

"Education is not filling a pail but the lighting of a fire."

~William Butler Yeats

Allen Road Elementary School

Gator Gazette E*News

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER, 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- 12/1—MGR
Players visiting for
4th Grade
- 12/9—MGR
Players visiting for
3rd Grade
- 12/9—6:30—ARE
Holiday Chorus
Concert @ RRMS
- 12/15—6:00—PTO
Winter
Wonderland
- 12/23—Half Day
- 12/26—12/30—
Christmas Break

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Gator 'Tales'...

Over the past year, I have had the privilege of being able to sing with my son in a men's barbershop chorus. As we approach the Christmas season, the group is obviously spending more time practicing holiday songs for caroling and concerts—one of which will be singing at the PTO Winter Wonderland event on the 16th. And as I sat down to form my thoughts for the newsletter article this past week, it was the words to one of these songs that both struck and challenged me. The brief but beautiful song 'The Secret of Christmas' shares a number of things that Christmas is NOT— cards, snow, gifts— despite these things all happening at Christmastime. Then at the end of the song, the lyrics challenge us by saying the



following:

"So may I suggest the Secret of Christmas is not the things you do at Christmastime, but the Christmas things you do all year through."

This week at our monthly staff meeting we took time out to draw names of all staff members, decorate paper ornaments, and on the back write a Christmas wish for the colleague whose name they

drew. These are then being displayed in the Teacher's Room as a staff Christmas wish tree. It was a nice way to kick off a busy holiday month at the elementary level and pause to care for each other.

As you move through this incredibly busy month, I certainly hope you take the time out from your very hectic schedules to make some special holiday memories—but my wish for you—for our students, staff, and families, is that we would challenge ourselves to continue this spirit of giving, sharing, and love forward into every day of the school year. In a difficult day and age, we have a great gift in being a part of Allen Road. I wish all of you a safe, fun, and blessed holiday

- Dave

PTO News and Views

Happy December ARE families! It always seems like this time of year is so magical, yet at the same time extremely busy.

Happy December ARE families! It always seems like this time of year is so magical, yet at the same time, extremely busy. We have an exciting event coming up that can take care of many of the things on our long lists. Our Winter Wonderland committee has been working hard on making this a special night for all! Please join us on December 15 from 6-8 for our

Winter Wonderland and Festival of Trees. Flyers went home earlier this week with all of the magical details going on that night; including food, games, crafts, the Kids' Corner Gift Shoppe, and much more! You'll feel the nostalgia listening to Harmonic Collective sing carols, along with the lighting of our trees out front; where our special visitor will arrive! We can't wait to see you there! For more details, please turn to the 411 page.

~Ashley Kirby & Kim Kennedy,
PTO Presidents
arepto@gmail.com



spotlight

As part of our holiday celebrations at each grade level this month

Visit our

December Spotlight

for information about the books our grade levels will be creating ornaments about, in order to decorate the five trees in our front foyer for Winter Wonderland!

North Syracuse Board of Education:

Michael Shusda—President

Michael Mirizio —Vice-President

Paul Farfaglia

George Harrington

Elizabeth Kasch

Michael Leone

Scot McClintock

Jacqueline Owens

Mary Scanlon

NORTH SYRACUSE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The students, residents and staff of the North Syracuse Central School District will work collaboratively to ensure a respectful and diversified learning environment. Our collective focus is to provide educational experiences and opportunities that inspire students to reach their individual potential as productive citizens.



Adopted by the Board of Education, August 11, 2014

Central Office Administration:

Ms. Annette Speech

Superintendent of Schools

Donald F.X. Keegan

Associate Superintendent for Business Services

Jason Nephew

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Daniel Bowles

Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

Dawn Wilczynski

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Valerie DiFlorio

*Executive Director for Diverse Learning
and Student Support*

Donna Marie Norton

Executive Director for Data and Accountability

Allen Road Elementary Office Staff:

David M. Lunden

Building Principal

Kathy See and Robin Floyd

Secretaries

218-2300

Fax: 218-2385

Anna Werksman

School Nurse

218-2303

School Hours: 8:30-4:00

Student Hours: 9:00-3:20

*A leader is a
dealer
in hope.*

*~Napoleon
Bonaparte*



Important WINTER WONDERLAND Information...

Kids' Corner Gift Shoppe:

Presale is going on now! On the second page of the flyer that went home on Monday, you can purchase gift(s) so that your children can go shopping for family, friends, teachers, etc. **Presales are due by 12/9.**

1 gift for \$2

2 gifts for \$3

3 gifts for \$5

The night of Winter Wonderland, all gifts will be \$2 each.

Winter Wonderland Volunteers:

We are in need of volunteers for our Winter Wonderland and Festival of Trees event. Please consider donating an hour of your time. To volunteer please contact Araina at arainacrans@gmail.com or 518-669-5177. Thank you in advance!

Upcoming Dates:

There is no PTO meeting this month.

January PTO meeting: Wednesday, January 4 in the library (Babysitting provided by the National Honor's Society at C-NS HS)

Allen Road Community Night at Pizzeria Uno: January 18

General PTO Information:

Have you ever considered being an officer on our PTO board? We are expecting some openings next school year for the following positions: Co-President and Vice-President. We will also have an opening for our Yearbook Coordinator. For more information about any of these positions, please contact us at arepto@gmail.com. Thank you!

*It is easier to
build strong
children than to
repair broken
men.*

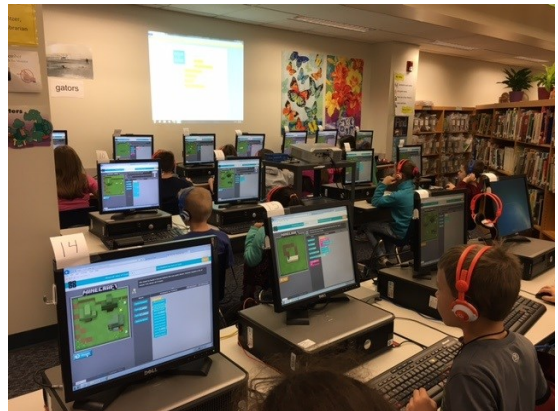
*~Frederick
Douglass*

The Library Information Link by Ms. Kathy Spitzer, School Librarian



Thank you to all of our parents who helped with the our **PTO Fall Scholastic Book Fair!** Our Book Fair was a great success because of you! We earned **\$2,590** in Scholastic dollars and will be using the proceeds to purchase books for our library. Our students have already made many suggestions and they will be very excited when the new books arrive!

Hour of Code! Our students in grades 2, 3, and 4 are participating the Hour of Code - an international effort sponsored by Code.org to engage the world in learning how to code! Triumphant shouts of **“I did it!”** echoed throughout our library students learned to use Blockly to create code for Angry Birds or Minecraft characters. By learning how to create code, students are engaging in step by step problem solving and design. They learn by doing! If you and your student



Students in Mrs. Schulz’s Third grade class use Blockly to solve problems with Minecraft Characters. Hour of Code page!

would like to continue learning how to code, just visit our

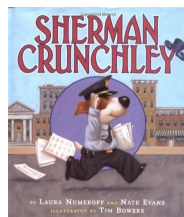
ARE

It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.

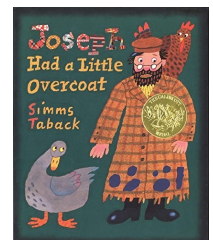
~Frederick Douglass



MyOn is an online library of ebooks featuring over 5,000 titles. Students in grades 2,3, and 4 received directions for logging into MyOn. MyOn is available from the ARE Library Web page. This online resource has been funded by a grant written by the OCM BOCES School Library System. Access to MyOn was slated to end as of December 31, 2016 but we believe that the program may continue. Stay tuned for more information.



Our first graders learned about occupations in conjunction with reading Sherman Crunchley by Laura Numeroff and Nate Evans. They have also been using PebbleGo an online resource featuring non-fiction. Our Kindergartners learned about recycling after reading Joseph Had a Little Overcoat by Simms Tabak. This Caldecott Medal book follows Joseph as he continues to use up every last stitch of his overcoat to create many other garments. You will



be surprised by the ending when Joseph shows that his creativity knows no bounds!

From the Health Office...

In December I will continue the State Mandated Hearing and Vision screening on all Kindergarten students. If there are any concerns I will notify you.

Wellness Wakeup call- this month we will be learning about Legumes and foods from around the world

Please check out the recipe of the month on my website.

FLU VACCINE - If you or your child has not yet received one – it's not too late. Check out the information on my website – why everyone should get a flu vaccine.

PHYSICALS – Just a reminder, that physical exams are required for all students in Kindergarten, second and fourth grades. Also students new to the NSCSD. For students who have not presented the nurse with a physical or a scheduled appointment date-physicals will be given by Dr.Comissio on January 11, 2017.

LOST & FOUND - If your child is missing clothing, take a look through the lost and found, it's located outside my door.

As always, please notify me if there are any changes in your child's health

Have a wonderful Holiday Season,

Mrs.Werksman RN

218-2303 or awerksma@nscsd.org

I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them.

~Phyllis Diller

Come be a part of the
Allen Road ELV's!



Early Literacy Volunteers

We need volunteers to work with our Kindergarten students. Our instructional focus is based on letter names, sounds, sight words, blending, decoding and reading.

If **A little time makes a big difference!** Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring services for just 15 minutes at a

you are interested in volunteering your time, please contact us at the Main Office and we will get you connected right away! Thank you!

I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them.

~Phyllis Diller



IMPORTANT PARENT NOTIFICATION

~ BUILDING PROCEDURES ~

Over the first months of the year we have discovered some confusion and/or miscommunication over certain building procedures. Please make sure you are aware of the following expectations when visiting:

- ◆ For classroom parties and celebrations, younger siblings should not attend. While we know this may present some childcare issues, our intent is maintain a focus on the student/classroom being celebrated.
- ◆ When visiting for lunch, please remember that we do not allow 'fast food' to be brought in to the cafeteria, as we try to promote healthy eating habits across the district. Parents may still bring in food from outside the school, but with a healthier focus. Thank you for your support!

DECEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 MGR Players visiting for 4th Grade	2	3
4	5 7:00—BOE Meeting	6	7	8	9 MGR Players visiting for 3rd Grade	10
11	12	13	14	15 6:00—8:00—PTO Winter Wonderland	16 6:30—ARE Holiday Chorus Concert @ RRMS	17
18	19 7:00—BOE Meeting	20	21	22	23 Half Day for students	24
25	26	27	28 Christmas Break	29	30	31

North Syracuse Elementary School Menu

December 2016

Menu Subject to Change

North Syracuse Central School District is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Second Choice

Monday – Burger
Tuesday – Chicken Patty
Wednesday – Burger
Thursday – Chicken Patty
Friday – Burger

P3 & J and Yogurt Meal
Available daily

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Available with All Lunches

Assorted Fruit Cups
Milk Choice

5 Pizza Dippers
w/ Sauce

California Blend
Vegetable
Carrots

1 BBQ Rib Sandwich

Sweet Potato Fries
Green Beans

19 Pizza Crunchers
w/ Sauce

California Blend
Vegetables
Green Beans

26 Christmas
Recess
No
School

6 Beef Nachos
w/ Salsa & Cheese

Steamed Brown Rice
Refried Beans
Corn
Fresh Fruit

1 French Toast Sticks
w/ Sausage
Star Potatoes
100% Fruit/Vegetable
Juice
Fresh Fruit

20 Hamburger
Stroganoff w/ Rice

Brown Sugar Carrots
Steamed Broccoli
Fresh Fruit

27 Christmas
Recess
No
School

7 Pasta & Meatballs
w/ Breadstick

Tossed Salad w/
Dressing
Green Beans

14 Homemade
Mac & Cheese
w/ Dinner Roll

Tossed Salad w/
Dressing
Carrots

21 Toasted Cheese
Sandwich

Tossed Salad w/
Dressing
Tomato Soup w/
Crackers

28 Christmas
Recess
No
School

9 Nardone's French
Bread Pizza

Tossed Salad w/
Dressing
Steamed Broccoli
Fresh Fruit

9 Big Daddy Bold
Pizza

Tossed Salad w/
Dressing
Steamed Broccoli
Fresh Fruit

16 Nardone's
Pizza

Tossed Salad w/
Dressing
Steamed Broccoli
Fresh Fruit

23 1/2 Day

No
Lunch
Served

30 Christmas
Recess
No
School

10 Chicken and Cheese
Quesadilla

Tomato Soup w/
Crackers
Baby Carrots w/ Dip
Fresh Fruit

8 Ham & Cheese
w/ Pretzel Roll

Sweet Potato Gems
Cream of Broccoli
Soup
Fresh Fruit

15 Soft Chicken Taco
w/ Lettuce, Salsa &
Cheese

Steamed Brown Rice
Refried Beans
Corn
Fresh Fruit

22 Hot Turkey & Gravy
w/ Dinner Roll

Mashed Potatoes
Corn
Fresh Fruit
Holiday Bell Cookie

29 Christmas
Recess
No
School

Breakfast \$1.70
Lunch
Elementary Schools \$2.20
Middle Schools \$2.45
High Schools \$2.70
Milk \$0.65

Visit our website to print
an application and to
view menus.
www.nscsd.org

What do snowmen
like to eat for
breakfast?

Frosted Flakes!