



PARENT NEWS

Dear Parents/Guardians:

12:00 DISMISSAL:

Please be reminded that this Friday, March 5, the students will be dismissed at 12:00 noon. No Extended Care will be provided. Please make arrangements to have your child picked up no later than 12:10 p.m. to avoid any late fees. The entire faculty will be needed to help prepare for our annual Hollywood Nights—2010, which will be held on Saturday evening at the Scottish Rite Centre.

HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS—2010:

There is still time to make a reservation to attend our Hollywood Nights—2010 gala. We guarantee it will be a night to remember. The cost is \$100 per person, which includes valet parking, a roaming buffet dinner, wine and an evening of great music and dancing. There will be wonderful silent and live auction items to bid on. We hope to see many of you there!

BELLA SCOOTER:

There are just two days left for you to purchase your tickets for the Bella Scooter raffle. Stop in and take a look at what an incredible scooter it is. It is parked in the entrance in front of the office. You can't go wrong at \$5.00 per ticket. If you want to sell tickets you will receive 100% credit for your fundraising fee for each ticket you sell. It is important that you write your child's name on the back of each ticket you sell to get fundraising fee credit. All tickets and money must be turned in by this Friday, March 5.

TOOLS FOR PEACE - CAMP ARROYO WEEKEND:

If you have completed your re-enrollment process along with submitting your re-registration fee, your child should have received an invitation letter to participate in this weekend workshop. We are so excited about the opportunity to offer this weekend to the students to help prepare for the 2010-2011 school year, utilizing the Tools for Peace curriculum. Once you receive your invitation letter, it is very important that you return it to the school office letting us know if your child will attend. If you need to complete your registration process, please do so in the school office or by setting up an appointment with Jennifer Diaz.

CLASS OF 2010 SEE'S CANDY SALE:

The grade eight students are sponsoring a Spring See's Candy Sale. Information sheets will be sent home with your child tomorrow, Thursday, March 4. They would appreciate your support in buying and selling candy. They are working hard to complete the fundraising process for their trip to Washington, D.C. This year has been a difficult year to raise money and your help throughout the year has been greatly appreciated. Please Note: Participation in this sale does not apply to your mandatory fundraising or volunteer fee amount.



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DAYS OF CHILDHOOD - RAINBOW WEEK:

We will once again hold our annual Days of Childhood - Rainbow Week beginning Monday, March 15, through Friday, March 19. Plans for Rainbow Week will be sent home next week. This is a great time for the students to express themselves in creative, fun ways and just be silly. St. Patrick's Day falls on Rainbow Week and is the highlight of the week. The Class of 2010 will host a St. Patrick's Day dance. Start planning on finding green items to pack in your child's lunch. We invite all of you to join us during Morning Circle each day to participate in the fun and games. Mark your calendars and do not miss pajama day. You can drive your child to school in your pajamas and joins us for the morning.

SPRING FUNDRAISER AND COOKIE DOUGH SALE:

Our spring fundraiser and cookie dough sale began on Friday, February 26. Information packets were sent home with your child. If you have not received your packet please check your child's backpack for the order form and information. The sale will run through Friday, March 12. Orders must be turned in with checks payable to Northern Light School by Friday, March 12. The order will be placed and delivered to Northern Light School for pick up on Tuesday, March 30, in time for spring break. Order your frozen cookie dough to make for your Passover dinner or Easter brunch. Remember every family is responsible to raise \$650 in fundraising fees for the school year.

GRADE SIX - DISCOVERY VOYAGE:

The students in grade six will be holding several fundraisers this week to help pay for their annual Discovery Voyage field trip with the Marine Science Institute. The students sail on the bay for four hours with the Marine Science Institute. They perform tests, view marine wildlife and have a true hands on experience. The cost for this experience is a total of \$600, which is a discount we were able to secure. All money raised will help bring this cost down and make the field trip fee more reasonable for the students in grade six. Today they sold Nachos at lunch. Small cheese nachos were sold for \$2, large cheese nachos were sold for \$3, and large chili and cheese nachos were sold for \$4.

Tomorrow, Thursday, March 4, we will have an extra free dress day and all the profits will go to help pay for this incredible science experience. Cost is \$2.

On Friday, March 5, get yourself and your child a hot dog to eat on your way home when you pick him or her up at 12:00. Since we have a half-day of school, noon dismissal, the students in grade six will sell HOT DOGS TO GO after school for \$2.00 each. Thanks in advance for your support.



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CLASS HAPPENINGS:

Kindergarten:

The kindergarten class reposts that there are only 91 school days remaining before Kindergarten graduation. In the area of language arts, the students are still working on long vowels. This month they will start their new and last reading workbook, "Six Ducks in a Pond."

In math the Kindergarten students will learn about money. They will learn to identify, sort, and describe the value of each coin. They will learn to count how many pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters are in \$1.00. They will learn how to compare groups using the following vocabulary: same amount, equal, more than, less than, same as, and greater than.

In the area of science, the Kindergarten students will work on a projects for the Science Fair, they will complete some projects in the classroom and decide as a class which one they will present in the Science Fair.

Grade One:

For the month of March, the grade one class will be learning how to write a letter. The students will listen to a model of a friendly letter and learn about its parts. They will identify information in the greeting, body and closing of a letter.

Grade Two:

The students are marching through their math books this March and will be learning about measurement and beginning multiplication!! They have been working hard on their narrative stories for English and soon will start their own riddle books. The students will be conducting their interviews and have their presentations for their Ancestor Project for Social Studies. The students will finish up their unit on the planets for science and move on to the physical sciences, mainly heat and light. Lots to do!

Grade Three:

Grade 3 is in "full-swing" with their "Mystory" presentations. So far they have learned some incredible information about one another's family history. Saadiya has, on her mother's side of the family, a recessive trait of freckles. Jackie, who is a strong runner, has a grandfather who was a runner also! Sharee comes from a family of artists and Alvaro's family members are great cooks. The students culminated Black History Month by performing a one-act play about famous African American Heros. They are finishing their 3rd novel about a Japanese girl who was injured in the atom bomb blast, during World War II. Concurrently, the students are preparing their opera performance about another young Japanese girl, who died because of that bomb. The theme for this opera is World Peace! This performance will be held on April 16. The field trip to the California Academy of Sciences was a great experience. Students learned so much about ocean animals and rain forests. They also attended the IMac movie about the Solar System. Next week, they will journey to the San Francisco Exploratorium to enjoy the "hands-on" science exhibits offered there. March is Famous Women's History Month, therefore students will research primarily about Eleanor Roosevelt.



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Grade Four:

Grade four is enjoying an engaging and impactful main lesson on War, Conflict and the Indomitable Human Spirit! After completing the book, "The Diary of a Young Girl" by Anne Frank, they have been keeping their own diaries of their ideas and perspectives while they have been studying the World Wars I and II and the wars in the Middle East, and reading "Journey To Topaz" and "Three Cups of Tea." As part of their main lesson studies, grade four has begun participating in Model United Nations, as part of a hands-on unit understanding global relations. Each student is a diplomat who represents his or her chosen country, and learns about the politics, economics, and customs of their people. Each week, the "diplomats" are presented a topic and a problem, analyze their country's perspective, and establish a stance. This week's topic is "Haiti: Helping the Crisis," and the problem is "Haitian Orphans." Diplomats represent the countries of Algeria, Bahrain, Bhutan, Cyprus, Dominica, Ethiopia, Fiji, Malawi, Nepal, Romania, Samoa, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Vanuatu. Diplomats work together to decide on a common stance and solution to the problem. In their Tibetan language classes, grade four is mastering greetings, salutations, and introductions. Beginning the second week of March, they will work on writing the alphabet in the traditional U-Chan script. In orchestra, the sounds of stringed instruments fill the classroom as the students are learning to read sheet music, sing in harmony, and play their violins and cellos. In Tools For Peace, the second and third installments of The Shi-tro Mandala Project have commenced and can be seen in-progress daily and after school.

Grade Five:

In March, the grade five students are working on finishing their research reports on early American explorers. The students are participating in computer mini-lessons to help learn the skills for typing their reports. The grade five students are also studying the French and Dutch explorers this month and the beginning of Colonial America. To supplement the explorers unit, the students are studying world geography and can now put 56 countries and bodies of water on the map. In writing, the students finished their essays on what they would do if they were President. In grammar, the students are continuing their study of possessives and all eight parts of speech. The students are continuing to practice a play on the Greensboro sit-ins and hope to be ready to perform this drama production during the month of March.

Grade Six:

During the month of March, the grade six students will begin their environmental detectives unit. The students will explore the mystery of the dead fish that washed up on the shores of Gray Bay through hands-on laboratory investigations. In science they will also be learning about Earth's landmasses and its core. In math they will be working with integers. They will start a new class novel, Stones In Water, by Donna Jo Napoli. The story follows the friendship of two young Italian boys during World War II.



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Grade Seven:

Stressing setting, plot development, characterization, and irony, the seventh grade will continue to explore great African American writers and contemporary African literature. We will also continue to explore the geography of Africa. Our study of Jack London's *White Fang* will highlight the third quarter. In American History, the seventh and eighth grades will continue to examine World War II—Pearl Harbor, the final solution, 20th Century dictators, fighting a two-front war, D-Day, scientists and the Atomic Bomb, Victory over Germany and Japan, the beginning of the Cold War, and Korea.

In English, the seventh grade will continue its study of direct and indirect objects, predicate adjectives, predicate nominatives, appositives, using verbs and modifiers correctly, and paragraph development. We will also stress paragraph coherence and unity and composition writing. Finally, we will study tall tales and the creative writing of tall tales. Students will also take spelling and vocabulary tests.

Grade Eight:

The eighth grade students will be doing in depth research papers on sites they will be visiting while on their trip to Washington, D.C. They are scheduled to leave for Washington on Sunday, April 18. Michelle Lewis wants them to be familiar with the history behind the memorials, monuments, libraries and museums that they will be visiting.

Spanish:

During the month of March, the Upper School students will continue to focus on present tense verb conjugations, as well as adding to their vocabulary names of animals, places, and family members. The Lower School students will focus on vocabulary and common phrases in Spanish. All grades will learn about the histories and cultures of a variety of countries in Latin America.

Lower School Math and Science:

Grade three math – Now that students have completed their work on the multiplication tables, they will be moving on to more difficult multiplication and division work.

Grade three science – As the students finish their unit on light and energy, they will be moving on to a unit about clouds and storms and trying to understand the water cycle and our place in the local watershed.

Grade four math – In March, the grade four students will be wrapping up their work with long division and moving forward to work with fractions and decimals.

Grade four science – After a vote in class, the grade four students have chosen to do their next unit on the human body and the various internal systems that perpetuate life.



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Grade five math – The students will be wrapping up a long unit on number theory and using that to launch into a unit on fractions.

Grade five science – The grade five students are beginning a series of lessons on weather and weather prediction.

Upper School Math and Science:

Grade seven math students are working on exponents. This includes adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing exponents. They will then apply their skills to scientific notations.

Grade seven science – students are exploring the digestive systems. This includes the components and what a healthy diet would be.

Grade eight math – students are learning to find intersections. This includes algebraically and graphically. They will be working exclusively with linear equations.

Grade eight science – students are continuing to work on designing and prepping model rockets. They are also continuing the study of motion.

Reminder – MANDATORY SUMMER SCHOOL REDUCED TUITION:

Mandatory summer school letters have been sent home with your child as well as by mail. If you have received a mandatory summer school letter it is important that you enroll your child as soon as possible. There are a limited number of sliding scale tuition slots available. If you qualified for sliding scale for the 2009–2010 school year and would like to take advantage of reduced tuition for the summer session, please contact Nance Tovar by email or phone as soon as possible.



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Reminder – IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ – PRIVATE SCHOOL AID SERVICE:

We are aware that we have included this information in all our recent newsletters and will continue to include it. Due to the economy, like all other non-profit organizations we have seen a drop in donations. Because of this we had to limit sliding scale giving this past year and expect it to be just as tight for the 2010–2011 school year. All families who qualified for a reduced tuition for the 2009–2010 school year are not guaranteed a space. Families must reapply for consideration for sliding scale tuition each year. If you benefited from sliding scale tuition this year and would like to be considered for the 2010–2011 school year, you must complete the application process. Please note that we are adhering to the March 31, 2010 deadline for returning families to submit their forms to PSAS. Families who do not meet the deadline of March 31, 2010 will not be considered for reduced tuition. Please contact Jennifer Diaz if you have questions regarding this policy.

Application forms for sliding scale reductions have arrived and are in the school office for you to pick up, fill out and return to the PSAS before the March 31, 2010 deadline. No one will be awarded a reduced tuition without the completion of the application.