

Of Special Interest . . .

A Ski Club...is forming at North Canaan. Twice during the month of February all middle school students will have the opportunity to sign up for after school skiing at Cata-mountain. Dates are on the front of the calendar and information will arrive at home on Friday. The club is open this year to all middle school students. Transportation via school bus will be provided to the ski area; the bus will return to the school in the evening. This is an opportunity to refine skills or learn a new sport, one that can be enjoyed for a lifetime. Some scholarship assistance may be available; don't hesitate to call.

Health Fair...The Wellness Council is planning a community health fair to be held on Thursday, April 24 at the school from 6:00-8:30 P.M. This interactive fair will give us all the opportunity to see many aspects of activity, health, wellness, nutrition, etc... Can you lend your talents and expertise? We're looking for community members to participate—whether a demonstration is appropriate or an information table, the choice is yours. Looking for the following areas: medical (ambulance, acupuncture, reflexology, dental, etc.), Physical activity (trainers, dancing, either line or ballroom, yoga, massage therapy, coaching, martial arts, etc.), general areas such as poison control, camps, drug/alcohol awareness, youth services, tick info, etc... If you think that you can help us either as an individual, a business, or a group of colleagues, please call me at the school to discuss the options.

Eighth Grade Carnation Sale—it's that time of the year when we all think of what we can give our Valentine. This year the eighth grade will again be taking orders for red, pink, and white carnations for sale on February 13, the day before Valentine's Day. In the event of snow, the sale will be held on February 14. The carnations (which cost \$1.00 each) will be wrapped in white tissue paper and tied with a red ribbon. They can be delivered to a special person at school or sent home for delivery to your valentines. In the past we have had parents order flowers for children, students order them for each other, for parents, grandparents, etc... The possibilities are endless. Look for ordering information to arrive at home this Friday, February 1, 2008. All proceeds benefit the 8th grade class trip to Pennsylvania. Students will visit Philadelphia, Gettysburg, and Hershey in June. They are very appreciative of your support!

Student Absences—The season for colds and flu is here. A wide variety of viruses and infections are going around and many students have had to stay home as a result. Please report the absence of your child by calling 824-1149 (the nurse's line). You may also call the school number and dial the nurse's extension (108) to report an absence. Simply leave voice mail if you make a call before 8:00 A.M. This is a quick, efficient way to let us know who will not be joining us for the day.

Also, as a reminder, be sure to keep emergency information, phone numbers, etc.. up to date so that we have correct information when contacting you, especially in cases of emergency. To change any information, please call the school office and our staff will be happy to assist you.

Late Arrivals—reminder: when you arrive at school late, please stop in the office and sign in at Mrs. Bergenty's desk. Please don't bypass us! This is an important step in knowing that your child is present!

Cell Phones—Teachers do not allow students to use cell phones during the school day, whether they are calling or text messaging. We understand that cell phones have become an important tool for communication between parent and child and at the same time we find it difficult to promote an atmosphere of serious learning if cell phones are ringing and students are trying to send messages to each other. Therefore, if your child carries a cell phone to school, it must remain off and in a locker for the day. The cell phone of any student caught using one, will remain in my office until you pick it up.

Electronics...in general can be a problem in school. Teachers cannot be responsible for lost MP3 players, Nintendo games, etc., especially in those grades where students do not have locked storage spaces. In addition, school is an academic and social experience. Students do not have the opportunity to play electronic games—recess is a time for physical activity and socializing with classmates. Please help us by having your child leave electronics at home.

Quiz Bowl: Our school team will form this month to compete within the region. Quiz Bowl is a form of academic athletics and every year our school participates. The team is made up of primarily eighth grade students who enjoy learning. Questions are drawn from all areas of general knowledge and may include history, math, science, geography, music, art, and current events. For students who love trivia this is a great experience. Since its inception some 16 years ago, North Canaan has been the regional champion many times and in fact has the trophy from last year's season. It is on display in the front lobby case. March is quiz bowl season. Marilyn Schneider is the official coach and I will participate as unofficial coach and help drive the team to matches in the region.

Wellness—February is love your heart month. It's never too late to improve heart health. Treat your heart to a healthy breakfast, a high fiber cereal with nonfat milk, fruit, and drink orange juice. Walk, walk, walk, and get plenty of rest. Each of us has a risk profile. You can't reverse some factors, such as age or history, but you can control others. Did you know that heart disease is the #1 killer of women? February 1 is National Wear Red Day. Americans will wear red to show their support for women's heart disease

awareness. This day provides an opportunity for everyone to unite in this life-saving awareness movement by wearing something red, a shirt, tie, dress, sweater, etc...Staff and students alike will join in by sporting red. February 14 is Red Dress Down Day for Staff. The cost is \$5.00. The proceeds will go to the American Heart Association.

Website: Valentine's Day always stimulates the urge for a treat, especially in the form of chocolate. Do some exploring on the following sites and create something special for your valentines. Explore and create as a family and be sure to let us know the outcome! We'll print responses in the March newsletter.

<http://allrecipes.com/Recipes/Holidays-and-Events/Valentines-Day/Main.aspx> <http://www.recipezaar.com/recipes/valentines-day>

A reminder...students should not be dropped off at the school after hours unless they are participating in an organized, supervised event.

Middle School Geography Bee

by Mrs. Lavoie

The North Canaan Elementary School held their annual Geography Bee on Friday, December 22, 2007. Our first place winner this year goes to seventh grader, Christian Allyn. The runner-up goes to eighth grader, Neiko Labbadia. We wish Christian the best of luck in his effort to win the ultimate prize...a \$25,000 scholarship!

Congratulations to all middle school participants:

2007-2008 Geography Bee Contestants

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Trevor Dakers	Christian Allyn	Matthew Bongiolatti
Francesca Ghi	Michael Bottass	Jacob Foley
Danielle Goewey	Nathaniel Brooks	Nolan Gordon
Lindsey Jacquier	Cassidy Considine	Dalton Jacquier
Paige Madsen	Hannah Domingue	Nieko Labbadia
Abigail Merrill	Laurel Montoya	William Perotti
Matthew Orrell	Odalis Ortiz	Rebekah Purdy
Kenneth Weaver	Matthew Perotti	Regina Roussis
	Caitlin Webb	Nicole Sharpley

North Canaan Elementary School Drama Club

Is proud to present

The Sleeping Beauty

By Brian Way

A lively, creative version of the classic story featuring good and wicked godmothers, Prince Simple, a hilariously wild foreign chef, pirates and an entire sleeping kingdom! Don't miss it!

Wednesday, March 19th

and

Thursday, March 20th

at 7:00 P.M.

NCES gym

All seats are \$5.00 each

Tickets go on sale March 5th

Come and Celebrate NCES Drama Club's

10th Anniversary

Yearbook Sales Will Be Opened to All

By Patricia Palmer

During the month of February, yearbook sales will be opened to anyone who would like to order one. This year, the yearbook will be a hard cover, paper yearbook produced by a commercial company. The Yearbook Committee is busy taking photographs and laying out the pages in Jostens online yearbook software. The yearbook will include pictures of all middle school students, pictures of the staff, and class pictures of all grades from pre-kindergarten through grade 5. In addition there will be candid pictures of many NCES students participating in special school activities such as music, sports and drama club and working in their classrooms. The price for the basic yearbook is \$20 with various prices for each add-on item. During the month of February, order forms will be sent home with all students at NCES for ordering by anyone who may want to purchase a yearbook. Please consider purchasing a yearbook to support the eighth grade and to preserve your child's memories at NCES.

Three More Qualifying Cell Phones Needed!

By Patricia Palmer

Thank you to all the people who have sent materials to be recycled. We need three more qualifying cell phones to meet the minimum requirements to send the package. Please consider recycling your old cell phone at NCES.

*North Canaan Elementary School
Canaan, Connecticut 06018*

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