

BRIDGEWATER ELEMENTARY

**December 2011
Newsletter**

**Nancy Antoine,
Principal**
507.664.3300

Attendance Line
507.664.3306



Bridgewater Families,

It is hard to believe that we are close to the end of the year already. As the holiday season is upon us, we find that there is so much to be thankful for over the year. We are thankful for all of the students and staff here at Bridgewater as we continue to strive for academic and social success for all students. We hope you and your family have a wonderful winter break.

Even though school will not be in session for several days, there are activities available for the students within the community. The Public Library will be open for students over the break, and KidVentures will be up and running in full motion. It is also important for the students to spend time with their families building family traditions and creating memories. Remember, the most important present you can give your child is your presence.

We look forward to our Musical Programs coming up this month. Mrs. Hummel, Mr. Jenni and Ms. Dimberg are busy rehearsing with students. We hope you will have a chance to attend the programs. Please check the Schedule of Events for December (located on page 6) for the date and time of these wonderful programs.

Thank you to everyone that attended Parent-Teacher Conferences last month! 97% of our families came to meet with teachers. This is a great way to be involved in your child's education, and to find ways to assist and reinforce their learning.

A special thank you to Bridgewater PTO and Canvas Church for providing supper for the staff during parent-teacher conferences. The gesture and food were greatly appreciated. It is difficult for teachers to find time to get supper between the end of the school day and their first conference. Thank you again to all who helped out!

Every morning teachers take attendance. As we focus on improving academic achievement, school attendance becomes very important. When students are absent or chronically tardy, achievement levels suffer. If a student is late ten minutes each day of school, (s)he misses 1750 minutes of instructional time. That's almost 30 hours of lost learning. There is no question that missing thirty hours of instruction impacts a student's academic performance. Our business leaders tell us that habits of attendance, punctuality, and positive work ethic are among the most important characteristics of desirable employees. Developing these attributes in our children is primarily the job of parents, with reinforcement provided by the schools and other caring adults. Tardiness and unexcused absences create disruptions in the classroom, avoidable extra work for teachers and support staff, and they interfere with the learning of the children who are late or absent. Legitimate reasons for absence or tardiness include illness of the child, doctor's appointment, death of close family member, and some family trips. Unexcused absences include oversleeping, babysitting a sibling, shopping trips, didn't finish homework, "just running late," etc. Parents who desire suggestions or help regarding how to instill habits of punctuality in their children are invited to contact our school nurse or social worker. We appreciate all your efforts to have your child(ren) in school every day.

We have had several new students and families join the Bridgewater community lately and would like to extend a welcome to them, and encourage them to be involved in all of our activities. We encourage everyone to remember that Bridgewater is your school and you are always welcome!

Happy Holidays!
Nancy Antoine

News from the PTO

Sara Eby & Jennifer Skluzacek

November has been a busy month for the PTO. There are many things we are thankful for!

A very special thank you to Ann Artley and Diane Nagy for coordinating the Scholastic Book Fair. Thank you to all those who helped to set up, take down and work at the cash register. And of course, a BIG thanks to all who contributed to One For Books and/or purchased items at the fair. Below you will see an update written by Ann explaining the impact One For Books had on our classrooms.



Another very special thank you goes to Kim Norton and Rachel Vantries for coordinating the meals for the teachers during conferences. Thank you also to all who volunteered to supply food for the evenings. The teachers always appreciate this, and it is a gesture of our appreciation for them! Thanks also to Canvas Church for donating meals on the evening of November 17th.

Please join us for a PTO meeting on Tuesday, December 6th. This is an additional meeting that was added to our schedule primarily to discuss our budget and plans for a spring fund raiser.

Here are the One For Books results:

We raised over \$1,600 dollars. What did this buy for our teachers?

- 1) All four 3rd grade teachers were able to purchase a number of much needed non-fiction books for their classroom libraries.
- 2) 4 new teachers were able to make sizable purchases to start their classroom libraries.
- 3) Title One was able to purchase a number of books for their library.
- 4) All four Kindergarten teachers were able to purchase much needed beginning guided reader books for each of their classrooms.
- 5) 5th grade reading teachers will now be able to purchase a number of much needed high level reading books.
- 6) The media center received a handful of nice hardbound books and paperback books.
- 7) Every teacher that placed a wish on the wish board received at least one of those books for their classroom library.

Teachers were largely overwhelmed with the gift and acted like kids at **Christmas** shopping at the book fair with their allotted money. One teacher said, "If you could just see how our students gobble these books up in class!"

I think that says it all. A big thank you to all the parents and students for showing their overwhelming support for this drive! **The true winners in this are the students!** Congratulations!

Reading Rocks....

Connie Nelson, Literacy Coach

Learning to read can be hard work; in fact, it is for almost 40% of children. Talking, reading, and writing help your child be successful in school. Parents should look for two signs that may signify difficulty in learning to read:

- Language or speech problems (delayed talking, difficulty expressing oneself, pronouncing words)
- Hearing impairment (hearing individual sounds)

Kids who struggle to read may also show some of these early warning signs:

- Difficulty rhyming words
- Difficulty learning the alphabet, numbers, or days of the week
- Difficulty following multi-step directions
- Difficulty telling or re-telling a story.

This information comes from a website which is free to both parents and teachers called www.readingrockets.org. Check it out for lots of great information on reading.

Band Notes....

Roger Jenni



The Northfield Elementary Fifth Grade Band and the Northfield Middle School Sixth Grade Band will present a Holiday Concert at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, December 20 in the Middle School Auditorium. You are all invited to come and hear this special concert!

Last year at the Band Holiday Concert we experimented with a new idea called the "Family Affair Band Event". This portion of the concert, which occurred between the two band performances, featured small groups made up of family members performing short selections of their choice. The main ground rule for participating in the Family Affair Band Event was that the Family Band must be immediate family members playing together, no neighbors or friends are allowed. It was a smash hit, so we are going to offer that experience again this year. If the Family Bands are successful again this year, the event may be well on its way to becoming another Northfield tradition; but our main hope is that this event will encourage more families to share and enjoy making music together!

For all the Band students...the Holiday Band Concert at the Middle School Auditorium is a dress-up concert. Wear nice, but not overly flashy clothes.

See you all at the Band Holiday Concert on December 20!

Music Notes....

Kristin Hummel



The 4th and 5th grade choirs are preparing an extra special concert this year. We will be performing a musical called "Once on a Housetop," written by John Jacobson & John Higgins. Our show includes the choirs performing large group songs, small groups dressed in character costumes with speaking parts, and a fabulous set design created by our set crew under the guidance of Ms. Woodstrup.

Please mark your calendars for **Monday, December 12** - our show begins at **7:00 p.m.!**
(choir members will bring home an information sheet detailing show times for make-up/costumes)

Orchestra Notes....

Natalie Dimberg



We are working very hard to prepare for our upcoming December concerts. I am very excited for parents, classmates, and teachers to hear the wonderful music! At our evening concert the 5th graders will be playing as a whole district 5th grade orchestra; it has been so amazing to work with this large ensemble and to hear their very full sound. The 4th graders will also be performing one of their concert pieces with students from the other elementary schools.

Concert Schedule:

Monday, December 19th: 7:00 pm in the Northfield Middle School Auditorium

-4th Graders need to arrive at Middle School by 6:20 pm

-5th Graders need to arrive at Middle School by 6:30 pm

Tuesday, December 20th: 2:00 pm in the Bridgewater Gym

We do not have a specific concert dress code for elementary orchestra; I just ask that students wear something nice, no sweatpants.

Physical Education News....

Paul Bernhard & Tony Mathison

It has been a great fall in physical education. Classes were able to stay outdoors for an extended period of time with the nice weather and participate in a number of activities centered at elevating the heart rate and getting kids into their target heart rate zone of exercise. Students continue to learn about their heart and lungs and what their body is capable of. Classes are also learning about what types of fuel allow their body to work as efficiently as possible and how important it is to eat right and exercise consistently.

As we gear up for an extended stay indoors for activity, another reminder of having proper tennis shoes for class and being on the gym floor. Tennis shoes are also important for the movement and activities students participate in and perform. Protecting the joints and ligaments does not occur with improper footwear. Thanks for your attention to this. It really is a safety issue when it comes to activity. Team Building Challenges, volleyball, and basketball activities will fill the month of December. Be sure to ask your kids what is happening in "P.E". Have a great month!

As always..."Fit Kids Are Healthy Kids"!



Community Services....

Megan Proft

Community Services has many great programs coming up. Visit us online at www.nfld.k12.mn.us (follow the Community Services link) or call 507.664.3649 for more info and registration. Scholarships are available for all programs. Watch for our winter/spring brochure arriving in your mailbox around Dec. 16.

Swim and Gym (grades 4-8)

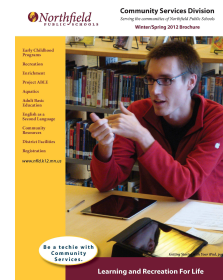
1:30-4 p.m. Th, Dec. 29 in the middle school pool

Mini-Sport Camp (ages 4-6)

9 a.m.-noon T & W, Dec. 27 & 28 in the middle school gym

Multi-Sport Camp (ages 7-11)

1-4 p.m. T & W, Dec. 27 & 28 in the middle school gym



Weather Emergency Closing Procedures





In the event that school is closed for the day, a two-hour late start or an early dismissal is warranted, information will be broadcast from the following radio/television stations:

- KYMN-1080 AM-Northfield
- KARE-TV, Channel 11 and KARE11.com-Minneapolis/St. Paul
- WCCO-TV, Channel 4; WCCO-830 AM Radio and WCCO.com-Minneapolis/St. Paul
- KSTP TV, Channel 5, KSTM.com-Minneapolis/St. Paul
- KMSP TV, Channel 9, Minneapolis/St. Paul
- KDHL-Power 96-Faribault

1. If a two-hour late start is implemented (school begins two hours later than usual), bus pick-up will be approximately two hours later than the normal time. Morning Kindergarten and Kid Ventures will be canceled.
2. All Elementary School activities will be postponed or cancelled if no school occurs or if school is dismissed early.
3. All Community Education 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.
4. Teachers will follow the directions on the "Emergency Closing Forms" parents filled out for their child at the beginning of the year. Please take time to review this with your child(ren). This will avoid confusion and unnecessary phone calls in the office.

December 2011 @ *your* library!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	 <p>A book is a gift you can open again and again!</p>			<p>1 10 am Pre-school stories and craft time</p>	<p>2 10-12 First Steps</p> 	<p>3 10-12 First Steps AUTHOR VISIT! 1 pm Meet Northfield author Leslie Schultz!</p>
4	<p>5 10-12 First Steps 6:30 TAB Meeting</p>	<p>6 10 am Infant Lapsit</p>	<p>7 10 am Toddler Rhyme Time</p>  <p>MAGIC OF MODEL TRAINS!</p>	<p>8 10 am Toddler Rhyme Time</p>	<p>9 10-12 First Steps</p>	<p>11 am  Snowflakes, Santa, & Stories Special Story time with St. Olaf Theatre Students</p>
11	<p>12 10-12 First Steps</p> 	<p>13 10 am Infant Lapsit</p>	<p>14 10 am Toddler Rhyme Time</p>	<p>15 10 am Toddler Rhyme Time</p>	<p>16 10-12 First Steps</p>	<p>17 10-12 First Steps</p>
18			<p>21 22 Happy Holidays from the library staff!</p>			<p>24 CLOSED Merry Christmas</p>
25	<p>26 CLOSED</p>	 <p>REINDEER GAMES! Open game time in the library's meeting room 10-1 Tuesday- Friday. Wii, board games and more!</p>				<p>31 We're open today!</p>



December 2011

Schedule Events for December 2011

Every Wednesday-One Hour Late Start (9:20 a.m.)

- December 6—PTO Meeting (6:30 p.m., MC)
- December 12— 4th & 5th Grade Choir Concert (7:00 p.m.)
- December 12—School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m., High School Media)
- December 15—BW Orchestra Concert (2:00 p.m., Gymnasium)
- December 16—BW Band at Wells’s Fargo Bank Luncheon Concert @ Noon
- December 19—Elementary Orchestra Concert (7:00 p.m., MS Auditorium)
- December 20—Gingerbread House Day *9:15—Anderson/Tran; 10:00—Cade/Wisdorf AM; 2:15-Wisdorf PM
- December 20—Winter Band Concert (7:00 p.m. @MS Auditorium)
- December 21—Holden’s Class to Sr. Center (1-2:00 p.m.)
- December 23-January 2- Winter Break (No School)

Upcoming Scheduled Events

- January 9—School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m., High School Media)
- January 18—Holden’s Class to Sr. Center (1-2:00 p.m.)
- January 23—School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m., High School Media)
- February 13—School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m., High School Media)
- February 16—Field Trip to IMAX Theatre (Schuster/Rockne)
- February 27—School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m., High School Media)
- March 6—Theaterworks Presentations “Fancy Nancy” (Grade 1)
- March 8, 13 & 15— Spring Conferences
- March 19 - 23—Spring Break (No School)
- March 30—MN Zoo Field Trip (grade 5)
- March 30—Assembly/Storyteller

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
4	5	6 PTO Meeting @ 6:30 p.m., M.C.	7	8	9	10
11	12 Choir Concert grades 4 & 5 @7:00 p.m. School Board Meeting @ 7:00 p.m., H.S. Media	13	14	15 BW Orchestra Concert @ 2:00 p.m.	16 BW Band @ Wells’ Fargo Bank @ Noon	17
18	19 Elementary Orchestra Concert @ 7:00 p.m., M.S. Auditorium	20 Winter Band Concert @7:00 p.m. Kindergarten GingerBread House Day 	21 Holden’s class to Sr. Center	22	23 Winter Break Begins (No School) →	24
25 Winter Break	26	27	28	29	30	31



Enjoy your Winter Break!

- May 4—Gibb’s Farm & Bell Museum Field Trip (Healy/Truman)
- May 8—Band Tour Day (Grade 5)
- May 11—Gibb’s Farm & Bell Museum Field Trip (Larson/Sickler)
- May 21—Elementary & Middle School Orchestra Concert (7:00 p.m., NMS Auditorium)
- May 31—Fifth Grade Marching Band Spring Concert (6:00 p.m., Bridge Square)

DISTRICT OFFICE

December 2011 Newsletter

Main Office
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Superintendent of Schools
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Donita Delzer,
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Superintendent & School Board
507.663.0629

Buildings & Grounds
507.663.0610

Business Office
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**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

American Education Week Years of Service Awards

In celebration of the 90th American Education Week, Northfield Public Schools and the Northfield Education Association (NEA) honored several staff members for years of service to the district and awarded three recognitions at its annual Staff Appreciation Breakfast on Nov. 23.

Years of Service awards were given for 20 years of service to Elizabeth Bade, Mary Beck, Cathy Bennetts, Monika Burkhead, Dana Engstrom, Starr Kahl, Tony Mathison, Lisa Nelson, Mark Woitalla and Mary Wojick. Joanne Olson received an award for 25 years of service, and Daryl Robinson received an award for 35 years.

The NEA gave its Friend of Education Award to Chip DeMann, Store Manager, volunteer and former president and board member of the Northfield Historical Society. DeMann works with Northfield Middle School students on special history projects, and he played an active role in assisting Northfield eighth graders to write and publish "Caught in the Storm," a history and travel guide that chronicles the drama of the James and Younger Gang in their attempt to get out of Minnesota after a failed robbery at the First National Bank.

Northfield Middle School Educational Assistant Kimberly Tousignant was named Paraprofessional of the Year, and the Teacher of the Year Award was presented to Northfield High School social studies teacher Kevin Dahle.

Special Education teacher Candace Hard praised Tousignant's caring and communication. Tousignant admitted to making a job transfer from elementary to middle school, in large part to support a group of her students who expressed apprehension about their own transition. NEA President and math teacher Ray Coudret described Dahle as "a unique and inspiring teacher."

The annual theme of American Education Week, Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility, reflects the National Education Association's call to provide students with quality public schools so that they can grow, prosper, and achieve in the 21st century.

DECA Club Creates Sign for Northfield's YMCA

The Northfield High School's business club, DECA, partnered with the Northfield Area Family YMCA to design, build, paint and install the sign marking the future site of the new YMCA building location, behind Target. On Nov. 15 the YMCA Board of Directors attended a sign unveiling party in the high school woods classroom. There was a site dedication ceremony on Nov. 20, at which Mayor Mary Rossing recognized the DECA Club. Local businesses and individuals helped DECA with this project. DECA was able to get building supplies donated by Lamperts and paint from Youngs Paint Center. The post holes were dug by Doug Sonnee of Sonnee Site Development, and trailer transportation was provided by John Peterson, of Far-Gaze Farms. Kwik Trip provides breakfast for DECA's Tuesday morning meetings.

DECA Club members would like to thank the community for all of their support!

For photos, visit <http://locallygrownnorthfield.org/post/23872> or <http://northfield.patch.com/school-news>.

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