



THE PELICAN PTA NEWSLETTER WINTER 2021-2022



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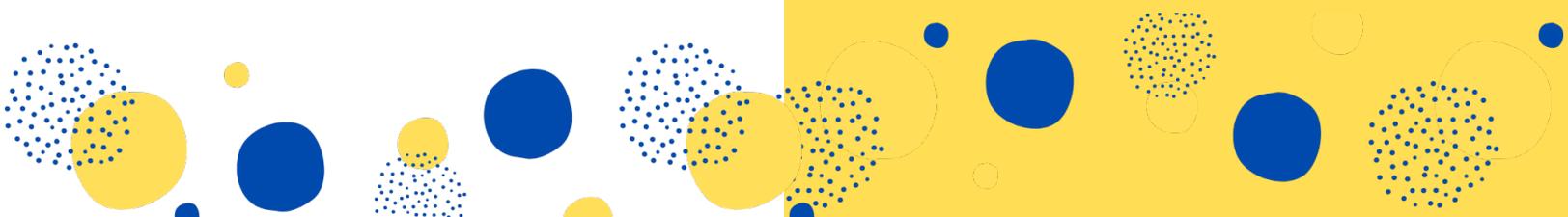
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A Message from our Principal

Dear Northside Families,

I truly enjoy the conversations I have with the many parents I see. Developing a relationship allows me to connect further with your child as well as your family. It is these personal connections that have made my time at Northside so special. There is nothing more satisfying than hearing about the successes of our past or current students. I appreciate the openness displayed by our community. These relationships are the basis of what has become an extremely tight-knit home/school connection that I hope to continue throughout my tenure at Northside School.

I am asked many questions throughout the day. One of the most common questions I receive from parents often goes like this: “My child doesn’t like to read. It is such a struggle every night. Do you have any suggestions?” I thought that this might be a wonderful topic to address in The Pelican as to motivating the unmotivated reader. Below I have listed several strategies or ideas that might be helpful to you.

1. Choose literature that is of interest to your child. It seems that we as adults try to force feed what our children like to read. Your child is reading plenty of high level literature; incorporating strategies to help with all facets of reading throughout the school day. Let them have ownership in what they read on their time.
2. There are other things they can read besides a book. Have multiple sources of literature around for your children. Magazines, newspapers, and comic books can all be motivating to young readers. My son looks to the iPad to read up on his favorite sport teams as well as the statistics of his favorite players. In fact, I now go to him when I am in need of answers to sports questions!
3. Show your child how reading is embedded in all we do. My wife loves to cook with my sons. They scour over the recipes, reviewing the directions before

they begin their baking adventures. Taking the time to stress the importance of reading while involved in day to day activities may prove the importance of reading for information and understanding.

4. Allow the use of electronic equipment to read. The surge in electronic reading devices is quite motivating to children. The use of the computer, their Chromebook, the iPad, the Kindle, the Nook, et cetera, allows children to feel up to date with technology. Many e-books and other applications have reading games that stress areas such as phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, as well as phonemic awareness. Utilize these tools if at all possible.
5. Don’t be afraid to revisit literature that they have already read. Reading a story/book more than once allows for a sense of comfort in knowing what to expect. There are several books that I have re-read several times, simply because I enjoyed them. That experience should be granted to your children as well.

Below is a number of websites that I’ve come across that are motivating to young readers. There are so many wonderful sites to visit. Feel free to let me know if you and your children have encountered something you would like to share!

www.pbskids.org

www.starfall.com (This site allows phonics practice with read-along stories)

www.storylineonline.net (Some of the most famous stories read by movie stars!)

www.seussville.com (All things Dr. Seuss!)

www.funbrain.com (Reading skills and math practice)

Happy reading!

With Warm Regards,
Mr. Frank Mortillaro

A Message from our PTA Co Presidents

Hello Northside Families,

We cannot believe that almost half the school year is already over!

We would like to thank all of you that have become PTA members, your membership means so much and helps support all the great things that the PTA does for the school and our kids! If you haven't joined yet, it's never too late! Feel free to send in \$10 with your membership information! The membership form can be found on the District webpage under Northside or you can find a link on our facebook page to join online.

Just a few of the many wonderful things that our PTA does are assemblies, programs and fun events for the kids.

Our Fundraisers raise the necessary funds to make all our fun events happen. One of our most recent fundraisers was our **Chipotle Night** - many of our Northside families dined out at Chipotle and helped us raise \$600 for the PTA.

Also our **Bear Mascot Fundraiser** has been a huge success and our kids are enjoying their Northside Teddy Bears. A huge thank you to all our wonderful Northside families that continue to participate in our fundraisers and help us raise money for our Northside Kids!

We had another successful **Holiday Boutique** on November 18th & 19th. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help the kids shop! It is always a pleasure to watch the kids pick out gifts for all the special people in their life. Helping the children shop is so much fun while trying to help them find (what they feel) the perfect gift. We hope you all loved what they chose and how "perfect" it was! We look forward to shopping with them again at the **Spring Boutique for Mother's Day and Father's Day**. Volunteers are always needed during the day to help the kids, so if you are interested please send us an email.

We are very excited for **PARP, (Pick A Reading Partner)** which will be the first two weeks of February. Our Literacy Team and PARP committee have already starting planning for this exciting reading program and we know it will be a great success.

Our annual **Book Fair** will be held on April 6th & April 7th. The children will have the opportunity to come and shop with their class during the day on either Wednesday or Thursday and then in the evening on Wednesday the book fair will be open to parents and families to shop and find some wonderful books.

Look for information on other upcoming PTA events and how you can help out and get involved!

Slingo, Healthy Snack Day, Staff Appreciation Day and Northside Family BBQ are all in the works for Spring 2022 and we could always use extra help!

Please join us at a PTA meeting, send us an email or follow the Northside PTA page & Northside School Moms/Dads page on facebook to stay up to date on the latest information.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or suggestions, email the co-presidents at northsidepta11756@gmail.com

With Warm Regards,

Tara Reyes & Yeliz Cipriano
2021-2022 PTA Co Presidents

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Spotlight On: Mrs. Tracy Alber, SLP



What were your favorite subjects in school? What were your worst subjects?

My worst subject in school was math. I still count on my fingers if a calculator isn't close by. My favorite subject was reading/ELA. As a child I loved Nancy Drew books. I still love a good mystery book.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

During the summer when I'm not at Northside I love going to the beach and riding my bike. I prefer to be outdoors instead of inside. When the weather is colder out I love to knit. I donate many of the blankets and scarves to local charities.

What is your favorite movie?

This is an easy question...My favorite movie is the Wizard of Oz. I have many Wizard of Oz decorations and trinkets in my classroom.

What is your favorite food?

I love to eat! If I had to pick one food it would be pasta. I like pasta in all shapes. It is something I could eat every day.



What is your biggest fear?

SPIDERS...I don't like them outside, I don't like them inside, I don't like them big and I don't like them small. I think they are scary creatures!

What (or Who) is your inspiration?

After being at Northside for so many years I can definitely say that my inspiration comes from my students and their families. The parents trust me with their children and I don't take that responsibility lightly. Watching my students reach and surpass their goals inspires me to be there for them the best way I can each day.

Why did you want to become a Speech and Language Pathologist?

I always knew that I wanted to work with children but I didn't want to be classroom teacher. When I was in Girl Scouts in high school I volunteered at a center for the visually impaired and deaf. That is where I learned a little about sign language and the field of Speech Therapy. Speech Therapy sounded like the perfect fit for me. I get to work with amazing children and I get to see them in small groups!

What have you learned about yourself since you became a Speech and Language Pathologist?

I have learned that being a team player is much better than staying in my "Speech" bubble. I have learned that in a school we, the educators, cannot work independently. It needs to be a team effort. I learned that I like getting involved and doing more than just speech. I enjoy seeing the students in places other than the speech room.

What is your favorite part about being a Speech and Language Pathologist at Northside?

There are so many things I love about being Speech/Language Pathologist at Northside. The first thing is just the entire Northside Family. That includes the parents, students and my coworkers. I have been at Northside for 32 years and Northside is truly part of my extended family. I also love the connections I get to make with my students. I have the privilege of getting to work with some of my students for multiple years. I enjoy knowing their favorite color, their pet's names and so many other interesting fun facts. Another part of my day that is thoroughly enjoyable is doing morning duty outside with Mr. Mortillaro. It is an awesome way to start each day. Northside has the BEST families! There is nothing like being greeted by over 100 students saying "Good morning" and "Have a great day" each morning.

What advice do you have for students?

The best advice I have for students really has nothing to do with school work or grades. Start everyday with a smile on your face and tell the important people in your life that you love them. Also be kind to yourself. Never let anyone call you stupid, not even yourself. Remember mistakes are meant to happen. It's what you do different the next time that matters.

Northside Music News

by: Mrs. McClancy & Mr. Rispoli

We have been given a challenge over the past year and a half to provide music education to our students while adhering to safety protocols and restrictions. This school year we are excited to bring back singing to the music room. Since our choruses are now able to practice at 3 feet apart wearing masks in the downstairs cafeteria, the groups have grown in size as well.



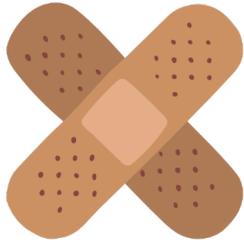
Mr. Rispoli and the Northside Band entertained the community with some holiday cheer at the Levittown Annual Tree Lighting event on Monday, December 6th. The event was hosted by the Levittown Chamber of Commerce and takes place in front of the Levittown Library at Veteran's Memorial Park.

Mrs. McClancy shared a **Music K8 Magazine Cover Contest** with all of her music classes. Students were given the directions as well as the cover template if they were interested in entering the contest. A current fifth grader, Payton Maietta, was a finalist for the 2019 cover contest. She was a second grader at the time and her entry can be seen on the Music K8 website. (www.musick8.com/contest/WinnersList19.php) We are excited to participate in this contest again this year.

Finally, Mr. Rispoli and Mrs. McClancy are excited to announce that we will be having a **Winter Concert at Wisdom Lane Middle School auditorium on Thursday, January 27, 2022** with safety protocols that are currently in place. More information will be available as the date approaches.



The Northside concert band performed at the Levittown Public Library for the tree lighting ceremony. Thank you, Mr. Rispoli! They sounded wonderful!



Winter Safety Tips

From Our School Nurse, Ms. Rutzel

Winter is always a special time of year. It is also a time when busy people become careless and vulnerable to theft and other crime. We can never be too careful, too prepared or too aware. Please share this information with family, friends and neighbors. Have a safe, happy and peaceful winter season.

Driving

- Avoid driving alone or at night.
- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
- Be sure to locate your keys prior to going to your car.
- Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.
- When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.

- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

Automated Teller Machine (ATM)

- If you must use an ATM, choose one that is located inside a police station, mall, or well-lighted location. Withdraw only the amount of cash you need.
- Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you.
- Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.

Shopping

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- Always carry your Driver License or Identification Card along with necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.

- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. “Con-artists” may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

Children

- If possible, leave small children at home with a trusted babysitter.
- Teach your child to go to a store clerk and ask for help in case your child is separated from you.
- Teach children to stay close to you at all times while shopping.
- Never allow children to make unaccompanied trips to the restroom.
- Children should never be allowed to go to the car alone and they should never be left alone in the car.
- Teach children their full name, address and telephone number to give to police officers or mall security. Teach children to immediately inform you if a stranger is bothering them.

At Home

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes.
- When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.

- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.
- Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.

Strangers at Your Door

- Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts.
- It is not uncommon for criminals to take advantage of the generosity of people during the holiday season by soliciting donations door-to-door for charitable causes although no charity is involved.
- Ask for their identification, and find out how the donated funds will be used. If you are not satisfied, do not donate.
- Donate to a recognized charitable organization.

Hosting a Party

- Have non-alcoholic beverages available for party guests.
- Find alternative transportation for intoxicated guests.
- Arrange for an official designated driver for your party who will not drink at all.

Attending a Party

- Have something to eat before consuming alcoholic beverages.
- Eat high protein foods that will stay in your stomach longer and slow the absorption of alcohol into your system.
- Remember only time will eliminate the alcohol from your body.
- Know your safe limit.
- Never drink and drive.

Upcoming Dates:

PARP

(Pick a reading partner)

will run this year from February 7th - February 18th. The theme is **“Read for the Gold”** and there will be lots of fun activities and prizes for the kids too!

Scholastic Book Fair

April 6th and April 7th

February PTA Meeting

February 16th at 7:00 p.m.

March PTA Meeting

March 21st at 7:00 p.m.

