



# NORTHPOINT NEWS

www.springlakepark  
schools.org

SEPTEMBER 14  
2011

## PRINCIPAL POINTS by Mike Callahan

Happy New Year Everyone! It's that time of year when students, teachers, and families roll into a new school year with much anticipation and eagerness to begin a year full of learning. Each year a major New Year's "resolution" for the staff members here at Northpoint is to learn as much as possible about their new students. Teachers and support staff alike want students to develop the academic and life skills necessary to be successful in school. It is our responsibility to ensure that each student at Northpoint feels valued, inspired, and has a sense of belonging.

This past spring at Northpoint, staff entered into purposeful conversations focused on continuous improvement through research and action. Our intention was to better align the work of adults to continuously improve personalized instruction and responsiveness to better meet our students' unique and varied needs. Traditionally, instruction has been classroom based with a student to teacher ratio of 25:1. As we worked through the summer and begin the school year, we feel confident that we have creatively aligned our staff and resources to enhance the instructional opportunities of our students. While a classroom may have up to 30 or 31 students, we have maintained the 25:1 ratio (or lower) for much of the instructional day. Now, more than ever, you as parents will see and hear the staff at Northpoint working in partnership to collectively engage and inspire your child academically, socially, and emotionally. Your child's opportunity to work at his or her instructional level will be increased in core academic areas to ensure meaningful and challenging work that results in their success.

At our first, second, and third grade Parent Information Night on Thursday, September 22, you will be able to hear first-hand our response to improving student learning. It will be an Open House format from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with grade level TEAM presentations occurring in the cafeteria at the following times: First Grade will be from 6:00 – 6:20 p.m., Third Grade from 6:30-6:50 p.m., and Second Grade from 7:00 – 7:20 p.m. Following each presentation, parents will be invited to continue conversations with TEAM teachers in your child's classroom. On your child's desk will be their Hope and Dream for the school year along with a completed project they'd like you to see.

The Northpoint School Newsletter will be making its way home every **Wednesday** this year. It will go home in the Wednesday Folder which will be sent each week filled with information pertinent to classroom, school, district and community happenings. The folder will need to come back the next day.

We look forward seeing all of our Northpoint students SHINE this year!



Northpoint Elementary  
2350 124th Court NE  
Blaine, MN 55449

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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:

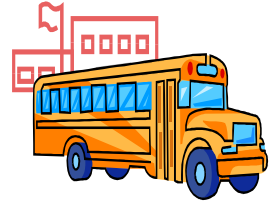
**Friday, September 16**  
Wear your Northpoint  
or Panther Colors/Spiritwear

**Monday, September 19**  
PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, September 22**  
FUN RUN Fundraiser  
Kick Off  
Parent Information Night  
6-8 pm

**Information on school bus procedures, policies, and safety rules is provided on our district website at [www.springlakeparkschools.org](http://www.springlakeparkschools.org). Following are a few highlights to remember throughout the year:**

- For general information and bus routing, please call the district transportation department at **763-785- 5512**.
- For concerns about a late bus, a driver, or other questions that require immediate attention, call Lorenz Bus Company directly at **763-201- 8888**.
- Changes in bus/stops are only permitted in emergency situations and require transportation department authorization. A written request must be submitted to the office for official approval each time a student rides a different bus or gets off at a different stop. Once official approval is granted, students will receive a "bus pass" to give to the driver.
- Drivers will use a student conduct report to report behavioral incidents to school staff and parents. Consequences may include (but are not limited to) warnings, assigned seats, and bus suspensions.
- **Riding a school bus is a privilege, not a right.**



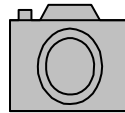
### IMPORTANT ~ PLEASE READ

In order to provide a safer “drop-off/pick-up” at the front of our school to begin and conclude each day, we have procedures that need to be followed. **When picking up or dropping off your children, parents will be expected to use the “drop-off/pick-up zone”** along the curb. For safety purposes, we insist that until your vehicle is within five car lengths from the crosswalk, that you do not let your child in or out of your vehicle. We also need your child to get in/out of your vehicle on the **curb side of your vehicle**. Children running or walking in between or alongside parked cars/moving cars would be unsafe. We appreciate the many of you that are able to park your car in the parking lot and walk your child to the front of the building to drop off or pick them up. Please do not leave your vehicle unattended **at any time** along the yellow curb - even to just run into the school quick - this is a no-parking zone. **Please be aware of the STOP sign before the crosswalk as you are pulling through the drive-thru zone.** Also, there is absolutely **NO PARKING** in our handicapped spots unless you have the required visible identification. Thank you for your cooperation and conscious efforts to help keep our NP children safe.

**Our nurse could use children's pants if you have any to donate. Any size 4-16 would be appreciated. (no shirts are needed at this time.) Thank you!**

#### NORTHPOINT PICTURE DAY

**Will be on Friday,  
September 30.  
Please mark your  
calendars.**



**Please save your BOXTOPS, CAMPBELLS SOUP LABELS, AND LAND-o-LAKES MILK CAPS ~ We use the money generated for many great things that benefit our school!**

## PTO NEWS

- If you would like to order a Northpoint Tshirt or sweatshirt, it is not too late! The order deadline has been extended to tomorrow, Friday! (December will be the next opportunity to order.)
- Wednesday Volunteers have begun - please join us in the PTO room (just off of the Media Center) on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 –11:30 a.m. to help with various projects if you are able.
- Our next PTO meeting is **MONDAY, SEPT. 19** at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome! Complimentary childcare will be provided. If you are in need of this service, please contact the office by this Friday for us to arrange for next Monday’s meeting. If this has prevented you from coming in the past, please plan to join us this year!
- Additional events to mark on your calendars for fall: 10/7 NP Fun Run, 10/17-10/19 Book Fair, November Coat and Mitten Drive, and 11/18 Fall Party.

**WEAR YOUR  
NORTHPOINT OR  
PANTHER  
SCHOOL SPIRIT-  
WEAR OR COLORS on  
FRIDAY!!**

