



Northwest Crossing Elementary

A TITLE 1 SCHOOL

Parent Bulletin

October, 2009



Shirley Thompson, Principal

Paul Moreno, Vice Principal

Message from the Principal

Dear NWC Families,

It's hard to believe that we are completing the first six weeks of school! The beginning of October finds our classrooms filled with excited students and teachers who are on the journey to a successful school year.

We hope that you had the opportunity to attend our Parent Orientation sessions during the month of September to learn about the Title 1 Program, the grade level curriculum, and the classroom expectations. If you have not met with your child's teacher, I encourage you to schedule a parent conference sometime during the month of October to discuss your child's education. Our goal is for all parents to conference with their child's teacher prior to report cards going home on October 30. The staff at Northwest Crossing Elementary is committed to providing your child with the best possible educational experience.

The month of October is packed with many activities: Bike Rodeo, Bring Your Parents to School Night – 3rd, 4th, 5th Grade, Student Council Chick-Fil-A Night, PTA School Carnival, Red Ribbon Week, Character Counts Assemblies, and report cards. As always, we are grateful for your support. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Shirley Thompson

Principal

Early Release

Our second Early Release Day will be Friday, October 9, 2009. Dismissal time for Kinder through 5th grade will be **11:45 a.m.** (Pre-Kinder and PPCD will follow a different schedule. Please contact Mrs. Salazar or Mrs. Reyes for details.) Students will be served a sack lunch before dismissal. Prime Time will begin at 11:45 a.m. and Buses and Day Care Vans will arrive at 11:45 a.m. Campus staff will supervise any children that need to remain on campus until regular dismissal time (2:45 p.m.). If your child needs to remain on campus until 2:45 p.m., please send a note to your child's classroom teacher. During the afternoon, our faculty will be participating in staff development on Marzano's Academic Vocabulary.

School Holiday

Monday, October 12, 2009 is a student holiday. Classes will resume on Tuesday, October 13, 2009. Happy Columbus Day!

Bring Your Parent to School Night

We would like to invite each of our NWC Families to attend our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade “Bring Your Parents to School Night” on Thursday, October 22nd. The evening kicks off in the cafeteria at 5:00 p.m. with pizza being sold by our Scouts for \$1.25 a slice from 5:00 -6:00. Parents and students will then rotate through 3 learning stations from 6:00 – 7:30. If you have children in these grades, please join us for a fun filled evening of learning together. All students who participate in this event will receive a free book and a free homework pass.

Student Council

On September 25th an election was held to elect officers for the 2009 – 2010 Student Council. The officers are:

- President - James Perrin
- Vice President – Pablo Harline
- Secretary- Julian Mandujano
- Treasurer- Thalia Valadez
- Historian- Oscar Alfaro

The Fifth Grade Teachers are serving as sponsors for NWC’s Student Council. Congratulations to the new officers!

PTA

Northwest Crossing Elementary is proud to have an active and supportive PTA. To help you become more familiar with your PTA we would like to invite you to attend our General Meeting on October 13th at 7:00 p.m. Our 4th grade students will be performing.

PTA is an integral part of Northwest Crossing. They provide funds for every grade level to have a field trip, they help to sponsor Winter and Fiesta Parties, Fifth Grade Promotion, Bike Rodeo, Field Day, Texas Pride Day, and funding for additional learning materials in teachers classrooms. PTA also sponsors our volunteer program. Parents are encouraged to volunteer their time at school by becoming a PAL – (Parents Assisting in Learning). PAL's help teachers make instructional materials, run copies on the copy machine, serve as a mentor / tutor for a student. Parents may also volunteer to serve as a room parent and/or field trip chaperone. All parent volunteers must fill out a volunteer application and a criminal history background check and be cleared prior to volunteering. We would love to have you serve as a volunteer.

Every family is encouraged to join the PTA. PTA membership dues are only \$6.00 for the year. There are membership envelopes in the front office.

Bike Rodeo

Our annual Bike Rodeo will be held on Thursday, October 14th. Our P.E. coaches will be reviewing bicycle safety with our students. Watch for more information to come home with your child soon.

Reflections – Theme: “Beauty is...”

Reflections is the PTA-sponsored program intended to encourage children to share their artistic expressions through works of art in six areas: the visual arts, photography, literature, music composition, dance choreography and film/video. The program follows a contest format, but participation is the emphasis. All works submitted will be displayed at our school after judging so they can be appreciated by all of us at Northwest Crossing. Rules for each area and entry forms will be available from the front office. The entry deadline is October 30. Mrs. Derby, our G/T Teacher, and Mrs. Tallerico, our Art Teacher are helping with this program.

Visitor Check In

Northwest Crossing is fortunate to have the new Raptor Visitor Check In system in which all parents/guardians, visitors and volunteers must present a valid form of ID to the front office between the hours of 7:45 and 2:45 p.m. The front office staff will scan the appropriate ID through the Raptor system and all visitor information will be checked to ensure the safety of all children at Northwest Crossing. Upon clearance, the system will print a badge with the visitor’s picture, date, time, and campus location. This badge will be required. Room parents, PAL’s, PTA volunteers, and any other group that routinely frequents our campus will be required to sign in via the Raptor System EVERY time they visit the campus to help maintain the integrity and purpose of the system.

Staff Photo ID Badges

Photo I.D.’s have been issued to each of our Northwest Crossing Elementary Staff member. We hope you will be able to identify any NWC staff member by seeing their new photo ID badges.

Safety at School

We would like to thank everyone for their patience as they drop-off and pick-up their children from school. Please remember that a supervised drop-off and pick-up lane is provided for parents. We ask that all parents drive past the entrance to the end of the sidewalk to allow more cars to drop off students. **Please do not drop off your child in the parking lot.** If you need to walk your child (ren) into the building, please park in a designated parking spot. Cars should never be left unattended in the driveway.

News from the Library

According to the International Reading Association “children who see their parent read learn to read more successfully.” We would like to invite our parents to come by and check out the wonderful materials we have to offer you and your family. It only takes about five minutes to set up a parent account, and once you are done, you may check out five books at a time. You may send the items back with your children when you are done. This is a great way to find books to read to your child and to read together as a family. Stop by Northwest Crossing Library and see what we have for you and your children. The library is open from 7:15 to 3:30 p.m. every day. Mrs. Caley, our Librarian, will be sending home information about a special program for our preschoolers and younger siblings called Babies and Books October 9 and November 6. We would love to have our NWC families participate in this event.

Attendance

Research shows that attendance is the single most important factor in school success! Missing school or arriving late unavoidably affects the quality of a student's learning and interferes with normal instructional procedures in the classroom. All students should be in their classrooms at 7:45. Please help us by ensuring that your child is at school on time.

Attendance Reminders:

- Parents are required by Texas Compulsory Attendance Law to ensure their children are in school the full day of instruction (7:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m.).
- Perfect attendance may be awarded at the end of each 9-week grading period to students who have not exceeded one tardy or partial day absence (early pick ups) during the 9-week period that is not categorized as a documented appointment with a health Professional. If your child arrives at school late because of a medical appointment bring a letter from the doctor's office stating the date and time of the appointment. This letter will be given to Laura Vazquez, our attendance secretary, or Cindy Renteria our attendance clerk, upon arrival at school. If your child leaves early for a medical appointment (partial day absence) acquire the letter from the doctor's office and send it to the classroom teacher the following day. When this is done the partial day absence is not counted toward perfect attendance.
- **All** students must bring a note when they return from an absence. If the student does not bring a note the absence is counted as unexcused. It is recommended that all health appointments be made after school releases at 2:45 p.m. if possible. Attendance Guidelines are located in the Student / Parent Handbook.
- **IMPORTANT:** If you are picking your child up for a doctor's appointment or any other unavoidable appointment please come into the front office with a picture I.D. and sign your child out in the Sign Out Book. The office staff will call your child's teacher and send them to the office. **We cannot call your child to the office without first checking the parent's picture I.D. and the emergency card.**

H1N1

Health concerns related to the H1N1 virus continue to make headlines. At Northwest Crossing, we continue to be proactive by keeping healthy habits such as hand washing at the forefront of students' attention and communicating with families of children who are ill.

With written permission, H1N1 flu vaccinations will be provided free of charge to Northside students on their home campus sometime before the winter break. Details will be provided as they become available. Our district and campus are carefully planning to ensure a smooth process for those who choose to participate. Up-to-date Flu information can be found on the district website www.nisd.net – Flu Updates.

Special thanks to our school nurse, Cathy Echavarria, R.N. for actively promoting healthy habits and monitoring student attendance and health. We are thankful to have her expertise, care and compassion for our children!

School Carnival

Our annual PTA School Carnival will be held on Saturday October 24, 2009 from 11:00 – 4:00.

Watch for more information to come with your child(ren) about this exciting event.

Red Ribbon Week

RED RIBBON / CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK October 26 – October 30

To celebrate Red Ribbon and Character Counts week, the following activities are planned:

Monday 10/26/09

Responsibility / College Day

Wear your favorite College t-shirt

Tuesday 10/27/09

Respect / Sock it to Drugs

Wear your silly, crazy socks

Wednesday 10/28/09

Caring / Slipper Day – Give Drugs the Slip

Wear your slippers today to give Drugs the slip!

Thursday 10/29/09

Trustworthy / Crazy Hat Day

Wear your crazy hat

Friday 10/30/09

Citizenship / Cardinal Spirit Day

Wear red day

Goal Setting Celebration

The guidance department at Northwest Crossing is off to a great start at NWC. The counselors are teaching our students how to be problem solvers and manage their conflicts using Kelso's Choices. They are also teaching our students the 10 Steps to Goal setting. We believe that all of our students have the potential to do great things both now and in the years to come. We want our students to Dream Big. These dreams reflect the goals of our children both academically and professionally. Students will be setting goals in their guidance classes.

We would like to invite you to attend a Goal Setting Celebration on Friday, October 30 at 8:00 a.m. in the cafeteria. We will recognize all 3rd – 5th Grade students who reached their goal of making all A's on their report card or all A's and B's for the first 9 weeks of school. We hope that you will be able to attend.

Cardinal Citizenship

As we begin the school year, the teachers are helping our students to learn the characteristics of good Cardinal citizenship. We have discussed how we expect our students to demonstrate good character and behavior at all times in order to represent all Cardinals in a positive way. We want all of our students to follow our school rules to be Safe, Respectful and Responsible and to demonstrate the Six Pillars of Character. A copy of our school rules and the Six Pillars of Character was sent home in the First Day Packets.

We appreciate your help in encouraging your children to follow these rules. Working together, we can help our Cardinals understand the positive rewards that come from making good choices as opposed to the consequences that come from making poor choices. Mr. Moreno and I would love to make a positive phone call for each of our NWC Cardinals!

Walk-a-Thon

Northwest Crossing campus Walk-a-Thon was a success. We raised \$3, 159 dollars from this fundraising event. Funds raised will be used to purchase Research Based Intervention Materials which will be used by teachers to provide Tier 2 Intervention support for our students who are struggling in reading, math or science.

The following classes received ice cream in the cafeteria today for raising the most money or walking the most laps. Mrs. Stover's 5th Grade Class was the overall winner. They raised \$289 dollars and walked a total of 184 laps.

- Kinder – Mrs. Haines and Mrs. Goertz
- First - Mrs. Peyton and Mrs. Freitag
- Second – Mrs. Harline and Mrs. Wysong
- Third - Mrs. Stark and Mrs. Worthen
- Fourth – Mrs. Piedra and Mr. Gonzalez
- Fifth - Mrs. Oberg and Ms. Stover

We would like to thank everyone who helped to make this event a success!

Precious Minds

Precious Minds, New Connections is an enrichment program for Fathers, Mothers, Grandparents, Step-parents, Expectant Parents, Adoptive Parents, and Foster Parents of children 0-3 years. Northwest Crossing will be hosting Precious Minds Parenting Workshops on Mondays, beginning October 19th from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. Classes will run for eight weeks. This class will be presented in Spanish. An English class will be provided at a later time. Child care is provided

PTA Fundraiser

PTA is sponsoring a school-wide cookie dough / catalog fundraiser. Brochures went home on October 2nd. All fundraiser orders should be returned by Monday, October 19th.

Communication / Important Dates

If you have suggestions or ideas that you would like to share with us, you may e-mail us, phone us at 397-0600, or send a note to your child's teacher. We look forward to hearing from you.

- October 1 – Student Pictures PreK – 2nd**
- October 2 - Student Pictures 3rd – 5th**
- October 9 - Early Release 11:45**
College Spirit Day: Wear your favorite college shirt.
- October 12 Student Holiday**
- October 13 –PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m. – 4th Grade Performance**
- October 14 - Bike Rodeo**
- October 15 –Student Council – Chick- Fil-A Night**
- October 19 –Precious Minds 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.**
- October 22 -Bring Your Parent to School Night 3rd, 4th, 5th Grade**
- October 24 –School Carnival**
- October 26 -Red Ribbon Week Begins**
- October 30 –Report Cards Go Home**
 - Reflections Projects Due**
 - Goal-Setting Celebration 8 a.m.**