



Northside Catholic Academy Newsletter

September 28, 2011

Volume 9, Issue 5

Principal: Debbie Sullivan
email: dsullivan@ncaweb.org



Mark Your Calendar:

- Sept. 29 – TEAM EPIC drawing at both campuses
- Sept. 30 – Middle School dance 6-9pm in St. Gertrude Gym
- Oct. 3 – Nov. lunch orders due.
- Oct. 5 – Wooden Spoon event 6:30-pm
- **Oct. 6 – NO BUS service for NCA – (Mike has jury duty)**
- Oct. 7 – Grades 7 & 8 will attend high school fair at Queen of Angels school 8:30-10:30am
- Oct. 10 – No School – Discoverers' Day
- Oct. 11 – Basketball sign up for grades 4-8 – 7pm
- Oct. 12 – Progress Reports for grades 3-8 go home
- Oct. 17 – 8th grade takes part 1 of Explore test
- Oct. 19 – Middle School field trip to the Lyric Opera (one chaperon needed per classroom)
- Oct. 20 – 8th grade takes part 2 of Explore test
- **Oct. 21 – NCA Family Dance @ St. Gertrude gym 6pm**

Principal's Perspective

As I sit here contemplating that September is about to become October, I realize just how quickly the year is moving along. Soon, progress reports for grades 3-8 will be sent home. We are almost half way through the first trimester! By this point in the year, the school procedures are becoming routines, field trips are being planned that will enhance the curriculum and extend the students' learning experience, and the music teachers are beginning to think about our Christmas program. Yikes!

I so enjoyed our first NCAPO meeting of the year. Thanks to all who attended. I think great sharing occurred and I look forward to working together to create another successful year for NCA (not to mention the tips for getting people to read the weekly newsletter!).

It has been brought to my attention that there is a conflict between the actual uniform code and what our uniform vendors presented as options for cold weather wear. I do appreciate families who have tried to be diligent about following the code and in the spirit of honoring that approach, I will authorize the use of the logo fleece zippered pullovers as acceptable for in-door cold weather attire. (Reminder – cold weather is determined by the individual student and/or parent – not by the school. If a child is cold, he or she may wear cold weather attire.) Please review the uniform code if you have any questions about what is expected or accepted. Thanks!

We are looking for a parent volunteer to be the Legislative Action Person (LAP). This person acts as a liaison to the Catholic Conference of Illinois representatives. This position is critical to ensuring that NCA parents are kept informed about lobbying issues surrounding Catholic education and state legislation. If you are interested in learning more about this position, please email me. This position could conceivably meet your entire service hour requirement from the comfort of your home! Thanks.

While the days have been busy and pass far too quickly, I continue to count my blessings. I cherish the energy and enthusiasm of our children as they enter the building every day. Their smiles and laughter brighten my day. The staff works diligently to create an environment of learning and support for students and adults alike. Parents are so positive and involved in our school community. I need only ask for help and an entire group of volunteers arrive. This community keeps me conscious of my commitment to the Catholic education of our children. I am blessed to have such wonderful partners in this mission. Thank you!

Have a great rest of the week.

Debbie

Please Keep the Following People in Your Prayers:

Jake Wons (NCA 2nd grader battling brain cancer), Fr. Grassi (NCA President & St. Gertrude parish pastor - recuperating from triple bypass and fighting prostate cancer), Frank Chamberlain (Mrs. Grant's brother - hospitalized), and Catherine Waters (Ms. Clements' sister recuperating from bypass surgery).



NCA Primary Campus Library

Last spring NCA adopted the Follett Destiny Program for the libraries at the Primary Campus and the Middle School. This is a web-based catalog of all our books and it will allow us to circulate our materials electronically. Loading our titles also gave us a great opportunity to reorganize our materials into new collections. We've also added grade-level designations to most books. Overdues and lost books will be handled by the program. Each student has a barcode that will follow him or her through the Primary Campus and the Middle School.

All these changes make our volunteer librarian training very important this year. We will offer the 45 minute training session on two days in the hope that everyone will find a time that's convenient. If you are interested in volunteering for library please attend one of these sessions.

The training session will be offered at 8:15AM on Wednesday, October 5th and again at 8:15AM on Friday, October 7th. It's not necessary to register for either date.

Feel free to look over the new program from your home computer <http://library.ncaweb.org>.

We hope to see all of you very soon.

GIRLS CAN LEARN LEADERSHIP AND LIFE SKILLS!

Calling all 1st grade girls interested in joining Girl Scouts. We will be meeting 1-2 times per month after school. Date and time yet to be confirmed. Annual dues are approx \$15 per year with some additional costs per project on as needed basis (minimal cost). No uniforms required. Depending on the number of children, we may need an additional mom to volunteer. Can't commit to be a full time volunteer? Consider becoming a "rotational part time volunteer" by project - that may be more conducive for all the working moms out there. Interested? I'll work with your schedule!

Please contact Michele Reynolds at reynolds_michele@hotmail.com or 773.865.6253 if your child is interested or you'd like to learn more.

Announcements & Reminders

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

1. **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 I hope 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!
2. **Important Notice: There will be NO NCA Bus Service on October 6th –** Mike has jury duty. Please make other transportation arrangements for students both in the morning and afternoon. Thank you and sorry for any inconvenience.
3. **Mark Your Calendar – Tuesday, Oct. 11th 7pm is Basketball sign-up for grades 4-8**



Dear NCA School Parent,

My name is Father Mike Bradley, and I reside at Saint Gertrude's rectory. **I'm asking you to support an effort to support NCA.**

Along with about 45,000 other runners, including a number of parishioners, I'll be running the 26.2 miles of the Bank of America Chicago Marathon. Over the years my family members and friends, along with many St. Gertrude parishioners, have sponsored me and contributed many thousands of dollars for various causes. Last year my Marathon run raised more than \$5000.00 for NCA. **I'm very proud to support NCA!**

Will you please "run along with me" by buying a t-shirt (available for \$10 at the school office) or sponsoring me per mile? **All proceeds go to NCA. It sure helps me -- as I run the 26.2 miles -- to know that I'm helping NCA students.** Thank you for considering this appeal – and God bless you for your dedication to NCA!

Father Mike Bradley

Teach Day for PBIS – A Huge Success!



Excitement filled the air on Thursday, September 22, as both campuses anticipated the kickoff of Team Epic, the positive behavior interventions and supports program (PBIS), started at NCA last year. Earlier in the year, 8th grade students and 5th grade students prepared skits to teach students how to be respectful, responsible, and safe in the classroom, hallways, restrooms and, lunchroom and also at arrival, dismissal and recess. These skits were taped by Ms. Chester at the Middle School and Ms. Flo at the Primary Campus. Grade level rooms filtered into the computer rooms at both campuses for the viewing of these skits on video. After the viewing, each homeroom, led by their homeroom teacher, visited the actual locations to review and practice the procedures for being safe, responsible and respectful. The teacher gave each student a passport and at the end of each review, students received a sticker for that location which they placed on their passports. To celebrate the success of learning the behaviors at the various stations, the Middle School came to the Primary Campus for a huge celebration. Entrance to the celebration was seen as students turned in their passports. The celebration began when the 8th grade Spirit Squad led the student body in EPIC cheers. Ms. Larsen, the MC of the event, explained and reviewed the meaning of the word EPIC (excellent, positive, integrity, and caring) and also talked about the essence of TEAM EPIC. The enthusiasm continued as the 5th grade Spirit Squad ran quickly around the gym with their banners chanting their cheers.

The celebration proceeded as Mrs. Stachura and the 7th grade boys randomly picked passports for contestants from grades 1 - 8 to play two Minute-to-Win-It Games –“ Face the Cookie” using Oreo cookies and “Defying Gravity” using balloons. Each grade level cheered on their fellow classmates. Ms. Sullivan concluded our celebration with the random selection of more passports. Each winner selected a gift certificate from a variety of places.

The enthusiasm and excitement of this celebration will carry the student body forward as it continues to participate enthusiastically in the Team Epic behaviors. Students now will show how they are safe, responsible, and respectful. As teachers witness these behaviors, students will be rewarded with Team Epic tickets which will be placed in EPIC homeroom boxes. More excitement will be coming as drawings from these boxes will take place and more students will be rewarded for their positive behavior.

Student Council!

LAST CALL!!!!!!

Middle School students: We are still looking for students who want to be leaders in the NCA community! The following positions still need enthusiastic students to complete student council! If interested, please see Ms. Luka for a position form.

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

7th AND 8th GRADE CLASS REPS:

Qualifications

- conduct and satisfactory grades

Responsibilities

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



September 28, 2011

Dear Parents,

We are very committed to helping your child become a successful reader. As part of this commitment, our school will once again use a universal screening assessment called DIBELS Next to help us examine how your child is doing in learning essential reading skills. DIBELS Next is the updated version of Dibels 6th Edition which we have used for the past two years. This assessment will be administered to children in Grades K-5 by their teacher on an individual basis three times this school year. The first assessment takes place during October, the second is done in February and the third assessment is done in April and May.

DIBELS stands for *Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills*. DIBELS tests five skills that are necessary for learning to read. Children who learn these skills become successful readers. The skills are:

- Phonemic Awareness: Hearing and using sounds in spoken words
- Alphabetic Principle: Knowing the sounds of the letters and sounding out written words
- Accurate and Fluent Reading: Reading stories and other materials easily and quickly with few mistakes
- Vocabulary: Understanding and using a variety of words
- Comprehension: Understanding what is spoken or read

DIBELS is made up of seven short individual tests, called subtests. Each DIBELS subtest focuses on a different skill and takes about 1 minute to do. Your child may be given two to five of the DIBELS subtests depending on his or her grade level.

Each DIBELS subtest takes only about one minute to do because they are used as *indicators*. Much like using a thermometer to take a child's temperature is an indicator of overall health, each subtest is an indicator of how well a child is doing in learning a particular early reading skill. DIBELS is used with millions of children throughout the United States. A child's score on a subtest tells us whether the child is likely to be "on track" for learning to read, or whether that child may need some help in learning important reading skills. Your child's teacher will use the information to better help your child. For example, the DIBELS test may tell us that we need to spend more time teaching your child how to "sound out" unknown words.

DIBELS is used to identify children who may need extra help to become good readers and check up on those children while they receive the extra help to make sure they are making progress. DIBELS will also be used to make decisions about how well the overall reading program is working for all children. DIBELS should never be used to grade your child.

We are working hard at school to make sure that every child is on target for success, and we thank you for your efforts at home. Together, we will help your child become a successful reader. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Mrs. Stachura or e-mail her at mstachura@ncaweb.org.

Sincerely,
Ms. Debbie Sullivan, Principal
Ms. Mary Stachura, Ass't. Principal

Art for All

Fall 2011

Come join us for a new session of after school art classes at the Primary Campus

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

These art classes are designed for Kindergarten through Eighth graders, anyone who loves to explore new ways to creatively express themselves. As always painting, sculpture and more will be offered.

Tuesday (fourth through Eighth Graders only)

This class is designed for the older student. Our emphasis this fall will be on drawing. Working specifically on shading, proportion and training the eye to see what is really in front of us.

All classes are at the primary campus and meet once a week from 3:15 – 4:45pm. Classes begin the week of October 3rd and go through December 1st. Cost is \$120.00 dollars due with your registration.

If you have any questions please contact

Margo Phillips at (773) 878-3867 or NCA (773) 743-6277 or
artforall.me@gmail.com

Or Nancy Onderdonk at NCA (773) 312-2308

Please return bottom portion with registration

Art for All fall 2011

Student(s)

Name _____ Age _____ Rm # _____

Parent(s)

Name _____

Phone # _____ email address _____

Emergency Contact and #

Please give a first & second choice

Day: Monday _____ Wednesday _____ Thursday _____

Tuesday (only for 4th – 8th grade) _____

Check here if your child needs to go to aftercare after class _____



BASKETBALL SIGN-UP 4TH – 8TH GRADE BOYS AND GIRLS

Tuesday, OCTOBER 11TH 7:00PM
PRIMARY CAMPUS CAFETERIA
PARENTS MUST ATTEND INFORMATIONAL
MEETING @7:15PM

4th -6th GRADE TEAMS PRACTICE BEGINS EARLY NOVEMBER WITH GAMES ON SATURDAYS DEC. 3TH - EARLY MARCH - PLUS 2 PRACTICES EACH WEEK - TBD

7th & 8th GRADE TEAMS PRACTICE BEGINS LATER IN OCTOBER WITH GAMES ANY DAY EARLY NOVEMBER - MID-MARCH - PLUS 2 PRACTICES PER WEEK - TBD

\$85 (includes jersey) 7th & 8th grade: (includes shorts)

4th-6th grade: Kids wear mesh gym shorts (+15 additional, if needed)

Optional break-away pants +\$30

Bring your checkbook or M.O. NO CASH IS ACCEPTED - one check is fine

\$25 late fee will be added to late registrations

ALL PARENTS ARE EXPECTED TO WORK THE GYM ON TEAM'S ASSIGNED DAYS
PLEASE CONTACT KEVIN HOWARD, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR WITH ANY
QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ABOUT THIS SIGN-UP AT

NCAATHLETICS@YAHOO.COM

NEW PARENTS COME TO THE GYM AT 6:30PM FOR A SHORT INSTRUCTION
ON KEEPING THE SCOREBOOK AND RUNNING THE SCOREBOARD AND OTHER
GYM OPERATIONS

Jog for Jake ~ Walk for Wons!

Join your friends as we walk/jog along the lakefront to support our friend
Jake Wons!



All ages welcome!

When?
Saturday, October 8, 2011
Rain or shine!

How far?
1 mile walk or 5 k run

What time?
8am registration
8:30 race begins

Where?
Meet @ Foster Beach, grassy area just south of
the beach house. We'll finish @ Osterman Beach house
(Ardmore & Lake). Post race water, coffee, and treats
will be offered! Parking available at Foster Beach.

Cost?
Donations of any size will be gratefully accepted.
All donations will go to the Wons family.

**Pre-registration will help us with our planning,
but walk up registrations will be offered the day of the
race. Return form to North side Catholic Academy or
email: maryanngoode@yahoo.com

Name(s) _____

Phone _____

Email _____

(In case we need to contact you the day of the run)

I will walk I will run. I will bring a baked good.

I can't make it, but please accept my donation. (Checks may be made payable to Northside Catholic Academy. 6216 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago, IL 60660. Please NOTE Jake Wons on check!)

12 Traits to Cultivate for Student Achievement

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/>

Proud Supporter
of NCA



Success depends on a certain amount of luck, but smart people don't leave it up to chance. In the book *Work Your Strengths*, authors Chuck Martin, Richard Guare, and Peg Dawson identify 12 strengths essential to success. It's important to teach these skills to kids so they can learn early on what it takes to be successful.

These skills are:

- **Response inhibition:** The ability to think before you act.
- **Working memory:** Remembering information while you are performing complex tasks.
- **Emotional control:** Not giving in to anger, anxiety, or other counterproductive feelings.
- **Sustained attention:** The ability to focus on the immediate job.
- **Task initiation:** Getting started.
- **Planning and prioritizing:** Knowing what's important and what to do first.
- **Organization:** Having all the tools and resources available whenever you need them.
- **Time management:** Using your time efficiently.
- **Goal-directed persistence:** Setting goals and moving steadily toward them.
- **Flexibility:** The ability to adapt to change.
- **Perspective:** Seeing the big picture and your role in it.
- **Stress tolerance:** The ability to deal with stress.

Just for Laughs



"Ug, this is okay, but what we really need is for you to start thinking outside the rocks."



"I don't care if all the kids are wearing it that way. You'd better grow it back before your father gets home."