



NORTHPOINT NEWS

www.springlakepark schools.org

October 26
2011

PRINCIPAL POINTS by Mike Callahan

This past week demonstrated the Northpoint community commitment to our school. Conference attendance was once again affirming as we had **98%** of students represented. If you were unable to attend, please call to reschedule or discuss your child's progress over the phone. While I did not talk to everyone, I was fortunate to have many constructive conversations with parents and staff regarding student learning, challenges, and support necessary for students' academic and social growth. We also had many families who prepared and/or donated items for the dinners that were provided each evening of conferences for staff. The meals were once again fantastic! Finally, many volunteers were present for coordinating and running our first book fair. The book fair was a great opportunity to not only support your young readers at home, but to build the collection of books in our classrooms and our library.

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DID!

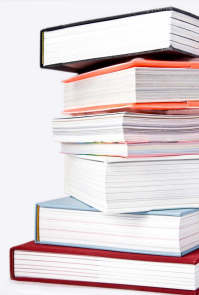
With the end of October just around the corner, classroom Fall Celebrations are scheduled for Friday, October 28. All parties will be held in the afternoon starting at 2:30 and concluding at 3:45 with the exception of morning kindergarten classes. Classroom celebrations will not entail students wearing costumes, but will be filled with fall festive activities that all students can enjoy.

To conclude, this Friday, I'll be having my first "Coffee with the Principal." It is a chance for me to sit down and talk with parents about school initiatives, opportunities and challenges occurring here at Northpoint. It's a great chance for me to gain your thoughts, opinions, and answer questions related to what's happening or will be happening here at school. So come and join me on Friday morning at 9:30 a.m. Hope to see you there!



Vision and hearing screening will be next week starting Monday, October 31st. Parents - this is a reminder to make sure to have your child's glasses at school if they wear them.

THANK YOU to all of you who participated in this year's Scholastic Book Fair either by volunteering and/or purchasing books for your student! We exceeded expectations, thanks to you and your support of your child's education! The funds raised during this year's Book Fair will go towards the purchase of books for the Guided Reading program, Media Center, and many other deserving places where books are vital to our students' education. We couldn't have done it without you! A VERY special THANK YOU to Marla Sciarra and Heidi Sass for coordinating this huge event! Your hard work is so appreciated!



Northpoint Elementary
2350 124th Court NE
Blaine, MN 55449

Principal
Mike Callahan

Student Support Specialist
Dr. Hope Rahn

Main Office
763-754-9700

Attendance
763-230-0304

Transportation
763-785-5512

Bus Company
763-201-8888

Food Service
763-785-5529

District Office
763-786-5570

Community Education
763-786-1338

Upcoming dates:

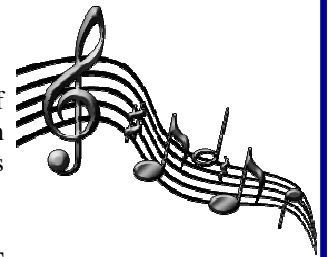
Friday, October 28
Coffee with the Principal
9:30 a.m.
Classroom Fall Parties
2:30 p.m.

Monday, October 31
Vision and Hearing
Screening Begins

Friday, November 4
Picture Retake Day
NP Fall Party

MUSIC NOTES...

Our 2011-12 school year is off to a great start in the music room with new music materials and Orff instruments (xylophones & metallophones)! ISD 16 music teachers completed writing new curriculum this past year, and are excited about students having additional instruments provided in our classrooms to accomplish music targets.



Grade 3 students have just completed their Unit 1 test. We've learned two ways to clap a song: BEAT and RHYTHM. (You can ask them to demonstrate each at home!) We have clapped rhythms using quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests. Every student had a turn at improvising rhythms on conga drum and temple blocks with the song, 'Old Joe Clark.' We have discovered three directions that a melody can go, and have practiced by sight and sound DO, RE, MI. This year we will be adding to a list of famous tunes and their composers, starting with "Sabre Dance" by Khachaturian, and "Surprise Symphony" by Haydn (pronounced Hi-den). These are tunes that students could check out at Anoka County libraries or purchase for their own, if they are interested.

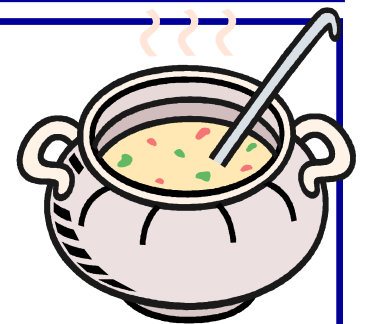
Second graders have been studying music with a steady beat and music with no beat. They have enjoyed playing xylophones on the steady beat as we sang folk songs like 'Charlie.' They have reviewed rhythms with quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests, and the pitches SO, MI, and LA.

First graders have learned about loud and soft in their singing and their listening in music class. We have practiced echo-clapping rhythms and steady beat. Because it is an important part of learning any subject, we have been paying close attention to the skill of listening, which involves more than just ears: Eyes on speaker, mouth quiet, ears open, feet facing front, raising hands and waiting to speak. Our grade 1 students will be performing for an audience this spring. You'll hear more soon!

All-day kindergarten children are enjoying music class one time each week this year. We are learning our Northpoint School Song, and seasonal music. We are having fun trying out different instruments as well!

Keep singing! Mrs. VanBurkleo & Ms. Phelps

Jes Mostek and Riya Sahijwani did an AMAZING job coordinating conference meals for staff this past week! You went so above and beyond! Thank you to ALL of the volunteers (too numerous to name here) who brought food/items and helped with this. All staff is so very grateful and ate well, enjoying leftovers for the next few days! We are so lucky here at Northpoint and appreciate your generosity tremendously!!



PTO NEWS

A high priority for Northpoint Elementary is to give back to our community by helping our students and their families who are in need. In partnership with CEAP (Community Emergency Assistance Program), Northpoint PTO is collecting non-perishable food items next week, Monday, October 31 through Friday, November 4. Students can place their donated food items in their classroom's designated collection bin next week Monday through Friday afternoon, or bring their food items to the Fall Party on Friday, November 4. The classroom that collects the most food by next week Friday afternoon, will win a SPECIAL treat! Thank you in for your donations and support in making this the best community ever!





VOTE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2011

POLLS OPEN FROM 7:00AM - 8:00PM

LIVE IN **FRIDLEY** OR
SPRING LAKE PARK?
VOTE AT **WOODCREST
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

880 OSBORNE ROAD
FRIDLEY

LIVE IN **BLAINE?**
VOTE AT **WESTWOOD
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

701 91ST AVENUE NE
BLAINE

TWO LEVY QUESTIONS

Renewal of Question 1 and passage of Question 2 would sustain and enhance current programming, and avoid reductions that would result in increased class sizes, cutting student programs, and increasing fees for student activities.



Renewal of a Levy for Learning approved in 2002 and set to expire in 2012. **Approval would not increase taxes**, renewal would maintain current funding and programs.



Reliable technologies in classrooms and daily operations (maintenance and repair, replacement schedule for aging computers)

Technology-rich classrooms to meet the varied needs of learners

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Six candidates are running for three seats on the board currently held by Gary Brisbin, Colleen Vranish, and Annette Winrick. Vranish filed for re-election, Brisbin and Winrick did not. The candidates are:

Jim Amundson
Bobbi George

Amy Hennen
Bill Lewis

Bryan Reynolds
Colleen Vranish

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INCLUDING **FAST FACTS & ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS AND A LEVY VIDEO.**