



Northside Catholic Academy Newsletter

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



Mark Your Calendar:

- Sept. 2 – Band demo day @ PC – 3rd graders attend demonstration in morning.
- Sept. 5 – No School – Labor Day
- Sept. 6 – Middle School Campus mass 8am – St. Ita church
- Sept. 7 – Primary Campus mass 9am St. Gertrude church
- Sept. 7 - Picture Day (students may dress up)
- **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



Principal's Perspective

It is great to be back together in school again. The energy around the buildings is fabulous. I love to watch the children rush into the building in the morning, anxious to be about the business of learning. Parents and teachers are also an incredible source of positive energy. With all of this energy surrounding us, I know that we are going to make this a successful year for the children and the school. Keep up the great work everyone!

Thanks to all of the parents who are following the drop off and pick up routines that have been established. Please help create as safe an environment as possible for all by encouraging each other to stay with these protocols throughout the year – even when it's not convenient. Thanks for your help.

This year we will be using a new communication tool – SchoolReach to help us better communicate with families in general and in emergencies. SchoolReach allows us to send emails to as many email accounts as you want to list with us. The only limitation is that there can only be one attachment to the email. So any news from organizations within the school that need to be sent out to families will need to be contained within my newsletter. All submissions for inclusion in the weekly news must be made via a word document emailed to me no later than Tuesdays at noon. Thanks for working with me to ensure smooth communications between school and home! SchoolReach has many other great features which I will tell you about in upcoming newsletters.

This week I opened up 30 more seats in the Sept. 10th Virtus training I am hosting. Please go online to register as soon as possible if you want to join us on that day. I look forward to working with so many of you to ensure a safe environment for all children.

Welcome back! I know we are going to have a fabulous year.

Debbie

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.

Important Information – Tardy Policy @ Primary Campus

Arriving to school on time is an important part of teaching children good habits for life and work. Parents need to take an active role in ensuring that their child is NOT tardy to school. If a child is not in the building by 8:10am – the parent will need to park the car, escort the child to the office, sign the child in as tardy and if the child is in 4th or 5th grade, the child will need to wait until we have staff available to escort the student across the street. Classroom teachers WILL NOT be answering the doorbell at the gym building (it is disruptive to the classroom and with no video access, security concerns prohibit their buzzing people into the building from the 3rd floor). Thank you for your cooperation.



Important!

Included as a hard copy in today's Family Envelope are two copies of the CANTS form. We need to have parents fill this out and submit it annually. So even if you have sent this in previously, please fill it out and send it back asap.

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!

Announcements & Reminders

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

1. **Medical/Emergency Forms** are required to be filled out and kept on file at the school (these are in addition to the emergency contact card required to be submitted prior to the 1st day of school. Thanks for your help in ensuring we have as much current information as possible on file in case there is an emergency with your child. We believe better safe, than sorry and if we plan for it, we hope never to need it.
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. **Middle School Campus Back to School Night** – Wednesday, Sept. 7th, 6:30pm @ the Middle School
4. **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!)
5. **Primary Campus Back to School Night** – Wednesday, Sept. 15th 6:30pm in the church – reception follows class presentations
6. **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!**
7. **NCA Picture Day – Sept. 7th** Students may come out of uniform if they Dress Up.



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!

Northside Catholic Academy Beazley Bus

Ridership on the bus continues to be at an all time high – in fact we are at capacity for middle school students riding the bus on both runs in the morning and both runs in the afternoon. (That's fabulous and challenging all at the same time.) This means that absolutely no additional riders can "catch a ride" for isolated events. Parents will have to help coordinate transportation some other way. This also means that students must ride their assigned bus as there are no extra seats on either run. Thanks for your cooperation and understanding.

Any questions or concerns about the middle school bus assignments should be directed to Mrs. Yates at the middle school office. Questions regarding the primary campus bus riders should be directed to Mrs. Cannon at the primary campus. Thanks!

We work hard to ensure that middle school students go where they are supposed to go at the end of the day. Please send any changes to the routine in writing. Thank you for your help and support in ensuring their safe transition from school back to home.



Required Volunteer Paperwork

School Volunteers are an essential part of what makes NCA such a wonderful place. The presence of volunteers helps enhance the school experience for the children during library time, lunch time, recess, field trips, in extra-curricular sporting events, the list goes on and on. As volunteers are generously giving of their time and talent for the benefit of children, we know that volunteers also understand the need to protect all children and ensure the safest possible environment for the children at all times.

The Archdiocese has policy that all school volunteers need to complete the following steps before working with children in any capacity:

1. A form 7703 (submit once)
2. A Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking System (CANTS) form (This now needs to be re-submitted annually.)
3. A signed Code of Conduct (submit once)
4. A background screening through eApps database (submit once)
5. A certificate of completion of the Virtus training (submit once)

You can access the background check and the Virtus training registration by going on the Archdiocese of Chicago website (www.archchicago.org), then clicking on the "Protecting Children" button along the left side of the home page. Once there, you will see all of the above forms (except 7703) and the link to the Virtus training registration as well as the background check link. The access code for the background screening is Protect or Protection.

Once all of these steps have been completed and your paperwork is on file in the school office, you will be added to the available volunteer list and you can begin volunteering with the children. We realize that this process is complicated, however this policy protects all of our children and we know that parents understand and appreciate these efforts to protect the children.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at dsullivan@ncaweb.org.

Thanks for your interest and willingness to serve the children of NCA! We look forward to working with you.

EARN YOUR SERVICE HOURS!!!

Parent Volunteers are needed to help run every special event on our school calendar – from the ice cream social to A Taste for NCA.

Here are just a few ways to earn those service hours:

- We need someone to help assemble our annual school directory
- Stuffing the family Envelopes is an easy and fun way to earn your service hours. Every Wednesday we need parent volunteers to help stuff the family envelopes from 9:30 to about 11:30. Please sign up below where you can help at signupgenius.com.
- St. Gertrude Parish needs folks to help out with some simple cleaning tasks in the church every other week. They typically clean the church on Friday so Fridays would be preferable merely because they are already in the church and you won't feel so alone!
 - Baptismal/Holy Water Fonts - the fonts should be cleaned every other week. There are holy water fonts at each side door, two in the front and then the baptismal font at the back of the church
 - Flowers/Vases - every other week the vases that have accumulated at the wash basin should be washed and put away. (They often have flowers left over from weddings/funerals decorating the altars and those vases need to be washed)
 - Pews - "stuff" just seems to accumulate in the pews - children's books, bags of cheerios, old bulletins, etc. Someone needs to walk through every other week to clean out the pews/hymnal holders.
 - Altar server albs - they need someone to come in (bi)monthly and wash the albs the altar servers wear for mass.

To find other opportunities for meeting your service hour requirement, go to signupgenius.com and check out our listing. Your time and talent make a HUGE difference. Thank you for sharing them with us!

What's New at NCA?

There is a lot going on around NCA. This summer has been a bustling hive of activity and planning.

- We hired 5 new employees to join the NCA team. (Watch upcoming newsletters for short bios about these new additions.)
- The teachers have begun work on several curricular initiatives in conjunction with nearby universities such as University of Chicago and Loyola University. In the newsletters throughout September Mary and I will explain these initiatives in more detail. We (the teachers and administrators) are all very excited about these programs and the resources that come with them.
- We have wireless capability at both campuses and have installed several projectors which will make the classroom whiteboards interactive. Again, more details about this work will be included in upcoming newsletters.
- We have worked on our school buildings (and continue to do so) – we upgraded the boys' bathroom in the main building at the primary campus, we painted at both campuses, have smoothed out the "speed bumps" in the primary campus lunchroom, work on boilers at the middle school, waxed floors, washed windows and done general maintenance throughout all of the school buildings.

It's a very exciting time at NCA. Thanks for being here to be a part of it!

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.

YOU ARE INVITED TO AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th

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!!)



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

LIBRARY NEWS!!!

The Library automation project continues on – Rose Marie Anichini and Jerry Clark have worked more hours than I can even count getting our books entered into the database and prepared for scanning at checkout. Soon we will begin a pilot program to test out the system before fully rolling it out to the entire school. Watch future newsletters for more details on the pilot.

In the meantime, both the Middle School and the Primary Campus Libraries are looking for parent volunteers to act as librarians for their children's class during their assigned library times. Classroom schedules are being finalized. At the primary campus, parents can sign up in their child's classroom at Back to School night. Ask the teachers about sign up sheets. We look forward to a great year of reading!

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.edgewatergralley.com, or contact Jon & Jackie Blake, jblake@edgewatergralley.com, or (773) 314-3827.



NCA Teacher Listing

Half Day Preschool –
Joan Harrington & Yvonne Kornl
Full Day Preschool –
Sally Coleman & Ruth Rosa
Tracy Woods & Kenny Castellanos
Kindergarten –
Laura Deemant & Maria Hamada
Barb Karczewski & Michelle Bell

Grade 1 –
Aaron Jura & Nancy Eisler with
Cathy Love as 1st Grade aide

Grade 2 –
Gail Smith & Sara Burnworth

Grade 3 –
Robin Guagenti & Louise Larsen

Grade 4 –
Patrick Schindhelm & Tara Sullivan

Grade 5 –
Maggie Condit & Samantha
O'Neill

Grade 6 –
Carolyn Backis & Ceil Clements

Grade 7 –
Kelly Luka & John Wirtz

Grade 8 –
Kate Grant & Christina Stefanec

Middle School Computer &
Resource – Cathy Chester

Extended Learning Teachers (ELT):

Art – Margo Phillips
Computer @ Primary Campus –
Flo Wawczak

Music @ Primary Campus -
Michelle Brooks

Music @ Middle School –
Sherri Stouffer

Phys. Ed. – Derek Rubino

Spanish – Karen Gustafson

Counselor – Nancy Onderdonk
Resource Teacher (both campuses)
Julie Rysemus

Middle School Library –
Rose Marie Anichini

Primary Campus Library –
Jerry Clark (volunteer)

Title I (for both campuses) –
Lynn Howell

Assistant Principal/Director of
Curriculum & Instruction –
Mary Stachura

Math Coaching from Loyola University Students for NCA Grades 4-8

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/>



Dear Parents,

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: _____

See you at
Back to School Night!