



North Harrison Elementary School

Family News

Fall 2011

Vol. 6, No. 1



GREETINGS!



I hope you and your family have been able to enjoy our gorgeous fall. There is nothing like the beautiful fall leaves in Southern Indiana. The annual NHE Fall Festival is just around the corner. Our PTO has been working very hard to put this wonderful event together. I know many of you have been busy making preparations, as well. Thank you so much for all your efforts to make this event a fun evening for our kids and a major fundraiser for our PTO. Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 5th. Your family won't want to miss this great evening! I've already had a peek at some of the class pottery pieces. They are fabulous! I am sure the bidding for them during our live auction will be action-packed. Come ready to bid high!

Our Parent-Teacher Conferences are right around the corner on Friday, November 11th. Scheduling letters for that day were sent home with your children earlier this month. If you have not received your letter by the time you receive this edition of *NHE Family News*, please call our office for a 2nd copy. We will be sending your scheduled conference time to you by Thursday, November 3rd, and we are looking forward to meeting with you to share your child's progress and to hear your concerns.



Our school year is moving along quickly, and we are entering a very busy time of the year. Be sure to check out the

"Upcoming Events" section of this newsletter, and mark your calendars for all of the events your children will want to experience with you.

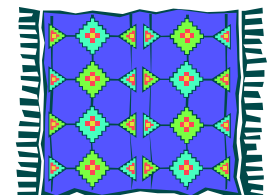
As you may have noticed in the local papers when the Spring 2011 ISTEP+ scores were published, North Harrison Elementary did VERY WELL. Our students placed within the top 25% of schools across the state, earning our school an A grade. We have been officially notified that we have made federal AYP in all categories and have earned "exemplary progress" status. These achievements come only with your support of our school and your unrelenting support of your children. Our staff has worked very hard over the last five years to overhaul our programs and instructional practices. We are now a very strong team working to provide the best education possible for your children. No matter what we do here, however, you as parents are the key to your child's success. Nothing can replace your unconditional love, your guidance, and your support of your child's educational progress. Thank you for all you do each day to make sure your child is the best he/she can be! We are proud to be your partners!



Take care,
Lisa

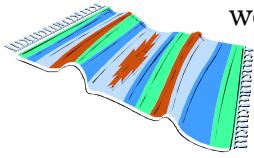
PTO PURCHASES CLASSROOM RUGS and SUPPLIES for TEACHERS

Thanks to your help with all of our PTO's fundraising efforts last year, large classroom area rugs have been purchased for Grades K-3. These rugs allow our



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students to gather in groups on the floor without having to sit on the cold tile. Lots of work in an elementary classroom takes place on the floor. Many thanks to our PTO for making these learning experiences more comfortable. We expect delivery of our rugs before Christmas.



Our PTO also allotted \$100 for each classroom teacher to use in the purchase of classroom supplies. Teachers often generously give of their own money to make learning fun and exciting for our children. They are very appreciative to the NHE PTO for giving them these funds. Every day, in one way or another, our PTO makes our school an even more special place to learn and to work!

BOOK RENTAL DUE

Please remember that book rental and fees for your child are now past due, if you have not paid them for the 2011-2012 school year. Please make arrangements to pay promptly. If you cannot pay the entire amount, contact our school office to make arrangements for a payment plan. If your family has qualified for free textbooks, you still need to pay the fees portion of your child's book rental.



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

In order for your child to learn to the best of his/her ability, it is important that school attendance be made a priority in your family. Even missing a few minutes each day can cause problems for your child. Coming in late or leaving early means your child is missing instruction and time to practice skills and concepts being learned.

Several students have now accumulated a significant number of tardies and/or early departures. For your convenience, the attendance policy from the student handbook for NHE has been reprinted below. Excessive absences and/or tardies will not only result in



missed learning opportunities, but also in contact from the school attendance officer. Thank you for your help!

From the NHE Parent-Student Handbook:

ATTENDANCE

The school day begins at 8:05 a.m. and ends at 3:05 p.m. No student may enter the building before 7:50 a.m. or remain in the building after 3:15 p.m. due to the lack of available supervision.

Regular school attendance is of the utmost importance in order for students to progress academically and socially to their fullest potential. **Students are expected to be in attendance every day unless they are ill.** While we understand that various circumstances may seem to make it necessary for a student to miss school, it is extremely important that good attendance be a priority. Absence from school not only results in missed learning opportunities, it also begins to set patterns which children carry into adolescence and adulthood. Please help your child make a commitment to regular and prompt school attendance.

The attendance law portion of the Indiana Code states that students are only to miss for personal illness or death in the immediate family. Documentation for each time out of school is required. **If you should find it necessary for your child to miss school, please call or email the school before 9:00 a.m. on the day the absence occurs. A note with a written explanation will be expected from the parent or guardian when the student returns to school, in addition to your phone call.** Students who accumulate absences of more than 10 days may be required by the school attendance officer to provide a doctor's statement for each absence. Anytime an absence includes a trip to your child's doctor it would be helpful for you to obtain a doctor's statement to be sent to school upon your child's return.

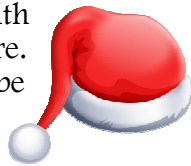
If you believe your child may be absent from school for more than two days, please arrange for homework to be picked up. Your child will have the same number of

calendar days to complete the work as the number of days missed from school.

****** ALL ABSENCES WITHOUT NOTES WILL BE UNEXCUSED.***

CHRISTMAS TIME'S A-COMIN' . . .

If there are any parents or grandparents who would like to help assemble paper Christmas hats for the Christmas program, please contact NH Elementary at 347-2419 and Mrs. Kramer will call you back. The hats will be ready to assemble the week before Fall Break/Halloween, October 24, 25, and 26, during school hours or you may take a grade level of them home with you and assemble them there. Glitter, staples, glue etc. will all be provided. It isn't a hard job, but we start early to assure their completion. THANK YOU!



APPROPRIATE SHOES FOR P.E.



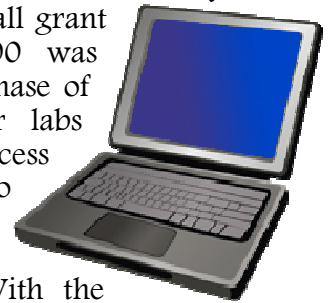
Remember that tennis shoes or athletic shoes of some kind are required for physical education classes. Mr. Rentschler does a fantastic job of making sure our children are engaged in real physical activity during P.E. Shoes without appropriate support and stability can be dangerous as children move around the gym floor and during outside activities. Please make sure you are aware of the 2 days each week your child has P.E., so that you can monitor the shoes he/she wears on those days. The children have been reminded many times by now of the rules for P.E. Consequences for wearing inappropriate shoes are likely if the problems persists for individual students.



**HARRISON COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION AWARDS
NH ELEMENTARY
ALMOST \$100,000**

Our sincere appreciation goes to the Harrison County Community Foundation for

awarding North Harrison Elementary two large grants in their fall grant cycle. Over \$81,000 was awarded for the purchase of two laptop computer labs and the wireless access equipment necessary to make the labs functional throughout the building. With the advent of ISTEP+ Online and our other regular student assessment programs, our stationary computer lab is frequently unavailable for regular student use. Thanks to the foresight and generosity of the Harrison County Community Foundation (HCCF), we will now be able to continue to provide computer lab access to students even during lengthy assessment periods. This will make a tremendous difference in student access to Accelerated Reader and Accelerated Math, in addition to research and other computer-related learning activities.



In another grant, the HCCF awarded NH Elementary over \$18,000 to provide time for teachers to engage in data analysis. Assessment of student progress is essential in planning appropriate learning activities to fit student learning needs. This grant will allow teachers time to thoroughly investigate data and analyze trends in student learning. It will also provide funds for teachers to attend workshops and conferences related to identified instructional weaknesses. Our constant endeavor to make sure we are providing the best instruction possible for our students will be greatly enhanced by this grant.

Each of these grants allows us to provide a better education for our students. Without the support of the HCCF these opportunities would not be possible. We are extremely fortunate to have the HCCF working to better all our lives in Harrison County. For more information on the work of the Harrison County Community Foundation, I strongly urge you to visit their website at www.hccfindiana.org. Their impact on our community is astounding!



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, October 25th – Kindergarten to Huber's Orchard

-- NHHS Band Community Performance, 7:00 p.m. on the football field.

Wednesday, October 26th – Classroom Halloween Parties sponsored by the NHE PTO. Only room parents may attend.



Thursday, October 27th through Friday, October 28th – No School: Fall Break

Monday, October 31st – NHE Book Fair Opens
Our Book Fair will be open beginning Monday, October 31st and will run through Saturday, November 5th. Be sure to stop by during our Fall Festival!

Friday, November 4th – 2nd Grade Luau, 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 5th – NHE Fall Festival, sponsored by the NHE PTO. Dinner, Games, Live Auction – Lots of FUN!!
Doors open at 3:00 p.m.



Thursday, November 10th – NHE Veteran's Day Commemoration with NHHS to honor our service men and women.

Friday, November 11th – Parent-Teacher Conferences. No school for students.

Wednesday, November 16th – Pioneer Day and First Thanksgiving Celebration for Grades 1 and 4



Thursday, November 17th – School Picture Retake Day

Wednesday, November 23rd through Friday, November 25th – No School: Thanksgiving Break



Wednesday, December 7th – PTO Santa Shop opens

Wednesday, December 7th – NHE Christmas Programs

Grades K, 3, 5 at 1:10 p.m.

Grades 1, 2, 4 at 2:00 p.m.

Both performances will be in the school gym.



Friday, December 9th – 3rd Grade to the Kentucky Center for the Arts

-- PTO Night with Santa

Come sit on Santa's knee, make sure he has your list and get your picture taken with the jolly old elf. Then enjoy cookies and hot cocoa with family and friends!

Tuesday, December 13th – 1st Grade to Madeline's Christmas at IUS Ogle Center

Friday, December 16th – Kindergarten to A Velveteen Rabbit Christmas at Derby Dinner

Wednesday, December 21st – Classroom Christmas Parties sponsored by NHE PTO. Only room parents may attend. Each child will need a gift costing \$5.00 or less for a gift exchange. Boys buy a gift for a boy and girls buy a gift for a girl.

Thursday, December 22nd through Friday, December 30th – No School: Christmas Break



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