

Northeast News

The News and Notes of the
Northeast Primary School

Principal's Message

“Reading for Success in ALL Areas!”

Reading plays an important role in your child's life. While reading can be fun, once children have mastered basic skills they then begin to apply them in all academic areas; Mathematics, Science, Social Studies etc. It is also true that reading is critical for doing well on tests within these subjects. Just as a carpenter needs his tools, (hammer, saw, level etc.) the reading skills that children develop in primary grades are critical tools for their success on tests in these and other areas. Recently, at a Principal's Tea, parents attending were quite surprised at the reading skills necessary for children to complete thoughtful and reflective math problems.

Your help and encouragements can assist your children in both strengthening and mastering these basic reading skills. With mastery of these skills, your child will more likely “read for success!”

Strengthen your child's Comprehension:

Pretend reading is a train. Comprehension is the engine. Without good comprehension--knowing and understanding what he/she is reading---your child can “load up the train and get it ready to move, but it's going nowhere!” Take away comprehension and reading is just calling out words (what we call “decoding”).

Comprehension is the most important reading skill for doing well in school. Your child can't give a correct answer if he/she isn't able to read and fully understand the question.

Here's how to help your child improve his/her reading comprehension:

Practice following WRITTEN directions. Have your child read and follow directions for putting together simple crafts. Ask him/her to follow a recipe as you create meals together (*I recall Mrs. Marallo recently doing exactly this with her students—by the way, great fudge Mrs. M!*). Some of my fondest memories are of my children following the Saturday morning written “jobs” they found conveniently deposited on the kitchen table!

Make a mental picture. Choose a page without illustrations in a fiction book (a book that is made up by the author). Ask your child to read it out loud to you. Then have him/her close their eyes and re-create what they have just read as a picture in their “minds eye.” Encourage them to “see” the characters red shirt, the dog's curly brown fur or the lovely beach the family is vacationing on. They could even draw that they “see!”

Ask, “What do you think will happen next?” Make a habit of asking this question when your child is reading. This will encourage your child to make predictions and, importantly, stimulate their attention to detail, their comprehension and their imagination!

Sum it up! Each time you see your child complete a story, article or chapter, ask him/her to tell you what they read, using their own words.

Next month we will continue our discussion of “Reading for Success” with some helpful tips on encouraging the reading of non-fiction material: books about real people, places and events! *Stay tuned!*

~ Robert Johnson

April 2011



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UPCOMING:

Northeast Primary School will have Kindergarten Registration:

Monday—Thursday

April 25-28,

9:30—2:00PM

By appointment

Please call Mrs. Coleman at 773-1940 Extension 221 for further information.





Super Saver Card—Northeast Fundraiser

A HUGE thank you to ALL of the families who participated in this spring's PTC fundraiser. **There are still cards available for \$10.** Participating business are: **Cobra Gym & Dance, Costantino's Deli, Laura's Hair Frenzy, Ladabouche Furniture, McDonald's, mySpaShop.com, Pinewoods Driving Range, Olivia's Market/Bagel Café, Olympic Pizza, Pyramid Center, Replay Sports, Sensible Shoe, Spartan Arena, Table 24, Terrill St. Discount Beverage, VT Martial Arts Academy.** PTC receives

90% of the sale price—which is used to help fund student activities inside and outside of the classroom.

If you would like to purchase a card, please send \$10 cash or a check to NE PTC with a note, to school, ATTN: Lexi Moore. One will then go home in your child's homework folder. *Thank you!*

A Message from the PTC

April News from Your NE PTC

Before you know it, the end of this school year will be upon us! It is a **great** time to start thinking about next year and the events that make our school year successful. The PTC at NE maintains a close working relationship between parents, teacher/staff and students. It is our goal to enhance the educational experience by supporting the students and teaching staff through fund raising efforts to provide additional equipment, services and special projects. PTC helps fund field trips, special performances and guests, events led by NE's Student Activities Committee, sponsors the Harvest Dance and Movie Nights...and helps provide items for classrooms. A strong PTC is evidence of parental interest and does ensure a better school environment for our children.

The PTC holds monthly meetings to promote open communication and understanding between parents and staff. Please consider participating in NE's PTC ~ whether you have only an hour or more time ~ it is our belief that the team effort of a parent teacher organization offers the best possible learning environment for all of our children! Join this motivated team to continue making NE the best school possible for our children!

Welcome to **Stacy Shortle**, parent of a first grader, who will be serving as Secretary of our PTC for the 2011-2012 school year. We all look forward to working and collaborating with Stacy! *Congratulations!*

Upcoming ~ **FREE** ~ PTC sponsored events

PTC April Meeting: Monday ~ April 4th ~ 6:00 PM ~ **FREE CHILDCARE** ~ Northeast library. Accepting nominations for the position of treasurer (*see note below*).

Remaining Meetings for 2011: May 2nd and June 6th ~ 6:00 PM

Science Night: Date has been moved from April 6th to Thursday, May 26th.

PTC April meeting, Monday, April 4th, 6:00pm). Free childcare, Please feel free to contact the PTC board at any time if you'd like to help with any of these events, or if you have any questions. --*Northeast PTC*

President: **Marie Marallo**, 786-1730, mmarallo@rutlandhs.k12.vt.us

Vice President: **Erron Hubbell**, revhubbabubba@hotmail.com

Treasurer: **Melissa Knipes**, 775-3838, dmjknipes@myfairpoint.net

Secretary: **Ann Dages**, 775-0654, bsr809@yahoo.com



March Movie Night Thank You

Once again Dr. Seuss movie night was a huge success. I would like to thank everyone who donated food items, helped with the set up and the clean up. The cafeteria was spotless. I would also like to thank Stacy Shortle, Heather Olsen, Kelly Moriarty, Deanna Hall, Erron Hubbell and Ann Dages for helping me organize the snack for our movie goers. Melissa Knipes

PTC Treasurer Needed

Since my son is in second grade, this will be my last year as the PTC treasurer. The position entails, as stated in the Bylaws: "The treasurer shall receive all funds of the organization, keep accurate record of receipts and expenditures and pay out funds in accordance with the approval of the executive committee. He or she will present a financial statement at every meeting and at other times of the year when requested by the executive committee, make a full report at the end of the year and have all financial records available for an audit at the discretion of the president."

I have all of the reports in a format that is easy to use. I am hoping someone will be interested so I can work with you before the end of the year. Melissa Knipes

Grade Level Curriculum Updates for April 2011



Kindergarten

April brings much more than showers into Kindergarten! We are tapping and blending three sound words, as well as changing the initial, middle and final sounds to create new words! The children are transforming into readers and spellers right before our eyes.

We are also looking for patterns in numbers, exploring concepts of time, and making “exchanges” with coins. Our themes include all things Spring, Earth Day and a field trip to Home Depot to supplement our Tool Unit.

Grade One

Math - First grade students are finishing up Unit 8 and beginning Unit 9. In Unit 8, the dollar bill is introduced, as well as the concept of fractions. Money is reviewed and students practice making change. In Unit 9, students will continue learning about fractions and review place value patterns for counting by tens and ones on the hundreds chart. Language Arts - In Foundations, the classrooms are continuing to work on blending words up to five sounds. Students are also studying the concept of a syllable in a multi-syllabic word, as well as compound words and using the suffix -es. In our Houghton-Mifflin program, students are continuing to learn and apply the strategies for reading comprehension (I'm A Reader). Students are adding adjectives to their writing and working on the mechanics (adding spacing, punctuation, capitals, and spelling). First graders will continue studying about Vermont or the human body. With spring weather on the way, students will also begin a unit on plants. Remember to continue reading for Books and Beyond!



Greetings from Grade Two

Second Grade is rushing headfirst into Spring! We will be studying our environment and how to take care of it. In math we are working with fractions and measurement. The children will learn about area and perimeter as well. We will be learning dictionary skills as well as writing a simple research report in the upcoming weeks. We are enjoying the changes in the weather and hope to visit the pond frequently. Please keep the boots coming in until it is dry outside! (Maybe June?)

Just a friendly reminder parents that Books and Beyond is still active. Please encourage your child to read every night and to add those wonderful stories onto their Books and Beyond sheets. We have about one month left to hand in those sheets. Those who complete 8 sheets or more will be recognized for their reading accomplishments in our ceremony towards the end of our school year. Happy reading!

Spring 'Lifetouch' Photographs—April 21

Once again, Northeast School will have the friendly folks from Lifetouch visit (on Thursday, April 21st) to take portraits of students. These photos differ from the fall session in that they will have a spring-like background with your choice of pose, a variety of photo products are offered, and the NE PTC receives money for all portraits taken.

From the Lifetouch website: www.schoolportraits.lifetouch.com

Spring portraits are a tradition of their own. There are several reasons to take advantage of this program when offered in your school:

Convenience — Taking studio-quality portraits in school saves you the time and hassle of finding and working with an outside studio.

Gift-giving — Spring portraits are timely keepsakes for Mother's Day, Father's Day, and other spring gift-giving occasions.

No risk — Lifetouch Spring Portrait programs usually run on "family approval"—you view your portraits before deciding whether to buy.

School support — The school receives a contribution for each package produced or purchased—your purchase benefits your school.

While fall pictures are used in yearbooks and student IDs, spring portraits offer more opportunities for variety and personalization. Lifetouch School Portraits offers casual, studio-style looks for these pictures, and students have more freedom to create a look that's truly their own.

Along with the Spring Portraits, we offer a variety of keepsake novelties:

- > Eye-catching and durable laminated bookmarks, bag tags and wallet-size portraits
- > "Sticky" portraits printed on self-adhesive paper for letters and crafts
- > Portraits printed on metallic film paper for an extra elegant look

**Harry the Dirty Dog
at The Paramount Theatre**

**HARRY
the Dirty Dog**



by Gene Zion
Pictures by Margaret Bloy Graham

On Thursday, April 7, all of the Northeast students will enjoy the live performance of *Harry the Dirty Dog* at the Paramount Theatre in downtown Rutland. Funding for this show is provided by the district's Arts in Education fund and Northeast PTC. Northeast kids say, "Thank you very much!"



Pictured with Northeast Art Teacher, Brad Bender, are the following students whose art work was selected to be included in the annual Chaffee Art Center Student Show: from left to right are: Mr. Bender, Justin Hesse, Maguire Baker, Lydia Reynolds, Kiara LaPenna, Shelby Siliski and Harmony Fortune. The Art Show runs

from March 18th – April 9th and includes work on display with almost 600 young artists from nearly 40 schools in the surrounding area.

Congratulations to these students for their fine work!

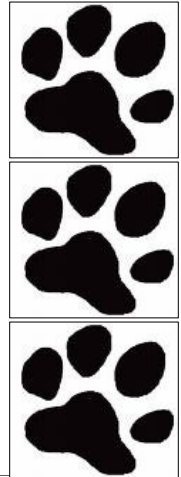
Positive Paws



March 4, 2011 Positive Paw Recipients



March 11, 2011 Positive Paw Recipients



The elementary school ages are considered to be instrumental to a child's ongoing (fundamental grades and stages of) development. With this in mind, it is important that children are taught positive behaviors and habits early in life. By teaching children positive behaviors at a young age, they are more able to understand and engage in positive long-term attitudes and actions that will guide them towards future success. To encourage students, and to teach all children positive behaviors, elementary schools across the country have implemented positive behavior programs to improve student awareness, knowledge, and development.

With this goal in mind we will continue our program of "Positive Paws." The "Paws" relate to our School Mascot, "Stripes" the tiger. Children are given a Positive Paw in recognition of their positive behavior.

The focus of our efforts this year can be summed up in the phrase:

"Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Cooperative, Be Kind and Be Safe."

Children who exhibit behaviors relating to these concepts may be given a Positive Paw by their teacher, either classroom or specialist. The children may decorate it as they see fit and return it to the Principal. On Friday mornings the names of the children receiving a Positive Paw for the prior week will be announced following the pledge and called to the library. In the library, they will be congratulated by the Principal and select from an array of coupons etc. as a tangible reward for their efforts.

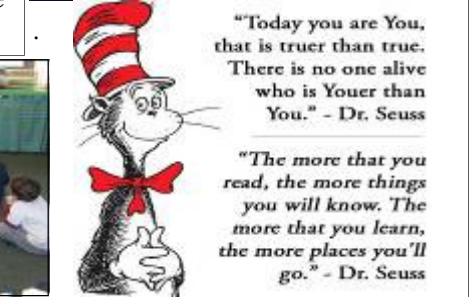
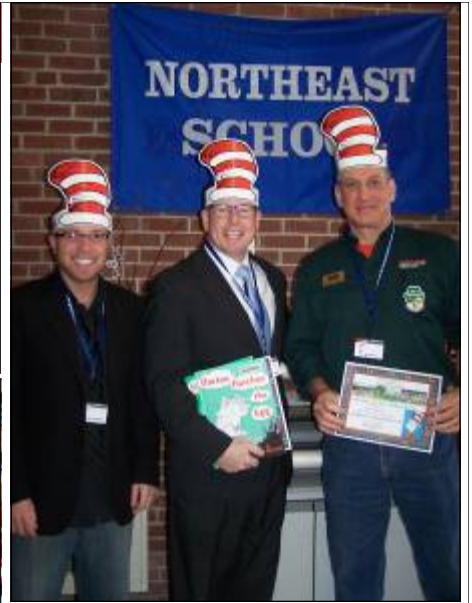
In some cases, teachers may elect to develop a behavior management plan relating to improve an aspect of the child's behavior. However, we have deliberately left the development of this plan to the teachers, as a tool to modify and positively recognize good student behavior.



March 25, 2011 Positive Paw Recipients

NE Celebrates Dr. Seuss's Birthday

On March 4th, Northeast welcomed a guest reader into each class to read an age-appropriate Dr. Seuss book. The students really enjoyed this special event. Below are images from each class. Readers who visited NE were: **Tom Donahue** (Rutland Chamber Exec. VP/CEO) , **Superintendent Mary Moran**, **Linda Remington** (often-requested retired teacher), **Brayden Moore** (RIS Forth Grader), **Don Moore** (from Aubuchon Hardware who read to two classes), **Melanie Clerihew** (who dressed for the occasion and read to two classes), **Eric Mallette** (Paramount Theatre), **Peggy DiDio** (Mom of Cailin), **Todd Smith** (Dad of Cordelia), **Susan Densmore** (Stafford Technical Center Program Director for Human Services) & two of her students: **Angela Jeffrey** and **Molly Nickerson**.



"Today you are You,
that is truer than true.
There is no one alive
who is Youer than
You." - Dr. Seuss

"The more that you
read, the more things
you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you'll
go." - Dr. Seuss

Mrs. Brusco's class > made a special cake to celebrate!



Spaced Out!



Mrs. Abatiell's first graders performed a solar system play called "Spaced Out". On March 9th, they performed for the school and then held an evening performance for family and friends. Not only did they work hard to memorize their lines, they learned a lot about the solar system and gained confidence in themselves. *It was a great show!*

**Due to scheduling issues,
PTC Science Night
has been re-scheduled
for Thursday,
May 26th at 6:00 pm
FREE Event!**



Community Friends Lending a Hand



Kindergarten Screening Reminder—April 25-28

For those parents who have registered their child/children for Kindergarten this fall and have scheduled their screening appointment: When you arrive at Northeast School, please park in the parking lot directly in front of the main entrance to our school and the main office. You will note a sign reading "Northeast Elementary School." When you enter the school, you will be greeted by our Volunteer Coordinator, Lexi Moore and members of our parent group, the PTC. They will have initial forms for you to complete and they have arranged for a casual photograph of you and your child for use by the teacher in their classrooms at the beginning of the school year. Next, your child's height and weight will be taken. From there you will be escorted to our library. At that time your child will meet in groups of four with one of our kindergarten teachers for their screening. During this time, you will meet with Mrs. Marcell our School Nurse who will discuss any health related issues concerning your child. Following, we will meet briefly to discuss transportation issues, starting times, classroom assignments and suggestions for preschool summer experiences for your child.

At the conclusion of this segment, you will have an opportunity to meet with members of our PTC who will provide a tour of the building and visit a Kindergarten classroom. Your total time at Northeast should not exceed one-hour. If you are unable to keep your scheduled appointment, please give us adequate notice so that we can make adjustments to the schedule and re-schedule your appointment. This is very important since we anticipate the registration and screening of over 70 children during this week.

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