

UP AND COMING:

- September 17,
Constitution
Day
- September 25,
Picture Day!
- October 14,
PTA Meeting,
3:30pm
- October 16,
NEOEA Day-
(no school for
students)
- October 20,
1st grade
Moonlight
Math
- October 23,
3rd grade
Square Dance

INSIDE STORIES:

Fourth Grade 2
welcomes
new teacher

Chick-Fil-A 2
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Spirit Night!

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Rushwood's Reflections

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER, 2009

Principal's News

Rushwood Families,

I want to personally thank each of you for attending Open House. The attendance rate approached 97%! I truly enjoyed meeting many of you and your children and look forward to meeting many more of you throughout the year. What a wonderful start to the year we've had!

Curriculum Coffees were held by grade levels the week of August 31-Sept. 4. The feedback received from parents able to attend was positive. During these presentations, parents learned about procedures, policies and curriculum from the team of grade level teachers. The teacher presentations are posted on the Rushwood website for anyone who was unable to attend. While the Curriculum Coffees were presented to our parents, Mr. Galbreath, our school counselor, and I met with the students and reviewed our new 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.

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 will be conducting our first practice fire drills later this month.

We celebrate Rushwood's *excellent rating from the state* for the fourth 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.

While your students stayed home on September 8, the teachers participated in professional development and learned a variety of technology skills. We are excited to begin utilizing some of the new strategies, including mimio's, through direct instruction in the classroom.

AIMS web assessments are underway. Each child is

being individually assessed for skills in reading and math. Students who do not meet the grade level benchmarks will receive intervention to promote progress.

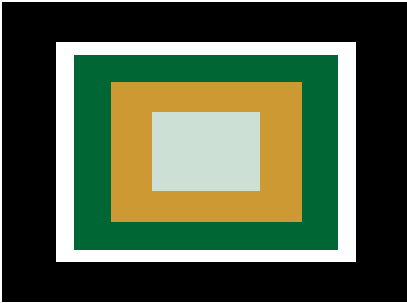
Back To School Forms are Due. In case of emergency it is vital that we have emergency information for your child! You may download these forms directly from the district home page: <http://www.nordoniaschools.org/district/forms.aspx>

If you do not have internet access to print them out, please contact Paula Malyuk 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



Fourth Grade Welcomes Teacher...

Mrs. Harrell, Mrs. Ramsay, and Mrs. Steurer are happy to welcome Ms. Regula to our fourth grade team. She brings with her several years of experience, great teaching strategies, and enthusiasm for our fourth graders!

We hope you have heard about our Metric Olympics in science. Students are participating in several events to practice using tape measures, graduated cylinders, and scales; tools that will be used all year in science class.

Time lines of important school events have occurred since kindergarten have been constructed in social studies. It is interesting to hear what memories they have of their primary years!

Please check your busy schedules to see when you can volunteer in Cluster D!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Harrell, Mrs. Ramsay, Mrs. Steurer, Ms. Regula

“Individual Student Learning and Achievement is our Core Business”

PTA Spirit Night at Chick-fil-A

Please join us On Thursday, September 17th, between the hours of 4:30 to 7:00pm., at the Chick-fil-A of Macedonia.

Rushwood PTA will earn 15% of each order when you bring in your invitation. Please see the PTA newsletter to secure your invitation for the discount. If you did not receive your newsletter, please go to the PTA website at:

www.nordoniaschools.org/Rushwood/PTA.aspx

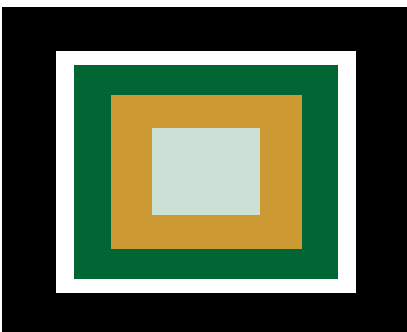
(Mrs. O'Connor has even offered to wear the cow costume!)

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.

Sharon.pasternak@nordoniaschools.org

330-908-6224



Dealing with Mean Girls: Parenting Tools to Develop Healthy Friendships

Date: Monday September 14, 2009 Location: Nordonias Hills Library, 6:30-8:00 PM Register: (330) 467-8595 (no charge) Presenter: Susan Fee, Licensed Professional Counselor

Description:

As the saying goes, "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me." But, in the case of young girls, mean words really can hurt. It's especially painful when those words are from your daughter's former best friend! Welcome to the world of mean girls where snide remarks, dirty looks, online attacks, and social isolation are used to establish social hierarchy.

This type of behavior is known as relational aggression and was highlighted in the 2004 movie *Mean Girls*. It can start as young as four years old and intensifies during adolescence. In this interactive seminar, participants will learn:

- Why and how relational aggression occurs
- Signs of relational aggression
- Role of cliques
- Coping strategies for young girls
- Specific parenting techniques to address the issues of bullies, victims, and bystanders

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. You may Email your response to: [Paula Malyuk@nordoniaschools.org](mailto:Paula.Malyuk@nordoniaschools.org) OR you may return this slip to school with your child.

Family Name _____

Youngest Child's name: _____

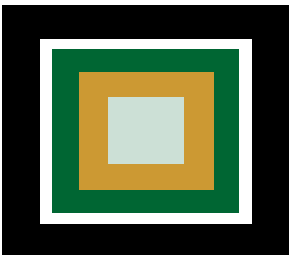
Teacher Name: _____

Please check one:

Please send the newsletter home with my youngest child.

Send the newsletter electronically to: _____
(ONLY complete if this if you haven't done so already)

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 (Mon, Wed, Fri 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.

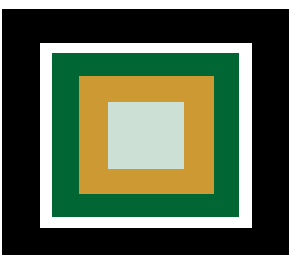
Sincerely,
Mrs. McKenzie (Mrs. Mac),
Cafeteria Manager

Prices:

Breakfast	\$1.50	Lunch	\$2.35
Milk for packers	\$.50	Adults	\$3.00

Smile, it’s Picture Day!!!

**Don’t forget to mark your calendar—
September 25th**



Art Teacher, Mr. Culley, Welcomes All!

Hi my name is Joe Culley, your child's art teacher. Sometime this school year expect a phone call from me letting you know how fantastic your child is doing in my class. Art class is about exploration of materials, history, math, science, writing, music, physical movement, how we define beauty and anything else I can think of throwing into an

art lesson. I just love teaching people about unique ways we can see, question and interpret the world we live in. I've been teaching art at Rushwood for 20 years, counting this year...YIKES! And each year brings many new challenges, which I love, because the creative process is all about solving some sort of problem.

My class is open for spontaneous visits. I'd love to meet as many of you as I'm able, so if you stop by I'll buy you a coffee, soda, tea or other! If you happen to have any odds and ends you think would be great for artistic creation that you'd be otherwise tossing out, give me a call and I'll see if I can use it. Interested in coming in once a month to help with projects or installing shows? Let me know and we'll get it on the calendar. (330) 467-0581 Thanks, Mr. Culley

Parent Mentor Program

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 Nordonias School District. You can reach the parent mentor office by phone at 330-908-6219 or email at parent.mentors@nordoniaschools.org. Ohio Parent Mentor projects are funded through grants from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE).

Some of the 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 has established a wonderful resource library for parents and staff. There are many books for children, teens, books on parenting and specific disabilities including LD and ADHD. 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.

NORTHERN SUMMIT COUNTY PARENT MENTOR INFORMATIONAL SERIES

September 29, 2009

IEP Updates and New Forms training for Parents
Presented by: Karen Majeski, PhD, Director - State Support Team 8

October 13, 2009

Behavior Interventions at Home and at School
Presented by: Kierston Johnson, Milestones Organization

November 10, 2009

What you need to know about Guardianship, Special Needs Planning & Trusts
Presented by: Attorney Barbara J. Weinschenk

January 12, 2010

Settle & Support Class— Relaxation & Stress Relief, Finding Peace amongst the Chaos!
Presented by: Gary Peterson, RCST - Star Institute

February 23, 2010

Services provided by County of Summit Developmental Disabilities Board; intake process, timelines, transition, family services, etc.
Presented by: Jill Boxler & Greg Coriale, Service Administration
Children, Local Tutoring Services

March 9, 2010

What are we going to do in the Summer?
Presented by: Agencies and Camps for Special Needs

Place: RBC Middle School Library, 10270 Ravenna Rd., Twinsburg
Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm
To register: Call

Kitty Boylan 330-908-6219



The Cluster B Buzz

September 4, 2009



Reading Workshop

We have started the year with reviewing reading strategies with our second grade readers. We have discussed how important it is to use these strategies in our reading. We have discussed predicting before we read, questioning and clarifying as we read, and monitoring our understanding of what we have read. We have also discussed summarizing what we have read and the phonics/decoding strategy to help us with new words. We encourage you to help your child use these strategies in their reading at home. Ask your child to predict what will happen next, or have your child ask a question while reading. Have your child summarize their reading to you by sharing all the main parts of what s/he has read. These reading strategies are essential tools good readers use. Thank you for your support. ☺

Math Workshop

Our mathematicians have been very busy! We have been organizing our tool kits that include our templates and clocks! We encourage you to take any opportunities to have your child tell you the time. Your child should be able to tell time to the nearest hour, half-hour, and 15 minute interval. We have also worked on calendar to review how to use dates on a calendar such as (how many days in a week, days of the week, and months of the year). We also played a game called *Addition Top It* and it has been big hit in Cluster B! Ask your child to teach you how to play!



Just a Friendly Reminder

Please turn in ALL forms as soon as possible. If you need paper copies please let me know!



Curriculum Coffee

For those who could attend, we hope you found the information helpful at our Curriculum Coffee presentation. If you could not attend, we will post the presentation on our website. Please go to <http://www.nordoniaschools.org>. Then find our Rushwood link that will lead you to our second grade site. Please feel free to email or send along any questions you may regarding your child's second grade year.



Be Ready For Specials

Schedules take a bit to get use to so we thought we would put a reminder in our news about what days our specials fall on:

Monday - Music
Tuesday - PE
Wednesday - Music
Thursday - PE and Library
Friday - Art

It is especially important for *Gym to wear tennis shoes and proper clothing*. It is also important to remember to *return library books on or before Thursday* in order to check out new ones.

Social Studies

Our learners are working on citizenship traits. We've discussed the importance of working in groups. We will be focusing in on the following second grade vocabulary for this unit:

- persistence
- self-assurance
- honesty
- patriotism
- respect

We encourage you to discuss these important vocabulary words at home as well.



Rushwood Elementary School

Counselor's Connection

Kirk Galbreath
School Counselor
(330)908-6534
Kirk.galbreath@nordoniaschools.org

Welcome Back to School!

WOW! We are already off to an amazing start! The beginning of the school year usually comes with great excitement.

What do you do when the excitement disappears? Here are a few ways to combat back to school blues...

1. Get a routine. It is critical for young students to know what is expected in the morning and what the routine will be when they return home.
2. Designate a homework time and place. Discuss it with your child that way they know what to expect.
3. Designate a relax time. Every student needs some time at home to kick their shoes off. Naming a relax time helps them to see an order to their day and assists in their time management skills.
4. Ask your child specific questions like, "Tell me one thing you did in Math or Reading class today?" This encourages them to give you a response other than "Nothing".

I look forward to all opportunities to work with each family, please let me know how I can be of assistance to you or your family.

Important Tidbits...

1. Small group counseling will begin in mid October. Small groups provide opportunities for students to meet and discuss issues they may be struggling with and recognize that they are not alone. It provides a positive outlet and allows children to share feelings and learn coping skills. For more information please contact me about groups that deal with friendship skills, anger/self control, self-esteem, changing families/divorce, or family grief.
2. Testing Already? Yes, it is already time to start thinking about standardized tests including the Fall administration of the Ohio Achievement Test, Terra Nova and Inview Tests. Here are the dates for our Fall testing period. Please mark your calendar with these important dates to avoid any absences.
 - October 6: Ohio Achievement Test (Reading) Gr. 3
Inview (Aptitude) Grade 4
 - October 7: Terra Nova (Reading), Grades 2 and 4.
 - October 8: Terra Nova (Math), Grades 2 and 4

This Month's Focus- What is this PUBS stuff?

This month I visited each Cluster including AM and PM Kindergarten to share and discuss information related to our new Positive Unified Behavior Supports (PUBS).

PUBS is a process for creating safer and more effective schools. It is a systems approach to enhancing the capacity of schools to educate all children by developing research-based, school-wide, and classroom behavior support systems. The process focuses on improving a school's ability to teach and support positive behavior for ALL students.

PUBS includes school-wide procedures and processes intended for every student and all staff in all settings. It is a team-based process for systemic problem solving, planning, and behavioral evaluation. My goal for helping implement this process is to produce a safe and productive learning environment where teachers can teach and all students can learn.

Check it out!

Go to www.nordoniaschools.org and click on "Schools" under Hot Links in the left column. Scroll down and Click on the Rushwood Elementary link..

Next, visit my Counselors Connection tab located in the right column.

Here you will find information about the role of a school counseling program.

Keep checking back! Helpful information and links related to the academic, career, and personal/social development of students will be available as the school year proceeds.