

## NIS February Family Update February 6, 2018

*"It's hard to protect your child if you don't understand the problem with cyberbullying or see it happen. Parents need to be the ones their kids go to when something is wrong. However, parents are often the last ones to know about problems because their kids fear getting into more trouble."*

*-<https://www.parents.com/kids/problems/bullying/18-tips-to-stop-cyberbullying/>*

Dear Families,

As children have access to technology at younger and younger ages, it becomes even more important to educate them on how to appropriately and respectfully use technology. Our third, fourth and fifth graders not only have access to Chromebooks in school, which we work diligently to monitor appropriate usage, but many of them also have access to cell phones and computers outside of our school setting. Our guidance department in collaboration with classroom teachers and our library/media specialist are all working to teach students about the many facets associated with the use of technology as a tool to support learning. These digital literacy skills coupled with digital citizenship lessons are supporting student understanding and progress with effectively and respectfully using technology. Part of our curriculum covers the topic of cyberbullying. This is a topic we need to be part of the home conversation as well. Here are some links for you to support that learning at home with you:

Parents Magazine:

<https://www.parents.com/kids/problems/bullying/18-tips-to-stop-cyberbullying/>

Cyberbullying Research Center:

<https://cyberbullying.org/resources/parents>

StopBullying.Gov

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/what-you-can-do/index.html#parents>

As always, please reach out with any questions, concerns, or suggestions!

In partnership with you,

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#### **1. Nurse Notes** - Nancy Small, BSN R.N. 508-228-7290 x4107; Fax 508-228-1249

From an unknown author:

“Mary had a little lamb,  
She also had the flu.  
And when she left her school,  
Others had it too.  
So anytime your child is sick,  
Please keep her home with you.  
Then the children in our school  
Will be happier and healthier too!”

Flu season is here with vengeance. Please consider getting the flu vaccine for yourself and your children. It's not too late. It will protect you and help to stop the spreading of the flu in our community. As Winter Break approaches and many go off island, you will be exposed to a lot more people thus more germs!! Protect yourselves.

In an ongoing effort to prevent the spread of flu or any illness follow these steps:

- Stay home if sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth
- Wash your hands, frequently
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects
- Cough into your elbow

#### **Scoliosis Screenings for 5<sup>th</sup> grade:**

Screenings for scoliosis will start in March. Look for more information to come.

Nancy Small RN

#### **2. Morning Dropoff**

Please do not drop students off on Surfside Road in the morning as this is very unsafe. We have had reports of students almost being hit by cars as they attempt to cross the road when

dropped on one side, and reports of near misses with fender benders when cars stop to drop off on the school side. Please enter our parking lots in order to drop children off directly at sidewalks. Our sidewalks connect students right to entry doors at NES and NIS preventing children from stepping into any traffic areas.

### **3. FONPS News!**

Dear Families,

Our next fundraising event is the Community Spelling Bee set for Friday, February 9th. A sit down dinner prepared by Ben and Heather Woodbury of Wicked Island Bakery with table service begins at 5:30pm in the cafeteria at NHS. Dinner is \$15 for Adults and \$10 for children. The Bee begins at 6:30 with free admission for all. We are actively signing up teams and sponsors at this time. Please go to our website [www.fonps.org](http://www.fonps.org) to sign up your team and/or become a sponsor for a student team. We have a number of student and community teams that need sponsors! Team sponsorships are \$300 and your name or business name is credited at the event and on our website. Or form a team! It only takes 3 people to form a team. This is long-standing, and fun, winter event. Bee-involved in February!

Did you know that the Friends of Nantucket Public Schools is responsible for funding a number of needs within the Nantucket Intermediate School through our Staff Initiated Funding program? Some examples of SIF requests that have been granted at NIS this year include:

- Recess Equipment for all Students Used Daily
- Supplies for the new Kiln in the Art Department
- \$1000 for the busses for the Boston Museum of Science field trip

We are looking for NIS parents to join our board. Would you consider committing to one meeting per month (the second Wednesday of the month) at 6pm? Or, alternately would you consider being involved with one of our fundraisers? The Holiday House Tour and the Summer Drive-In are two events with committees looking for new members. Volunteering is a great way to get involved in your student's school career. Helping at our fundraisers supports many needs within your student's school. Please find out more by emailing us at [friendsofackschools@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofackschools@gmail.com), or visit our website.

Warmly,

The Friends

[www.fonps.org](http://www.fonps.org)

**4. Lockdown Drill:** This week, in collaboration with the Nantucket Police Department, our school will engage in a lockdown drill. A separate communication to families will be sent home about this important drill.

**5. NIS Literacy Night:** We are very excited for our whole school Literacy Family Night which will be held on Thursday, February 22nd. Adding to this excitement is that the Scholastic Book

Fair will be at NIS! More information about this evening, including book fair hours, will be coming home soon.

## **6. Important Parent and Family Dates & Engagement Opportunities**

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

Friday, February 9th: FONPS Spelling Bee - NHS (see info above)

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

Monday, February 12th: How to Talk to Kids About Race & Racism - 34 Main St. @ 5:30 PM

Wednesday, February 14th - FONPS Meeting @ 6:00 PM

Thursday, February 15th - SNAC Presents- Understanding Dyslexia - NHS @ 6:00 PM

Monday, February 19th: **No School** - Presidents' Day

Thursday, February 22nd: NIS Literacy Night

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