

AREA LEARNING CENTER

Fall 2011 Newsletter

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October 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Another school year is upon us and we are very busy here at the Northfield Area Learning Center. We started our year with more students enrolled than in the past 3 or 4 years. We have many returning students, which is a true testament of the safe and welcoming environment that we try to provide for all students.

I would like to welcome our new staff members and introduce them to you. **Lois Kelly** is working with the Read 180 program as an educational assistant. **Mr. Dave Kamis** travels between the Middle School and here to teach Art. **Virginia Kennedy** is our new Special Education teacher who is with us in the morning. **Pete Loizzo** will be with us this year as our Promise Fellow. The staff of the ALC is committed to provide students with a quality education and to meet student's varied educational needs.

This year we have a Chemical Dependency Counselor here three mornings per week. **Sara Shippy** meets with students on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We are pleased that she has added one additional day from previous years. This provides support to students who are in recovery or who are having chemical health or abuse issues. She can provide information and referral services.

Please check out all the information in the news letter pertaining to the upcoming levy referendum, parent/teacher conferences and more.

I look forward to working with your child and feel free to contact me with any concerns that may arise.

Sincerely,

Patricia Parlin
ALC Director



Classroom Updates

WORK SEMINAR & SMALL BUSINESS CLASSES

Work Seminar Classes- The work seminar classes this year will focus on character, ethics, self-management skills, careers and work place readiness.

Small Business- We are currently reading about market research and small business ideas

Social Study News by Darcy Seurer

Block 2 – Ancient World History

We began our unit studying the Ancient Greeks. Through a variety of activities, we will focus on the legacy of ancient Greece – its history, philosophy, religion, science, math, language, art, architecture, theatre, and other cultural achievements. In this unit, we will also be exploring what it was like to be Greek citizens in the fifth century BCE and how their achievements have affected today's Western society. Studying ancient Greek civilization is essential and is required by many schools because of the vast legacy of Greece. Virtually every subject in today's schools has Greek roots and one of every eight words in the English language has a Greek origin.

Block 3 – Economics

Why economics? In this course, the curriculum that is used is called "Understanding Economics". It covers basic economics. The study of economics can help students become productive members of the workforce, knowledgeable consumers, prudent savers and investors, effective participants in the global economy and competent decision makers.

Block 4A & 4B -- Psychology

Thinking About Psychology, The Science of the Mind and Behavior (Blair-Broeker 2003). In this course, I have the students choose which topics they'd like to cover; picking from 5 domains "methods, biopsychological, cognitive, developmental and sociocultural" topics. This time, we'll be covering psychological disorders, anxiety & mood disorders, schizophrenia and personality disorders.

English/Language Arts - Renee Rasmussen

I'm so excited to be back at the ALC! I was the long-term sub for David Bly for 2 1/2 years prior to his return for the 2010-2011 school year. His retirement at the end of last year, after a long and productive teaching career, left the position open and I was thrilled to have the opportunity to be back. It is wonderful to see familiar faces of former students and get to know new ones. And it's fantastic to be back with the awesome staff of the ALC and all the people throughout the building. We have the BEST custodial staff in the district. :)

I'm teaching American Lit, World Lit, and Science Fiction Stories. We are reading a contemporary novel, a Chicano classic, and a young adult standard classic in each of the respective classes. We also have a Journalism class. The students are working on developing and writing their own stories. As always in all my classes, I learn as much from the kids, if not more, as they learn from me. I appreciate their insights and ideas.

We have a great group of students and I'm happy to be here to share in their education. I'm looking forward to the coming year!

Fall Conferences

Our fall Parent/Teacher conferences will be held **October 17 & 18, Monday & Tuesday, from 3:30—7:30 pm.** Parents will be contacted by Kathie Smestad, to schedule a time that works best for them. If any changes need to be made, Kathie can be reached at **645-1240.**

Thank you.

Promise Fellow at the ALC

Pete Loizzo will be taking over as the ALC's new AmeriCorps Promise Fellow for the 2011-2012 school year. He will be heading up community outreach and various service projects for students, planning monthly activities within the school, and providing assistance for students preparing for college. Loizzo is native of Janesville, Wisconsin, and a recent graduate of St. Olaf College, where he studied political science and English.

Welcome Pete!

UPDATE ON PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Each Wednesday, when students have a late start, teachers are working in Professional Learning Communities (PLC). Our group at the ALC is made up of all of the ALC full-time staff. The goal of this group is to meet each week and collaborate, study data and develop goals to help student become more academically successful.

Our PLC team has decided to continue working on improving the vocabulary of our students by focusing on "root words". We will continue with give them pre-test and post-tests with these words. We also will be using various teaching methods to help students learn new verbage. In the future, we will be collecting date on which of the methods used that helped the students the most.

The PLC process is an ongoing project that is taking place in Northfield Public Schools involving all of the teachers in the district. The ultimate goal of the project is to improve the learning opportunities for all students, become more accountable for students success and to ensure that all students are progressing at an appropriate rate.

Friday Backpacks



These backpacks are filled with enough food for two meals, and are available to any ALC student that would like to take one home. Just see Sheila in the office to check one out!

At the beginning of the year, each student signed the following Attendance Contract, so that we can insure they understand the grading process.

ALC Attendance Contract 2011/12

As a student of the *Northfield Area Learning Center*, I agree to attend school every school day.

The ALC has **8 (eight) grade reporting periods**. A student can earn .25 credits per grade reporting period for Blocks 1-3, and .125 credit for Period 4A and .125 credit for period 4B.

Grading Period 1:	September 6 - October 7, 2011
Grading Period 2:	October 10 - November 11, 2011
Grading Period 3:	November 14 - December 14, 2011
Grading Period 4:	December 15, 2011 - January 20, 2012
Grading Period 5:	January 24 - February 17, 2012
Grading Period 6:	February 20 - March 16, 2012
Grading Period 7:	March 26 – April 27, 2012
Grading Period 8:	April 30 - June 1, 2012

A student who is absent more than **4 times** during a grading period will not earn credit for that class. Additionally, the student must meet with the ALC Director to discuss attendance concerns, and develop an attendance improvement plan for the student.

Important Dates to Note.....



- **October 17 & 18** **Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:30—7:30 pm**
- **October 20 & 21** **No School. Ed MN Break**
- **March 28—April 1** **No School. Spring Break**
- **November 23—25** **No School. Teacher Workshop/Thanksgiving Break**
- **December 23— January 2** **No School. Winter Break / New Year’s Holiday**
- **January 16.** **No School. Holiday**
- **January 23** **No School. Teacher Workshop**



Student Absences / Tardies

Reminder...

If your student is absent, late for school, or needs to leave early, please call our **Attendance Line** at **645-1240** and let us know if they should be “excused”.

Absences will be considered “unexcused” until we hear from a parent/guardian.

Emergency Closure Procedure



The following provides information that families need to be aware of regarding school closings:

1. In the event that school is closed for the day, or a two hour late start is warranted, the following radio/television stations will broadcast this information:

KYMN-1080 AM	WCCO-830 AM	KARE-TV 11	KDHL-POWER 96
KMSP-TV 9	KSTP-TV 5	WCCO-TV 4	
2. All Community Services events, classes, and open gym activities are cancelled if no school occurs or if school is dismissed early. If school begins two hours late, all morning Community Education classes are cancelled.
3. Websites containing up to the minute school closing information: **WCCO.com, KARE11.com, WCCORadio.com**

DISTRICT OFFICE

October 2011 Newsletter

Main Office
507.663.0600

Chris Richardson,
Superintendent of Schools
507.663.0629

Donita Delzer,
Admin. Assistant to the
Superintendent & School Board
507.663.0629

Buildings & Grounds
507.663.0610

Business Office
507.663.0626

**Community Services Division &
Community Relations**
507.664.3650

Curriculum Office
507.663.0622

Food Service
507.663.0618

Health Services
507.645.1205

Payroll Office
507.663.0628

Personnel Office
507.663.0627

Student Services
507.645.3410

Technology Services
507.645.1260

2011 Levy Election Information

At their Aug. 8 meeting, the Northfield Board of Education approved holding a special election on Nov. 8 for the purpose of voting on “revoking and renewing” the district’s current operating levy and extending the length of our current capital projects levy. The district has posted information for residents about the levy election on our Web site. Visit the district’s homepage, at www.nfld.k12.mn.us, and click on the button called “2011 Levy Election Information Site,” to find this information.

2010-2011 Annual Report

The Annual Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Achievement for 2010-11 has been published on the district Web site and made accessible from the homepage, at www.nfld.k12.mn.us. The report was approved by the Northfield Board of Education at its regular meeting on Sept. 26.

The annual report includes information on student performance goals for meeting the Minnesota Graduation Standards, student testing data, curriculum improvement plans, progress on previous curriculum improvement plans, and the District Educational Program Advisory Council membership.

Due to the state government shutdown, the Minnesota Department of Education has not yet published the individual student growth reports. At this time, we can only estimate individual student growth in reading by comparing a student’s scale score from spring 2011 with their scale score from their previous grade in spring 2010. When the accurate test data is received, the report will be revised and posted on the district’s Web site. To receive a printed copy of the report, call 507.663.0600 or contact your child’s school office. For questions contact the Director of Community Services, Hannah Puczko, at 507.664.3649 or Hannah.Puczko@nfld.k12.mn.us.

Three Named National Merit Semi-Finalists

Three students have been named National Merit Semi-Finalists by the College Board. Jasmine Barksdale, Muriel Carpenter and Parker Patterson move on in a competition that could bring them significant scholarships from institutions of higher education.

Also recognized by the college board were seven students who received Commended Student status. They are: Erik Berthelsen, Joseph Brake, Elizabeth Coffield, Eduardo Jaramillo, Dana O'Donnell, Connor Rowley, and Keegan Ryan. All 10 semi-finalists and commended students rank among the top 1 % of students in the nation on standardized test scores, as reported by the College Board. Congratulations to these students!

Video PSA Contest Results Announced

The Northfield Healthy Community Initiative (HCI), in partnership with the Mayor’s Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use, ARTech Charter School and Northfield Public Schools, has announced the results of their Video PSA Contest on the subject of cyberbullying and responsible technology use.

Go to www.northfieldhci.org/weblog/post/4342 to watch the winning entries or www.northfieldhci.org/votingpage to see all of the entries.

Northfield Youth Organizations

5th Bridge	Candy Taylor	507.663.1505	www.5thbridge.org
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	Jenna Herzog	507.414.0308	
Bowling	Terry Heilman	507.645.8322	
Boy Scouts	Sam Trebnick	651.254.9120	www.joincubs.com
Cannon Valley Youth Orchestra	Dora Barvir	507.645.4311	www.cvyomn.org
Carleton ACT Center	Laura Riehle-Merrill	507.646.4028	www.carleton.edu/campus/act
Check it Out Singers	Todd Thompson	507.645.5397	
Community Resource Bank Junior Board	Tara Berndt	507.645.3108	
Dance 'N Fitness	Colleen Day	507.663.7814	
Girl Scouts	Nicole Anderson	507.645.6603	www.girlscoutsrv.org
Healthy Community Initiative	Zach Pruitt	507.664.3524	www.northfieldhci.org
Jr. Curator Program	Nfld Historical Society	507.645.9268	
Just for Kix	Liz Rohach	507.271.3316	www.justforkix.com
Leo Club Advisor	Alice Nasby	507.645.7398	
Library Teen Advisory Board	Kathy Ness	507.645.1804	http://npl-info.blogspot.com
Making Waves Swim School	Cindy Varley	507.645.4623	www.makingwavesswimschool.com
Northfield Area Family YMCA	Virginia Kaczmarek	507.645.0088	www.northfieldymca.org
Northfield Arts Guild	Sheryl Joy	507.645.8877	www.northfieldartsguild.org
Northfield Basketball Association	Kevin Rodgers	507.664.9108	www.northfieldsports.com
Northfield Community Chinese School	Gao Hong	612.385.3893	
Northfield Dance Academy	Kristin Lauenstein	507.645.4068	www.northfielddance.com
Northfield Fastpitch Softball Assoc.	Mark Pritchard	507.645.1365	www.northfieldfastpitch.leag1.com
Northfield Gymnastics Club	Melissa Bernhard	507.663.7772	www.northfieldgymnastics.com
Northfield Hockey Association	Marietta Ruppe	507.645.7310	www.northfieldhockey.net
Northfield Lacrosse Association	Natalie Marfleet	507.645.4035	
Northfield Library	Kathy Ness	507.645.1804	www.northfieldmn.info
Northfield Mentoring Coalition	Zach Pruitt	507.664.3524	www.northfieldhci.org
Northfield Police Dept Explorers	Sgt. Mark Murphy	507.645.4475	
Northfield Skating School	Carey Tinkelenberg	508.887.2551	www.northfieldskating.com
Northfield Soccer Association	Paula Manor	507.645.8577	www.northfieldsoccer.org
Northfield Swim Club	Troy Nystuen	507.663.1926	www.northfieldswimclub.org
Northfield Tennis Association	Kit O'Brien	507.581.4428	www.northfield.usta.com
Northfield Union of Youth	Amy Merritt	507.663.0715	www.unionofyouth.org
Northfield Volleyball Club	Tim Wilgohs	507.645.5860	www.northfieldvolleyballclub.org
Northfield Youth Baseball Assoc	Roger/Kim Thompson	507.301.9746	www.northfieldsports.com
Northfield Youth Choir	Liz Shepley	507.645.4194	www.northfieldyouthchoirs.org
Northfield Youth Wrestling	Mark Woitalla	507.663.7176	www.northfieldsports.com
Project Friendship	Kathy Lansing	507.645.6762	
Rainbow Saddle Club	Nancy Becker	507.645.4336	www.rainbowsaddleclub.org
Reaching Our Goals - St. Olaf College	Education Dept.	507.786.3245	
Rice County Extension - 4 H	Kelly Chadwick	507.332.6163	
St. Olaf Volunteer Network	Kris Vatter	507.786.3999	www.oleville.com

To update contact information, please call (507) 645-3406 or email Heather.Kuchinka@nfld.k12.mn.us with changes.