



NORTHPOINT NEWS

www.springlakepark schools.org

December 7
2011

PRINCIPAL POINTS by Mike Callahan

When watching 750 students arriving and dismissing from Northpoint each day you see lots of smiles and energy on the faces of our little people. These two times of day happen in around 10 minutes each. There is a lot going on! Our #1 priority is to see that this is done in an orderly fashion so our students are safe.

With the cold weather arriving and here to stay during the winter months, the pace seems to speed up to avoid the cold. Many more students are dropped off and picked up each day by parents and family members which results in longer lines and less up front parking. Our combined efforts in following the subsequent procedures will ensure that our students and our families are safe each day.

- ◆ If you are dropping your child(ren) off or picking them up each day, I encourage you to park in the parking lot and walk your child to or from the front entrance of the school. PLEASE do not drop your child off in the parking lot and have them walk up to the school on their own. You may also pull up to the yellow curb, help your child(ren) in or out of the vehicle **on the curbside**, and pull away safely.
- ◆ Students are allowed to enter the building at 9:10 a.m. each morning. Students arriving any earlier will be asked to wait outside or in the corridor area and wait responsibly until the first bell rings at 9:10 a.m. Parents are asked **not** to drop their child/ren off until the start of school for there will be no supervision until 9:10 a.m. each morning. Supervision will be present at the front entrance at 3:55 p.m. each day during dismissal.
- ◆ As signs indicate, there will be no parking or leaving a car unattended on the yellow curb.



- ◆ Ask! If you have questions, please stop in the office and we would be glad to sit down and talk with you regarding the safety and security of your child/ren. To ensure these procedures are followed, supervisory staff at arrival and dismissal will be reminding parents and family members if necessary. If you have any questions or need clarification please contact me at your convenience. Your efforts and attentiveness are appreciated.

Northpoint Elementary
2350 124th Court NE
Blaine, MN 55449

Principal

Mike Callahan

Student Support Specialist

Dr. Hope Rahn

Main Office

763-754-9700

Attendance

763-230-0304

Transportation

763-785-5512

Bus Company

763-201-8888

Food Service

763-785-5529

District Office

763-786-5570

Community Education

763-786-1338

K-3 Programming and Boundary Study update

The final phase of the school district's K-3 Programming and Boundary Study proceeds with several meetings of the Parent Input Team. This preceeds opportunities for the community to provide review and comment online or at December 20 meetings regarding scenarios for 2012-13 identified as viable options.

The district is seeking a boundary and programming plan that utilizes school district facilities effectively and efficiently; addresses growth and placement of choice options, including the Spanish Immersion Program currently housed at Westwood Intermediate School; and effectively manages current and future enrollment trends.

Options for consideration will be available to the school community for review, and there is an opportunity to provide feedback on the district's website before December 20. Community Informational Sessions to provide opportunities for review and comment on options being considered have also been scheduled. Meetings will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 6:00 pm in the District Services Center, 1415 81st Avenue NE, Spring Lake Park; and Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 7:00 pm, Spanish Immersion at Westwood Complex, 701 91st Avenue NE, Blaine.

In early January the Parent Input Team will review parent, community, and staff responses to programming and boundary options, and prepare additional feedback for use by the Design Team. There will be ongoing updates to the school board, community, and staff through the anticipated recommendation for the 2012-13 school year to the Board in February.

A more detailed article, with additional details and history on the study, is available on the Northpoint website home page.

Upcoming dates:

Friday, December 9
Report Cards go home

Friday, December 23
thru Monday, January 2.
Winter Break

Music News



It sounds like the holidays in the music room! We have been singing songs from many holidays including Eid, Hanukkah, and Christmas. We are having fun singing in a variety of languages in addition to English: Spanish, Hebrew, and Arabic.

Creating music is a common event in the music room this year. Northpoint third graders practiced a poem entitled, "Bonefish, Bluebird," and created a melody for each line of the poem in 'color' teams of 4. Each student in the team had a turn at taking one line of the poem and improvising a melody on a xylophone to go with the words. Students used an I-Pod Touch to make a video-recording of each team's performance. We will be viewing our improvisations again to critique them.



Second grade students have composed and performed their own 8-beat rhythms with quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests. They performed their rhythms on an unpitched instrument of their choice from the three percussion families: Strike, Shake, and Scrape. Several newly-introduced instruments include cabasa, ratchet, sand blocks, and claves.



First graders have completed a unit on high and low. Our learning has included singing, listening, and moving to high and low sounds. We have learned that the size of an instrument tells us if it will sound high or low, as we listened to a piccolo and a tuba!

We are now finishing a unit on fast and slow. This week included a circle game song called, "Jump Josie," in which students identify the beginning tempo as slow as they walk the beat around the circle, and then changes to fast with the person who is 'it' jumping the beat in the middle. Never a dull moment!



Keep singing! Mrs. VanBurkleo & Ms. Phelps

PTO NEWS

- ◆ **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** Your PTO is gearing up for some great events planned for you and your family in 2012! Volunteer Opportunity Forms had been sent home last week with your child. If you are able to help out with any of the events listed on the form, please fill it out and return it to school as soon as possible.
- ◆ There are two volunteer opportunities that we have an IMMEDIATE need for:
 - Co-Chair of the Winter Book Fair (Jan. 28 to Feb. 2) & Chair for Reading/Multicultural Night (March 2). Please contact Julie Jeppson at juliejepson@gmail.com or 763-354-4709 to get further information about either of these events.
- ◆ Reminder that there is **NO PTO MEETING** in December. Have a wonderful holiday break!

