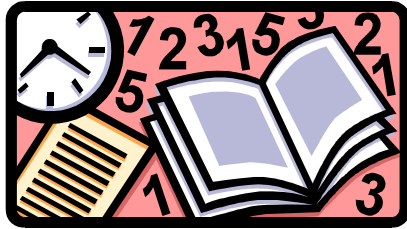


Notes from North



Home of the Vikings!

**North Middle School
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January/February 2010 Newsletter

Web Address:

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SEMESTER ONE

At the time of this writing we find ourselves half way through the school year. Winter break has afforded time for a well-deserved rest for students and staff alike.

Semester exams were given on January 20, and 21, and report cards are scheduled for distribution on January 29.

The continued support of our parents was noted by the large turnout for conferences in November the Pancake Supper in December, and the Social Studies Curriculum Night this month. Your concern is greatly appreciated; you make a big difference.

A special thanks is in order for those of you who have supported North by attended our Pancake Suppers. Your support has enabled the purchase of a new sign in front of the building.

Congratulations are in order for both our band and choir programs for the fine performances by each in their winter concerts in December. Much work goes into these productions and they were widely enjoyed.

Again, thanks to all of you for the support you have given us this first semester, we look forward working with you and your students second semester.

Dianne Tilson
Principal

Ron Stokes
Assistant Principal

FAMILY MATH NIGHT

NMS students and their families are invited to attend a spaghetti dinner and "Math Safari" beginning at 5:30 on February 9. Test your adventure skills by visiting the seven continents via the passport issued at the spaghetti dinner. Please see the enclosed flyer.

NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA

North Middle School is proud to present their production of "Anchors Aweigh". Over 40 of our students are participating in this hilarious comedy. The production will take place at two evening performances - Thursday, March 25 at 7:00 and Friday, March 26 at 7:00. For those who prefer a matinee we will have a performance on Saturday, March 27, at 2:00. Tickets will be available at all lunches the week before the performance and at the door, cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for seniors and students.

NORTH ATHLETICS

With boy's basketball and swimming finished, we quickly begin our Winter II sports season this month involving our student athletes in girl's basketball and wrestling. Announcements for these teams have been made, any questions should be directed to Coach Maclean or Coach Cline for basketball and Coach Stubbe for wrestling.

One aspect of eligibility for competitive sports here at North is that each participant must have a

current physical on record in the office. It is important for parents to understand that **the physical must take place after April 15 of the previous school year to be used for the current school year.** We realize this can be troublesome with many insurance companies, but it is a requirement of MHSAA rules.

Unlike many other schools, we have been fortunate so far to be able to maintain all of our athletic programs. We must, however, collect a \$35.00 athletic fee for each competitive sport our students are participating in this year to help defray costs. A letter of understanding and contract for this fee will be distributed to parents and be payable in the office to Mrs. Innes prior to each season beginning.

STUDENT COUNCIL HOSTS BLOOD DRIVE

The NMS Student Council hosted a Blood Drive here at North Middle School on Thursday, January 21 from 2:00 – 8:00 p.m. Students could earn a Free T-Shirt for each donor that they brought in. Our goal was to collect 30 pints that day. Thanks to all that participated.

ACTIVITY AFTERNOON

There is still some time left for your student to enjoy spending some time at our Student Council Sponsored Activity Afternoons. The next one will be Friday, February 5 from 3:30 – 5:30. Tickets will be on sale with a valid North ID at every lunch on Tuesday, February 2 through Thursday, February 4 for \$3.00. On February 5, will host our second annual 3 x 3 tournament! We also have a DJ to spin some tunes for the students, food for sale to curb those afternoon hunger pains and other activities planned. As always, we welcome parent volunteers to help assist at the events. If you need further information or are interested in volunteering please contact Mrs. O'Neill at 697-9171 x 231.

YEARBOOK CLASS

The North Middle School Yearbook again this year will be produced under the direction of Mr. Dan Wright. He is urging students to purchase yearbooks early to insure that one is available to them when they are delivered. Yearbooks purchased now cost \$30.00 but costs increase later in the year. Yearbooks may be purchased by contacting Mr. Wright at 697-9171.

AFTER SCHOOL HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE

Homework assistance is once again available to students after school from 3:30 – 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday. Permission slips are available in the office and must be turned in prior to students taking part in this program. Thanks to our PTO, bus transportation is available to those students who stay for assistance.

RECYCLING

As you may know already, we have a paper-recycling program at North. We've been running this program for the last six years and for the last three years we've had a relationship with the Abitibi Recycling Company that has helped us run the program much more successfully. You may have noticed the green and yellow recycling bin that Abitibi provides us located on the east side of the building near the other large waste bins. We fill the bin up and then Abitibi collects it for free; in fact, they pay us for any paper we collect over two tons in a month.

THIS IS WHERE WE NEED YOUR HELP
Abitibi requires that we generate at least two tons of paper waste per month in order for it to be worth their while to send a truck to unload our bin. Unfortunately, we have not been meeting that goal, and Abitibi has identified our school as one that will lose its bin if we don't turn things around. PLEASE make the effort to bring any of your leftover magazines, catalogs, and newspapers to our bin; these items are particularly helpful because they are dense and weigh a lot, so they will help us meet our paper weight goal more easily.

If you do this, you'd be helping the environment as well as helping your local school maintain a valuable program. Thank you for all you do to help us all be more successful! If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Avery at 697-9171.

Please do bring

Most helpful: Magazines, catalogs, and newspapers

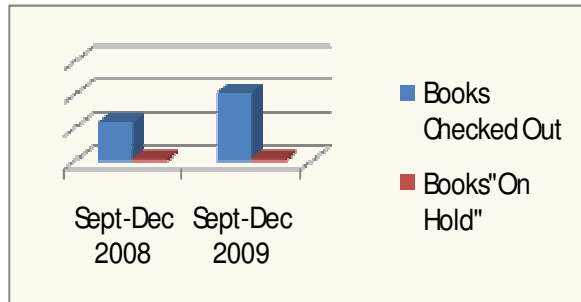
Also accepted: mixed office paper (staples and paper clips are OK), junk mail

Please don't bring

Telephone books, cardboard, paperboard (like cereal boxes), any non-paper-related recyclables (cans, bottles, etc.)

MEDIA CENTER

Thanks in part to popular books such as the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series by Jeff Kinney, the Twilight series by Stephenie Meyer, the Mrs. M. Kennedy, our office manager, and Mrs. S. Kennedy, our Librarian, has been busier than ever! Our online catalog is available 24/7/365 at <http://students.resa.net/nmsmc> [or just Google search "nmsmc"]. Students are learning to log-in



and search for their favorite books, placing holds for the most popular titles. Since September, over 570 requests for specific books have been placed by students!

We work daily with our students on developing good citizenship and manners. By this time of the year, far too many students have overdue or missing books and fines. Please check around for any library books and encourage your student to return all materials ASAP. Fines should be paid promptly.

Parent volunteers are always welcome.

- Can you alphabetize? We can always use help with shelving of returned books.
- Can you supervise? We could use help the one evening that we have Spring Scholastic Book Sale open to families and possibly during the day. Tentatively set for April this year, our students depend on the books we earn from this event to help fill in the gaps that have been left by budget cuts. Please plan on attending and bring your credit card!!
- Do you have experience troubleshooting &/or updating software on older desktops and laptops? We have a pile that could use a little help!

Any questions or concerns may be directed to Mrs. S. Kennedy, Librarian at

skennedy@vanburenschools.net or 723-697-9171. We appreciate your support – couldn't do it without you!

IN THE LOOP

The administrators and staff at North are very interested in effective communication with parents to discuss and/or clarify school policies and procedures of any nature. All staff members have voice mail boxes, and email addresses are available on the NMS Website. Please feel free to utilize either of these sources of communication. It is most helpful if callers identify themselves to facilitate prompt and accurate return of calls. NOTE: If you use SBC Global for email, be aware they are blocking VBPS email and we are unable to respond.

Many of you have received the trial messages via the Instant Alert System for Schools. This system is an essential tool for communication between the schools and parents to deliver a clear message regarding school emergencies or inclement weather. Please read the enclosed flyer for assistance or contact the Communications Department at (734) 697-9123, ext 225.

Parents who pick up or drop off students are requested to do so at the front of the building.

Please do not drive behind the building. It is also important to keep traffic moving in front of the building. Please don't park for any length of time. Drop your students off and have them come to the front doors.

NMS SPIRIT FUNDRAISER

Looking for that perfect North shirt for you or your student to wear to the next event at North? We have the answer for you! The Student Council and North Cheerleaders have joined to gather to meet your spirit needs. We are currently selling Viking T-Shirts, Shoe Bags, Face Tattoos, Bracelets, Dog Tags and Pom Poms. Order forms are available outside the office. Please complete the order form, enclose the cash for the items in an envelope marked for Mrs. O'Neill's attention and send it to school with your student. We will fill your order! Proceeds from the fundraiser will go towards the cheerleading fund for new uniforms and the NMS Student Council Scholarship Fund.