

# NORTHERN HILLS ELEMENTARY

## PAW PRINTS

901 East Wayne Street, Edmond, OK 73034-5136

(405) 340-2975 Office, (405) 330-3348 Fax

[www.edmond.k12.ok.us/northern\\_hills](http://www.edmond.k12.ok.us/northern_hills)

[www.northernhillspsto.net](http://www.northernhillspsto.net)

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A National School  
of Excellence

### The Principal's Report

By Nellie Sizemore

February has been another busy month. Students enjoyed Valentine parties and teachers loved the delicious Valentine treats provided by PTO's hospitality committee. Fifth grade students worked hard on the important state mandated writing tests. I continue to be very impressed with the depth of thought that shows in our fifth graders' writing and applaud our fabulous teachers throughout all the grades who help them learn to organize thoughts for writing and challenge them to high level thinking. Our second grade teachers administered the district's Cognitive Abilities Test in February also.

Our fourth grade students taught us a little history with their music program, *Goin' West*. Thank you to the parents who worked on the stage and costumes. Even though several days were lost due to snow and ice, Mrs. Workman and our kids did a beautiful job.

BINGO Night was a great success and was enjoyed by over 500 students, parents and teachers. Thank you to all the hardworking parents who planned and organized such a delightful night, and to our wonderful teachers who came to help. Proceeds from this fun family night and fundraiser will go towards a much needed upgrade of the sound system in the cafeteria.

Our reading incentive, *Snow Better Time to Read*, was coupled with a pajama drive for an emergency children's shelter. Students donated 115 pairs of pajamas, 92 books and 128 pairs of socks. The month ended with a great pajama day at school in which Mrs. Cowden Draper and I treated the kids to a special reading time and hot chocolate.

Our much awaited Spring Break will be March 15-19. The end of the nine week period will be March 26<sup>th</sup>, with report cards coming home on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Parent input sheets for next year's class placement will be available in the office on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and must be returned by March 29<sup>th</sup>. Although we do not honor requests for specific teachers, we do read your input carefully when making class placements.

Kindergarten Pre-Enrollment will be March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>, with the application period for Pre-Kindergarten running from April 19<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup>.

Due to school days missed because of icy weather, the Oklahoma State Department of Education has extended the testing window. Our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade state mandated Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests will administered the last two weeks of April. We have scheduled tests at Northern Hills for April 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, & 28<sup>th</sup>. Watch for a brochure to come home with specific dates and times for grade levels. Please do not schedule absences for your child during this time. Children need to get plenty of rest, eat a good nutritious breakfast and arrive at school on time. Students arriving after the 9:00 test starting time will not be allowed to go to the classroom until the class has completed testing. Under State and Federal regulations (No Child Left Behind) we are required to test each child.

The last day of school for students is now May 28<sup>th</sup>. Please look for notices of fifth grade activities coming up later in the spring.

Thank you to all the Northern Hills parents for your continued support of and interest in our school.  
- Nellie Sizemore, Principal

### What's Up with the Pups

March 9	PTO Meeting 7:00pm
March 10	Spring Pictures PreK, K, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup>
March 11	Spring Pictures 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup>
Mar 15-19	<b>NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK</b>
March 26	End of 9 weeks
March 31	Kindergarten Pre-Enrollment
April 1	Kindergarten Pre-Enrollment
April 2	Report Card Day
April 2	Box Top Collection Day
April 6	PTO Meeting 8:45am
April 19	Pre-K Application Period Begins



## Counselor's Corner

Dear Parents and Students,

Can you believe Spring Break is around the corner? I do believe each year goes by faster than the one before. Enjoy your time together during the break and rest. Come back ready to continue the year learning and preparing for the transition to the next grade. Our teachers keep their students learning up to the last day of school!

- Our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests the last two weeks of April; due to school days missed because of icy weather, the Oklahoma State Department of Education has extended the testing window.
- Test taking tips in next month's newsletter.
- With Spring Break in mind, I thought I would list some safety tips you could go over with your child/children.

### Safety Tips for Young Children

Memorize your name and address, including city and state, and phone number including area code.

Children should not tell their name or address to a stranger or wear clothing with their name displayed.

Parents and school officials should help children recognize who trusted adults are and safe homes in their neighborhoods.

Students who walk to school should have a friend with them. Go over safety rules concerning traffic. Never get close or into a stranger's car. (A stranger is someone we do not know) Go over your trusted adult list with your child/children.

Children have a right not to let anyone touch them in a way they do not like. They should say "no" and tell an adult they trust.

Children needing help should know that grownups needing help should not ask children for help; grownups should ask other adults for help.

Children should cross the streets with supervision, at corners, and where a crossing guard is present.

Have a safe and wonderful Spring Break!

Mrs. Hill M.Ed.

## PTO President's Report

Thank you parents for supporting **Family Bingo Night!** It was a great success and a much-needed fundraiser for a new sound system for Northern Hills. It is amazing what we can do when we work together! I would like to thank our Bingo Night chairs Jennie Allen, Lindsey Sherrer, and Tammie Brown for all their hard work. They had countless people helping them, and I thank each of you as well. We are getting closer to having enough money to improve the sound system for events at Northern Hills... and we had a lot of fun, too!

### Expenditure Ballot

Thank you for voting to approve the February expenditure ballot. The state's budget woes will continue to affect the amount of money that Northern Hills has to educate our children, so these three items were identified as vital to continuing the first-rate education at Northern Hills. The staff and PTO appreciate your support as we make tough decisions about how to spend money. As part of a technology fund that the PTO set aside in recent years, we have also ordered 3 more Smartboards for classrooms at Northern Hills. These boards are wonderful teaching tools, and we look forward to receiving those and installing them to give students in 3 more rooms access to technology at their fingertips!

### 2010-2011 PTO Committees

Also, it is time to start thinking about what role you can play as a PTO volunteer for the 2010-11 school year. Committee chair descriptions will be available soon on our PTO website. We will not send home these forms in the children's backpacks this year in an effort to cut paper costs. Please visit [www.northernhillspto.net](http://www.northernhillspto.net) and click "Chairs", then "View Board Profiles" for descriptions of the different volunteer opportunities. On this page, you will also find a link to print and complete a committee chair sign-up sheet. Please return this form listing which committees you are interested in helping chair. Slating for these committee chair positions will take place in April.

Have a fun and safe spring break! We are all thankful for that time to rest and recharge before the spring testing and end-of-year rush begins! Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about PTO.

Shelly Duke  
[president@northernhillspto.net](mailto:president@northernhillspto.net)



## School Announcements



- The 3rd Grade Land Run has been changed to April 30<sup>th</sup> -  
The 3rd grade teachers will notify their parents.

*We had three winners in the Edmond North High School "Singing in the Rain" coloring contest.  
Congratulations to these students!*

Hannah Hartzog in Mr. Riggs' class - Honorable Mention

Laura Smith in Mr. Riggs' class - Honorable Mention

**Riley Hobson in Mrs. Weber's class - Grand Prize winner!**

### BINGO NIGHT A HUGE SUCCESS!!

What a great night & a huge success for Northern Hills!! Before the night even started we had over 500 people signed up to attend. We'll have some final numbers for you later, but for now, we really want to thank to some key players. First, Linda, Jennie, & Kathy, gurus of the school office & all-around nice ladies, were so helpful & tolerant of all our needs! Mrs. Sizemore & Mrs. Cowden-Draper were also helpful with anything we needed. Mrs. Cowden-Draper called a little bingo in the gym, & Mrs. Sizemore hung around & helped us clean up. How fortunate we are to have such worker bees running our front office and school!!! We had so many teachers sign up to serve food that we didn't have to elicit help from any parents. What extraordinary teachers who are so willing to lend a hand even beyond their main duties. Next, the homeroom/classroom parents did such a superb job putting together the baskets. The themes & designs were so creative & everyone loved seeing them. We must thank Jill Smith who coordinated all of the class/teacher parties, & Heather Hawks & Meredith Exline for watching over the auction. Jane Douglass did a bang up job making sure bingo games were running smoothly. Elizabeth Barnes was a last minute hero & we couldn't have done it without her. Some others that came in big were JT Reich, Jackson Gorham, Luca Coker, Parker Tumelson, & Colton James with their donation of the Frontier City season pass. Thanks to all of you & so many more.

Jennie Allen, Tammie Brown, & Lindsey Sherrer

### Baim's Book Bag

Northern Hills students and teachers have two Spring events to look forward to from the media center. The first is a district-funded visit from the author Claudia Mills. Mrs. Mills is the author of the Sequoyah nominee, Being Teddy Roosevelt. She will be speaking to second through fifth grade students on Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Students will have an opportunity to purchase a book to be autographed the day of her visit. The order forms will go out in the coming weeks and will be due back in the media center by March 30<sup>th</sup>.

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, we will entertain a visit from David Titus, the "string man". Mr. Titus is an author and professional storyteller using string figures as his method of captivating his audiences. Children delight in learning the string figures to tell stories. Mr. Titus is waiving the standard school presentation fee in light of the economic crunch that schools are currently experiencing. We will purchase a large bag of strings so that each student will have a string to practice with. In addition, we will be selling three of his string figure storytelling books (\$5.00 ea.) and children will be allowed to purchase additional colored string for 50 cents a piece. Look for a flyer to come out before his visit.

We all enjoyed books read aloud by Mrs. Sizemore and Mrs. Cowan-Draper on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> followed by hot chocolate with marshmallows as we celebrated "Snow Better Time to Read". Thanks to all of you parents who keep encouraging your children to read twenty minutes a night. A special thanks to the Moms who served hot chocolate to more than seven hundred students and teachers. They were: Andrea Norris, Tammy Herring, Kelly Morales, Heather Hawks, Elizabeth Barnes, Shelly Duke, Cindy Reich, and Jill Smith.

Finally, just around the corner is the date that all of our library books will be due in the library. That date is **Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**.

Happy Spring Reading,  
Mrs. Baim  
Your Child's Librarian

## Committee News

### COOKIE DOUGH UPDATE:

Cookie Dough orders have been placed and will be delivered Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> so please make arrangements to pick up your child's order after school. We will have several extra tubs so if you did not get a chance to order your favorite cookies, please contact Kristin Egan @202-2796 and reserve yours now. Thank you for supporting our wonderful school!!!

### Back by popular demand...online YEARBOOK ordering!

Get your yearbook for \$18!  
Personalization is no longer an option.  
Deadline for online ordering is April 30th.  
Please go to [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com) to order your yearbook!  
Yearbooks will be \$25 beginning May 1st.  
Thanks,  
The Yearbook Staff

### Meet the Masters Update

On February 18th Danny Gordon visited the 3rd grade classes all day. Each class learned about seeing shapes and lines as they drew different pictures with Danny. Danny is an Oklahoma author and Illustrator. You can learn more about Danny at [www.dannysdoggies.com](http://www.dannysdoggies.com)

The fourth grade clay project is fast approaching. The date is Wednesday March 10th. Volunteers are needed for each class. A volunteer note with your child's class time will come home. Please volunteer if you can and return to your child's teacher.

**Meet the Master volunteers:** Thank you for all your wonderful work so far this year. Every class should have two artists done. Thank you for letting us know when you need supplies. If you see a need, email [meetthemasters@northernhillspato.net](mailto:meetthemasters@northernhillspato.net). Great job of adding new and exciting projects and artist information to the art notebooks. Remember if you find something great please feel free to add it. Remember to leave the notebooks at school and write when and what artist your class is doing on the calendar. The Spring Art Show will be put up the first week of May.

Thanks again for all your hard work and enthusiasm.

Beth Olson and Carmen Hancuff

### Happy Spring from the Hospitality Committee!!

We hope March is a great time for all our Northern Hills families! We wanted to let you know what is going on this month with hospitality. We are hosting a luncheon for the teachers on Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> right before everyone gets out for Spring Break! It will be a fun beach theme to get the staff in the mood for warmer weather. We have a super yummy menu and decorations planned! We hope everyone has a great Spring Break and we will catch you up on the latest for Teacher Appreciation week next month. We are starting preparations and it will be a great time to celebrate our fabulous Northern Hills teachers!

Traci Spencer and Meredith Exline

### Wanted: Parent Photographers

If you have some cute or interesting snaps of your children in a classroom activity or from bingo night, please send them to [publicity@northernhillspato.net](mailto:publicity@northernhillspato.net). Please include a full description of the activity and full names and ages of each person in the photo. Your pictures may be forwarded to local newspapers and shared with the Northern Hills yearbook.

### **BOXTOPS! BOXTOPS! BOXTOPS!**

Congratulations to Mrs. Williams class! They won the neatest trimmed **Boxtops** contest. Also, Mrs. Dillon's class won the most turned in Boxtops for February! Great job 2<sup>nd</sup> graders!! Our next pick up date is April 2, 2010. Keep up the great work and save those Boxtops!!!

### **BOXTOPS! BOXTOPS! BOXTOPS!**

