

NORTHERN HILLS ELEMENTARY

PAW PRINTS

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The Principal's Report

By Nellie Sizemore

The icy end of January caused a number of schedule changes at Northern Hills. We've now had five days out of school because of weather. With three days built into the calendar, we are required to make up the other two days. February 15th, scheduled to be a school holiday for children and professional development day for teachers, will now be a regular school day. The last day of school has been extended to May 28th. Please note these changes and make your plans accordingly.

Thank you for supporting Northern Hills and your children by the wonderful attendance at our twice rescheduled Open House. I know your children very much enjoyed showing you their classrooms and sharing our school with you. Thank you to the parents who served the teachers a nice salad supper between school and Open House hours. We had many parents who juggled their time to man the annual Book Fair located in the cafeteria as well as visiting classrooms. Book Fair is always an exciting and important event at Northern Hills.

Our Change for Haiti drive was very successful, raising over five times our initial goal. The children were proud to be able to bring in their pocket change each day to help other children who are in such unfortunate circumstances. Thank you for instilling such giving spirits in them.

I want to congratulate the 4th and 5th grade students who participated in the spelling bee. Spelling Bee has been a long tradition at Northern Hills. Beginning last year the National Spelling Bee format changed so that it is now offered only to fourth and fifth grade students, who compete against each other in the final round at the school. Students are also preparing for the annual Geography Bee.

Thank you to parents who have put names into children's coats. Just today I was delighted to return two coats from the Lost and Found to their owners. The Lost and Found

has been located on a hanging rack outside the cafeteria door. Small items (glasses, jewelry, keys, etc.) are kept in the office.

In February we enjoy a long stretch of uninterrupted learning time. Mrs. Workman and our fourth grade are working hard in preparation for their presentation of their musical program on February 25th, hoping to be able to make up for those four lost days of practice time. This is also a time our third, fourth and fifth grade teachers are concentrating on teaching the material that

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What's Up with the Pups

Feb 8 - 12	Cognitive Tests 2 nd Grade
Feb 9	PTO Meeting 8:45am
Feb 12	Valentines Parties
Feb 15	NO Holiday; Makeup School Day
Feb 24	5 th Grade OCCT Writing Test
Feb 25	4 th Grade Program 7:00
Mar 5	Bingo Night
	Box Top Collection Day
Mar 9	PTO Meeting 7:00pm
Mar 10	Spring Pictures Pre-K, K, 2 & 4 th
Mar 11	Spring Pictures 1 st , 3 rd , 5 th
Mar 15 - 19	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
Mar 26	End of 9 Weeks
Mar 31	Kindergarten Enrollment
April 1	Kindergarten Enrollment
April 2	Report Card Day
	Box Top Collection Day
April 6	PTO Meeting 8:45am



Principal's Report Cont'd

children will be responsible for when they take the Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests in April. Fifth grade students will begin by taking the OCCT Writing test on February 24th. Second graders will take the Cognitive Abilities Test the week of February 8th.

Remember to reserve the week of April 12-16 for 3rd, 4th & 5th grade OCCT testing. Please do not schedule absences for your child during this time. The state requires that each child be tested. If you are interested in helping during testing week by being a test monitor please contact Mrs. Hill. A test monitor must be present at all times when teachers are administering the tests.

Reminder: The other morning I noticed a parent letting her child out in the outer loop of the parking lot, making it necessary for him to cross between the cars dropping kids off in the inner lane. I want to stress the danger of letting children out in the parking lot or having them cross the street at this busy time. Please always let your children out at the curb. The extra couple of minutes it may take are unimportant when compared with the safety of your children. Please also remember that parents must always enter through the new lobby doors under the arch during the school day. District security measures dictate that you must sign in and wear a visitors' sticker at all times when in the building.

I know the news has been full of reports about state funding shortfalls and budget woes of school districts in Oklahoma. Looking forward to the next few years, we can expect budget cuts. We have been fortunate in past years to have our wants met as well as our needs. Northern Hills is blessed with an abundance of quality teaching tools, thanks in large part to the generosity of our Parent Teacher Organization. We will continue to offer your children the high quality educational program that is the standard at Northern Hills ~ perhaps leaving out some of the "frills" but still taking care of the needs.

Thank you for sending us wonderful children with which to work.

Nellie Sizemore, Principal



FYI - - Important Phone Numbers

Northern Hills Office	340-2975
Northern Hills Fax	330-3348
Board of Education	340-2800
Transportation	340-2962
School Nurse	715-6127
Sequoyah Middle School	340-2900
Edmond North High School	340-2875

School Updates

PTO President's Report

The flurry of activity at Northern Hills is certainly helping beat the winter doldrums! Between the loose change drive for Haiti, the pajama and book drive, and the upcoming Family Bingo Night, there are all sorts of ways for families to get involved at our school and in the world. Add to that the recent Open House and Book Fair, and we have had quite a busy winter. Thanks to all our families for supporting these efforts.

Watch for more information to come home about Bingo Night to be held March 5. After our first successful Bingo Night last year, we are looking to improve the event in year two. We will be spreading the bingo night activities throughout the building to make room for all Northern Hills families to attend. Mark your calendars now! And, remember that the proceeds from this event will go toward purchase of a new sound system for the cafeteria. This will benefit our children's programs as well as future family events like bingo night! The sound systems are quite expensive, and it will take funds from several fundraising events to purchase. What a wonderful goal that we will all ultimately enjoy. Please come to **Family Bingo Night March 5!**

In February, the PTO will also be sending home an **expenditure ballot** for approval by parents. Our fundraising efforts were successful in the fall, and the school's administration and faculty are now working with the PTO board to determine how best to utilize those profits to make Northern Hills an even better place to learn. Please watch for this ballot to come home in your child's backpack!

Our **PTO meeting** this month will be held February 9 at 8:45 am. Our next **PTO meeting** will be March 9 at 7:00 pm. All are invited.

Shelly Duke, PTO President

Counselor's Corner

Dear Parents,

This is another very important month! We will have some testing this month. The fifth grade classes will take the writing test on the 24th. Second grade will begin their testing on the 8th and continue through the 12th. It is extremely important for your children to get into bed early for a good night's rest. Also, it is helpful to continue eating healthy foods, limiting pop, candy and sugar from their diets. Make sure your children are dressed appropriately for this cold winter weather. Your continued good habits will help your children with their testing, especially those warm filling breakfast meals.

February's guidance lessons will be honoring Black History Month. I will read one of my favorite books, *On the Other Side* and other books to celebrate this special month. Also various Valentines books will also be read.

Stay Warm!

Mrs. Hill

School Announcements

TEST MONITORS NEEDED!!!

Dear Parents,

We are in need of test monitors for the 5th Grade Writing Test on February 24th. Monitors are needed in the mornings, we need for you to be able to be here the full time allotted. 8:30-12:00.

If you are able to be a test monitor, please stop by the office and let Tracy Hill, our counselor, know, or call 715-6716.

We appreciate everything our parents do for us!

Help Northern Hills Recycle!

You can't miss the big green and yellow Abitibi recycling container that sits on the corner by the school. Please remember that you are welcome to use it for your paper items. We can't recycle plastic, glass or cardboard here. Copy paper, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, non-confidential mail, junk mail can all be placed in here instead of in your home garbage carts. Although we get a very small check from time-to-time from the recycling company (usually under \$20), we want to teach the children the value of recycling and of taking care of our earth. Retired second grade teacher, Mrs. Bartley and Mrs. Dahl have taken on the responsibility of supervising students as they empty our classroom recycling boxes. At home I put my recyclable paper in a shopping bag and bring it to school when it is full.

"SNOW" Time Better To Read!

In February we will kick off a school-wide reading challenge! It will go from Feb. 1-Feb. 26th. Students will be challenged to read 100 minutes a week for four weeks at home and keep a log of their time which will be provided by their teacher. If they meet their goal of 400 hundred minutes of at-home reading in February, they will be invited to wear their pajamas to school on Feb. 26th for our Northern Hills Pajama Party! They will come with their class to the library where Mrs. Sizemore and Mrs. Cowden-Draper will read to your children as they enjoy a nice warm cup of hot chocolate with marshmallows! Yummy! To correlate with our challenge, our Community Outreach Committee is coordinating a Pajama and Book Donation Drive from Feb. 16-26. More details on both our reading challenge and donation drive to come in your child's backpack soon!!

It's **PARTY TIME** for the *Husky Pups!*
Valentine Parties will be on **February 12th**

at the following times:

AM pre-K and AM Kindergarten 10:15-10:45

PM pre-K, PM Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades all at 2:15-2:45

3rd, 4th, and 5th grades 1:30-2:00

You can check the Northern Hills PTO website

www.northernhillsppto.net to see class party sign up info.

Homeroom parents will be contacting those who have signed up as well.

Please make note of these changes/additions in your directory:

New listing:

Samble, Brooklyn (2 - Towles) 285-2187 (home)

Kim Johnson & Cory Samble 596-2102 (m-c)

2512 Brookdale Ave.

596-1907 (d-c)

Edmond, OK 73034, EdmondRV@coxinet.net

Phone number change:

Petersen, Drew & Ethan 285-058

ENHS Spring Production:

Singin' in the Rain - the 1952 Gene Kelly/Donald O'Connor/Debbie Reynolds movie made to musical will be presented by Edmond North High School on March 4, 5, 6, 2010. Three former Northern Hills students take on the leading roles in the production. Jacob Chancellor as Don Lockwood, Cliff Synar - Cosmo Brown, and Anna Searcey as Kathy Selden, as well as many other high school students, will sing and dance to such familiar songs as *Good Morning*, *Make 'em Laugh*, and *Singin' in the Rain*. Log on to enhsmusicals.com for ticket information.

Committee News

Dear NH Families,

We are getting **SUPER** excited for **Family Bingo Night**, which will be here, Friday, March 5, from 5:30 to 8:30. There are a few important things you should know before that big night arrives. First, there will be **NO CREDIT CARDS** at Bingo Night. Cash and check will be the only accepted form of payment. Secondly, if you buy your tickets by March 2, they will be \$5 per person, and will be \$8 thereafter. Each ticket will provide all-you-can-eat chili and/or hotdogs, drink, and one bingo card (extra cards available for \$1). Homeroom parents will be contacting parents in each class to get volunteers to bring the chili and hotdogs. PreK through 2nd grade will bring chili (recipe will be provided) and 3rd through 5th will bring hotdogs. Next, this year, dinner will be served in the cafeteria, auction and raffle items will be located in the main hallway, and bingo will be played in the gym. Last year the turnout for Bingo Night was incredible with around 500 people in attendance, so we hope this new layout will accommodate even more people this year. Finally, we still need several items to make our raffle and auction complete. Below is a "wish list" of items. If you are willing and able to purchase and donate any of these items, please contact the Bingo committee chairs.

Jennie Allen 816.9394 or Tammie Brown 659.9464 or
Lindsey Sherrer 315.7435

WISH LIST:

- Frontier City/White Water/ or Pelican Bay season pass
- Wii games
- iPod Nano
- Spa/salon package
- Edmond North or Sequoyah items
- Sporting event tickets
- Webkinz
- Bricktown gift cards
- Bicycle
- Girls and women's jewelry

- CLASS BASKETS for BINGO NIGHT -

Now is the time to bring items for your class' basket for the Bingo Night auction. Tubs are located in each classroom. Contact your homeroom parent with questions.

Jones a.m. Death by Chocolate
Jones p.m. Bedtime Stories
Specht Garden Delight

Owens a.m. It's All Fun and Games
Owens p.m. Fitness
Peck a.m. Family Game Night
Peck p.m. Family Game Night
Woods OKC Thunder

Anderson Cook's Delight
Evans Crafts
Foreman Sweet Dreams
Sadeghy Crafts
Stanberry Game Night

Bolding Backyard BBQ
Dillon OU/OSU "A Class Divided"
Powell Fall
Towles Car Care
Williams Extreme Sports

Ballinger Family Game Night
Bolding Family Game Night
Fields BBQ
Ritterhouse Kids Night Out (gift cards)
Kysar Gift cards
Weber Camping

Boswell Big Catch (fishing)
Cantu Books
Davis Go Green (Eco Friendly)
Huffty All About Sports
Krakowski Beach Blanket Bingo
Shirley Spring Fling

Edelen Bake Me a Treat
Harris Coffee
Henry Cooking class
McVay Home Scents (candles)
Riggs Tea Time

More Committee News

Yearbook NEEDS Pictures!!

We need your funny, cute, group, field trip, holiday party, special project pictures to make this year's yearbook EXTRA SPECIAL. Please upload them to: <http://images.jostens.com/>

user id : 400028917

pswd: 13296

You can also email them to yearbook staff at yearbook@northernhillspato.net
Special Thanks! Yearbook staff

CAN YOU THINK OF ANYTHING BETTER THAN COZY NEW PAJAMAS AND A GOOD BOOK?

Northern Hills is showing our love and kindness in the month of February by having a pajama, book, and sock drive for our local Pauline Meyer Children's Shelter. Most all of these children are not fortunate enough to have pajamas, books, and socks of their own. We will be collecting these items February 16 through the 26th. They are in great need of new pajamas size 6 through 20, and new or gently used books for reading levels 4th grade and up. Socks of ALL sizes are needed. Please help us show our local community support by donating any or all of these items. Thanks for your help!!

~ Northern Hills Fundraising ~

Otis Spunkmeyer is back.

Cookie Dough Sales will run January 29 - February 12

Pick up date will be the week after Spring Break.

In Conclusion ...

Reader's reminder; membership in Northern Hills PTO consists of the parents or guardians of children enrolled and attending Northern Hills and all administrators and teachers on the school's faculty.

The parent board meets once each month to discuss and recommend fund raising projects, special programs and school activities. Meetings are open to all. Please check the PTO website (<http://www.northernhillspato.net/>) or contact the school office for the time and location of any month's meeting.

Many special activities, events and projects are supported and sponsored by our Parent Teacher Organization. Some of our committees include: Back to School Night, Fall Fun Fest, Game Day, Book Fair, Newsletter, Children's Holiday Store, Family Bingo Night, Classroom Parties (three each year), Safety Patrol, Meet the Masters, and Student Directory.

As you can see, there are many activities sponsored by the PTO for the benefit of our children and our school. We so welcome your participation ~ come join the fun! ☺