

NORTHERN HILLS ELEMENTARY

PAW PRINTS

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A National School
Of
Excellence

The Principal's Report

By Nellie Sizemore

April has quickly flown with testing and more testing, second grade program, third grade Land Run reenactment, and many other wonderful and fun learning activities.

I want to add my thanks to all of the parents who have volunteered in so many ways this year to help make Northern Hills an excellent place for children. You have helped in the media center, in classrooms, in the office, with Meet the Masters, in the work room, with costumes and stage décor for programs, with fundraising, and many, many other ways at Northern Hills ~ including raising funds to make many things happen that would otherwise not be possible.

The first year in our new areas has been delightful, sprinkled with a few minor wrinkles that we've had to iron out. My next projects are painting of old areas and renovation of some of the old spaces. Although I anticipate painting this summer, I don't know at what point the renovation will take place.

I have requested Board approval for adding a daycare program at Northern Hills beginning in August. The daycare will be available for one hour before school and three hours after only on school days, and will be run by a certified director and assistants. I am excited to be able to offer this program for our students and parents. How nice for the children to not have to get on a daycare bus every day. Enrollment will be limited. Watch for enrollment information and daycare prices to come home in student report cards.

Information Day next year will be August 17th from 8:30 to 12:00, with the first day of school being Thursday, August 19th. We will have instructions for you on Information Day concerning the plan for safe drop-off and pick-up procedures.

With May comes the end of the school year activities. New kindergarten parents are invited for a tour of the school on May 3rd from 4 to 4:30 p.m. We'll be having a special author visit on May 6th. First grade students will delight their parents with their Spring Sing program at 9:45 on May 7th. David Titus String Artist will be here on May 12th, Game Days (no longer on the field) will be in the gym on May 13th and 14th. End of school grade-level picnics in the park have been scheduled.

Fifth grade students will be very busy preparing to leave us to go to middle school. A schedule of their end of the year activities

has been sent home. Fifth Grade Farewell is scheduled for May 21st, at 1:45 p.m. We enjoy this opportunity to honor our fifth grade students who are leaving us for middle school.

We will be sad to see four of our long-time teachers leave this spring. Mrs. Baim, Mrs. Bolding, Mrs. Towles and Mrs. Dillion will be enjoying new adventures in retirement ~ loving those grandchildren! We wish them the best and look forward to their coming back to visit their Northern Hills family.

The last day of school is May 28th. Report cards will be handed out at the end of that day.

(continued on page 2)

What's Up with the Pups

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| May 3-7 | Teacher Appreciation Week |
| May 3 | Kindergarten Parents School Tour |
| May 4 | 5 th Grade Growth & Development |
| May 5 | 5 th Grade HIV/Aids Awareness |
| May 6 | Author Claudia Mills Visits |
| May 7 | 1 st Grade Spring Sing |
| | Box Top Collection Day |
| May 10 | Sequoyah Parent Night |
| May 10-14 | Nurses Appreciation Week |
| May 11 | PTO Meeting 7:00pm |
| May 12 | String Artist David Titus Visits |
| | 5 th Gr enrollment packets given |
| May 13 | Game Day in Gym |
| May 14 | Game Day in Gym |
| | All library books/accounts are due |
| May 18 | Last day to settle lunch accounts |
| May 19 | 5 th Grade visit to Sequoyah |
| May 21 | 5 th Grade Farewell |
| May 28 | Last Day of School |



Principal's Report Cont'd

Children who leave early will need to bring a self-address, stamped envelope so that we can mail their report card. The school office will be open through Thursday, June 10th.

Please check the Lost & Found one more time. If your child takes a medication at school it needs to be picked up no later than June 4th. Unclaimed items will soon be gone forever.

Have a safe and happy summer with your families. We look forward to working with you and your children in 2010-2011 at Northern Hills.

Nellie Sizemore, Principal

Counselor's Corner

Dear Northern Hills' Families,

Wow! The end of the school year is here. However, May is a very busy month full of activities and learning right up to last day. For the month of May my guidance lessons will be on Summer Safety. Fifth graders will work on combination locks in preparation for those lockers next year! If your child is not going to Sequoyah Middle School, please let me know so I can provide you with the information you need for visitation and provide you with an enrollment packet. You may also contact the school your child will be attending. We will also discuss the importance of having good character qualities and how we are representatives of our families.

It has been a joy to work with you and your children this year. Enjoy your summer and time together. I will look forward to seeing you back in August!

Stay safe,
Tracy Hill, M.Ed.

5th Grade Schedule

A permission slip is required for Growth and Development and HIV/AIDS. There will also be another permission slip required for the trip to Sequoyah Middle School, which the 5th grade teachers will send out. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

May 4th --- Growth and Development

May 5th --- HIV/AIDS

May 10th--- Sequoyah Parent night 7:00-8:00

May 12th --- 5th grade enrollment packets will be handed out by SMS counselor

May 19th--- 5th grade visit to Sequoyah, lunch will be eaten here at school.
Students and their teachers will board the bus at 12:00.

PTO President's Report

It's May! The end of the year is coming fast, and I have very much enjoyed my time as PTO president this school year. There is still quite a bit of PTO work being done as we finish up this year's projects and begin planning for 2010-2011. With that in mind, I ask you to watch your child's backpack for the **final expenditure ballot of the year** that will come home requesting your support. This ballot will allocate money for the new sound system and projector that all parents worked so hard to help fund. You will also see some money allocated toward teacher grants for 2010-2011 as well as money to fund the new Wetlands program. Thank you again for being great parents and for supporting Northern Hills!

I have a few PTO volunteers left to thank for the work and time they have given to Northern Hills this year:

- **Misty Sisk**, assistant treasurer, has worked hard each month behind the scenes to keep our PTO checkbook balanced and to make sure our accounting practices are model methods!
- **Cindy Case and Kristy Ferrell** have weathered many storms (literally!) as newsletter chairs and have put into place improved newsletter formats. These ladies have done a great job of helping keep parents informed each month of the "goings-on" at Northern Hills.
- **Amy Kessler and Melinda MacNaughton** have coordinated the Pup Pal Readers program which has a direct impact on students who need a little extra help with their reading. This is an important program, and we appreciate Amy and Melinda's time!
- **Jamie Sparks** – where would our PTO web site be without her? Jamie has done a fabulous job of maintaining our web site (www.northernhillspato.net) and keeping it full of the latest online information for parents. Thank you so much!
- **Vickie Wilson** has made sure that our office staff has volunteer help in the morning at the "Welcome Center". Thank you Vickie!
- And, our yearbook staff has done an incredible job this year to make sure that all of our Husky Pups have their photo in the yearbook. Thank you so much **Andrea Evans, Elesha Halko, Andrea Norris, and Tammie Smith!**
- Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank the other 3 members of the executive board: **Michelle Guyer, Jana Cheap, and Laura Piatt**. You are the best, and I couldn't have done this job without your endless work or your support!

I am thrilled with the board that will be leading PTO next year, and I wish Denise Mack, Tammie Brown, Jamie Nickels, Laura Piatt and all committee chairs the best of luck!

Blessings for a happy summer,
Shelly Duke
president@northernhillspato.net

School Announcements

- CONGRATULATIONS to ARI PAPAHRONIS in Mr. Rigg's class who placed 11th in the statewide Geography Bee for all 4th-8th grade students. Ari placed 1st among the 4th and 5th grade students in the state! Congratulations, Ari!! We are proud of you!!
- Thank you!!! Thank you!!! Thank you!!!
Dear Test Monitors,
Thank you so much for volunteering your time to train and be monitors. Your help with our state testing was valuable and deeply appreciated.
Sincerely,
Tracy Hill

PTO Committee News

Your PTO Board for 2010-2011

It's hard to believe that we are approaching the end of the school year and looking forward to the exciting opportunities that lay before us next year. The commitment and service of this year's PTO board members and volunteers have truly made a significant impact on our children, the staff and faculty and our school community. We extend our deepest gratitude to those of you who have given your time and energy this year and to those of you who are looking forward to a rewarding experience next year! We have a few chair positions left and invite you to join the board for next year. If you would be willing to serve in any of the available positions for next year, please reply to Denise Mack @ sdmack@sbcglobal.net.

President: Denise Mack

Vice President: Tammie Brown

Treasurer: Laura Piatt

Secretary: Jamie Nickels

Assistant Treasurer: Misty Sisk

Bingo Night/Auction: Jennie Allen, Elizabeth Barnes, Jane Douglass and Joy Harold

Book Fair: Tammy Herring, Lisa Robertson and Candyace Owens

Campus Improvements: Ann Bonsteel, _____

Community Outreach: Laura Carroll and Kirstyn Davis; Recycling Program: Sara Ceresa

Cut, Color and Copy: Jan Root and Roschelle Wilson

Directory: Kelly Morales, _____

Fall Fun Fest: Angie Smith, _____, _____

Fundraising: Fall: _____ Spring: Leen Smith and Cindy Leavitt

Holiday Store: _____, _____, _____

Homeroom Parents: Tracy Nester and Susan Abeln

Hospitality: Traci Spencer, Elizabeth Barnes, _____

Landscape: _____

Wetlands: Shelly Duke, Meridith Exline and Michelle Guyer

Media Center: Elizabeth Barnes

Meet the Masters: April Alsup, Jana Cheap and Michelle Guyer

Newsletter (Tickets for Time): Cindy Case and Kristy Ferrell

Publicity/Historian: _____

Pup Pal Readers: Amy Kessler and Beatrice Buchli

Safety Patrol: Shonda Wilson, Rachel McNeill and Melinda MacNaughton

School Communications/Marquee: Carie Lackey and Janet Vaughn

T-Shirts: Kristin Egan and Amy Dunham

Technology: Jamie Sparks

Welcome Center: Angie Bishop

Yearbook: Andrea Evans and Andrea Norris

Walk-a-Thon: Kelly Morales

If you have any questions, email sdmack@sbcglobal.net.

PTO makes things happen!!
Come join the fun ... sign up now
and help us make next year shine!
Together, we CAN do it! 😊

PTO Committee News

NORTHERN HILLS YEARBOOKS ARE COMING SOON!

School is almost over and yearbooks are almost here!

Get your yearbook for \$25!

Please contact the yearbook staff at yearbook@northernhillspato.net

Thanks,
The Yearbook Staff

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

To all the volunteers who helped present the **Meet the Masters Artists** this year. It was a fun year. A selection of student work for each class is on display outside their classrooms for the month of May. Also on display through May 7th is the 4th grade Remington clay projects. Ride on into the media center and check out the creative and fantastic boots.

Again, thank you to all the volunteers!

Beth Olson
Carmen Hancuff

SAFETY PATROL keeps kids safe!!

A big "thank you" to all of our wonderful Safety Patrol students and parents! We appreciate all of your hard work and dedication to help keep our students safe. Good job!

Recycling at Northern Hills

The recycling project to help cut down on throwing away recyclable items in the cafeteria has been gaining momentum this semester! This is a wonderful way to start teaching our kids to be environmentally conscious and less wasteful with disposable items.

At this time, it would cost about \$65 per month for the school to add curbside pickup of recyclables. Our solution has been to have a few of the office staff, teachers, and parents who are enthusiastic supporters of the recycling program take home bags of cans and bottles to put in their household curbside recycling bins. This is a very easy job: typically we just grab the bag after lunch on the day before we have our own curbside collection, and these items can go directly into the City of Edmond recycling bins.

We can use more help with this project...the more volunteers we have, the less often we each need to take items home. If you are interested in helping, please contact me at 216-0863 or ceresas@gmail.com.

Thanks!

Sara Ceresa

BOXTOPS! BOXTOPS! BOXTOPS!

Way to help raise money for our school!

Congratulations to Mrs. Huffty's class for winning the April Cookie party!!! Way to go 4th graders!!! We have had such a successful year in BOXTOPS! We couldn't have done it without the help and support of the students and parents! Thank you so much! We will send out a letter at the end of the year to let you know who won the May cookie parties, pizza party, as well as the total amount of BOXTOPS we've collected. Keep saving during the summer and turn them in in August!! Thank you!!

BOXTOPS! BOXTOPS! BOXTOPS!

HOMEROOM PARENTS are the BEST!

We want to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to our WONDERFUL HOMEROOM PARENTS! You have given so much this year to make your child's class events extra special.

We couldn't do it without you! You're the best!

April Alsup and Denise Mack
Homeroom Parent Coordinators

**3 Cheers!!! Way to GO, Husky Pup Families!
Thanks to EVERYONE
who helped this school year!**

PTO Committee News

Hospitality Committee Report

Happy May to all our Northern Hills students and families!

We have our biggest hospitality event of the year the first week of May! It is Teacher Appreciation Week! We have a wonderful week planned for our faculty and staff this year. Our theme will be "Around the World in 5 days"!

Each staff member will receive a passport letting them know their destination each day. At the end of the week they can turn in their passports and we will draw for prizes. This week we will celebrate all the staff of Northern Hills- including our wonderful cafeteria staff, custodians, office staff and our teachers! Here is a look at what we will be doing each day:

Monday- France - we will be serving a brunch for all staff including quiche, salad and éclair cakes!

Tuesday- London- We will be serving High Tea in the afternoon along with finger sandwiches for a traditional London snack! On this day your children may bring a note or picture for their teachers.

Wednesday- Mexico- Cinco de Mayo- We will be serving a taco bar luncheon with all the fixins for a South of the Border Fiesta!

Thursday-Holland- We will have the students bring a flower to their teachers on this day. In the afternoon we will have a chocolate fountain along with all sorts of fun dippers!

Friday- Good Ole USA- We will wrap up the week coming back to America and treating the staff to build your own Ice Cream Sundaes!

In late April some wonderful parents of Northern Hills students aided us by going into all the classrooms to help make a special gift for all our teachers. We are so appreciative of the help by the Cut, Color and Copy girls to punch out our apples! These special gifts will be presented to our teachers on Friday morning. We think it is something they will treasure forever! You can ask your child more about the project or come to the classrooms and see them!

We have enjoyed serving as your Hospitality Chairs this year! We consider it a privilege to serve our amazing faculty and staff in this manner! We hope everyone has a blessed and refreshing Summer!

Traci Spencer
Meredith Exline
Hospitality Chairmen

Cut, Color & Copy Still Needs Volunteers!!

THANK YOU to all our volunteers this year! As you can imagine, there is always a need in the copy room. The work we do frees up precious teaching and grading time for our wonderful Northern Hills teachers, Pre-K through 5th grade. They are very thankful for all our work and it is a rewarding way to serve our great school. We can always use help over the last weeks of the school year! It will also allow you an opportunity to try it out before next year. You may decide this is the spot for you! Stop by, e-mail or call us with any questions.

Happy Spring Husky Pup Families!
Cyndi Leavitt 844-5234 & Leen Smith 359-0764
cutcolorcopy@northernhillsppto.net



Looking Ahead ...

Wetlands A New Program Coming To Northern Hills

A new exciting opportunity will be coming to the students at Northern Hills for the upcoming school year of 2010-2011! The students in grades 1st -5th will have the opportunity to experience the WETLANDS by engaging in science activities related to the curriculum they are studying in their classroom. We are underway in making the Wetlands user friendly and writing curriculum that will meet the needs for each grade level.

The program will be volunteer driven and we will need parents who are willing to help teach the activities in the wetlands! Our goal is to perform two 60 minute activities next year for each grade level in the wetlands. All materials and instructions will be provided for the activities!

So keep your eye out in August for this exciting opportunity to work with our Northern Hills' students in the Wetlands. Just fill out your Ticket for Time regarding your interest and we will get you going on this exciting journey in educating our children!

You can contact us at info@northernhillspato.net with any further questions or concerns!

Wetlands Committee
Shelly Duke, Michelle Guyer, & Meredith Exline



Baim's Bookbag

As summer is approaching, I wanted to make families aware of the school and public library summer reading programs. The public library program, "Make A Splash @ Your Library" runs from June 1-July 31. It is not necessary to enroll on the first day. The Edmond branch had over 4,000 participants last summer, so the first few days are rather hectic. You are welcome to enroll your children anytime during the first couple of weeks in June. To reach a goal in that program, the child must complete 8 books, 8 hours, or 800 pages. Coupons and prizes are awarded at that time.

All of the Edmond elementary libraries are also sponsoring a summer reading program with a beach theme. Students will be bringing home a calendar full of fun reading activities for June and July. The challenge is to complete ten activities from each month and bring the signed calendars back to school in August. Another option in this program is to do both the public library reading program as well as the calendar activity. Be sure to bring proof of participation from the public library program. The proof could be your reading log or the reading certificates received at goal time. Pick these up BEFORE July 31 as they will not have anything to hand out after July 31st. We will celebrate with all of our summer reading participants in a "Splash Bash" upon return to school in August.

Finally, don't forget May 6th is the Claudia Mills author visit for first through fifth grade students. May 12th we will be hosting the "string man" Dave Titus. We will send information home about his books for sale for \$5.00 each. **May 14th is the day all library books are due.**

I have truly enjoyed my twenty-five year tenure at Northern Hills as the library media specialist. I am looking forward to retirement at the end of this school year. Thank you, parents, for your wonderful support and encouragement of our library media program. As you and your family make plans for the summer, be sure and include reading books as part of your leisure activities.

Cynthia Baim
Your child's librarian

P.S. - Parents, if you are looking for summer reading lists for your child, check out the following web sites: Education World: Summer Reading Lists, Children's Choices Book List, and Teacher's Choices Book List. Don't forget that third, fourth, and fifth grade students can also start reading the 2010-2011 Children's Sequoyah Books found at www.oklibs.org.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM NORTHERN HILLS OFFICE

- * **The last day of school is May 28, 2010.** Report cards will be sent home with your child that day. If you will be out of town on the last day of school, please provide your child's teacher with a legal size self-addressed stamped envelope and the report card can be mailed to you. If we have received test results before the last day of school for 2nd – 5th grades for tests taken in the Spring, they will be sent home in your child's report card envelope the last day of school, otherwise the results will be available when students return in the Fall. **Report cards will not be handed out before the last day of school.**
- * **The cafeteria will not allow children to borrow lunch money after MAY 18th . PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD HAS A LUNCH OR LUNCH MONEY EACH DAY. If your child owes lunch money, please make sure all charges are paid before May 18th .**
- * The summer tutor list of certified district teachers who are offering tutoring services throughout the summer will be available from the counselor or your child's teacher.
- * Parent(s) will be responsible for picking up any medication remaining at school by the last day of school. Students will not be allowed to pick up medication. **All medications (including inhalers, EpiPens, etc.) left at school after June 4th will be sent to Special Services Building and medication will be sent to the Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy for disposal.**
- * **Reminder! The deadline for returning library books or paying for lost library books is May 14th.**
- * The Lost and Found box is overflowing with lost items. If you have items that have been missing for a while (such as clothing or lunch boxes), please check our box. (We have several pairs of eyeglasses in our lost & found in the office.) Remember if your child rides the bus, there is also a Lost and Found box at the bus barn. Any items that are left at the end of school will be donated to a local charity. All items left after Friday, May 28 will be donated to the Hope Center.
- * **Information Day for the 2010-2011 school year will be August 17th – 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Parents are required to present a current (July or August) utility bill to confirm their child's enrollment and to receive their student's class placement assignment. (Cable and telephone bills cannot be accepted.)**
- * The student's first day of school for Pre-K – 5th grades for the 2010-2011 school year will be August 19, 2010.

Final Thoughts ...

Our year concludes with hugs and sighs,
 One last look before goodbyes.
 Stepping forward, life abounds
 With cherished memories that resound.
 A happy wink at you and yours
 As summer comes through open doors.

Wishing you and yours a safe and joyful
 summer break!
 Your Paw Prints newsletter

