



Northside Catholic Academy Newsletter

September 7, 2011

Volume 9, Issue 2

Principal: Debbie Sullivan
email: dsullivan@ncaweb.org



*****If you don't receive your email newsletter today, please email Leigh Holzman at lholzman@ncaweb.org so that we can correct any problems in our email distribution list.**

Mark Your Calendar:

- **Sept. 7 -- Back to School Night @ Middle School 6:30pm**
- Sept. 9 - Ice Cream Social afterschool (\$1/person)
- Sept. 10 - Virtus training for volunteers 9am-noon @ St. Ita (online pre-registration required)
- Sept. 15 - Senior Band classes begin
- **Sept. 15 - Back to School Night for Primary Campus 6:30pm meet in church. All NCA adults are invited to the cocktail party immediately following the classroom meetings.**
- **Sept. 16 - No School Teacher In-service**
- Sept. 17 - St. Gertrude Parish GRalley
- Sept. 19 - Junior Band classes begin
- Sept. 21 - School Board meeting 7pm in primary campus lunchroom

Principal's Perspective

Today is picture day. I love to see all of the happy, smiling faces as they primp and prepare for their annual school picture to be taken. The energy and enthusiasm of the children make coming to work a pleasure.

As you know, our new Spanish teacher, Karen Gustafson, had to have emergency surgery last week and has not yet been able to meet with the children and begin our Spanish program for the year. She will be visiting the doctor this week and hopes to be released to work. I will keep you posted. In the meantime, thanks to Nancy Onderdonk, school counselor for stepping in and helping with our Spanish classes. She has been quite the trouper.

Our school business manager, Walter Pophin, has moved his office from the primary campus to the middle school campus. The best way to reach him with questions or concerns is via email (wpophin@ncaweb.org). You can leave him a message on the answering machine at the middle school as well (773-271-2008). He is part time, so please be patient and he will get back to you as soon as possible.

This Friday NCA will be holding its annual bus evacuation drills. Each grade will be brought down to the bus, we will have a short safety and evacuation discussion with them, and then we practice evacuating the bus as quickly as possible through the front and rear doors. Ask your child about the drill on Friday night. It is usually quite an exciting event for all of them.

The Student Council election process is beginning at both campuses. Students in grades 3-8 are invited to participate. I will keep you posted as candidates for the various positions step forward.

This Friday we will have our wonderful Ice Cream Social after school at the primary campus. It will be \$1/person. Just an fyi - there will be bus service from the middle school on Friday as usual. Thanks!

In the interests of ensuring as secure a building as possible, please know that teachers and students have been told not to admit anyone to the building unescorted. To gain access, you must ring the office door bell and be buzzed in by the secretary who will be waiting for you to officially check in at the office. Please don't be offended by teachers enforcing this protocol. We have had serious security conversations as part of our teacher in-services and we want to make sure that no one is in the building without proper clearance from the office. Thanks for your help and cooperation!

We are off to a fabulous and busy start!

Debbie



Who ya gonna call? Your school secretary, of course!

The main offices of our school are command central. Please contact the secretaries for everything relating to absenteeism to after care... They can be reached via note, phone or email.

Mrs. Cannon (Primary Campus)
774-743-6277
scannon@ncaweb.org

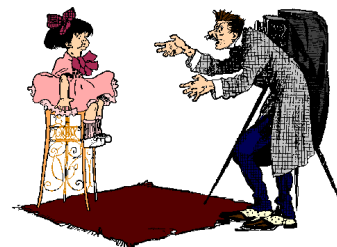
Mrs. Yates (Middle School Campus)
773-271-2008
kyates@ncaweb.org



Announcements & Reminders

Here are some general announcements to keep you up to date on what's happening around NCA:

1. **Middle School Campus Back to School Night** – Wednesday, Sept. 7th, 6:30pm @ the Middle School – We will be talking about high school application information at this meeting as well as 8th grade specific information.
2. **Middle School students** who have not been picked up from school by the time the 2nd bus leaves the campus, will be transported to Extended Care at the Primary Campus via the 2nd bus.
3. **Join us for the annual Ice Cream Social** – Celebrate the start of school by coming out on Friday, Sept. 9th after school (\$1 per person) (This social is for currently enrolled NCA families only!)
4. **Primary Campus Back to School Night** – Wednesday, Sept. 15th 6:30pm in the church – reception follows class presentations
5. **Important Title I info for both campuses:** Parents with students who will receive Title I services must attend a brief meeting & sign in at Back to School Night. **This is critical to ensure proper funding for the program. Thanks!**
6. **Additional Virtus training will be offered on Oct. 3rd 7-9:30pm at St. Gertrude Social Hall.** It may not have been posted yet – but it will be within the next day or so – keep checking in at the website if you are still looking for an available training nearby. Thanks to Anita Klueg – a St. Gertrude parish volunteer- for offering this opportunity for our parents!



Important!

People who do not have a CANTS form dated Aug. 1, 2011 or more recent will NOT be cleared to volunteer beginning Sept. 26th. Thanks!

CANTS forms can be found on the NCA website under Parents/volunteers or by calling the school secretary.

If you want a hard copy of the newsletter each week please send us a note. Starting next week, in an effort to be environmentally and fiscally responsible, we will only be sending out electronic versions of the newsletters unless otherwise notified. Thank you.

Also, if you want others to also receive electronic newsletters (ie. grandparents, etc) send us their email info. and we can add them to the list.

Join the NCA Parent Organization (NCAPO) listserv!

This listserv is for current NCA parents to engage in sharing information, asking questions, supporting each other and just general conversation about raising children in today's society and NCA's community.

Join the conversation today!

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NCAParentOrganization/>



NCA's Afternoon Bus Monitor may be leaving us soon.

If you are interested in earning a little extra cash while helping ensure the safe transportation of NCA students home from school, please call Mrs. Cannon at 773-743-6277 for details. Thanks!



NCA Athletics Fall Update

Welcome back to another great year for our young Wildcats! Check out the NEW NCA Athletics Website: <http://ncaathletics.squarespace.com/>. Our website will be updated on a regular basis with information on all things sports at NCA. It can also be accessed via the NCA website - just click on the Athletics tab. Encourage your young athlete to use the website too. This has been a long-time dream of Kevin Howard, our AD. It has finally been realized with the help of Tony Ham and Rose Cancilla. We THANK YOU so much!

What is happening:

Bitty Basketball - Session #1 begins this Saturday. Last chance to send in the registration form for this session is tomorrow - Thursday September 8th. Session #2 will be offered in the spring. Details and registration form are available here: <http://ncaathletics.squarespace.com/bitty-basketball/>.

Soccer - The Varsity Boys have started out strong and JV plays their first game on Friday. Come out and cheer them on. See their full schedule of games here: <http://ncaathletics.squarespace.com/soccer/>.

Girls Volleyball - The girls have been working hard the last few weeks in anticipation of the start of their season. Games begin next week and the schedules will be out soon. Check the website for the schedules at: <http://ncaathletics.squarespace.com/volleyball/>

GO WILDCATS!

ArtNews

September 2011

Welcome back to another great year at NCA! As our art classes are just beginning I am looking forward to another wonderfully creative year!

This year we will again be using the SAM (Spanish, Art, Music) binder with the third through eighth grade students. Each student will be responsible for making sure they have 3 binder dividers in their folder to delineate the Spanish, Art and Music sections. Please feel free to recycle the binders from last year. These folders will help facilitate increased integration between Spanish, Art, Music, as well as other core subjects. Middle school students are required to have their binders with them every day, there will never be a time when they should not bring their binders to school. Third, fourth and fifth grade students should always have their binders with them on days they go to Spanish, Art, and Music.

There is a lovely whimsical exhibit called Artful Alphabets in which "an entire alphabet soup of drawings, paintings, prints, and collages is on view" at the Art Institute through November 6th. Get inspired to create your own alphabet or go on a treasure hunt to find letters in objects of everyday life. The Art Institute is free on the first and second Wednesday of every month or you can take out a pass at the library for free admission.

If there are any questions about the SAM folders, or anything else, please don't hesitate to contact me at either campus.

Peace,
Margo Phillips

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science.

-Albert Einstein



Primary Campus Computer News

Welcome back!! I hope everyone had a fantastic summer. Welcome Kindergarten to the Computer Lab!!!

My name is Flo Wawczak. I am the Primary Campus Computer Teacher. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to stop by. You are always welcome. You can contact me via email: fwawczak@ncaweb.org

September will be an exciting month for the kindergarten class. They will be introduced to the parts of the computer, mouse manipulation and simple computer vocabulary.

During September, the 1st grade thru 5th grade students will be working on the following:

- Review computer rules and expectations
- Review student responsibilities
- Assigned Seating
- Grading system
- Review computer care and components

The 5th graders will be designing new "wallpaper" for the

computers in the lab. Students from 1st to 4th grade will be the judges. The design with the most votes will be installed on all the computers for everyone to enjoy.

Important Notes

Your child will be given a set of Internet Rules for you to read over with them, sign and return. If the rules are not signed, the student **will not** be allowed to work on the Internet during Computer Class or anywhere in the school. Please read and return as soon as possible.

We are still collecting empty ink cartridges, old cell phones, old laptops, etc. These items get recycled with the proceeds going to the school

I look forward to the upcoming 2011/2012 school year. It will be an exciting year with various activities to provide your child with the tools needed to achieve success.

Mrs. Flo 😊

Loyola University Math Coaching for NCA grades 4-8

Dr. Schiller from Loyola University is once again offering Math Coaching for students in grades 4-8. The program offered this year will be for those who wish accelerated math as well as for those who need reinforcement in Math skills/concepts. We will use the Terra Nova scores and also teacher input to determine the skills a student will work on in enrichment or in reinforcement.

The first session will be offered on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 3:15 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Primary Campus Computer Room starting in September and ending December 10. Students must be available on all three days in order to participate. The research Dr. Schiller conducted regarding the program shows that having extra Math sessions three days a week has the most impact on student learning. The program will offer a variety of approaches using Math games, the computer, and other instructional materials.

Additional Math Coaching sessions will also be offered during the second and third trimesters for Grades 4-8. We once again will offer Journey to the Other Side (Readers' Theater for Math) during the third trimester for Grades 4 and 5.

If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity, please fill out the form below and return to school no later than Friday, September 2. We will then work with Dr. Schiller and get back to you regarding the beginning of the session.

Child's Name: _____ Grade _____

I understand that my child must be present on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, each week of the session from 3:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The session will begin during September and end December 10.

Parent Signature: _____

Middle School MUSIC NEWS

Greetings! Another school year has begun! It's always so exciting, seeing everyone again, talking together about our plans for the year, and the kids all trying to weasel the Spring Show "theme" out of me. Fat chance! Ha! 😊 We have already begun the process of forming groups and starting the very epic "year-long composition project" that has been a smashing success in years past. We're excited to spend time working on these projects as we learn more about music's various genres, as well as group dynamics and the art of being a "musician".

On Tuesdays, we work together as a full grade, and on Thursdays, we meet in separate homerooms. This new plan will allow for much more productive rehearsals for the shows we present throughout the year, as well as some good old-fashioned "team-building" when we are all together as a group. It's so important for us to all work together, and I'm excited to be able to do some activities and exercises that will help them in their journey through the school year. We will do a lot of listening, relaxing, and reflection/meditation with music.

It's awesome to be back. NCA is an amazing, special place....so glad you're here too! Stop by anytime.

~Miss Sherri



YOU ARE INVITED TO AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th

IN THE SOCIAL HALL AT THE PRIMARY CAMPUS & IN THE
CAFETERIA AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL.

The social will be at dismissal time at each campus and is for currently
enrolled NCA families.

COST IS \$1.00 PER PERSON

(Those children in aftercare will be billed an extra \$1.00 so they will all be able to have ice cream!!)



Primary Campus Music September 2010 Newsletter

Welcome Bach Bach Bach to School! I'm excited to see the children and hope everyone had some time to relax this summer.

There will be interactive bulletin boards in the music classroom this year to allow more time for music history, music theory, simple compositions, music appreciation, playing instruments while singing in preparation for student mass, music shows and all other performances throughout the school year.

Preschool State Goal 25 A:

- Understand the sensory elements, organizational principles and expressive qualities of the arts.
- Students will be able to identify tempo.
- Assessment: songs practicing tempo using movement.

Kindergarten - 5th Grade State Goal 25 B

- Understand the sensory the similarities, differences and connections in and among the arts.
- Various grades may use some of the same worksheets in class for basic learning activities. I will enhance directions and drills to supplement the worksheets based on grade and skill level for each class.

Composers of the Month- Johann Sebastian Bach and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

- Students will learn interesting facts about different composers each month. Students will be able to analyze a few famous compositions by the composer using the September music vocabulary terms.
- Assessment: problem solving worksheets, flashcards, songs using movement with the music vocabulary.

Instruments of the Month- Triangle and Harp

- Students will be able to identify the instruments of the month by a written description, picture, sound and its instrument family.
- Assessment instrument bingo, name the instrument you hear.

Music Vocabulary words that describe "tempo"- the speed of the beat.

- Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grade- 1. tempo 2. presto 3.largo 4. lento 5. adagio 6. andante
- 3rd grade- 1. a tempo, 2. agitato 3. accelerando 4. ritardando 5. maestoso 6.prestissimo
- 4th and 5th Grade-all of the above music terms and 1. allegretto 2. rallentando 3. rubato 4. Ritenuto

Recorders

- 3rd Grade will receive their recorders, recorder karate book, recorder cleaner and plastic case the week of September 26.
- 4th and 5th Grade will begin reviewing recorder techniques in order to reach the black belt for recorder karate. Please remind your child to bring his/her recorder starting the week of September 19. I will distribute a recorder to any new 4th or 5th grade student.

S.A.M. binders All 3rd-5th graders are required to bring their binders to every music class. Students will earn 10 points each time they bring their SAM folder to class. It will store all music, lyric sheets, music homework, board games sheets needed for class. Thanks. Please encourage your child to practice for a successful and fun instrument playing experience. We will be learning how to play other exciting instruments and making instruments as a cross-curricular activity with Ms. Philips' art class.

Oh to Sing,
Dr. Brooks

NCA Student Council News

It's that time of year again. We are working to develop student leadership through the election of student council officers at the middle school and classroom representatives from grades 3-8.

Student Council Position Descriptions

1. President

Qualifications

- 8th grader
- Attended NCA for at least 3 yrs.
- Conduct and grades satisfactory

Responsibilities

- Preside at all Student Council Meetings
- Liaison between Principal and Student Body
- Create agenda for meetings with moderators
- Cast deciding vote in case of a tie
- Represent the school at any special events

2. Vice President

Qualifications

- 7th or 8th grader
- Attended NCA for at least 3 yrs.
- Conduct and grades satisfactory

Responsibilities

- Preside in the absence of the President
- Assist with Student Council events

3. Secretary

Qualifications

- 7th or 8th grader
- Attended NCA for at least 2 yrs.
- Conduct and grades satisfactory

Responsibilities

- -Take notes on decisions and on all meetings
- -Place all notes in Student Council binder
- -Type an agenda and keep a calendar

4. Treasurer

Qualifications

- 7th or 8th grader
- Attended NCA for at least 2 yrs.

- Conduct and grades satisfactory
- #### Responsibilities

- Keep track of funds
- Keep accurate records on money in and money out
- Make orders to assist

5. Commissioner of Athletics

Qualifications

- 6th, 7th, 8th grader
- Attended NCA for at least 2 yrs.
- Member of an athletic team
- Conduct and grades satisfactory

Responsibilities

- Post schedules of all teams at both campuses
- Announce over PA when games will occur and the results
- Post results of all teams at both campuses
- Plan pep rally for teams
- Attend Student Council meetings
- Assist with Student Council events

6. Commissioner of Social Activities

Qualifications

- 6th, 7th, 8th grader
- Attended NCA for at least 2 yrs.
- Conduct and grades satisfactory

Responsibilities

- Attend Student Council meetings on a regular basis
- Advertise and promote all social events such as dances, ice cream social, etc.
- Assist adults that are hosting these events
- Assist with student council activities

7. Class Representatives (Grades 4-8)

Qualifications

- Conduct and grade satisfactory

Responsibilities

- Attend Student Council meetings
- Bring your class ideas to student council
- Report to your class what is happening in the student council
- Assist with student council activities

After School Group Guitar

Beginning the week of September 19th, we will be offering group guitar instruction for students of any ability level **third grade or older**. All classes will be held at 3:30pm at the Primary Campus (exact classroom TBA). Class will meet one day a week Mondays or Wednesdays. Please list the day you prefer below.

Our philosophy behind teaching music is to make it fun in a non competitive setting. We give the kids a goal to work toward and teach them how to collaborate with one another. In the process they will be learning the basics of music theory and applying it to their instruments. The goal is to be able to have 2 songs worked out by Saturday, Dec 18th so they can perform at our recital show.

The cost is based on how many students are in the class. We limit class size to 8 children so everyone receives the individual attention they deserve. Parents will be billed appropriately the second week of class. Every student will receive a t shirt with a band name and design they create, guitar picks and a music folder.

The class is 12 weeks, no classes the week of Thanksgiving.

8 kids signed up per class cost parents \$110.00 total

6 kids signed up per class cost parents \$130. Total

3 or 4 kids signed up per class cost parents \$140. Total

Guitar rental is available for \$15.00/ month. (\$20. deposit is required)

Please fill out this form to guarantee a spot in the class. Please return to the school office.

Student Name _____ Grade: _____

Parent Name _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Guitar rental required _____ Yes

Class day preferred _____ Monday _____ Wednesday

Middle School Library Volunteers Needed

If you enjoy working with teens and pre-teens, please consider volunteering in our Middle School library. The ability to be organized and a love of books are helpful prerequisites, but training and support will be provided. Below are the times/days that help is needed:

Grade 6 – Wednesday 8:40-10:08

Grade 7 – Wednesday 12:30-1:58

Grade 8 – Thursday 12:30-2:43

If you are interested, please let the middle school office know the following information:

Name _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

Day you can work _____

I cannot be available on a regular basis but would be interested in:

___ being available as an alternate for a regular volunteer

___ other projects as needed – indicate times/days

available _____

Thank you so much for considering the Middle School library for your volunteer hours.

This year's Edgewater GRalley will take place Saturday, September 17th, from noon-10pm, on Glenwood Ave. This is a one-day, family-friendly street festival hosted by St. Gertrude Parish, featuring live music, kid's games, food and drinks, raffle and silent auction, pavilions featuring local artists, businesses, and eco-friendly vendors, and is one of the church's biggest annual fundraisers. Discounted admission tickets can be purchased until Sept. 16th by going online, after masses or by contacting the rectory. Raffle tickets are also available (please see letter in Wednesday envelope). Finally, we're always in need of volunteers. This is a great way to get service hours and meet people. To sign up, you can visit www.signupgenius.com, go to "Find a Sign Up", enter volunteer@ncaweb.org, register, and then sign up for any available slot. For more information, go to www.edgewatergalley.com, or contact Jon & Jackie Blake, jblake@edgewatergalley.com, or (773) 314-3827.





GET ONE WEEK FREE

WHEN YOU JOIN WEIGHT WATCHERS®

Experience the convenience of meetings right at your workplace.

Purchase 17 weeks of Weight Watchers meetings and only pay for 16. Hurry, this Free Week* offer ends September 30.



Weight Watchers Is Coming to NCA

Best Value Got Better: Purchase 17 week Series
but only pay for 16 weeks \$175*

Minimum 20 members – *Start btw 9/6–9/30

Got 15 Members: 13 weeks \$156

Free eTools – on line support

EZ Pay Available – 3 checks

RSVP by 9/14 to Leigh Holzman, lholzman@ncaweb.org

Send Questions to Lisa Callahan

lisa.callahan88@gmail.com

Minimum of 20 enrollees required.

*Joining member will be charged for 16 weeks of the 17-week series. Prepayment required. Minimum enrollment required. Offer available in participating areas only and is not valid for local Weight Watchers meetings, At Home or Online subscription products. Offer not transferable and price is subject to change. May not be redeemed for cash or combined with other offers. Offer ends 9/30/11.

© Weight Watchers International, Inc., owner of the WEIGHT WATCHERS registered trademark. All rights reserved.

Strategies to Help Your Child Start the School Year Off Right

Northside Catholic Academy

Primary Campus
6216 N. Glenwood
Chicago, IL 60660

PHONE:
(773) 743-6277
FAX:
(773) 743-6174

Middle School
Campus
5525 N. Magnolia
Chicago, IL 60640

PHONE:
(773) 271-2008
FAX:
(773) 271-3101

E-MAIL:
dsullivan@ncaweb.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.northsidecatholic.org

NCA Parent Group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NCAParentOrganization/>



Few childhood experiences elicit more excitement and anxiety than the first day of school. Help your child calm first-day jitters by being aware of concerns and actively addressing them before the big day.

Kindergarten

What will happen at school? Before the first day, visit the school with your child. Meet the teacher and ask for a general outline of daily activities that you can discuss with your child. Discuss expectations, such as the need to sometimes stay in the seat and move about only with permission. Teach your child about raising a hand to ask questions and using the "inside voice." Make a game of these skills and practice them.

Who will be my friend? Remind your child that all the other children are also experiencing a "first," and will be eager to make friends. Practice role-playing simple "making friends" games, such as approaching a peer, smiling, and saying "Hi, my name is _____. What's your name?" Role-play asking another child to join in a game or share a toy.

Grade School

Will my teacher like me? Reassure your child that teachers always strive to be fair and helpful to every student. If children do their best, the teacher will recognize and respond to their positive efforts.

Will I have the "right" clothes? Assigning value to clothing starts early. Remind your child that clothes are not a measure of character. Help him or her understand that although "fitting in" can be good, it's also important to demonstrate individuality and independence. Hold off on some clothing purchases until your child learns which items are "in." Then you can discuss the pros and cons of purchasing one or two of these items.

Middle School

Who will I eat lunch with? Differing class schedules can create worries that old pals will not be as available and friendships may suffer. Encourage your child to contact old friends and make plans to meet for lunch. When new friendships develop, encourage your child to widen the circle of friends to include everyone.

See you at
Back to School Night!