

Of Special Interest . . .

Holidays are on the horizon!

On behalf of the North Canaan Staff we wish you a wonderful, happy, healthy Thanksgiving holiday! On the calendar side, please note the early dismissal at one o'clock on Wednesday, November 21.

School Athletics

Thank you to Senor Merrill and Mr. Labbadia for coaching our school soccer teams of girls and boys this fall. The season was terrific! We played exceptionally well and demonstrated good sportsmanship. Go Canaan! Congratulations to all of our players. We finished the season in second place (girls and boys). The teams will be introduced to you at our award assembly in November.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Wednesday and Thursday November 14 and 15 conferences will be held at our school. It's a time for parents and teachers to get together to discuss the strengths of a child and ways to improve learning, communication, etc. We view this as an opportunity to focus on the progress your children are making in the classroom. Share information about your child with his/her teacher to help us maximize your child's learning. In turn teachers will provide you with data about what and how your child is learning. If you have not already scheduled a conference, please call the school office and speak with Mrs. Gandolfo. For primary through fifth grade the sign up will operate in the usual way and in fact, most of you have already signed up and received your appointments.

Conferences for the middle school will be structured in a different way. All teachers will be seated at stations in the gym. You will move from one teacher to another in a type of round robin fashion. A bell will sound every ten minutes signaling the end of each conference. You will then move to the next teacher you wish to see. There are three possibilities for attending a conference session:

- Wednesday, November 14, 2007 from 2:00-4:00 P.M.
- Wednesday, November 14, 2007 from 6:00-9:00 P.M.
- Thursday, November 15, 2007 from 6:00-9:00 P.M.

We are asking each of you with a middle school child to indicate which day/session you plan to attend so that we have an idea of numbers. If we find that an overwhelming number wants a particular day/session we will send a notice asking if some parents could attend another session. We just want to make sure that we can accommodate all parents to speak with teachers. To sign up for a particular session please fill out the information on the sheet that arrived at home toward the end of last week and return it to your child's homeroom teacher by November 5, 2007. If none of the above dates work for you, be sure to call the school and speak directly to teachers or ask the office to schedule a group meeting. A clipboard will be available at all sessions for parents to sign up for additional time or a phone conference. That option is also listed on the form that went home. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at parent-teacher conferences. Communication is our most effective tool in terms of academic success.

Report Cards

Expect a report card to be brought home via your child on Wednesday, November 14. It is an early dismissal day for parent teacher conferences. The report can provide a springboard for discussion at your conference.

Awards

I am pleased to announce that eighth grade students Katherine Orrell and Rebekah Purdy are the 2007 recipients of the Litchfield County Superintendent Recognition Award. Each year our school chooses two students who receive this honor for distinguished academic excellence, leadership, and service to others. Katie and Rebekah will be honored at a dinner in Torrington on November 14, 2007 with their parents and other recipients from Litchfield County. Congratulations, Katie and Rebekah!

Speaking of awards, you are invited to attend our own school award assembly on Wednesday, November 21, 2007 at nine o'clock. This is also an early dismissal day and the day before Thanksgiving.

Time Change

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour this weekend. Daylight saving time ends Sunday at 2:00 A.M. Take advantage of that extra hour.

Halloween

On the October calendar a few safety tips were printed for trick or treating. At this writing the weather looks good for Wednesday with the high around 62. Please be safe as you walk around town looking for treats. Be sure to take in the funeral home and join in the fun by participating in the carved jack-o-lantern contest; the Palmers always outdo themselves.

Vote

Tuesday, November 6 is election day. Positions for town offices and Board of Education will be decided. Please cast your ballot!

Guest Chef and Food Critic

We are honored to have Peter Elliot, renowned chef and food critic visit our school twice in November and again in December to work with students. See the front of the calendar for dates. He will make scrambled eggs with K-2, macaroni and cheese with 3-5, and a pasta dish with 6-8.

Middle School Discipline Policy

The middle school discipline policy has not been reviewed in many years. I am looking for a few parents, faculty members, and Board of Education members to sit on a committee with the purpose to review and update with a forward vision. Middle school brings with it many challenges and if we face them together we have an opportunity to build a stronger program at our school. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please call me at 824-5149. The first meeting will be held Monday, December 3, 2007 at 3:30; the location will be announced on the December calendar.

Veterans Day . . . November 11 will be celebrated this year on the 12th. There is no school on that day. It is a day as President Wilson said, "To be filled with pride," in the heroism of our armed forces. Actually, when Wilson spoke he was referring to World War I, "the war to end all wars." Originally, November 11 commemorated the armistice between Germany and the Allied nations on the 11th day, the 11th hour, of the 11th month. In 1954 President Eisenhower changed the day of honoring veterans from WWI to a day in which all veterans are honored. Find out how you can honor the servicemen and women of our country. Websites: <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/index.asp> links for teachers, the history of Veterans Day, and a special link for kids.

MRSA . . . just a reminder hand washing is our single biggest defense against infection. Over the summer we installed hand sanitizers in the cafeteria and shortly Ellie Connell R.N. will be doing mini hand washing workshops in classrooms. Cleaning procedures have been reviewed and we have added a few steps as precaution. Encourage hand washing at home especially before meals and after toileting. Also remind your child not to share sports uniforms, towels, and clothing.

The Housatonic Youth Service Bureau, a community based, non-profit organization, serves families in the Northwest Corner; services are free and confidential for any youngster and/or family members. Watch for special programs such as the Wilderness Club and Empowering Young Women and events as well. The bureau is located in the Pupil Service Center next to the high school in Falls Village. They can be reached at 824-4720 for more information and a complete listing of programs, services, and events.

Coming up in December . . . the holidays are here. Mark Monday, December 3 on your calendars—the annual tree lighting ceremony in town. Our school band will participate in the event. In the spirit of the season once again this year North Canaan Elementary will assist Troop B by providing new, unwrapped toys. Donations may be left in the main office of the school. The deadline is December 14. More information will appear on the December calendar.

Recipe of the Month ***Baking Powder Biscuits***

A great way to round out your Thanksgiving dinner. This recipe comes from the *Fannie Farmer Cookbook* collection and is an old favorite; easy to make and great from the oven.

Ingredients:

2 cups flour	1 tbs. sugar
½ tsp. salt	½ cup vegetable shortening
4 tsp. baking powder	2/3 cup milk

Mix the flour, salt, baking powder, and sugar in a bowl; cut in the shortening with two knives or a pastry blender until the mixture resembles a coarse meal. Add the milk all at once and stir just until the dough forms a ball around the fork. Turn the dough onto a lightly floured board and knead about 14 times. Pat until ½ inch thick. Cut into rounds with a 2 inch cookie cutter. Place touching each other in two 8-inch round cake pans. Bake in a 425 degree oven for 15-20 minutes. There are all kinds of variations to this old classic; add ½ cup shredded cheese to make a cheesy biscuit, roll out the dough and sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon, roll the dough into a log and cut, creating pinwheels: the list is endless—use your imagination.

ART SHOW

Save this Date! Sunday, November 18, 2007 From 2—4 P.M.

Annie and Ron Reich, owners of Olde Fram's Furniture on Route 44 in East Canaan, have kindly offered their store as a place to display 1st and 2nd grade self portrait paintings. Every 1st and 2nd grader will be represented in this show. I have asked each student to write on their painting what they are thankful for this Thanksgiving season.

There will be a reception for the artists, their families and friends on Sunday, November 18th, from 2-4 P.M. Hope to see you there!

by Jane Church

NCES Apparel for Sale

You saw it at the Open House, now you can own it and wear it. T-shirts, Sweatshirts, Wind pants or a Jacket. Order forms will be sent home with all the details and you can also access order forms online at <http://www.northcanaanelementaryschool.org/>. Orders will be submitted once or twice a month throughout the school year, so you will always be able to order. Turn around time is approximately two weeks.

by Nicole Blass, PTO

PTO Meetings

Starting November 7th PTO is offering FREE dinner and FREE babysitting for all parents and their children who would like to attend the PTO meetings. Doors open at 5:30 P.M. for dinner in the school cafeteria and meetings start at 6:00 P.M. in the NCES library. Babysitting will begin at 5:55 P.M. All PTO meetings will be held the first Wednesday of the month at the above times. All meetings will end around 7:00 P.M.

NCES Magic Show

Do You Like Magic—Come to the NCES Magic Show on November 2, 2007. Doors open at 6:00 P.M. and the show begins at 6:30 P.M. This event is sponsored by the NCES PTO and there is no charge for entry. Refreshments will be provided by the NCES PTO after the show. Some magic items will be for sale before and after the show at a small expense. Opened to all NCES students and their families. Real Magic, Real Bunnies so Mark your Calendars for November 2nd.

North Canaan Elementary School
Canaan, Connecticut 06018

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Canaan, CT 06018
Permit #16**