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NORTHFIELD

elementary

RATED EXCELLENT WITH DISTINCTION

Principally Speaking

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Dear Northfield Elementary families,

It is hard to believe that it is October already! The school year has been off to a great start! I have enjoyed getting to know the staff, students and parents during the past few months. I am looking forward to what the rest of the school year will bring.

I am a strong believer that parents play a critical role in the success of their children. The home/school partnership is the most important relationship that can be established and maintained for children. If parents and the school work as a team with the common goal of showing student progress, a high degree of success can be attained. As we work together, open communication is encouraged. I welcome your phone calls, questions and involvement in the education and life of your child here at Northfield Elementary. As always, please feel free to call or stop by any time.

*Sincerely,
Miss Smith*

Attendance and End of School Day Information

If your child will miss school due to an illness, please contact the attendance number: 330-908-6160. The NF elementary office requires a note from the parent when there are any changes or additions to your child's end of day transportation. Changes CANNOT be made by phone after 3PM.

FOR CARPOOLERS: Please make sure that your family number is displayed in your lower right windshield. Please feel free to make additional copies if needed. Thank you!

Birthday Book Club

The Birthday Book Club is a PTA program which gives an opportunity to families to honor your child's special day while building up the selection of books in the Northfield Library. This strictly voluntary program will be accepting members for the 2011-2012 school year until the end of October. In addition to having a book dedicated in your child's name, Birthday Club members will receive the following:

- Recognition as a member of the Birthday Book Club
- The opportunity to be the first student to check out the book
- A personalized nameplate which will be placed in their selected book
- A special bookmark
- A certificate recognizing membership

The Birthday Club fee is \$10 for a single membership or \$15 for a family membership. Applications were recently sent home with students. Additional forms are available in the Library.

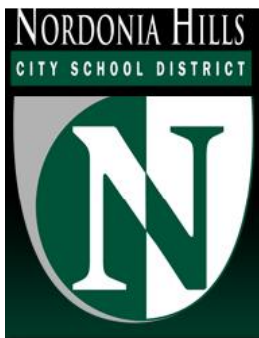


Reading Stars!



The Library is celebrating all Reading Stars! During the month of October students are encouraged to participate in a reading contest, called Reading Stars. Grades K-2 must read and log a minimum of 10 books to be honored. Grades 3 & 4 will take Accelerated Reader tests to earn points. The highest 10 from each grade (Grades 3 & 4) will be honored. All Reading Stars will be honored with a star on a bulletin board in the Library for all to see! I can't wait to see how many stars I can put on the bulletin board! Let's get reading Northfield!

"Our Northfield Team — built on pride, courage, hard work and me!"



HELP SAVE OUR SCHOOLS!

The Nordonias Hills City School District faces a dire future. The district has a 6.0-mill operating levy on the November 8 ballot, and your vote is critical.

Since the last school levy passed in 2004, the district has made many difficult decisions to stretch the funds for the last 7 years. This includes over \$7 million in cuts in the last 3 years alone. Still, our schools have managed to receive the highest ranking from the State, Excellent with Distinction, for the past two years.

A major funding shortfall looms for the 2012/13 school year and beyond. Without this levy passage AND an additional \$3 million in cuts, the district will be in fiscal emergency and be taken over by the State in the next 12 months. Our children and our community deserve better than state minimums. You are the schools' lifeline. If we can pull together as a community we will retain the ability to control how our schools are run.

Please carefully consider **Issue 18**--The Nordonias Hills City School District Proposed Tax Levy. The outcome of the levy is critical to continuing the quality education that your child receives today. If the levy fails, it will force us to eliminate or significantly cut back on programs and teachers.

The following list represents the next set of cost reductions:

■ **All-day kindergarten returned to half-day kindergarten (5.5 teachers)**

■ Elementary counselor (1 position)

■ High School counselor (1 position)

■ Community Intervention (1 position)

■ Cancel EAP program (end of contract)

■ **Close K-6 libraries (5 media resource positions)**

■ **Minimum day K-4 (eliminate 1 music, 1 art)**

■ Minimum day Lee Eaton (eliminate 1 music, 1 art)

■ Minimum day Middle School (eliminate 1 music, 2 art)

■ Eliminate seven high school teaching positions TBD

■ Change Board Policy regarding graduation requirements

■ Pay-to-participate goes to total cost recovery; (semester break 2011-12)

■ Review grade level buildings (2012-13)

■ **Review closing one elementary building (2012-13)**

■ Public Information Officer (1 position before semester break)

■ Merge Superintendent and Asst. Superintendent Offices, eliminating one administrative and one secretarial position (2012-13)

■ Eliminate Pupil Services Secretary (1 position; 2011-12)

If you have any questions about the levy or are interested in volunteering please visit www.nordoniaslevy.org.



Nordonias Hills Parent Mentor Program

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 Nordonias School District. You can reach the parent mentor office by phone at 330-908-6219 or email at parent.mentors@nordoniaschools.org or visit the parent mentor page on the district web site at:

www.nordoniaschools.org/ParentMentor.aspx

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.

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 everyday. Everyday we have a choice of the Main Entrée, Chef's Salad with meat and cheese in separate cups, or a Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich. In addition we offer on Tuesdays and Thursdays ONLY a Hot Dog as choice. All lunches come with Fruit and Vegetable, some sort of Dessert item, and a 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.

Our School district policy is a child must pay for their lunch every day either with cash or from their lunch account. The Cafeteria cannot accept Checks for payment. Payment may be made in the form of Cash or by visiting <http://www.myschoolaccount.com/>. Online deposits to your child's account can be made via electronic fund transfer from your checking and/or savings or with a credit card. Use this website to manage your child's account and be advised that online payments take **24-48 Hours** for the funds to post to the account.

Please be advised that if your child needs a lunch and has no money we cannot provide a complete lunch. We would offer a Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich (\$1.00 ea.) or Peanut Butter & Jelly Bar (\$.50) and a Milk (\$.50). The choices would then be charged to the child's account. A student with peanut allergies would be offered a suitable substitution.

****New Policy**** - The USDA and National School Lunch Program have developed a new Fluid Milk Substitution Policy. Juice and Water ARE NO LONGER PERMITTED to be substituted for milk unless a child has a **LIFE THREATENING** (anaphylaxis) reaction to milk that is considered to be a disability by the child's physician. In the case of such a disability, it must be documented and submitted by the child's physician and must include the physician's telephone number. Juice and water may still be purchased by a child without a disability at an additional cost, but would not be included in the price of a lunch. For more information about these policies you may visit the Nordonia Schools Website and choose the Lunch Menu tab under the Parents & Families drop down menu.

Applications for Free and Reduced lunches are always available at the above mentioned areas of Nordonia's Website and can be submitted anytime throughout the school year. Please be advised that a child on the free or reduced program is provided breakfast and lunch. If your child packs a lunch they will have to purchase the milk if they want one.



Lunch Prices for 2011-2012 School Year:

Lunch \$2.75

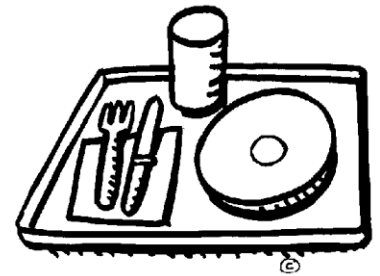
Breakfast \$1.50

Breakfast is served from 8:15am to 8:40am.

Milk \$.50

Juice \$.50

Bottled Water \$.75



Parents, when sending cash to school with your child **PLEASE** label the envelope or ziploc bag with your child's **FIRST AND LAST** name. It requires a lot of valuable time and effort to track down money insufficiently labeled.

I would like to take a moment to inform parents/guardians that when your child's account is running low the cashier will ask your child to let you know. We will also use the automated phone system to let your know if your child has charged due to a lack of funds and ask you to send your payment the next day.

If you have a special concern such as purchasing control (i.e. not extra's) it may be noted on the point of sale computer to assist enforcement.

If you plan to join your child for lunch and would like us to serve you, please call to order your lunch by 10:15a.m. You may call the cafeteria directly for questions or concerns at 330-908-6240.

From our amusement to yours; some quotes from our customers:

"Coming thru the lunch line is like going thru a Drive Thru!"

"Do you give all the money you collect to a Charity?"

While using the finger ID and asked to use the other hand, "Is the right hand out of money?"

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS?

Kindergarten Update

We can't believe how time is flying in Kindergarten! The students have been learning and growing so much and it's amazing to see daily in our classrooms!

The children have been super excited to work with and learn from our Houghton Mifflin Reading Series. In Theme 1, Look at Me, the children have learned about themselves and each other. In Theme 2, Colors All Around, we will be focusing on colors and using descriptive words. The children continue to review letters and sounds and have started learning several new sight words.

The kindergartners are spending some time learning about the seasons and weather. They have learned how seasonal changes affect us and what we wear. They also learned about our 5 senses and how we use our senses to make observations. Soon we will be learning about night and day and discovering that the sun can only be seen during the day, but that the moon can be seen at night and sometimes during the day. The children will also learn about some nocturnal animals, their habitats, and how they can cause changes to their environment.

In math, the children have learned many new math games like. They have been exploring with ten frames, shapes, and extending and describing patterns. Most weeks we have Math Lab where students have a chance to explore and learn using hands-on manipulatives, their own creativity, and small groups who thrive together.

We are very proud of the kindergartners. They have grown so much and continue to shine every day!!! ☺



Grade One

First graders have been working very hard this year, and we can't believe it is already October!

A special activity that all first graders did this past month in math is our "Apple Day". Children explored apples by measuring, weighing, comparing and patterning. We had a great time! If you see a first grader, please be sure to ask them what they learned!!

We have been learning about comprehension strategies to use before, during and after reading to help us better understand what we are reading. We are also continuing to learn more about our reading strategies for unknown words through our reading series and guided reading lessons. All first graders received a strategy bookmark to use. These tools, combined with parent support, will help our first graders become more independent readers!

Did you know that first graders are creative artists? They will be working very hard on their animal dioramas for science. They will create habitats for their favorite "wild" animal using a variety of material such as Playdoh, leaves, sticks, rocks, paint, etc. We will be leaving them up for conferences, so please be sure to look around the room for your child's diorama. We can't wait to see what they design this year!

Grade Two

2nd graders have been working and studying hard so far this year! We are amazed that it is already October. In math we have been focusing on addition and subtraction strategies. Students have been learning skills to gain "fact power." They all love working on the SMARTboard for our math lessons and also playing the Everyday Math Online Games! Please keep encouraging your child to go onto everydaymathonline.com and play the "Facts Workshop" or "Facts Dash."

In our reading series we are finishing our first theme "Silly Stories." Students were able to read and compare stories with a silly plot line. Next week our focus will be on poetry. They will be writing poems about Fall and creating a "Poetry Pumpkin Patch" in our 2nd grade hallway! Be sure to stop down and take a look soon!

In Science students just completed a unit on Weather. We will switch back to Social Studies next week. They will be working on a Government Unit. Students will be studying and researching about important landmarks and monuments in our country. We will complete the unit with a small group project by creating a poster on the various landmarks and monuments that were studied.

Keep up all your hard work second graders! We are going to have a great year!

Grade Three

Third graders began the school year discussing summer reading selections and completing individual and group activities with the books read. We are currently finishing up the first theme of our reading series: Off to Adventure! In this theme, students are reading fascinating selections about adventures. Students will learn and apply the concepts of cause/effect, sequencing, and making inferences. Third graders are reviewing writing in complete sentences and turning those sentences into paragraphs. Students also wrote a personal narrative.

In math, students are adding and subtracting whole numbers in Unit 2. This unit emphasizes basic facts and their extensions, solution strategies for addition and subtraction number stories, and computation with multi-digit numbers. In this unit we are also reviewing the partial-sums algorithm for addition and trade-first algorithm for subtraction.

In science, students are studying rocks, minerals, and soil. Students have been observing rocks and taking notes using their senses. They will be comparing the properties of rocks and testing the hardness of minerals. In Social Studies, students are learning about citizenship, and rights and responsibilities, which will lead us into our unit on local government.

Grade Four

4th grade students will be working on our next theme in reading which is American Stories. There are many realistic fiction reading selections in this new theme. Students will be practicing sequencing events of a story, making inferences, writing with a voice, usage of proper and common nouns, and descriptive writing. In Math, our current unit is focusing on multiplication, division, and number stories. Please practice your multiplication facts nightly. Throw some facts out while you are driving. As you know, in order to be able to divide you need to know how to multiply. Don't forget that you can use the First in Math website and www.Everydaymathonline.com to help practice facts. We understand that the "new" ways of doing math can be quite frustrating. Your child also has a login for Everyday Math Online. Not only can they play games on this site, but you can also view an Interactive Student Reference Book. Here you can find out how to do the different algorithms.

Where in the World is Ohio? is the topic we are studying in social studies. Students have been reviewing how to read a map and learning that every map includes the following: a compass rose, scale, title, symbols and map key/legend. We will be discussing what states border Ohio and the major bodies of water. Prehistoric peoples will be discussed in the coming weeks also.

4th graders are working on their Land and Water Unit in Science. They are learning about the water cycle, erosion and effects of weathering. Very fun and very hands-on! How exciting! The next unit will be matter.

Music News



We are off to a great start in the music room!

In kindergarten, we have been working on steady beat by patting, clapping and marching to the music. We have also been learning how to play our classroom instruments. So far we have played the rhythm sticks, egg shakers and drums. We have sung songs about the days of the week and numbers. We have done movement songs that help us learn our right side from our left side like the Hokey Pokey and Looby Loo. Our quiet listening song is the Surprise Symphony by Joseph Haydn.

In first grade, we started the year by reviewing steady beat and have begun to learn about rhythm. The classes are playing the classroom instruments to learn the difference between playing the steady beat and the rhythm of a song. The rhythm often follows the syllables of the words we sing or speak. We have done some chants with games like Bee Bee Bumblebee and Acka Backa Soda Cracker.

In second grade, we began the year by reviewing beat, rhythm and pitch. Recently we added a new rhythm called the half note which is our first rhythm that has two beats. We learned it by playing instruments for our songs "In the Barnyard" and "Sunset." Recently, we did the song, "One, Two, Three Alary" and added bells and xylophones with each group playing their own part. It went really well.

In third grade, we have just started working on meter. We found out that meter in music measures how many beats are in a group. We have seen meters in 2, 3, and 4 and even worked in teams one day to make up our own 4 beat patterns. The song "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" is in a meter of 3. We have also begun to work on reading notes on the staff by learning about the lines and spaces and what their letter names are. This will help us read music when we start to play songs on our recorders.

In fourth grade, we spent the beginning of our year reviewing ways to make harmony by singing rounds, partner songs and ostinatos. Countermelody is another way to make harmony that we learned last year. During our harmony study, we sang a couple of songs from the musical, "The Music Man," and got to watch some scenes. Some of the kids were interested in watching more, so that may be something you want to look for at the local library. We have begun to play our recorders, so make sure your child has their recorder, music folder and a pencil with them for class. We have been reviewing the top or left hand and will begin to add the right next week.



*Nordonian City School District
PTA Council presents
the first annual*

Family Always First Night

*When: Tuesday, November 1, 2011
What: Celebrate your FAMILIES!!*

Plan to spend time with your family.

- ❖ Play a card game together*
- ❖ Watch home movies*
- ❖ Cook dinner together*
- ❖ Go hiking at a local park together*
- ❖ Tackle a family project together*
- ❖ Plan a special event that you all enjoy*

Our district has agreed to support families on this night with NO homework, no tests or projects and no assignments. We have also agreed to hold no regular season practices or rehearsals for students. We hope you will take the evening to celebrate being a family.