your son or daughter is able to invite new friends home, it's easier for them to develop a relationship away from the crowded classroom and school yard.

Organize social events

Birthday parties and sleepovers are a great way to ce-

ment blossoming friendships.

Be a driver

Whether it's carpooling with another parent for swimming lessons or volunteering to drive on school outings, this will provide another opportunity to bring your child together with others.

"FRIENDSHIPS ARE GREAT WAYS TO DEVELOP SOCIAL SKILLS"



Listen

If your child is having problems making friends at school, listen to her concerns without jumping in immediately with solutions. Sometimes all she needs is a chance to talk.

Problem-solve with your child.

If he needs more than a chance to talk, help him develop a plan. Ask him, "What do you think would

happen if you sat beside the other boys at lunch-time?" Or, "What could you say? Then practice with him.

Observe your child

Does she have any behaviors that may be causing a problem? Is she too bossy or extremely shy? If so, help her to recognize the problem and develop alternate behaviors.

Recruit the teacher

Talk to your child's teacher about what she observes. Is there a classmate who would make a good match with your child? Ask her to pair them up on a project. Of course, you may discover that she's doing just fine at school and just hasn't told you about her school social life.

www.parentingtoday.ca

2 Hour Delays-Planned and Unplanned

Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, the state of Ohio has taken calamity days away from school districts. (It used to be 5 days, and now is 3 days). Because of this, the district, and each school, has developed schedules to allow our students to attend school (minus 2 hours) in order to maintain a “full day of attendance”. Additionally, the Nardon Hills City School District has incorporated four (4) planned 2 Hour Delay start days (11/12, 2/22, 3/21, 5/19). During these days, our teachers and staff will be actively engaged in profes-

sional growth and development opportunities. During these 2 Hour Delay days, lunches will still be served. Pizza will be the main selection on any day, planned or unplanned. For our students, our school day will run from 10:45-3:15. Regarding bussing, you should expect your child’s bus will run 2 hours behind it’s regularly scheduled time (ie: if your child is normally picked up at 8:00 am, his / her bus should be at it’s stop at 10:00 am.).

Please feel free to contact the office if you have any questions!

Parent Mentor Program Welcomes You!

Ohio Parent Mentor projects are funded through grants from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE).

A Parent Mentor is the parent of a child with a disability employed to help school districts and families by providing training, support, and information services. Kitty Boylan is the parent mentor for the Nardon School District. You can reach the parent mentor office by phone at 330-908-6219 or email at parent.mentors@nardoniaschools.org.

Some services provided by the parent mentor include guiding parents through the special education process including rights and responsibilities, listening and providing support to families and staff, providing information and resources, attending IEP and other meetings when requested and conducting information sessions and workshops. Parents of typical students are welcome to contact the parent mentor office with questions or concerns.

The parent mentor project also provides a resource library for parents and staff. There is a collection of books in each building office that are waiting to be borrowed! For a complete book list contact the parent mentor office or visit the parent mentor page on the district web site under pupil services.

October 20, 2010 ~ 6:30 – 8:30

Nardon High School Choir Room

Enter through rear far right door

What Parents Need to Know About ADHD Strategies to Promote Success for All Students

Presented by

Heather A. Jones, PhD., Research Assistant Professor
Department of Psychology ~ University of Akron

Rushwood's Recreation Club

Are you looking to get exercise in some really fun ways? Well, Rushwood's Recreation Club is for you! We hope *you and your family* can join us for one or all of the fun-filled activities below! Most of the events are here at RW right after school from 3:45-4:45 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Make sure to write a note if your son/daughter will be staying after school. Since this is a family event, a parent/guardian must be present with each child. We look forward to seeing you!

September 17th Jump Rope - We will be having a jump rope event right here at Rushwood! Bring your jump rope, water bottle and be sure to wear your sneakers.

October 8th Hula Hoop - Show off your hula hoop skills here at Rushwood! Bring a hula hoop if you have one.

December (date to be determined) Skiing - Join us at Boston Mills/Brandywine Ski Resort for a "try it" night. Contact Mrs. Cindy O'Connor for registration forms @ cindy.occonor@nordoniaschools.org

Upcoming events...(dates to be confirmed)

January 14th Karate @ Rushwood

February 11th

March 11th Dance Party @ Rushwood

April 15th Yoga @ Rushwood

May 21st (Saturday): Hike @ the Tow Path 10:00 a.m.

Questions? Email Mrs. Canitano @ erika.canitano@nordoniaschools.org

Hope to see you there!