



Notes from North



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February, 2017 Edition

Upcoming Assessments

- Feb. 15-16 - Reading Interim Assessment
- March 13-31 - 5th Gr. MSA Science
- April 14-21 – Reading Inventory
- April 24 - PARCC begins

We ask that you will consider these dates when scheduling appointments.

Parent PARCC Assessment Information

This is the state assessment that all 3rd through 8th grade Maryland students will take this spring. Want to know what will be tested on PARCC this year? Do you need clarity about how your children's scores can be used to improve their performance?

In just one hour, you can get answers to your questions by attending the next Parent University session on Thursday February 16. It will be held at the Wicomico County Public Library, 6:30 - 7:30 pm.

Childcare will be provided: children ages 3 - 5 can participate in the children's section activity. Other children, grades 1 - 8 can bring their homework to complete in the Homework Lab.

Because the space is limited to first 50 responses, please sign up now by emailing Faye Wilson, fwilson@wcboe.org or Beth Sheller msheller@wcboe.org. You also may call (410) 677-4529 or (410) 677-4453.

Consistent Attire Policy

Reminders for CAP Attire:

- Tops and jackets worn during the school day should be logo free and in solid CAP colors.
- Bottoms should not be tight fitting to the legs. (Tights, leggings, jeggings must be worn with shorts or skirts overtop)
- Indoor sweatshirts and sweaters must be solid CAP colors/no logos.

Principal's Corner

Dear Parents,

February marks the half way point of the school year! Term 2 ends on January 25th with term 3 getting underway January 30th. We have had an amazing year with all of grades 1-5 this year. Our older students have really taken to the idea of setting the example for our newly added grades 1 and 2.

North Salisbury continues the path of focused instruction to make sure all students make the expected growth. We are committed to ensuring lessons focus on new learning while circling back to re-teach or reinforce concepts as needed. We continually examine student performance to plan instruction and monitor this growth. At the same time, we strive to make school a caring, fun place for your child to spend his/her day. Being FUN and FOCUSED helps students learn and, just as important, want to learn. Thank you for your support at home completing homework that is vital practice to continuing students' progress.

Finally, during the month of February and into March, **Dr. Vail** will be the acting principal as I will be out on leave. **Mr. Larry Collins**, an experienced assistant principal, has been assigned to North Salisbury. Please feel free to contact either Dr. Vail or Mr. Collins should you have any questions, concerns, or compliments in my absence.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Brown



The next PTA Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11 at 4:30 p.m. We will begin the regular PTA Business Meeting in the Multipurpose Room at 4:30 followed by classroom visitations immediately afterwards. We will be looking for officers for the 2017-2018 school year and ask that if you are interested to please notify one of our current PTA officers. **As always, please contact your child's teacher by note, phone, email, or visit if you would like to discuss your child's progress at any time.**

Car Rider Dismissal

We want to remind you that when picking up your child, to please have your child get into or out of the car on the sidewalk/passenger side of the vehicle. We also ask drivers to remain in the traffic lines; some cars will swerve around and this causes some safety concerns for those children entering and exiting their vehicles on the driver's side. In addition, if you choose to park your car, we would like to remind you that you will have to walk your child across the parking lot to the sidewalk to help ensure their safety.



JUMP ROPE FOR HEART MONTH (JRFH)

February is "National Heart Month". Also, it's that time of year for the Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser, which raises money for the American Heart Association. Our event this year will be held on Friday, February 10, 2017. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 this year! Fundraiser envelopes, as well as, class schedules for that day, will soon be distributed. Students will be informed on the process and importance of fund-raising, including topics that involve how to ask people for donations and not asking strangers.

JRFH Hearth Healthy School Spirit Week

Our phys. ed. department will sponsor a week long **School Spirit Fuel UP for Jump Rope for Heart Week** beginning **February 6 through 10**.

Monday – Feb. 6 – Sports Top Day
Tuesday – Feb. 7 –Sports Hat Day
Wednesday – Feb 8 - Sneakers Day
Thursday – Feb. 9 – Team Attire Day
Friday – Feb. 10 -- Wear Red Day- JRFH

We feel that this event will not only help others, but allow children to understand the importance of maintaining a life long, healthy lifestyle. Thank you for your support in this cause. Have a great "heart healthy" month!

Adam Blaney & Jennifer Morris
Physical Education Teachers



Spring Pictures



Smile!!!

Spring pictures will be taken on Thursday, **February 23rd**. Please look for picture information to come home soon.

Term II Awards Assemblies

To recognize the wonderful achievements of our students, we will hold the Term II Awards Assemblies on Wednesday, February 1:

9:00-Grade 3 **10:00-Grade 4**
1:00- Grade 5 **1:45- Grade 1**
2:30 – Grade 2



Students will be awarded for Outstanding Attendance and for Academic Achievement Citizenship.



2017 School Geography Bee

*We are so very proud of **Jayden Joseph**, the winner of the Geography Finals here at North Salisbury. **Jayden** will now go on to compete at the state level. We would also like to congratulate **Zachary Hobson** who was our second place winner. Let's all wish **Jayden** lots of luck during the next round of competition.*

The North Salisbury Geography Bee Finalists were:

Jayden Joseph, August Fritz-Ayers, Kevin Xu, Daniel Gomez-Bontempo, Enoch Bate, Zachary Hobson, Elijah Benson, Gabi Konlian, Omar Esoud, Christopher Howard, Austin Loar, William Potterton, Tyrick Schlehofer, Dora Padilla-Garcia, Malcolm Garcia, and Alexandria Knapp

Term III Responsibility for Learning

As we begin Term III,

all students will be expected to take on **more responsibility for learning and will be held accountable** for meeting those expectations.

This will mean that all classwork is expected to be **completed in the time allotted, and that all assignments will be submitted on time**, not days or weeks later, this includes homework. (Any work not submitted on time will result in a lower grade and for any homework that is not submitted, students will receive a zero.)

Teachers will no longer extend the time to submit work when students have lost or misplaced assignments or have simply failed to turn in the work. During Term III, all students are expected to record homework and long term assignments in their agendas each day. (This is not the teacher's responsibility.) **WE BELIEVE IN YOU.**

Helping Children Learn[®]

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



January 2017

North Salisbury School
Title 1 Family Engagement

Seven strategies help elementary schoolers expand reading skills

Is your child reading by herself? That's terrific. Keep in mind, however, that her reading skills must be strengthened and maintained. As she gets older, she will be expected to read more complex material. So how can you support her efforts and help keep her reading progress on track? Here are seven ways:

1. Let your child read what she likes.

She doesn't have to read only books. Graphic novels, magazines, advertisements and recipes are fine choices, too.

2. Make connections. Look for books about the places your child's ancestors came from. Or have her read about historic events that happened near home.

3. Make reading irresistible. Allow your child to stay up 15 minutes later to read in bed. Or let her build a fort and read inside by flashlight.

4. Add some drama. Turn favorite books into family plays. Encourage everyone to dress up and play a part.

5. Start a book club. Get your child's friends together for book-related discussions, activities and snacks.

6. Set a timer. If your child resists reading, say, "Read to me for three minutes. When the timer rings, you can stop." Add a minute every few days.

7. Read aloud. Select books that are a bit more advanced than your child can read herself. When parents read, kids enjoy more challenging stories.



Exercise observation power

Scientists notice and remember details. Here's a memory game to play with your child to help build her observation skills.

When you're on a walk, ask your child questions like, "How many windows were on the front of the house we just passed?" or "What color was its front door?" See if she can remember without looking.

Reset your child's habits for better results

If your child's school year is not going the way you'd hoped, push the reset button and give her a fresh start. To do it:

- **Involve the whole family.** If your child needs to spend more time studying, make it quiet time for everyone. Work or read while she studies.
- **Replace bad habits** with good ones. If she usually watches TV when she gets home, she can relax by reading for 30 minutes instead.
- **Praise successes.** Help her see the link between her new habits and her results.



Source: R. Fry, *Get Organized*, Career Press.



Help your child get a feel for fractions

Many kids find fractions difficult. But they don't have to be! Help your child get comfortable with fractions by making a fraction kit. Here's how:

1. Cut several long strips of paper, each one a different color. They should all be the same length and about three inches wide.

2. Let your child choose one strip to represent one whole unit. He can label it $\frac{1}{1}$.

3. Have your child fold another strip in half end-to-end and cut on the fold. Label each piece $\frac{1}{2}$. Discuss how the two halves make one whole.

4. Fold and cut other strips into thirds, fourths, sixths and eighths. Label the pieces. Say what each fraction represents. "This is one piece of three, so we'll write $\frac{1}{3}$."

5. Let your child play with the pieces. How many fourths add up to $\frac{1}{2}$? Which is larger, $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$?

6. Save the kit to help check work.

Source: D. Adams and M. Hamm, *Helping Students Who Struggle with Math and Science*, Rowman & Littlefield Education.

Clean hands, healthy kids

One simple step can help your child stay healthy and avoid missing school. It's hand washing! Teach your child to:



- **Wash properly.** He should wet hands, lather with soap and wash fronts, backs, between fingers, etc. for 20 seconds.
- **Use a fresh paper towel** to turn off the faucet and open the bathroom door.
- **Wash hands often**, especially before eating and after using the bathroom.
- **Sneeze or cough into his elbow**, not his hand.

Source: C.H. Lau and others, "Hand hygiene instruction decreases illness-related absenteeism in elementary schools: a prospective cohort study," *BMC Pediatrics*, nswc.com/lather.



How can I change my child's attitude toward school?

Q: My child has recently told me, more than once, that he hates school. I'm not sure how to respond—he has to go to school, after all. What can I do to improve the situation for him?

A: Not all children who say they hate school actually do. Sometimes, they're just looking for attention—or for a chance to put off homework.

Still, if your son has said this repeatedly, there's probably something going on. Here are some steps you can take:



- 1. Talk to your child.** Wait for a time when he's relatively calm and when you have plenty of time to talk. Then ask him what's going on. "You've said you hate school a couple times. What's making you feel this way?"
- 2. Identify the problem.** Listen closely to what your child says. Is he struggling in class? Are kids mean to him on the bus? Is he bored?
- 3. Help your child find solutions.** For example, if he is struggling in a subject, ask his teacher for advice. Does your child need to spend more time reviewing the subject? Is he turning in his homework? How can you help at home?
- 4. Be positive.** Help your child see that nearly every situation in life has positives and negatives. Then help him build on the positives and minimize the negatives.



How do you handle issues at school?

If the teacher tells you that your child has a problem at school, your reaction can make the difference between finding a solution and creating a standoff. Are you addressing school issues constructively? Answer *yes* or *no* below:

- 1. Do you hear** the teacher out *before* you start explaining away your child's behavior?
- 2. Do you wait** to discuss the issue with your child until you can do so calmly?
- 3. Do you involve** your child in brainstorming possible solutions to the problem?
- 4. Do you let** the teacher know how you plan to handle the issue?
- 5. Do you stay** in touch with the school to confirm that your solution is working?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are working with the school and your child to solve problems in positive ways. For each no, try that idea.

*"Teaching kids to count is fine, but teaching them what counts is best."
—Bob Talbert*

Share test-taking strategies

Your child has studied and knows the material. But does she know these strategies for test success? Encourage her to:

- **Ask questions.** If your child doesn't understand the directions or a question, she should ask the teacher to clarify.
- **Answer easy questions first.** If she gets stuck on a hard one, she should move on and return when she's finished the rest.
- **Use the process of elimination** on multiple-choice questions. She should cross off the answers that *can't* be right and decide between the ones that are left.
- **Use extra time** to review her answers and check for careless mistakes.

Put spare time to good use

One valuable lesson you can teach your child is how to use small bits of time. If he has a few extra minutes before dinner, you might say, "Let's run through your spelling words." He'll learn that using spare moments frees up longer blocks of time for other things.



Brush up on discipline basics

All children misbehave sometimes. Keep in mind that discipline is meant to teach desired behavior, not to punish. It helps to:

- **Be realistic** about your child's abilities. Match rules to her age and maturity level.
- **Mean what you say.** Make sure your rules and consequences are fair, then stick to them!
- **Acknowledge** your child's feelings. Say, "You are upset because you wanted that toy. But it's Jana's turn. You can have another turn when she's done."
- **Be forgiving.** Teach your child that everyone can learn from mistakes.

Source: "Disciplining Your Child," Healthy Children.org, American Academy of Pediatrics, nswc.com/aap-discipline.

Helping Children Learn®

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NSS SCHOOL EVENTS

February

2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			F DAY 1 REPORT CARDS GO HOME TERM 2 AWARDS PROGRAMS 9:00 3RD GRADE 10:00 4TH GRADE 1:00 5TH GRADE 1:45 1ST GRADE 2:30 2ND GRADE	A DAY 2	B DAY 3 9:00 FINAL ROUND OF SCHOOL SPELLING BEE (WINNERS GO TO REGIONAL COMPETITION)	4 DI PRACTICE DAY AT SMS	
5	C DAY 6 SPORTS TOP DAY	D DAY 7 HAT DAY 7:00 am DI MEETING 5:00 pm Title 1 Family Night at Food Lion on Nanticoke Road	E DAY 8 CLASS COLOR DAY GR. 2 TO POCOMOKE DISCOVERY CENTER	F DAY 9 TEAM ATTIRE DAY	A DAY 10 WEAR RED DAY *JUMP ROPE FOR HEART EVENT & DONATIONS DUE	11	
12	B DAY 13 7:00 am CHESS CLUB	C DAY 14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i> 	D DAY 15 READING INTERIM DAY 1	E DAY 16 READING INTERIM DAY 2	F DAY 17	18	
19	20 SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PRESIDENTS DAY	A DAY 21 7:00 am DI MEETING	B DAY 22	C DAY 23 SPRING SCHOOL PICTURE DAY	D DAY 24 SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY	25	
26	E DAY 27 7:00 am CHESS CLUB	28 6:30 pm BOE Awards Night				Upcoming March Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 1: Progress Reports March 13-31 (select dates): Grade 5 MSA Science Exam March 31: End of Term 3 	