

Nantucket Intermediate School
October Family Update
October 5, 2017

***“No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it.”
~ H.E. Luccock***

Dear Families,

It is amazing to think that our students have completed a month of school already! There are so many things worth celebrating as we reflect on this month together. Our beautiful new facility has come alive with student work and energy. Students know the routines and spaces, and are working hard each day to meet the expectations for how to be their very best selves as community members and learners. We are so proud of them, their growing independence, and perseverance as the real work of school begins in earnest.

We celebrate you and your willingness and desire to engage as NIS community members! Our Open House turnout was incredible with between 75% and 87% family participation depending on the grade level. Beyond this event it has been heartwarming to witness your engagement in other ways such as attendance at the September principal's coffee, signing up to be a school or classroom volunteer, joining your child for lunch, supporting walk/bike to school day, attending district parent events, and simply reaching out to administration and/or staff to share highlights, concerns and ask questions. Please know we view you as our partners in your child's education and truly believe that together we can best support the growth of your child physically, socially, emotionally, and academically.

As you continue reading, you will find important school-wide information and upcoming dates for parent/family engagement opportunities. All grade level and classroom information will be shared with you by the classroom teachers through classroom newsletters, email blasts, websites, blogs etc. We are also working hard to highlight the teaching, learning, and other excitement happening at NIS through our Twitter and Facebook pages. These are works in progress.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we build our NIS school community together!

Respectfully,

Evemarie McNeil
Principal
mcneile@npsk.org

Elise Goeglein
Assistant Principal
goegleine@npsk.org

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Traffic and Parking

Many thanks to all of you who have successfully navigated our new driveways and parking lots! All numbered spots belong to staff and should not be used by visitors/volunteers. Parents are asked to park in the spaces marked visitor during the school day. We are working very closely with our school resource officers to ensure that everyone follows traffic patterns and parking expectations to keep walkers and bikers safe, especially during arrival and dismissal. Please be especially mindful of those on foot in and around all crosswalk areas. It is essential to follow the speed limit and stop for all crosswalk traffic. The safety of you and our students is always our top priority!

Student Arrival

NIS arrival is becoming smoother each and every day, and students, for the most part, are arriving on time (by 7:50 AM) each morning. Thank you families for supporting students' on-time arrival to school. Being on time allows students to greet friends and their teacher, put their things away, and prepare for a smooth day ahead!

Many thanks to our families for supporting overall school safety and our growing students' independence by sharing good-bye hugs and kisses at the door in the morning. Hopefully you have noticed as we have just how happily our students are entering, full of confidence as they head to their spaces ready for a great day. Further, we feel strongly about protecting our most precious cargo, your children and our staff, through very typical school protocols that require all who proceed past the school office at any time of day to sign-in and wear a badge in the building. If you need to get in touch with one of your child's teachers, please contact them via a phone call, email, and/or note. NIS staff are happy to connect with you at a time when they can give you their full, undivided attention. In the mornings, they are charged with warmly greeting their students and individually assessing children's demeanor in order to support students as needed. This Responsive Classroom practice ensures we start everyone's day on a positive note and all feel connected to their classroom community.

Social/Emotional Learning

This school year, in addition to incorporating Responsive Classroom methodologies school wide, we are also providing our students with dedicated blocks of time with our

guidance counselors focused on social/emotional learning. Here is a definition provided by CASEL, the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning.

What is SEL?

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Here is a link to their website where you can find even more information about this topic: <http://www.casel.org/what-is-sel/>

Our next Principal's Coffee will be dedicated to this topic and what our students are learning about. We hope you'll be able to join us on Wednesday, Nov. 8th at 8:00 AM!

Nurse Notes - Nancy Small, BSN R.N.

Please review the following information:

Physical Reminders for Grade 4: Please send in a copy of your child's physical exam to the school nurse.

Guidelines for keeping a sick child home:

A child should stay home for at least 24 hours to rest if the following symptoms are present the morning of school or the previous night:

- vomiting and/or diarrhea
- itchy or reddened eyes with drainage
- fever over 100 degrees
- unusual rash
- a poor night's sleep due to illness, cough, etc.

Other families, as well as school staff appreciate your help in this matter.

MEASURES YOU CAN TAKE TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESSES

- Wash your hands often with soap & water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizers
- Remember 'cough etiquette'-cough into elbow
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Wash hands after blowing nose or coughing
- Clean things that are touched often such as your phones, remote controls, and refrigerator handles.
- Avoid close contact with others who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Encourage your family and friends to do the same

Important Dates & Parent/Family Engagement Opportunities

Friday, October 6th - No School - Professional Development for Teachers

Monday, October 9th - No School - Columbus Day

Thursday, October 12th - NIS School Council Meeting @ 4:00 PM

Friday, October 13th - NIS Dance-A-Thon money due to school

Tuesday, October 17th - School Committee Meeting @ 6:00 PM

Wednesday, October 18th - ½ day of school for students; 12:00 dismissal

Wednesday, October 18th - SNAC Meeting @ 6:00 PM NHS Conference Room

Thursday, October 19th - FONPS Presents: Mike Smith Live - MPW @ 6:30 PM

Sunday, October 22nd - NES/NIS Bike-A-Thon @ NES 2:00 PM (Registration @ 1:15)

Wednesday, October 25th - **Wear Red Day** - Red Ribbon Week

Thursday, October 27th - Grade 3 field trip to Plimoth Plantation

Wednesday, November 8th - Principal's Coffee - Social and Emotional Learning @ 8:00