A Message from our Principal..

Dear Northside Families,

It is hard to believe that the winter months are already upon us which brings us to the cold, wintry weather. Please be sure to have your child dress appropriately for the temperature. The children will continue to go outside for recess on nice days so please prepare the children accordingly.

On behalf of the entire staff, we would like to thank you for the wonderful relationships we have developed with all of you. Parent-teacher conferences were beneficial in addressing several important issues. First, the ground work was laid by your classroom teacher to ensure success for your child as the year progresses. Second, we celebrated the growth and success that has already occurred this year. I have had the pleasure to meet with many parents and am quite pleased with the collaborative spirit between the Northside staff and its community. We pride ourselves in our ability to provide programs and instructional methods that will benefit all types of learners. Please feel free to call if you have concerns or issues. I am always eager to discuss ways to improve student achievement!

The children have done an outstanding job of settling into their learning day. The children are quickly becoming a community of writers, who are learning to integrate literary techniques into their draft and daily writing. In math, students are building upon previously learned skills through strategic math activities, while being introduced to rigorous, new concepts. Science, Social Studies and social-emotional instruction and awareness are integrated throughout the day. I am also quite pleased with how the children have made peer connections with one another. New and returning students alike, are playing together, fostering friendships which is as important as academic learning.

In closing, I would like to extend my gratitude to all for your patience during arrival and dismissal times while the construction of our new cafeteria is underway. The safety of your children is of the utmost importance, and we attempt to create an atmosphere that fosters safety, happiness, and a comfort level that allows them to strive for excellence. Thank you for being such an important part of that equation.

With Warm Regards,

Frank Mortillaro
Principal
Hello Northside Families,

We cannot believe that half the school year is already over!

We would like to thank all of you that have become PTA members, your membership means so much and helps support all the great things that the PTA does for the school and our kids! If you haven’t joined yet, it’s never too late! Feel free to send in $10 with your membership information! The membership form can be found on the District webpage under Northside or you can find a link on our facebook page to join online. One of the many wonderful things that PTA does are assemblies and programs for the kids. The Northside Circus came back to town right before the holiday break!! The children really enjoyed it last year, learning new skills and a lot of fun activities with the week long Circus program that came to our gymnasium!

We had another successful Holiday Boutique on December 10th & 11th. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help the kids shop! It is always a pleasure to watch the kids pick out gifts for all the special people in their life. Helping the children shop is so much fun while trying to help them find (what they feel) the perfect gift. We hope you all loved what you chose and how “perfect” it was! We look forward to shopping with them again at the Spring Boutique for Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. Volunteers are always needed during the day to help the kids, so if you are interested please send us an email.

Our annual Book Fair was held on January 29th and January 31st. The children will had the opportunity to come and shop with their class during the day on either Thursday or Friday and then in the evening on Thursday the book fair was open to parents and families to shop and find some wonderful books. This kicked off PARP, (Pick A Reading Partner) which was the first two weeks of February. The kids were really excited to “Reading the Rainbow....To Reach a Pot of Gold” and had a great time participating in the fun reading activities. PARP was a great success this year.

Box Tops are changing with the times and now have an app, please download and scan your receipts! The program is still new so please have patience and keep trying if you run into issues. Also please continue to clip and send in your Box Tops to the teachers, it’s amazing how those little labels add up and help! Be sure to place them in a baggie or envelope and mark it with your children’s teacher so their class can get credit, remember the top 3 classes get an ice cream party at the end of the year!

Look for information on other upcoming PTA events and how you can help out and get involved! Slingo, Family Fun Nights, Healthy Snack Day, and Staff Appreciation Day are all in the works and we could always use extra help! Come to a PTA meeting, send us an email or follow the Northside PTA page on facebook to stay up to date on the latest information.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or suggestions, email the co-presidents at northsidepta11756@gmail.com

With Warm Regards,
Faith Dermody & Lauren Sica
2019-2020 PTA Co Presidents
NURSES NOTES
Health Safety:

With a new school year underway and the changes of seasons upon us we find we also have to deal with a variety of colds, flu and other illnesses. While you don’t want your child to be absent, neither do you want to send a sick child to school and endanger him/her and the other children as well. The current recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and the New York State Department of Health advise that children continue to attend school as long as they are not sick and do not have flu symptoms. Symptoms of flu to watch for are sore throat, bad cough or runny nose, body aches or chills, and fever. Here are a few guidelines you should follow:

If you think your child is getting a virus, cold or the flu:

- It's very important that he or she does not report to school or other places where he or she might make other people sick, such as after-school programs, group events or public places like stores or malls.
- Call your health care provider to talk about your child’s symptoms and history. Your health care provider will advise you if you need to bring your child in. It’s important to call first.
- Have a thermometer in the house and use it if you think your child has a fever. Do Not medicate your child with Tylenol or Motrin and send the child to school.
- With a temperature of 100 degrees or over, the child MUST stay home; returning to school only after one full day (24 HOURS) without fever and without using Tylenol or Motrin to keep the fever down.

- Vomiting and/or diarrhea are two symptoms that may indicate a viral infection and the child should be kept home until free of symptoms.
- Coughing, sneezing and runny noses can make learning very difficult. A bad cough, or cold symptoms can indicate allergies, a severe cold, bronchitis, flu or even pneumonia.
- With a diagnosis of Strep throat, the child must be on the medication a minimum of 24 hours, and then be fever free and feeling better. Please inform the nurse of any infectious disease such as Strep, Conjunctivitis, Fifth’s Disease, Chicken Pox or Lice.

What should I do to help prevent the spread of cold or flu?

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Stay home if you get sick. CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
When your child will be late or absent, please call the health office with the reason for his/her absence. The health office phone number is 516-434-7505 or 516-434-7506. Messages may be left on the answering machine 24 hrs. per day.

Be sure to send an absent note to the teacher upon your child’s return to school.

Physicals and dentals are due October 1, 2014 for grades K, 2 and 4 and all new students. Please get them to my office as soon as possible. Those children without a documented physical will be seen by the school doctor.

I would also remind you that in order for the school nurse to give any medication (even over the counter medicine, i.e., Tylenol or cough drops) the medication must be in its original container or the prescription bottle with the child’s name on it and may only be transported to the school by an adult. Children are not permitted to bring any kind of medication to school. The medication must include a prescription for in school administration from the physician and written parental permission. The medication will remain in school for the duration the child requires it and/or the parent picks it up.

We appreciate your cooperation and support as we all try to keep the school environment healthy and as germ free as possible.

Cara Rutzel,
RN
School Nurse
Northside Music Department has been working hard on preparing for the Winter Concert which took place on January 23, 2020 at Wisdom Lane Middle School. The Northside Instrumental Ensemble performed at the Levittown Holiday Lighting Ceremony along with the 5th Grade Chorus on December 2, 2019 at Veteran's Memorial Park in front of the Levittown Library. On December 17th, the Northside Instrumental Ensemble, once again delighted their audience along with the 4th Grade Chorus at the Levittown Senior Center. We are proud of our five musicians: Mikayla Sy, Athena Kong, Kerrington Pinner, Callum Sheridan & Noah Stern- they were selected to perform at the Tilles Center on Sunday, January 11, 2020, at the NMEA All-County Music Festival. Several students will be working on their musical selections over the next few months, to participate in the upcoming NYSSMA Festivals. We are so proud of all of our Northside musicians.
Northside Parents Music Club

This year the new President of the Northside Parents Music Club is Maria Bullones. The NPMC is a non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to supporting music education at Northside. We rely on you, the parents, families and community members, to join us in our effort to subsidize the Music Department at Northside and enhance the music education provided to EVERY student. At the most basic level you can do so by simply becoming a member. A family membership is just $5.00 and gives the Northside Parents Music Club some of the funds needed to purchase, and then donate to the music department, supplies needed that the department budget does not cover.

We want to thank all the students, parents and teachers for the support they have shown the music department by buying the new Tshirts. If you have not yet bought them you can contact northsidemusic11756@gmail.com. The students will be using the shirts for the remainder of the concerts as well as general activities.

We would like to continue to support Northside music education in this fashion, so please BECOME A MEMBER TODAY! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at northsidemusic11756@gmail.com. If you’d like to become a member please send $5.00 in with your child’s name/teacher’s name and an email address in an envelope labeled “Northside Parents Music Club” today!

Thank you for your continued support!

“Where words fail, Music speaks.”
— Hans Christian Andersen

Maria Bullones
Send in your Box Tops

PTA BITS & PIECES

SLINGO TBD
All Families are welcome

Spring Recess is
April 9–17th
Back to School April 20th

Contact us at:
northsidepta11756@gmail.com
Each year PTAs throughout the country award Honorary Life Memberships to individuals in recognition of their distinguished service to children and youth. Northside PTA’s recipient this year is Mr. Watson Miller our 4th Grade teacher. Mr. Miller has been teaching for over 27 years. This is our interview with Mr. Miller:

What were your favorite/worst subjects in school? I always loved history, especially in regards to the United States. I saw the movie 1776 when I was in fourth or fifth grade, and I was hooked on our countries inception from that day forward.

What do you like to do in your spare time? Depending on the time of year my favorite season is Autumn because of the cool weather, leaves changing and NFL Football is back! And anyone who knows me knows I might be the biggest Los Angeles Rams fan this side and any other side of the Mississippi River! Then October rolls around, the New York Islanders strap on their skates and all is great in the world of sports. But even better than all of that is the family I come home to every day. I truly cant spend enough time with my wife Koula and spending time with my kids is always a blessing.

What is your favorite movie? I have 3 favorite movies. 1. It’s a Wonderful Life- because the main message of the story is amazing. Jimmy Stewart, who is my favorite actor, gets the gift of seeing his life as if he was never born. Amazing story of how one very good man, has such a profound effect on so many people all for the better. 2. Ordinary People- Beautiful story about a family and an ordeal they were forced to deal with, Events that reveal both the best and worst of us. 3. Die Hard- Because it was the best action movie ever and I wished I was the main character played by Bruce Willis. He gets all the bad guys!

What is your favorite food? My family is from Sicily so what could be better than Veal Parmigiana and linguini? As for lunch nothing beats a toasted Roast beef with salt, pepper, mayo, tomato, lettuce and ketchup on the side. Breakfast is only good if it includes bacon! Yeah, that’s right, its not exactly healthy but I still here at 55!

What is your biggest fear? Well, if I’m being completely honest, the outside possibility that after I due, I encounter some dinosaurs roaming around in heaven( yes I do believe I will make the cut to heaven). The thought of running from a T-Rex keeps me up at night!

Who is your inspiration? My dad was and although he’s been gone for over 25 years, still is. As a young boy, I never wanted to do anything that he wouldn’t be proud of, same as a teenager and equally as I began my own family in my late twenties. Now in my fifties, I know he’s looking down on me and I always want him to fell proud.

What have you learned about yourself since you became a teacher? I learned that if you truly care about the children in your class and strive to do what is truly in their best interest, they will sense it and give you the very best of themselves. They have to trust that you are in it for them because your first reason for being there is that you care deeply about them. I love it just as much as the first day I walked in the door at Gardiners Avenue way back on January 4, 1993!
What is your favorite part about teaching 4th graders at Northside?

I’ve been teaching for over 27 years in grades 2-5, but my favorite grade, for whatever reason, has been fourth. My favorite part of teaching, like in life, is the relationships with the children that you form along the way. When it hurts to see them walk away from you on the last day of school in June, you know that you have a special bond that cannot be broken. Many of my former students, some now approaching their mid-thirties, I am very close with even today.

What advice do you have for students?

Live out your Dream! Do not let anyone or anything block your way to what is in your heart. The key to making that possibility in your life, better yet the likelihood of attaining what you dream in life is all about two things—WORK ETHIC and PASSION! Remember that the really great things in life take a lot of hard work and effort. That includes all great relationships that are formed. And in regards to my favorite word PASSION, I’ll quote a line from a song by my favorite band of all time, the Eagles, in their song “After the thrill is Gone” when Don Henley sung the words, “Any kind of love without passion, ain’t no kind of love at all”! Do everything with Passion!
Mr. Christopher Rispoli is the newest addition to Northside’s Music Department. His musical journey actually began right here at Northside when he was a student here. We interviewed Mr. Rispoli to help everyone get to know a little more about him.

1. What were your favorite/worst subjects in school?
My favorite Subject was Music and my worst subject was Math.

2. What do you like to do in your spare time?
I like to go for a hike in the woods.

3. Do you have any pets?
Yes, I have a Yorkie named Andy. He is 7 years old.

4. What is your favorite food?
My favorite food is Steak.

5. What is your biggest fear?
My biggest fear is Bears!

6. Who is your inspiration?
My biggest inspiration growing up was Jimmy Page from the band Led Zeppelin. He’s the reason I wanted to learn how to play the guitar.

7. Why did you want to become a Music Teacher?
I became a music teacher to give back to the community which taught me so much. I was fortunate to have not one, but many incredible music teachers throughout my education. I want to try and pass on the knowledge that others were kind enough to give to me.

8. What have you learned since being a Music Teacher?
I have learned just how important music lessons can be to so many students. I am glad that I can be there for the students to whom music is the highlight of their week.

9. What is your favorite part so far about being apart of the Northside Music Department?
My favorite part has been reconnecting with all the teachers who taught me when I was a student at Northside years ago.

10. What advice do you have for students?
Music is a lot of fun, but it also requires hard work and discipline. My advice for students is to never stop learning so that you can enjoy playing your instrument for the rest of your life.
NORSIDE TAKES ACTION!

The mission of the ACTION Program is for students and staff to be inspired to demonstrate the character traits of: Acceptance, Compassion, Teamwork, Integrity, Optimism and the act of being Nice!

Several Students and Parents enjoyed a fun night at the annual Something Sweet with Someone Special Event.

Kindergarten Students at Northside celebrated the 100th day of School on Feb. 13th by dressing up as 100 year olds.
NORTHSIDE ADMINISTRATION

Principal Frank Mortillaro
fmortillaro@levittownschools.com

Assistant Principal
Dyanne Case
dcase@levittownschools.com

NORTHSIDE PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Co-Presidents</th>
<th>Recording Secretary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faith Dermody &amp; Lauren Sica</td>
<td>Cheryl Denecke</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Vice President</th>
<th>Corresponding Secretary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carrie O'Connor</td>
<td>Tara Reyes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2nd Vice President</th>
<th>Treasurer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Danielle Maiorana</td>
<td>Jennifer Sampugnaro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3rd Vice President</th>
<th>Past President</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stephanie Zaharakis</td>
<td>Krista Hill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4th Vice President</th>
<th>Council Delegates:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Vilbig/Samantha Romano</td>
<td>Yeliz Cipriano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maria Bullones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hope Petry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marie Loeffel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jill Culotta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diana Mortagua</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>