

Newsletter

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Greetings,

As spring rapidly turns to summer, I'd like to give thanks to the many people that have made this school year so special for all of us here at North Tapps.

Living in this community for many years it is easy to take for granted just how supportive and generous everyone is. That's until Staff Appreciation Week comes around. Earlier this month the PTSA Hospitality committee of Adria Esterbrook, Kristen Zantkovsky and Lorena O'Brien organized the most magnificent luncheon in memory. Starting with breakfast treats on Monday, a basket drawing on Tuesday and the now notorious Wednesday lunch, the week culminated with a staff car wash on Friday morning. It is clear after all of that lovin' our staff has just got to be the most appreciated around. And as a matter of fact we had so much food we appreciated ourselves with leftovers all the way through Friday afternoon.

This luncheon was all the more amazing coming on the heels of a Tuesday Cinco da Mayo celebration sponsored by Mrs. Tesch and Mrs. Nelly where, you guessed it, parents prepared and shared dozens of food items for our seventh graders. Over thirty parents took time off work to host this event and to take part in the traditional dances, view Power Point presentations of Latin American countries and serve legions of hungry seventh graders. The fact that many of those same parents came by school the following day with additional dishes for our staff was truly above and beyond the call of duty.

Speaking of support, we now know that parents and students of the eighth grade class collected over \$10,000 from the recent pancake breakfast and raffle. With proceeds used to offset the cost of graduation, provide a field trip, host a graduation party and present a gift to the school, organizers of the event should feel particularly proud of their efforts. Pancake breakfast chairpersons, Karin Shearer and Shannon Schatz and raffle chairpersons Ann MacKenzie and Donna Henline would particularly like to thank the many businesses in our area that either donated items for the raffle baskets or food for the breakfast. They hope that parents will thank these businesses by supporting them with their purchases throughout the year. For your convenience, the list of donors has been posted to the North Tapps website.

Bringing the school year to an end is always a combination of happiness and sadness. We will certainly be happy to spend more time outdoors and with our families. But we will also be sad to see our eighth graders and many of our parents move on to the next chapter of their lives in high school. To them we wish good luck and a fond farewell. We will certainly miss the class of 2009!

Sincerely yours,



Pat Keaton, Principal



PTSA volunteers Joanie Buckley, Sheila Elwell and Kristen Zantkovsky braved the elements to wash the staff member's cars as part of Staff Appreciation week.

WRITING CONTEST WINNER

Teenage writers imagined, created and expressed themselves through original poetry and short story entries in Pierce County Library System's 13th annual teen writing contest, Our Own Words.

Eighth grade NTMS student, Erin Haas placed 3rd in the Short Story category for 7th-8th graders. Erin will read her selection to an audience at PLU, receive a cash prize and her winning entry will be posted to the Pierce County Library's website after May 27th.

YEARBOOKS

There will be a limited number of yearbooks going on sale June 18th at 7:30 am in the office. If you want to purchase a yearbook students will need to line up outside the office door on June 18th at 7:30 am. They will need a check made out to NTMS in the amount of \$30.00, a yearbook signing agreement on file in the office, and no outstanding fines or fees.

ASB ELECTION WEEK

Tuesday, May 26th, marks the start of Election Week for next year's 2009-10 ASB officers. The election will be held on Tuesday, June 2nd. On election morning, sixth and seventh grade students will listen to speeches prepared by candidates and their campaign managers. Parents are invited to attend the election assembly that begins at 7:55 a.m. in the gym. Senator elections for next year's 7th and 8th graders will be held the second week of June. Student government is a great opportunity for students to learn leadership skills

Calendar

MAY:

19: Fifth Grade Parent Night 7:00 pm
22: Talent Showcase 7:00 pm
25: Memorial Day-No School
26: Board mtg- 6:30 pm
29-30: Concert Band overnight trip to Long Beach

JUNE:

2: ASB Election Assembly
3: Band Concert 7:00 pm
4: NTMS morning concert 8:00 am (4th & 5th grades included)
5: Math Relay @ Franklin Pierce
9: Band Awards night
10: Spring Integrated Showcase 7:00 pm
11: 8th Grade to Wild Waves
15: Board Meeting @ 7:00 pm
16: 4th Qtr All Star Event 2:30-4:00 pm
18: Early Dismissal @ 10:54
18: 8th Grade Graduation 7:00
19: Last Day of School Dismiss @ 10:54 am

AUGUST:

24: 8th Gr Bulldog Day
26: 7th Gr Bulldog Day
28: 6th Gr Bulldog Day

SEPT.:

8: School begins

NATIONAL CELIAC DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

What is celiac disease?

Celiac disease is a digestive disease that damages the small intestine and interferes with absorption of nutrients from food. People who have celiac disease cannot tolerate gluten, a protein in wheat, rye, and barley, and triticale. Gluten is found in many foods but may also be present in everyday products such as medicines, vitamins, and lip balms.

Symptoms of celiac disease vary from person to person. Symptoms may occur in the digestive system or in other parts of the body. Digestive symptoms are more common in infants and young children and may include

- abdominal bloating and pain
- chronic diarrhea
- vomiting
- constipation
- pale, foul-smelling, or fatty stool
- weight loss

Irritability is another common symptom in children. Malabsorption of nutrients during the years when nutrition is critical to a child's normal growth and development can result in other problems such as failure to thrive in infants, delayed growth and short stature, delayed puberty, and dental enamel defects of the permanent teeth.

Celiac disease affects people in all parts of the world. Originally thought to be a rare child-

hood syndrome, celiac disease is now known to be a common genetic disorder. More than 2 million people in the United States have the disease, or **about 1 in 133 people**. Recognizing celiac disease can be difficult because some of its symptoms are similar to those of other diseases. Celiac disease can be confused with irritable bowel syndrome, iron-deficiency anemia caused by menstrual blood loss, inflammatory bowel disease, diverticulitis, intestinal infections, and chronic fatigue syndrome. As a result, celiac disease has long been under diagnosed or misdiagnosed. As doctors become more aware of the many varied symptoms of the disease and reliable blood tests become more available, diagnosis rates are increasing.

For more information go to the Celiac Disease Foundation website at <http://www.celiac.org/cd-main.php>.

Visit the Website for more information on.....

- ◆ Eighth Grade Graduation
- ◆ Community Information
- ◆ May-June School Lunch Menus
- ◆ The latest Flu Information
- ◆ Athletics—(Schedules are posted on North Tapps Activities page)
- ◆ Pancake Breakfast Donors

www.dieringer.wednet.edu

NTMS PTSA NEWS:

Staff Appreciation week was an absolute success thanks to the many parents who volunteered their time and dishes. The luncheon was beyond expectations and the rest of the week held just as many surprises. Our special thanks to Adria Esterbrook, Lorena O'Brien, and Kristen Zantkovsky for coordinating such a wonderful week for the staff.

The NTMS PTSA Board has openings for committee chairpeople for next year. If you are interested in volunteering for the PTSA, please contact one of the PTSA Officers - Kathi Lucchesi, Sue Baber, Beth Lancaster, or Karin Shearer. The time commitment isn't huge, but the benefit to the students and school is!

8th Grade Parent News

Thanks to all who attended, donated, worked at, and supported our 8th grade Pancake Breakfast! It was so much fun, and a success for the 8th grade class. Special thanks to all those committee chairs who worked tirelessly to make the breakfast such a success: Karin Shearer, Shannon Schatz, Beth Lancaster, Julie Keener, Julie Brock, Sandy Townsend, Ann MacKenzie, Donna Henline and their committees. Great work everyone!

Now for all of you wanting to help with the graduation or graduation party, please contact Sue Baber at susan.k.baber@boeing.com or Lauri McLeod at mcleodclan1@msn.com.

For all of you interested in the "Special Seating Area" and "Special Parking" at graduation, the 8th grade class has the bid sheet in the main office. Parents may bid to sit on two comfortable couches rather than the hard bleachers at graduation. The winner also secures a close parking space. Bidding will be open until 3:00 on Friday, June 5th. If you have any questions contact Karin Shearer at lakeshears@comcast.net.