

Nantucket Intermediate School
December Family Update
December 11, 2017

“ Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” – Helen Keller

It is hard to believe that we have completed our first trimester together as a school community. So much has happened during our first sixty days together. Here are some of the highlights:

- Our entire staff and students have learned to navigate our school and all of its spaces successfully. Rituals, routines, and protocols for entering the school, evacuating during fire drills, successfully transitioning to classes, having lunch on our patio, etc. etc. etc. are in place and continuously being refined to ensure all students' safety.
- Collaboration among staff is prioritized to promote consistent and challenging learning experiences for all students. Much of our professional development has focused on the implementation of Eureka Math and instructional routines that will grow critical thinkers and problem solvers. We are also planning a “Math Parent University” to support families interested in learning more about the way we teach and learn math at NIS.
- Students have engaged in learning experiences designed to support their growth not only academically, but also socially, physically, and creatively. Did you know we implemented Arts Integration blocks to promote enriched academic learning through music, art and movement? This last trimester grade three combined math and movement, grade four's birds of prey unit was enhanced by art, and grade five benefitted from Mr. Sheppard's expertise as they combined music and English Language Arts. Be sure to ask your child about their Arts Integration experience.
- We've welcomed our families to an open house, parent coffees, and parent teacher conferences. Our next trimester will include three more whole school opportunities for families to engage with us as a school community! (see dates on page 3)

Again, thank you for your continued partnership as we build our NIS school community together!

Respectfully,

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1. Nurse Notes - Nancy Small, BSN R.N.

Please review the following information:

Illness: Please help prevent the spread of communicable disease, such as viruses, conjunctivitis, and strep throat. Students under treatment with antibiotics must stay out of school for the first 24 hours of treatment. A child who has been ill with a fever should not return to school until he/she has been fever free, without medication, for 24 hours.

Winter Clothes: Now that it is getting colder outside, please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for colder temperatures. They still go out for recess every day, unless it's raining or wind chill factor is too low!

Fourth Grade Physical Exams: I have only received about 1/3 of the physical exams so far. If you received an email, letter, or call, please follow up on getting a copy of the physical exam to me. fax # 508-228-1249. Thanks for your cooperation.

Vision Screenings: The 4th and 5th grades are complete. Third grade will be done in the next few weeks. If you have received a letter from me stating your child needs further evaluation, please follow up with me after they have seen the physician.

2. Morning Arrival

If dropping your student off in the morning by car and you are the lead car, please drive all the way around to the end of the traffic loop rather than stopping at the handicap ramp for drop off. This will allow more cars to unload at once and in turn, depart at once as well. The distance to the front door for your child is about the same. An additional benefit to dropping off closer to that end of the traffic loop, is that in inclement weather, your child will be sheltered by the NIS building overhang.

Also, please know that there is no opportunity for student supervision prior to 7:00 AM. If you are dropping your child off between 7:00 and 7:30 please sign them up to participate in Breakfast Buddies as the temperatures are dropping outside.

3. Report Cards

Trimester one officially ended on Friday, December 8th. Teachers are working very hard to look at all of the data they have collected to accurately measure your child's progress against the MA Curriculum Framework Standards across all subjects. Further, our report card standards are being refined to align with the changes to the math, ELA and science standards. As a result of all of this work being completed and wanting to complete it well, you will be able to view your child's report card in ASPEN next week. Additionally, your feedback from last year will result in us printing report cards and sending them home in backpacks next week. If you do not receive your student's report card next week, please check with their classroom teacher or with the front office. We are happy to print out another copy for you.

Notes about our Standards-Based Report Card:

1. Students are given a score of 0-1-2-3-4 relative to their progress with meeting each noted standard. '3' is the target for 'Meets the Standard'. A score of '2' is a good score as it reports that your student is 'Progressing Toward the Standard'; he/she is making good progress, but just not quite there yet to 'Meets the Standard'. A score of '4' (Exceeds the Standard) is reserved for the rare situation that a student is approximately a grade-level or more above in content mastery.
2. Please also note that students are measured to what they have been taught relative to the standard in Term 1. For example, a student may be given a '3' this term for a math standard that addresses multiplication and division fluency, but all that was covered so far was multiplication. A '3' for this standard means that your student is right where they are supposed to be relative to the multiplication portion of the standard that has been taught so far. It does not mean that your student has met the division aspect of the standard as they haven't been exposed to that content yet. Therefore, it is possible that a student could be a '3' on a standard for Term 1, but could drop to a '2' in Term 2 because after instruction on division, they may not be quite meeting the full standard for multiplication AND division.
3. We are transitioning to new science standards after the national release of the Next Generation Science Standards. Therefore, it is likely that report cards only report on one or two science areas so far. The science section of the report card will evolve in Terms 2 and 3.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

4. Important Dates & Parent/Family Engagement Opportunities*

Thursday, December 14th: Joint School Council Meeting - NIS Cafeteria @ 4:00 PM

Monday, December 18th: District EL Parent Advisory Council Meeting - NIS Cafeteria @ 4:30

Tuesday, December 19th: School Committee Meeting - NHS LGI @ 6:00 PM

December 25th - January 1st: No School - Holiday Break

Tuesday, January 9th: NIS Family Math Night

Thursday, January 11th: NIS School Council Meeting - NIS Library @ 4:00 PM

Friday, January 12th: NIS Principal's Coffee - NIS Cafeteria @ 8:00 AM

Monday, January 15th: No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Thursday, February 1st: NIS ELL Family Night

Wednesday, February 7th: NIS Band Concert - 7:00 PM

Thursday, February 8th: NIS School Council Meeting - NIS Library @ 4:00 PM

Thursday, February 22nd: NIS Literacy Night

February 26th - March 2nd: No School - Winter Break

*More information about Math Parent University starting in January will be forthcoming