



Polar Bear Express

North Middle School

Volume 1, Issue 2

October 2016

Message from Mrs. Bourque

In anticipation of my maternity leave from North Middle School, beginning in November 2016, Superintendent Czaporowski is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Eileen Jachym as Acting Principal during my absence. Mrs. Jachym had worked in the Westfield Public Schools for thirty-four years as a special education teacher, special education supervisor, assistant principal and principal at North Middle School. For the past three years she has worked for the State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Mrs. Jachym will be meeting with the Administrative staff to ensure a smooth transition for the entire North Middle School Community. She looks forward to working with the Assistant Principals, Greg Miller and Jessica Kennedy, staff, students and parents until I return.

Spirit Week & Spirit Night Soccer

North Middle School will host our annual Spirit Night Soccer game at Bullens Field on October 26 at 6 PM. Students who wish to participate in the soccer game should listen to morning announcements for information on how to get involved. Tickets will be sold during lunches and at the door. Our Ambassadors will host a Spirit Week that same week. Each day will have a designated theme for students to show their spirit.

Monday -**Olympics/Sports Day**- support your favorite sport or team

Tuesday-**Cancer awareness day**- Wear a color to support cancer awareness. (Example: All Cancer— lavender, Breast Cancer— pink, Brain – grey, Colon—dark blue, leukemia— orange, etc.)

Wednesday-**North Day**, wear school colors and show school spirit

Thursday- **Throwback Thursday**- Dress in a fashion from the past

Friday- **Color Wars**- grade 6-Red, grade 7-White, grade 8- Blue

Trimester One Midterm

Friday, October 14 is the trimester one midterm. A formal progress report will not be sent home, but we encourage parents to check student progress through the PowerSchool parent portal.



10/13 Washington DC parent information meeting

10/14 Trimester 1 Midterm

10/17 Community of Readers

10/20 Picture Re-take Day & 8th Grade Panoramic Picture

10/24-10/28 Spirit Week

10/26 Spirit Night Soccer @ Bullens Field 6 PM

12/8 Winter Concert

12/10 Vendor Night

2/10 & 2/11 Drama Production

3/16 Music In Our Schools Concert

4/3-5/26 MCAS Testing Window

5/18 Spring Concert

6/5-6/8 8th Grade Trip to Washington DC

6/9 8th Grade Dance

6/14 High & Low Meadows



Community of Readers

Students and teachers are looking forward to their book groups for A Community of Readers, our summer reading program! Last spring, we compiled a list of teachers' favorite books. Students selected one of the books to read over the summer. On October 17, students and teachers will meet in book groups with others who have read the same book for meaningful discussions and engaging activities! Students will also review the books—giving them a thumbs up or a thumbs down—and the reviews will be posted in NMS for all to see. Please ask your child to share with you what happened in their book groups!



PBIS

PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. It is a program designed to teach and encourage a positive attitude, respect, responsibility, and success at school. NMS is committed to promoting that students continuously make positive choices throughout the school day and beyond. PBIS provides teachers and other school staff with information to help encourage and model positive behavior and make school a successful learning environment. Research shows that the use of PBIS in school has resulted in increased time for instruction. It increases positive behaviors while decreasing disruptive behaviors school wide.

PBIS PAWS at NMS! NMS staff acknowledges students who are observed having a Positive attitude, Acting Responsibly, Working towards success, and Showing respect (PAWS). Students earn PAWS for positive behaviors which can be redeemed for a variety of acknowledgements! Current School-wide PAWS Acknowledgements:

- Cafeteria Cookie = 5 PAWS
- Cafeteria Chips = 9 PAWS
- Hat for A Day = 10 PAWS
- Friday Song = 10 PAWS
- Cafeteria Water = 12 PAWS
- Cafeteria Switch Juice= 12 PAWS
- Cafeteria Cookies (3) = 12 PAWS
- Pizza Lunch = 20 PAWS
- Event Tickets = To Be Announced

This information is posted in the showcase outside the Cafeteria and in the cafeteria. Updates will be made often!



Rachel's Challenge

On September 26th, NMS students saw and participated in the second annual Rachel's Challenge presentation here at North Middle School. Students heard Rachel's powerful story about starting a "Chain Reaction" of kindness, and a select group of students participated in an afternoon session to bring Rachel's Challenge to life in our school. The message of Rachel is for all students to be kind to one another and impact positive change in their school (and community) to make the world a better place. We look forward to starting our own "Chain Reaction" and spreading Rachel's message!