

**SIBLEY  
ELEMENTARY****December 2011  
Newsletter****Scott Sannes,  
Principal**  
507.645.3470**Attendance Line**  
507.645.3474

Dear Families:

Happy Holiday Season!!!

As we approach the holiday break we also approach the midway point of the school year. Instead of waiting until the end of the year to gather feedback from you, we have created a family survey which we are asking all families to complete now. We will use the survey data to both validate our practices and make changes if necessary. The survey will be open until Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. You will find the survey here: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=uh4aVeT\\_2bdca6GUBCictsaMZnNXsRjhIDBb5GPTrP1o\\_3d](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=uh4aVeT_2bdca6GUBCictsaMZnNXsRjhIDBb5GPTrP1o_3d).

December is a busy month. It has traditionally been the time for music concerts and other fun-filled activities. This December is no different. Individual music class concerts will take place the week of December 19<sup>th</sup>. Dates and times for the music class concerts, as well as other events, can be found in this edition of *The Sibley Star*.

As you are well aware, Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) are fully functioning in the Northfield Public Schools. During each of the next four or five PTO meetings, classroom teachers will be sharing their PLC goals, plans, strategies, etc.

Each PLC has a SMART Goal. SMART means the goal is **S**trategic and Specific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**esults-oriented and **T**ime-bound. Each 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade PLC also has flexible grouping time built into their day. When teachers plan for flex grouping, they use data to consider the strengths and challenges of each student and then group students together based on educational needs of each student. The flex groups are formed and dissolved as needs change and goals change to allow for maximum flexibility, avoiding the static nature of the grouping patterns we as adults remember from our educational experiences.

Shannon Bailey, Adolescent Health Coordinator with Dakota County, sent out the following information about breakfast. I thought it was a worth sharing as all students need to be properly fueled prior to coming to school each day:

Without question, the most important meal of the day, especially for students, is breakfast. A healthy breakfast is the foundation for good health, and studies show that students who eat a good breakfast do better academically and have a more positive attitude during the school day. A healthy breakfast jump-starts a student's mind and body. But what constitutes a healthy breakfast? According to the staff of Mayo Clinic, a healthy breakfast should include complex carbohydrates, fiber, protein and a small amount of fat. That means a breakfast of whole grains, such as whole-grain cereals or breads; low-fat proteins, including peanut butter or hard-boiled eggs; low-fat dairy products, such as skim milk or low-fat yogurt; and fresh fruits, such as 100 percent juice without added sugar, or just a piece of fresh fruit. For more information, go to [www.co.dakota.mn.us](http://www.co.dakota.mn.us) <<http://www.co.dakota.mn.us>> and search for "healthy breakfast."

If you have any questions or concerns about your child or Sibley Elementary in general, please contact me at [scott.sannes@nfld.k12.mn.us](mailto:scott.sannes@nfld.k12.mn.us) or 645-3470. Enjoy the holidays!

Sincerely,



Scott Sannes



Queridas familias:

¡¡Felices fiestas!!

Según nos acercamos a las vacaciones de invierno también significa que nos acercamos a la mitad del curso escolar. En lugar de esperar hasta el final del año para que nos digan su opinión hemos creado una encuesta para las familias que pueden completar desde ahora mismo. Vamos a usar los datos de la encuesta para confirmar las cosas que van bien y hacer cambios si fuera necesario. La encuesta permanecerá abierta hasta el viernes 10 de diciembre. Puede encontrar la encuesta aquí: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=uh4aVeT\\_2bdca6GUBCictsaMZnNXsRjhlDBb5GPtrP1o\\_3d](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=uh4aVeT_2bdca6GUBCictsaMZnNXsRjhlDBb5GPtrP1o_3d).

Diciembre es un mes con muchas actividades. Normalmente es un mes para conciertos de música y otras divertidas actividades. Este mes de diciembre no va a ser diferente. Los conciertos de música de cada clase tendrán lugar la semana del 19 de diciembre. Las horas y días para los conciertos, así como otras actividades, se pueden encontrar en esta edición del *The Sibley Star*.

Todos saben que las Comunidades de aprendizaje profesionales, Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), se desarrollan en los Colegios Públicos de Northfield. Durante cada una de las cuatro o cinco reuniones del PTO (Organización de padres y profesores), los profesores de cada clase van a compartir con el resto sus metas dentro de los PLC, sus planes, sus estrategias, etc.

Cada PLC tiene una meta que se conoce como SMART (Smart significa listo, inteligente). Las siglas de SMART significan que las metas son **S**trategic and **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**esults-oriented and **T**ime-bound, es decir, estratégicas y específicas, se pueden medir, se pueden alcanzar, orientadas a los resultados y creadas para que se realicen dentro de un tiempo o plazo determinado. Cada PLC de 1° a 5° posee un tiempo para grupos flexibles cada día. Cuando los profesores hacen sus planes para los grupos flexibles, utilizan datos de lo que consideran son los puntos fuertes y los retos de cada estudiante y agrupan a los estudiantes según sean las necesidades educativas de cada estudiante. Los grupos se forman y se deshacen según van cambiando las necesidades y metas para lograr una máxima flexibilidad, y logrando evitar la naturaleza estática de los grupos que se solían hacer hace años, tal y como nosotros, los adultos, recordamos de cuando éramos pequeños.

Shannon Bailey, la coordinadora de salud para adolescentes del condado de Dakota (Adolescent Health Coordinator with Dakota County), envió la siguiente información sobre la importancia de que los niños lleguen al colegio tras comer un buen desayuno que quería compartir con todos ustedes:

Sin duda, la comida más importante del día, sobre todo para los estudiantes, es el desayuno. Un desayuno saludable es la base para una buena salud. Los estudios muestran que a los estudiantes que comen un buen desayuno les va mejor académicamente y tienen una actitud más positiva durante el día en la escuela. Un desayuno saludable ayuda a que la mente y el cuerpo del estudiante estén preparados para el día. Pero, ¿qué es un desayuno saludable? Los profesionales de la Clínica Mayo dicen que un desayuno saludable debe tener carbohidratos, fibra, proteína y una pequeña cantidad de grasa. Esto significa que un buen desayuno puede incluir granos integrales, como panes y cereales de granos integrales (whole-grain), proteínas de poca grasa como manteca de cacahuetes (peanut butter) y huevos duros, productos lácteos de poca grasa como leche baja en grasa o yogures, fruta, como una fruta o un jugo sin azúcar y 100 por cien de jugo de frutas. Para obtener más información pueden ir a [www.co.dakota.mn.us](http://www.co.dakota.mn.us) <<http://www.co.dakota.mn.us>> y buscar "healthy breakfast."

Si tiene preguntas o alguna cuestión o preocupación sobre su hija o hijo o sobre Sibley Elementary en general, por favor, pónganse en contacto conmigo con un mensaje a [scott.sannes@nfld.k12.mn.us](mailto:scott.sannes@nfld.k12.mn.us) o llamando al teléfono 645-3470. ¡Que disfruten de las fiestas y vacaciones!

Atentamente,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Sannes".

Scott Sannes

Traducción: Mar Valdecantos

## Choir News - Holly Fischer



Thanks to all the 4th and 5th graders who worked so hard and sang so beautifully in our fall concert. It was so much fun to sing at the Middle School. We will certainly plan to do it again.

In December we have an informal singalong of holiday tunes on Bridge Square. On December 15 at 5:30 PM choir members should bring their families down to Bridge Square, grab a song sheet from Mrs. Fischer and sing! It will last only about 20 minutes. This is not a concert... just a fun family time to get together and sing. Students who are not interested in this event can rejoin choir in January.

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## Sibley Orchestra Update - 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: 2:00 pm in the Sibley Gym

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



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

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## Fifth Grade Band News - Paul Beck

### Holiday Band Concert - December 20

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 of 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!

## Health Office - Jane Ehlers

The cold weather is here and it is important that parents keep the changing seasons in mind when it comes to clothing. As we are entering the month of December, hats, heavy coats, mittens or gloves, boots and snow pants are needed **everyday**.



- Please mark all clothing items with some distinguishing identification and check the Lost and Found frequently (located outside of the music room).
- Students are outside daily in the morning before school and during recess; therefore, being appropriately dressed for the weather is important.
- If the temperature is at or above 0 degrees the children will go outside.
- If the temperature is lower than -10 degrees wind chill they will be inside.
- If your student is needing appropriate winter clothing for school, please notify the school social worker or school nurse for assistance.

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The flu season is here! Influenza (also known as flu) is a very common upper respiratory disease. Influenza is not what is commonly referred to as “the stomach flu”, which is a term used by some people to describe illnesses causing vomiting or diarrhea. Every year, millions of people in the United States get influenza. Influenza often results in more severe illness than other respiratory viruses.

**CAUSE:** Influenza virus. Two types of influenza viruses are type A and B. Within each type there are many related strains or subtypes, which can change every year. This is why a person can get influenza more than once and why a person should get vaccinated every year. Influenza A and B most often cause very large numbers of respiratory illnesses (epidemics). Epidemics usually occur between November and April.

**SYMPTOMS:** Start quickly with high fever, chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headache, body aches, and tiredness. Nausea and vomiting may occur in children. People with chronic health problems or weakened immune systems may develop pneumonia or bronchitis.

**SPREAD:** When a person with influenza coughs or sneezes tiny droplets with influenza virus into the air and another person breathes them in. Spread may occur from person to person by touching secretions from the nose and mouth of the infected person; also by touching the infected person’s hands, tissues, or other items soiled with nose and mouth secretions.

**CONTAGIOUS PERIOD:** From 24 hrs before symptoms begin and up to 7 days after symptoms begin.

**EXCLUSION:** Until fever is gone for 24 hours without fever reducing medicine and the student can participate in classroom activities.

**PREVENTION:** Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm running water after touching secretions from the nose or mouth. This is the best way to prevent infectious diseases. Other suggestions are; cover nose and mouth with tissue when coughing and sneezing or cough/sneeze into your sleeve, dispose of used tissues. Anyone wanting to be protected against influenza should get an annual influenza vaccination.




Jane M. Ehlers, RN  
Sibley Health Office

**Health Services -** HealthFinders Collaborative is staffed by volunteers: doctors, nurses, social workers, interpreters and administrative staff. They provide quality health care, advocacy and wellness education to people in our community who have limited healthcare alternatives.

The HealthFinders Clinic operates on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Little Prairie United Methodist Church, 2980 130th Street East in Dundas, and is free to low income uninsured residents of Rice County. Appointments must be made in advance by calling the Clinic Line at 507-663-0134.

For more information visit their website at [www.healthfindersmn.org](http://www.healthfindersmn.org).

## December 2011

| Monday                                                                                                            | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                       | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                   | Thursday                                                                                                                                                            | Friday                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                             | 1<br><b>Christmas Sharing Drive for Northfield CAC- runs through Dec. 13</b><br> | 2<br>Grades 4 & 5-Club de Español for Compañeros students - 7:30a.m.<br><br>Student Council Mtg 7:30a.m.-Haar's Room                             |
| 5<br>Grade 4 & 5-Club de Español for non-Compañeros students 7:30a.m.                                             | 6<br>Grades 1-3 - Club de Español at 7:30a.m.                                                                                                                                 | 7<br><b>1 Hour Late Start</b>                                                                                                                                               | 8                                                                                                                                                                   | 9<br>Grades 4 & 5-Club de Español for Compañeros students - 7:30a.m.                                                                             |
| 12<br>Grade 4 & 5-Club de Español for non-Compañeros students 7:30a.m.<br><br>School Board Meeting 7:00p.m. @ NHS | 13<br>Grades 1-3 - Club de Español at 7:30a.m.<br><br><b>Last day to drop off toys</b><br> | 14<br><b>1 Hour Late Start</b>                                                                                                                                              | 15                                                                                                                                                                  | 16<br>Grades 4 & 5-Club de Español for Compañeros students - 7:30a.m.<br><br>Sibley Pajama Day<br><br>Earthling Team Mtg at 7:30a.m. in Room 142 |
| 19                                                                                                                | 20<br>Holiday Sings (See page 7 for details)<br><br>5th & 6th Grade Winter Band Concert @ 7:00p.m. - NMS Auditorium                                                           | 21<br><b>1 Hour Late Start</b><br><b>Otte Holiday Sings:</b><br>AM K-10:15-10:45<br>PM K-2:00-2:30<br>In the Skylight Commons<br><br>Holiday Sings (See page 7 for details) | 22<br>Holiday Sings (See page 7 for details)                                                                                                                        | 23<br><b>No School Winter Break</b>                                                                                                              |
| 26<br><b>No School Winter Break</b>                                                                               | 27<br><b>No School Winter Break</b>                                                                                                                                           | 28<br><b>No School Winter Break</b>                                                                                                                                         | 29<br><b>No School Winter Break</b>                                                                                                                                 | 30<br><b>No School Winter Break</b>                                                                                                              |

### Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

- Jan 2: No School: New Year's Day Holiday
- Jan.9: School Board Meeting at 7:00p.m. @ NHS Media Center
- Jan 10: PTO Meeting at 6:30p.m. Sibley Media Center
- Jan. 16: No School—MLK Jr's Birthday/Teacher Workshop
- Jan. 23: No School—Teacher Workday/Workshop  
School Board Meeting @ 7:00p.m. @ NHS, Media Center
- Feb. 14: Grade 5-Belle Creek Roller Rink - 9:30a.m.-2:30p.m.
- May 8: Fifth Grade Band Tour-All Day  
Fifth Grade Band Tour Home Concert -2:30p.m. @ Greenvale
- May 31: Fifth Grade Band Spring Marching Concert—6p.m. Bridge Square



#### 2011-12 MAP Test Window:

Winter: January 3-20

Spring: May 7-25

## Social Worker News - Noreen Cooney

Part II: Tips for Helping Children Deal with Bullies (see November newsletter for Part I)

What parents can do:

- Keep communication lines open by encouraging children to share information about school and school-related activities.
- Pay attention to symptoms that may indicate your child is being bullied: withdrawal, abrupt lack of interest in school, refusal to go to school, a drop in grades, or physical signs of being hurt.
- If your child is a victim of bullying at school, inform school officials immediately. Keep written records of the names, dates, times and circumstances of bullying incidents and request help from a school administrator.

How can we prevent bullying? Research finds that teaching children empathy is a good way to keep them from hurting others.

Tips for building empathy include:

- Explain the effects of your child's behavior on others. Help him or her understand the importance of sharing and being kind.
- When your child has hurt someone or caused distress, explain why the behavior is harmful and suggest to make amends.
- Encourage your children to discuss their feelings and problems.
- Limit exposure to violent video games, movies and music.

Bullying is harmful to both the victim and the perpetrator. A combined effort between parents, youth, schools and community members is needed in order to eliminate bullying and harassment.

For more information, visit <http://www.dakotacounty.us>

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## Student Council News - Mrs. Haar and Mrs. Cooney

Student Council has been busy with several activities.

- Students at Sibley Elementary collected almost \$1,500 when out trick or treating or through other donations for Feed My Starving Children! Thank you to all Sibley families for your support.
- Using traced hands from all of the students at Sibley, student council members created two large flags that are currently hanging in the cafeteria to show support for Veteran's Day. Student council then hosted local veterans that were invited for lunch at Sibley.



- We are currently collecting toys for the local Northfield Christmas Sharing Program that distributes new, unwrapped toys for families in need. A grade-level challenge is in sue as we try to collect at least 200 toys to earn a popcorn party, PJ dress up day and 2 special phy ed teachers dressed up as elves!!

## Weather Emergency Closing Procedures

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



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

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 morning KidVentures will be canceled.
2. All School activities will be postponed or cancelled if there is no school or if school is dismissed early.
3. All Community Education events, classes, and open gym activities are cancelled if there is no school or if school is dismissed early. If school begins two hours late, all morning Community Education classes are cancelled.
4. Please discuss with your student ahead of time what procedure they need to take (*where they will be sent*) when school is dismissed early. This will avoid confusion and added phoning in the office.

## Music Class Concert Schedule

All concerts take place in the music room during regular music class time.

### Tuesday, December 20:

8:30-8:55 Grade 4 Haar  
 8:55-9:20 Grade 4 Johnson  
 1:30-1:55 Grade 5 Baragary  
 1:55-2:20 Grade 5 Will/Day  
 2:20-2:45 Grade 3 Morris  
 2:45-3:10 Grade 3 Spitzack

### Wednesday, December 21:

9:20-9:45 Grade 1 Sieger  
 9:45-10:10 Grade 1 Vitito  
 10:10-10:35 Grade 2 Witt  
 10:35-11:00 Grade 2 Seeberg  
 12:40-1:05 Grade K Lofquist  
 1:05-1:30 Grade K Pfefferle  
 1:30-1:55 Grade 5 Foley  
 1:55-2:20 Grade 5 Ostermann  
 2:20-2:45 Grade 3 Jandro  
 2:45-3:10 Grade 3 Guiggisberg

### Thursday, December 22:

8:30-8:55 Grade 4 Pemrick  
 8:55-9:20 Grade 4 Fox  
 9:20-9:45 Grade 1 Shorma  
 9:45-10:10 Grade 1 Heil  
 10:10-10:35 Grade 2 Schuerman  
 10:35-11:00 Grade 2 Beck



## Attendance Line - Please call by 9:00a.m.



Please call the attendance line by 9:00a.m. each day your child is absent. You may reach the 24-hour voicemail system by dialing 507-645-3474. Emailing teachers is okay, but **does not** count as official notification to the school.

When calling, please leave your student's name, grade, reason for absence and your relationship to the child. If calling in an illness, please leave information regarding symptoms. Our health services staff is required to file a report with the State Health Department if there is an unusual increase in certain illnesses.

Students who are not called in will be considered unexcused until a parent/guardian notifies us.

## Art Room News - Karna Hauck

Hello from the ART ROOM!

It is so important that our children have the opportunity to create. Thank goodness the Northfield Public Schools have made a commitment to quality art programming! Our children ought to have access to the intellectual and artistic capital of our culture. They have a natural curiosity that is truly contagious and neurotransmitters that are wired for artistic thinking. In early November, I attended the Art Educators of Minnesota with a number of my visual art educator colleagues in Northfield. I gained many new ideas and skills by listening to other art professionals talk about teaching and learning. From creative approaches that engage students to using electronic media in the art room to Brain Gym activities that get a body ready to learn (ask your child to show you a "hook-up") there were a plethora of ideas that I brought back to Sibley with me. My hope is always to provide creative and interesting artistic experiences for our kids. Helping kids to develop the skills to then make artistic decisions using the language of art is really honoring the child and their natural curiosities and abilities. What fun it is!

The current work of art on display in the school are... Kindergarten Cityscapes, first grade Grouchy Ladybugs and Wassily Kandinsky Paintings, second grade Jasper Johns Alphabet Paintings, third grade Tropical Fish Drawings, fourth grade Backpacks and fifth grade Positive/Negative Compositions. Please come by and check out our ongoing school art show in the commons areas and hallways.

Warm wishes to you...

Mrs. Hauck



### Art Donation Corner

Needed in the art room...

MAGAZINES, but many are not helpful to us visually. Here is a list of magazines that would be useful to the art room:

- Real Simple
- old Martha Stewarts
- National Geographic

We can still use egg cartons too!

Thank you for helping!

## Green Team December - Reuse

The Sibley Green Team group concerned with the environment has developed monthly environmental themes to bring awareness and action to our students and families. December's theme is "Reuse."

### Green Ideas:

It's easy to forget the environment during the holidays, but a more sustainable festive season may not be as difficult as you think. We produce approximately 25 percent more trash during the holiday season (from Thanksgiving to New Year's) which equates to around 25 million extra tons of waste. With some thoughtful actions, we can reuse much of it.

Follow these handy tips for a greener, more sustainable holiday:

- Don't throw your wrapping paper in the garbage or fireplace. More than 8,000 tons of wrapping paper will be used on presents, using the equivalent of 50,000 trees. Reuse or recycle!
- Save and reuse cards that you receive as gift tags for next year.
- If you are buying toys or electrical goods that need batteries, buy rechargeable ones, then add a battery charger to your shopping list. Make sure to recycle those old batteries instead of tossing them.
- When you have finished eating all your chocolates and biscuits, keep the tins and reuse them as storage containers.
- Around 125,000 tons of plastic packaging are thrown away over the holiday season. Take your own reusable shopping bags when you do your shopping.
- If you're having a party, avoid serving food and drinks on disposable plates and cups. If you don't have enough reusable plates, have everyone bring their own!



## SAFETY FIRST! - Lori Witt Macrae – Safety Patrol Coordinator



Volunteers are essential and I have the privilege to work with 12 different volunteers each day! This year we have more than 60 student volunteers for Sibley Safety Patrol. These responsible 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders either arrive early in the morning or stay late in the afternoon to fulfill their duties. We should all appreciate their dedication.

The semi-circle driveway gets very congested during drop off and pick up times. As the weather changes and the roads become slippery I would like to encourage you to utilize the services our patrol provides.

Please consider dropping off or picking up your students on the streets near Sibley. Many parents are already doing this. They pull up to the curb, say their goodbyes and the children cross with the patrol if necessary. Many families are choosing streets that align with the school yard and the children just run up the hill to the playground area. This allows vehicles to exit the school area quickly, easily and safely.

## PTO News - Dana Murtha

**December is the month of giving, a big thank-you for all who have given your time, money, talents. Because of you, Sibley is a great place!**



I would like to take a moment to answer some questions that have come my way.

- **What is PTO?** Parent Teacher Organization.
- **Who is the PTO?** PTO has an executive board, consisting of a President, Dana Murtha, Vice President, Chris Feldman, Secretary, Tracy Hinz and Treasurer, Leah Garlie. We are volunteers who serve a two year school term. Also, all of you are part of PTO. Just ask us how you can be involved. The easiest way is to come to the monthly meetings.
- **What are the PTO's objectives?** The main objectives are to serve as a liaison between parents and school staff and to sponsor various activities that would encourage school and community support and cooperation. Also, to be the communicators between parents, teachers and school staff. With this said, PTO organizes/funds many functions throughout the year. A few examples are; the walk-a-thon, book fairs, staff appreciation, conference meals, family fun night, kindness retreat, school safety patrols, student council, classroom funding, field trip scholarships, field day, year books, directories, and many other miscellaneous needs and events. With all of these functions there are some costs. In the past, PTO has paid for and supported leveled books, new playground equipment, smart boards in all the classrooms, etc....
- **Where does PTO get the funds?** PTO's biggest fundraiser is the walk-a-thon. This year's walk-a-thon raised just over \$10,000. Last year the walk-a-thon raised just over \$15,000. We also have Trash for Cash, which in the past has been about \$4,000 a year. Kwik Trip cards, Take Charge for Education (Target), and private donations round out the other revenue sources. 100% of our fundraising goes back to improve Sibley and it's mission. The PTO is always looking for new ways to improve sustainability and to increase the impact on our school community.

We are truly blessed for what Sibley has, and as an executive board we want to continue to provide this support and keep Sibley heading in the right direction for the future.

Thank you,  
Dana, Chris, Leah and Tracy

## Amity Intern Program...

THANK YOU to Chris and Katie Clark and their daughters for hosting Sara for the first trimester of the school year! The Amity program isn't possible without great host families! Sara will be living with the Sumner family from November 27 to early March.

Sara will wrap up the first session of the Club de Español before winter break. The second session will start in February. Look for registration information to be sent home in January!

All families are encouraged to get to know Sara and to show her what life in Northfield and in Minnesota is all about! You are encouraged to invite her to your home for dinner, to a sporting event, to a cultural event, etc. She is anxious to meet Sibley students and their families! You can reach Sara by calling 612-839-1307.

## Trash to Cash - Leah Garlie

### Save Your Trash for Sibley!!!

We had our first contest of the year and it was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who saved their trash and brought it in. This winner of this year's fall contest will receive a pizza party on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and the winner is . . . 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade! Congrats to the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders for their hard work!

We will be having another contest in the spring so please keep saving your trash. This is a great way for Sibley to raise money.

Below is a reminder of the items we earn money for:

- Box tops for Education (found on many products from General Mills, Betty Crocker, Ziploc, Kleenex brand tissues, Huggies diapers, Hefty products, Hanes, and more ...)
- Land O' Lakes caps
- Kemps caps and proof of purchases
- Milk Moola caps and strips (please send in just the front side of the top of the bag, not the whole top – it cuts down on the smell and the bulk)
- "Our Family" brand UPC barcodes (all barcodes start with 70253)
- Econo Receipts
- Tyson chicken labels (we need the whole strip not just the A+ part)
- Holy Land Brand Hummus
- Used printer cartridges

Please remember if you have a Target Visa card, to declare Sibley as your school of choice. Once a year, Target will send Sibley a check for a percentage of all purchases made. It's easy to declare a school. Just call Target Take Charge of Education at 1-800-316-6142.

There are lists on top of the Trash to Cash bin outside the office!

Questions? Contact Leah Garlie at [leahgarlie@msn.com](mailto:leahgarlie@msn.com).



## Northfield Public Schools Community Services

Community Services has many great programs coming up. Visit us online at [www.nfld.k12.mn.us](http://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 December 16.

### Swim and Gym (Grades 4-8)

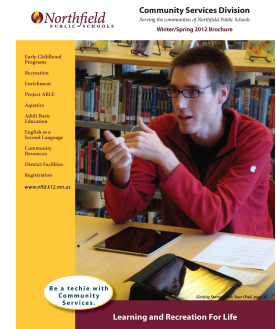
1:30-4:00 p.m. Thursday, December 29 in the Middle School pool

### Mini-Sport Camp (Ages 4-6)

9:00 a.m.-Noon Tuesday & Wednesday, December 27 & 28 in the Middle School gym

### Multi-Sport Camp (Ages 7-11)

1:00-4:00 p.m. Tuesday & Wednesday, December 27 & 28 in the Middle School gym



## KidVentures - Angie Callahan

KidVenture's will be providing Release Day programming on December 27, 28, 29 and 30 for children in grades K-5. Release days for the month of December will be held at Greenvale Park Elementary in the KidVentures Room from 6:30am until 6:00pm. If you join us on a release day, all children will participate in the event listed below for each day. The cost for the release day program in December is \$30 per day if received on or before November 28. After November 28, release days will be filled on a first come-first serve basis at the rate of \$35 per day. The cost of the day includes a morning and afternoon snack, bus ride (if applicable), field trip admission (if applicable) and all day supervision. All release days are non-refundable. All release days require a minimum of 15 children enrolled to operate. You will be notified in advance of cancellations.



December 27, we will head up to Lakeville Theater to watch the new Alvin and the Chipmunks "Chipwrecked!" Children will wear their KidVentures t-shirt and bring a bag lunch.

December 28, today we will be busy on-site making jewelry and having a dodge ball tournament! Bag lunch is needed.

December 29, today we will go to Jesse James Lanes for some bowling and fun! Children should wear their KidVentures t-shirt, socks, and bring a bag lunch.

December 30, children can come straight out of bed because it's pajama day! We will have a New Year Party on-site. We will also be ordering in pizza so no bag lunch is needed!



## DISTRICT OFFICE

### December 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

## 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.

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## 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 | <a href="http://www.5thbridge.org">www.5thbridge.org</a>                                 |
| Big Brothers/Big Sisters              | Jenna Herzog            | 507.414.0308 |                                                                                          |
| Bowling                               | Terry Heilman           | 507.645.8322 |                                                                                          |
| Boy Scouts                            | Sam Trebnick            | 651.254.9120 | <a href="http://www.joincubs.com">www.joincubs.com</a>                                   |
| Cannon Valley Youth Orchestra         | Dora Barvir             | 507.645.4311 | <a href="http://www.cvyomn.org">www.cvyomn.org</a>                                       |
| Carleton ACT Center                   | Laura Riehle-Merrill    | 507.646.4028 | <a href="http://www.carleton.edu/campus/act">www.carleton.edu/campus/act</a>             |
| 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 | <a href="http://www.girlscoutsrv.org">www.girlscoutsrv.org</a>                           |
| Healthy Community Initiative          | Zach Pruitt             | 507.664.3524 | <a href="http://www.northfieldhci.org">www.northfieldhci.org</a>                         |
| Jr. Curator Program                   | Nfld Historical Society | 507.645.9268 |                                                                                          |
| Just for Kix                          | Liz Rohach              | 507.271.3316 | <a href="http://www.justforkix.com">www.justforkix.com</a>                               |
| Leo Club Advisor                      | Alice Nasby             | 507.645.7398 |                                                                                          |
| Library Teen Advisory Board           | Kathy Ness              | 507.645.1804 | <a href="http://npl-info.blogspot.com">http://npl-info.blogspot.com</a>                  |
| Making Waves Swim School              | Cindy Varley            | 507.645.4623 | <a href="http://www.makingwavesswimschool.com">www.makingwavesswimschool.com</a>         |
| Northfield Area Family YMCA           | Virginia Kaczmarek      | 507.645.0088 | <a href="http://www.northfieldymca.org">www.northfieldymca.org</a>                       |
| Northfield Arts Guild                 | Sheryl Joy              | 507.645.8877 | <a href="http://www.northfielddartsguild.org">www.northfielddartsguild.org</a>           |
| Northfield Basketball Association     | Kevin Rodgers           | 507.664.9108 | <a href="http://www.northfieldsports.com">www.northfieldsports.com</a>                   |
| Northfield Community Chinese School   | Gao Hong                | 612.385.3893 |                                                                                          |
| Northfield Dance Academy              | Kristin Lauenstein      | 507.645.4068 | <a href="http://www.northfielddance.com">www.northfielddance.com</a>                     |
| Northfield Fastpitch Softball Assoc.  | Mark Pritchard          | 507.645.1365 | <a href="http://www.northfieldfastpitch.leag1.com">www.northfieldfastpitch.leag1.com</a> |
| Northfield Gymnastics Club            | Melissa Bernhard        | 507.663.7772 | <a href="http://www.northfieldgymnastics.com">www.northfieldgymnastics.com</a>           |
| Northfield Hockey Association         | Marietta Ruppe          | 507.645.7310 | <a href="http://www.northfieldhockey.net">www.northfieldhockey.net</a>                   |
| Northfield Lacrosse Association       | Natalie Marfleet        | 507.645.4035 |                                                                                          |
| Northfield Library                    | Kathy Ness              | 507.645.1804 | <a href="http://www.northfieldmn.info">www.northfieldmn.info</a>                         |
| Northfield Mentoring Coalition        | Zach Pruitt             | 507.664.3524 | <a href="http://www.northfieldhci.org">www.northfieldhci.org</a>                         |
| Northfield Police Dept Explorers      | Sgt. Mark Murphy        | 507.645.4475 |                                                                                          |
| Northfield Skating School             | Carey Tinkelenberg      | 508.887.2551 | <a href="http://www.northfieldskating.com">www.northfieldskating.com</a>                 |
| Northfield Soccer Association         | Paula Manor             | 507.645.8577 | <a href="http://www.northfieldsoccer.org">www.northfieldsoccer.org</a>                   |
| Northfield Swim Club                  | Troy Nystuen            | 507.663.1926 | <a href="http://www.northfieldswimclub.org">www.northfieldswimclub.org</a>               |
| Northfield Tennis Association         | Kit O'Brien             | 507.581.4428 | <a href="http://www.northfield.usta.com">www.northfield.usta.com</a>                     |
| Northfield Union of Youth             | Amy Merritt             | 507.663.0715 | <a href="http://www.unionofyouth.org">www.unionofyouth.org</a>                           |
| Northfield Volleyball Club            | Tim Wilgohs             | 507.645.5860 | <a href="http://www.northfieldvolleyballclub.org">www.northfieldvolleyballclub.org</a>   |
| Northfield Youth Baseball Assoc       | Roger/Kim Thompson      | 507.301.9746 | <a href="http://www.northfieldsports.com">www.northfieldsports.com</a>                   |
| Northfield Youth Choir                | Liz Shepley             | 507.645.4194 | <a href="http://www.northfieldyouthchoirs.org">www.northfieldyouthchoirs.org</a>         |
| Northfield Youth Wrestling            | Mark Woitalla           | 507.663.7176 | <a href="http://www.northfieldsports.com">www.northfieldsports.com</a>                   |
| Project Friendship                    | Kathy Lansing           | 507.645.6762 |                                                                                          |
| Rainbow Saddle Club                   | Nancy Becker            | 507.645.4336 | <a href="http://www.rainbowsaddleclub.org">www.rainbowsaddleclub.org</a>                 |
| 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 | <a href="http://www.oleville.com">www.oleville.com</a>                                   |

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