



A NATIONAL SCHOOL
of
EXCELLENCE

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The Principal's Report

Nellie Sizemore

The New Year is an exciting time to be back in school. Students and teachers are delighted with memories of their holiday family celebrations and ready for a nice long stretch of learning. I am thankful to have our students safely back from their holiday vacation.

Coming up at the end of this month is our Northern Hills Open House. This year's theme, *Olympics ~ "Gathering Olympic Goals"* will give our students an opportunity to focus on their goals ~ with learning being foremost in our minds. Open House is an evening for parents to experience the Northern Hills learning atmosphere. Parents are invited to visit, not only their child's classroom, but to journey throughout the building, visiting other areas of the building. Parents of younger students will get a glimpse of what is in store for their children, while parents of older students will revisit memories of learning paths their children have traveled.

Each family will be given an itinerary as you enter the building, designed to move families through the building so traffic jams will be minimized. The itinerary is your ticket through the hallways and classrooms. Fourth grade ambassadors will be stationed throughout the building to stamp your itinerary.

Housed in the cafeteria, you will find our fifth grade Science Showcase along with character spotlights of Great Olympians portrayed by our fifth grade students. Parents will learn about lives of these athletes when they bring them to life by pushing their activation buttons.

Our PE teachers have designed activities in the gym that will allow parents and students to participate in physical challenges; and performing in the foyer during the evening will be groups of students and individual students from our music classes.

Look for a letter detailing teacher locations and times for Open House next week.

Other important dates to watch for are Group Pictures on January 11th, Student Holiday on January 16th, and Report Card Day on January 19th.

I also want to give you a quick reminder of state mandated testing dates. Fifth grade writing test is scheduled for February 22nd. Third, fourth and fifth grade Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests will be given on the week of April 10-13. The state requires that students of these grade levels be tested. Please do not make appointments or plans for trips on these days. Kindergarten, first and second grades will take the end of year Basic Early Assessment of Reading the last week of April or the first week of May.

