

# Newsletter

October 13, 2009



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## REPORT CARD & FAMILY ACCESS

### (Replaces PASS System)

You will notice that enclosed with this Newsletter is the first quarter progress report for your child. The format has changed slightly as a result of the District's conversion to a new system. This conversion has also caused a slight delay to a very popular feature used regularly by many of our parents to view a student's performance in class, the PASS system. The new name for this program is Family Access and you should be receiving information about how you can gain access to this system shortly. Many of the same characteristics will be present with Family Access as well as several new features. Along with grades and attendance, parents will so be able to view immunization history and state test score history. Look for a letter coming soon with initial user ID and password information to get you started.

## HOUSE OF TERROR

On Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> the Red Peppers will hold their annual fundraiser at NTMS. The House of Terror promises to be a screaming meamy of a time as your favorite Bulldogs scare the stuffin' out of everyone attending. Be sure to wear your ear plugs and blinders! The program runs from 6-7:30PM and the cost is \$5 per ticket. Please note that this activity is not designed for young children. There will be a few alternate activities for the young and weak at heart. BEWARE!!!

## PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-teacher conferences will be held on ACE day, November 18<sup>th</sup> and on a non-student day, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Information about our school's conference format will be coming home soon. See you at parent/teacher conferences!

## COMPUTER LAB AFTER SCHOOL

Our NTMS Computer Lab will open to students, staff, and the public on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons after school from 2:17 until 4:10 beginning October 14<sup>th</sup>. All students are wel-

come to work on homework and assignments. Contact Mrs. Snow if you have questions.

### **Guidelines:**

- Use the restroom and get a drink prior to begin working on the computers.
- All students are welcome to work on homework and assignments with assistance by supervisor.
- Students staying after school are to remain quiet and focused on homework.
- Students attending after school remain in the lab until bell rings at 4:10 or supervisor approval of parent pickup.
- If students need to call parents/guardian, they may use the phone in the computer lab only.
- If a parent is called to pick up a student, the parent should report to the office and office personnel will "all call" the student.
- If students complete assignments, they may be excused by the supervisor to attend a home athletic contest and must report to that location immediately.

All classrooms, halls, and other areas of the building are off limits to students unless students in those areas are supervised by NTMS staff.

## MEASURES OF STUDENT PROGRESS (MAP)

The Measures of Student Progress or MSP replaces the WASL this year and NTMS eighth graders already had a head start by participating in the writing pilot exam earlier this month. While students completed the test, the experience was more about helping the state develop appropriate questions. The eighth graders, who will not get feedback on this exam, did get more practice with the format which will help them when they take it again as tenth graders.

The rest of the student body will take the actual MSP this spring during the state announced testing window from May 3 to June 4. Staff members are anxious to view the format of this test which will be shorter and, with the exception of the writing portion, will be completed on-line using our school's computer labs. Another benefit with the new system will be that results will be made available sooner than with the WASL.

We will keep you informed of further news about the MSP as it becomes available.

## Calendar

### October:

- 16: "Pink Day"
- 20-23: 6th Grade Camp
- 23: PTA Carnival-DHES
- 26: School Board Meeting
- 30: Red Pepper House of Terror 6:00-8:00 pm

### November:

- 2: Picture Retakes
- 3: Election Day



- 9: Veterans' Day Speech Contest—7:00 pm
- 10: Veterans' Day Assembly 8:00 am
- 11: Veterans' Day-NO SCHOOL
- 19: Conferences—NO SCHOOL
- 25: Early Dismissal @ 10:54 am
- 26-27 Thanksgiving Break
- 30: School Board Meeting —7:00pm

### AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING

North Tapps Middle School, offers an after school tutoring program that emphasizes one-on-one assistance for our students. Each tutoring session provides a structured atmosphere to re-teach concepts, establish positive study habits and complete classwork. If your child would like additional help, contact the appropriate grade-level teacher to make the recommendation. Tutoring occurs on Wednesdays only and will begin Wednesday, October 14.

For more information, please contact Mrs.

Haley at 253-862-2776 or [bhaley@dieringer.wednet.edu](mailto:bhaley@dieringer.wednet.edu).

After School Homework Club will be held on Thursdays from 2:17-4:00. No signed form is required for Homework Club. The activity bus is available on Thursdays to transport students home at 4:10 pm.

### TECHNOLOGY CLUB

Beginning Monday October 26<sup>th</sup>, from 7-7:45 am, our Technology Club meet in our computer lab. All students are invited to attend for a variety of activities. The club will host students every Monday at 7:00 am.

Please contact Mrs. Snow or Mrs. Roan, advisors

### PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Dieringer School District is forming a Parent Advisory Council. The council will ensure we are meeting the needs of all students in the district. The Title1/LAP plan and agreements will be reviewed. The council will include representatives from families in the district with students in Special Needs, Title1/

LAP, K-8; PTA members and staff members. Our first meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30 pm in the LTES staff room.

There will be approximately 5 meetings held during the school year. If you would like more information, please contact Connie GeRoy at 253-862-6600 or [cgeroy@dieringer.wednet.edu](mailto:cgeroy@dieringer.wednet.edu).

### LAKE TAPPS SKI CLUB

Parents considering the ski program for their child are strongly encouraged to attend one of the two meetings listed below. We will have a short registration period with strict deadlines this year. Questions will be answered during this time as well. Ski school meetings will be held:

Nov 17th @ NTMS

Nov 19th @ DHES

Both meetings will begin at 7:00 pm.

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

- ◆ Activities, Sports & Clubs Schedule  
*NTMS Website/Activities*
- ◆ School Lunch Menu—October
- ◆ Art Workshops—after school  
*NTMS Website/Activities*

[www.dieringer.wednet.edu](http://www.dieringer.wednet.edu)

### NTMS PTSA NEWS:

We would like to thank all the students and families who participated in this year's Entertainment Book sale. We sold 842 books, which was more than we expected to sell the first year of the sale! Our students and staff will benefit greatly from such a successful fundraiser! Thanks! Winner of the iPod touch was Ashly Tarro, and the Top Sales award of \$100 gift certificate went to Alex Wetteland, with second place going to Jessica Jost. Mrs. Madden's 4th period class was the top selling class! Great job!



The Box Tops Collection contest will continue through October 23rd, however, please know box tops are always welcome to be turned in to the main office. Students who bring in box tops go to the front of the lunch line, so it's a great incentive to keep bringing them in! This fundraiser is run jointly with the elementary PTA, so whichever school you send them in to, all students benefit. Thanks!

**THINK PINK!** The month of October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month, and NTMS PTSA and ASB are co-sponsoring the "Because We Care" campaign. Each student will receive a "Because We Care" pink bracelet, and Friday, October 16th is Pink Day at NTMS - please wear pink to show you care!

Hospitality - our Fall Staff Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, November 18th, and the theme is "Giving Thanks" please email Adria Esterbrook at [adriaester@comcast.net](mailto:adriaester@comcast.net) if you would be willing to donate a dish, gift basket item, gift certificate, or have a suggestion. We love to spoil the staff and your help is appreciated!