

# Of Special Interest . . .

## From the Principal:

**Thank you...** this year's drama club production of Sleeping Beauty marks the tenth anniversary of annual productions at NCES. Faculty members Leigh Ann Merrill and Linda Peppe direct the play and Mr. Merrill does the technical end and the creation of the backdrop.

**School Parking...**In the front circle of the school there are two spaces for handicap parking. It is important to leave these spaces free unless you have a handicap tag or license plate. We find that many folks ignore the sign and when someone really needs a spot, it is not available. You will note that the sidewalk near the signs allows for wheelchair access—this truly makes the school accessible to all. I am counting on North Canaan to respect the parking signs!

**The annual Spanish Festival** was held on March 6 in the cafeteria. Sixth graders and their families made authentic Spanish food and all of the families were treated to entertainment. Thank you to Laurie Perotti for cooking delicious food and organizing the kitchen and clean up. You went above and beyond! Thanks to Mrs. Lavoie and Mrs. Slonaker, sixth grade teachers and Senor Merrill for organizing the event. The sixth grade students most of all, made this such a wonderful evening.

**End of the year:** To date there have been five snow days, which puts the last day of school at June 18, 2008. Eighth grade graduation is set for Monday, June 16, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the school auditorium.

**Grade Five** is having a fabulous time at Nature's Classroom in Becket, Massachusetts. Please visit the school's website at [www.northcanaanelementaryschool.org](http://www.northcanaanelementaryschool.org) and follow the Nature's Classroom link in the left column. There are some great pictures of our students. They are doing some amazing things.

**Spring Break...** starts next Friday afternoon, April 4 at 3:00 o'clock. Students are anxious—it's been a long winter. Enjoy family time, get rested and revitalized for the last term, get outdoors, do family projects, and find time to read a good book! Best wishes to all NCES families and staff for a happy, healthy break!

## Recipe of the Month

This cookie recipe from Judy Mead, former NCES teacher and current Wellness Council member, is a big hit with her son and his college friends. She sends him a package every week and he tells her they are devoured within minutes of opening. They are easy to make and healthy. She varies the recipe often by mixing and matching ingredients. Her favorite, time to grab a bite is mid-morning. She calls it the ten o'clock pick me up. Enjoy!

### Mead's Breakfast Cookies (but good anytime of the day)

2 cups oats  
1 cup whole wheat or pastry flour  
1 cup raisins, dates, or dried cranberries (use a bit of all to make a cup)  
½ cup of nuts and seeds (walnuts, cashews, pecans, peanuts) (sunflower seed)  
½ cup sweetener (mix honey and maple syrup for a real treat)  
1½ teaspoons cinnamon  
½ teaspoon nutmeg  
1 teaspoon powdered ginger  
½ teaspoon baking powder  
¾ cup oil (canola or safflower are fine)  
½ to 1 cup milk (soymilk is a great addition) be careful with how much to add to make it moist and not runny

Variations: You can add just about anything to this batter. I sometimes add chocolate chips for a sweeter treat or dried cherries for a yummy flavor.

Directions: Can it get any easier? Mix dry ingredients. Add oil. Add just enough milk to make batter firm and moist. With a teaspoon of batter, make small rounds and place them on very lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake 10 to 13 minutes at 400 degree oven. Watch first batch carefully for proper time. All ovens are different. Cookie should be lightly browned on bottom and top.

Editor's note: (Mead's maple syrup is a delicious, native product.)

*North Canaan Elementary School  
Canaan, Connecticut 06018*

### The BioBus is coming to NCES!

The Connecticut Biobus is a 40-foot-long mobile science-learning center that allows 4th through 12th graders the opportunity to perform hands-on bioscience experiments. Outfitted with the latest in bioscience equipment and technology, the BioBus brings an experience in life science above and beyond the normal classroom curriculum. Both the 7th and 8th grade classes will be taking on CSI-type roles and testing simulated blood and DNA while on the bus.

On the day that your child is going on the bus, can you help make sure that they are appropriately dressed for the bus. Long hair will need to be tied back, no open-toed shoes are allowed, and no shorts are allowed either. If your child is wearing either of these, they will not be allowed on the bus. Because of the generator on the bus, there is sometimes a feeling of "vertigo" while on the bus. This can be helped by eating something before getting on the bus, so send in an extra snack! If there are any problems, a quick visit off the bus usually solves the problem.

On Monday, April 21st, the 7th grade will be working on the bus, divided into two groups. 7B will be going from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. 7A will be going from 1:00 P.M. until 3:00 P.M.

On Tuesday, April 22nd, the 8th grade will be working on the bus, divided into two groups. 8A will be going from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 P.M. 8B will be going from 1:00 P.M. until 3:00 P.M.

If you would be interested in volunteering to help with your child's class, please call me at the school, extension 150, or email me at [jennberginnces@yahoo.com](mailto:jennberginnces@yahoo.com). If you would like to look up more information look at <http://www.ctbiobus.org>.

### NCES PTO Spring Cleaning Clothing Drive and More

Start cleaning out those closets, attics and basements. The NCES PTO will be holding it's first Clothing, Linen and Toy Drive Fundraiser. This is how it works: the Clothing & Toy Drive will be held on April 18th from 3:00 P.M.—9:00 P.M. and it will also be held on April 19th from 10:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M. The PTO will be at the school to collect your goods. The following items can be collected:

- Usable and Wearable Clothing (Men's, Ladies and Children's)
- Shoes
- Household items made of fabric, accessories (pocketbooks, belts, hats, scarves)
- Stuffed animals
- Hard toys
- Linens

All items should be placed in well tied garbage bags. That's it, no sorting required, just drop the bags off at the school on the above dates and times. At the end of the drive, the Fashion Republic will come and pick up the items. The items will be weighed and 10 days later the PTO will receive a check. The PTO will be reimbursed so much per pound that we collect. For every 5000 lbs received, the PTO will receive an additional \$100.00. What happens with the clothes, shoe, fabrics and toys we collect? Fashion Republic is a small company specializing in processing used clothing and shipping it to people in need. They ship to people in need with limited resources. They ship to Poland, Republic of Georgia, Ghana, Liberia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Chile, Haiti and India. The clothing is sold at local markets and thrift stores at low affordable prices.

### The Annual PTO Bingo Night

The Annual PTO Bingo Night will be held on Friday, April 18th in the NCES cafeteria. Doors open at 6:00 P.M. Cards sold at 6:30 P.M. First game begins at 6:50 P.M. Pizza, snacks and beverages will be sold throughout the night. Come, play and support your PTO. No entrance fee. Only \$.25 to play and all are welcome. Come win cash and donated merchandise from our supportive community. If you would like to help out, please contact Nikki Blass or Tammy MacDonald.

### SkyMax Mobile Weather Lab

On April 23rd News Channel 8's SkyMax Mobile Weather Lab will visit the school from 11:45 A.M.—12:45 P.M. where a live weather report for the noon news will also be broadcast. This visit is a culminating activity for sixth grade students that completed a weather unit in March. Students will visit the lab to learn about state of the art weather technology and tracking of severe storms. Interested parents of sixth grade students are welcome to join us from 11:45 A.M.—12:15 P.M. Please email or call Mrs. Slonaker ([teach6@gmail.com](mailto:teach6@gmail.com)) if you are interested (space is limited). Please watch us on the noon news.

### Sharon Audubon visits Grade 6

Earth Day is April 22nd. Don't forget to do something for the Earth—pick up trash in your neighborhood, take a hike and enjoy the outdoors, and increase your recycling efforts. Sharon Audubon's Wendy Miller will be working with Mrs. Slonaker's sixth grade science classes to dissect and analyze owl pellets as part of the food chains and food webs unit. She will present the live hawks and owls to the students from 11:50 A.M.—12:50 P.M.



### Help!

One more qualifying cell phone needed

Please check at: <http://fundingfactory.com/> for the list of qualifying cell phones

Thank you, Mrs. Palmer

### Class of 2008 Yearbook

Focus on the Middle School, especially the 8th grade

Pictures of **all** students in the school!

Order forms are available in the school's main office



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