

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Our Elementary Program Rocks On!

Because of the publicized focus, advertising, and general excitement about North Star's high school program, the elementary staff wants to take this opportunity crow about what we have going and what we are planning for the future.

First, it's very important to be clear that we are excited about expanding elementary grades from one class to two. Our administrators are highly skilled in hiring the best teachers, and there are many great educators who want to teach at North Star. With a fresh crop of excellent educators will come fabulous new ideas and strategies from which the current staff will benefit. We know that with change comes a demand for flexibility, but try to view in a positive light. Just as a young sapling grows stronger with having to bend in the wind, so can we become a stronger staff.

Some of our currently enrolled families may have concern about North Star becoming too large when we expand. The equivalent of two classes per grade level is still much smaller than traditional public schools in our valley. In our new school, we will maintain the small feel by having two K-8 wings. Positive benefits not only include a boost in ideas and energy for staff, but also an increase of social opportunities for students and a larger pool of parent volunteers.

Rest assured, our current power curriculum and best practices will be maintained. We are capable and professional; we are pressing on with improvements, still mindful of the original charter. While keeping our solid core curriculum, we are implementing and integrating new material that provides instruction to prepare students not only for our high school, but also for the ever-changing demands of what it takes to be a productive citizen. To stay the same in all aspects of instruction is not being responsive to the outcry for effective schools. The best thing for kids is to have teachers who are excited about what they do, do not become stagnant, who collaborate to use best practices, and are a steady reliable foundation in the classroom. Our staff strives to be in a state of continuous improvement.

At present, much attention and excitement appears to be on the new facility and high school program; necessary advertising and planning has put it there. But we are the solid elementary foundation upon which we're building. Yes, we are a work in progress. No, we're not discouraged or left out. We are here because we want to be and look forward to being part of this wonderful K-12 experience at North Star. Our K-8 program is like a well-oiled machine!

Monica Stone - Second Grade Teacher

Attendance Report

For the week of 4-11-08

Kindergarten	89.2%
1stGrade	99.0%
2ndGrade	99.0%
3rdGrade	99.3%
4thGrade	97.5%
5thGrade	97.5%
6thGrade	97.2%

7thGrade	96.9%
8thGrade	96.0%
9thGrade	97.2%
School%	96.9%

Remember: We receive full funding for our school when we are at 96% average daily attendance or above.

Date Manager

- April 21 to May 2 – ISAT Testing (grades 3-8)
- April 22 - Art Show and Book Fair – (Usborne Books for sale)
- April 23 - Economic Summit at College of Idaho (9th grade)
- April 25 - No school for students
- April 26 - Science Expo – Rocky Mountain Fitness
- May 1 - Musical Instrument Night
- May 6 - PTO Meeting at 7:00pm
- May - Fun Run FUNdraiser
- May 26 - Memorial Day, school closed
- May 30 - End of Fourth Quarter
- June 4 - Early Release at 12:00 noon, last day of school

High School News

North Star High School Motto:

Holding ourselves accountable

Utilizing our full potential

Serving our community

Keeping kindness key

Investigating our world

Encouraging each other

Striving for excellence

By Jacque Yandle

Music Notes

Congratulations to these students!

On March 8th many of our 6th – 8th grade students performed as soloists or in small ensembles at Caldwell High School for Solo and Ensemble Festival. All of our students received ratings of “Excellent” and “Superior”. Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding performances:

Mandy Rozsa, Devyn Smith, Bethany Borup, Jake Thibault, Mason Thompson, Madison Teuscher, Gabby Genta, Emily Castrigno, Leigha Warner, Nicole Smith, Maddy Herrold, Abby Miller, Caitlyn Spirk, and Shelby Marlin.

“Jazz in our Schools”

“Jazz in our Schools” program brings a great opportunity to NSCS!

On Monday, May 5th we will have a very special guest artist performing for us at North Star. Thanks to the Gene Harris “Jazz in our Schools” program, the internationally recognized singer Sara Gazarek will be performing for us at 8:30 a.m. at Eagle Worship. Student singers from Eagle High and Mt. View High may be joining us for this assembly as the performers schedule did not allow for all of the requested clinics/performances.

This will be a great opportunity for our students to hear world class performers in a live venue. If you would like to learn more about Sara or hear her music, go to:

<http://www.saragazarek.com>

Does your child want to play in Band?!

Next year, North Star will be offering beginning band to all 6th – 10th graders. On Thursday, May 1st at 7 PM, our new band teacher, Mr. Hughes, our new IB Music teacher, along with Shirley VP will be at the church next door to advise current 5th – 9th grade students on which instrument will be most successful for them. Blue Rider Music and Dunkley Music will be bringing many instruments to try and will be offering instrument rentals at that time. During the evening some of our very own North Star teachers will be doing a jam session!

Art Show

You Are Invited to North Star's 3rd Annual Art Show

Tuesday, April 22nd

Eagle Family Worship (Next to North Star)

Time: Open House from 2:45 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Drawings - Paintings - Photographs - Sculpture

Come and enjoy the many talents of our students.

You will see work created at school from the art program curriculum as well as special pieces created at home!

Our own Mr. Whitt of R.A.D. Mosaics will be selling his one of a kind stained glass windows and doors.

There will be a book fair set up offering Usborne Books for sale.

(All proceeds will go to the library).

Earn Carnival Dollars and Mini-Economy Bucks for attending the show.

Be sure and sign up at the door to show that you attended!

~Food and Lemonade will be served!~

Art Show Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers for set-up and clean-up of the NSCS Spring Art Show. We need your help at Eagle Family Worship for 1 to 2 hour shifts to move tables, hang art work, and clean up after the show is over. Set-up will be on Monday, April 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Tuesday, April 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Clean-up is on April 22nd from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Please contact me if you are interested in helping. Stephanie Killilea #939-1114 or dakays@earthlink.net.

Yearbook Orders

There are about 60 yearbooks available to purchase on a first come, first serve basis. If you want one to be yours, then hurry and get your order in!

Lost and Found

We have quite a large collection of jackets, sweatshirts, and lunch boxes. Please come in and claim these items. All unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity at the end of the month.

Science Expo

The North Star Science Fair is Saturday, April 26th from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm in the Rocky Mountain Fitness Center gym. Students in 7th-9th grade will be displaying their science projects, and younger students will have fun with hands on science experiments! The only thing missing is the food! Please consider sharing a plate of snacks when you come to the science fair. Please contact Melissa Hackett at hackett5@msn.com with any questions.

Mrs. Hettinger and Ms. Sitterson thank you!!!
An additional note about the SCIENCE EXPO –

We are still looking for parent volunteers to help run the fun experiment labs. Training for these labs will be next week. Please e-mail me by Thursday if you can help with one of the labs. Also, indicate what days next week (in the evening) would be the best for training. The labs include:

Micro-chemistry Ice Cream (Sponsored by Maggie Moos)
Motion Match with the PASCO Probes (Sponsored by North Star Charter)
DNA Extraction from an Onion Cell (Sponsored by the Johnson Family)
Marble Roller Coasters (Sponsored by Home Depot)
Mini Block Fest (Sponsored by University of Idaho Parents as Teachers)

We will also need student volunteers to help run these labs (6th grade and up – extra credit given ?) and students to help make signs for the lab stations.

Please send me an e-mail to indicate that you or your child can volunteer, jhettinger@northstarcharter.org and send Melissa Hackett an e-mail, hackett5@msn.com, if you can volunteer food.

If you can help with set-up and/or clean-up please e-mail Samantha Sitterson, ssitterson@northstarcharter.org

Thank you for all your support – this is going to be a fun event for the entire family,

Jill Hettinger
North Star Charter School
Science

PTO Meeting

Details about the May 6th, 7:00 pm, PTO meeting will be in next week's newsletter.

Carnival

The K-5th grade carnival will be held on Monday June 2nd from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm! The carnival is a fantastic way to celebrate the end of a wonderful school year! The North Star carnival is NOT a fundraiser, but is a reward for our children for work well done! The carnival relies on donations from our wonderful North Star families and PTO. Your help is needed with the following:

-CREATE A CARNIVAL BOOTH: Booths can include a game, craft, or snack. Do you know a business that would like to participate for free advertising? Do you know any clowns, or how to make balloon figures? The more booths the better!!! Please ask Melissa for ideas.

-VOLUNTEER TO WORK IN A CARNIVAL BOOTH: You are guaranteed to have as much fun as the kids!!!

-DONATE CARNIVAL PRIZES: Prizes can be found at dollar stores, Zurchers, etcetera, and can include anything that your children would like. Small trinkets and individually wrapped candies become prized possessions at a carnival! Larger prizes add to the excitement! Please place prize donations in the purple tub located near the front desk.

THANK YOU for making the carnival a success!!! Please contact Melissa Hackett at 453-8051 or hackett5@msn.com with any questions.

ISAT Testing

ISAT testing will take place April 21-May 2, 2008. Please be sure that your students are at school on these days. All dentist/ortho appointments should be made around the attached schedule. It is important that we have all students in school to take these tests, as giving make-up tests presents a number of problems. Also, be sure that your child has adequate rest and nutrition on test days. That really does make a difference.

Week 1: April 21 - 24	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
10:30-12:00	8G Math	8G Reading	Regular Schedule	8G Language	No School
1:00-2:30	7th Math	7th Reading	7th Language	No School	
Week 2: April 28 - May 2	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
8:30-10:00	7th Science	8B Math	8B Reading	8B Language	4th Math
10:00-11:30	5th Science	5th Math	5th Reading	6th Language 10:15-11:15	6th Reading
11:45-1:15	3rd Math	3rd Language	3rd Reading	Make-Ups	Make-Ups
1:15-2:45	6th Math	4th Language	4th Reading	5th Language	Make-Ups

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