

Of Special Interest . . .

Recipe of the Month

This month to start off the school year we have provided an insert to the calendar on lunch boxes. It contains many helpful tips and was sent to us by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and is our "recipe for the month".

From the Principal

Welcome to the 2007-2008 school year! I hope this finds you enjoying the last vestiges of summer in pursuit of some fun, some rest, and some enjoyment with a good book.

We have spent the season preparing for students. Many teachers have worked over the summer updating and writing curriculum, attending workshops, and preparing their classrooms in order to serve your children better. Les Robson, our head custodian, and his crew have done a great job this summer cleaning the building, painting, waxing floors, and overseeing the installation of a security system. We expect to be in tip top shape by September 4, the opening day. A few notes on what to expect this year follow.

We use administrative software to store information and consequently, the registration/information forms that you traditionally fill out at the beginning of the year will be less cumbersome for you. On the first day of school expect to receive a report of the information you gave to us in September 2006. You will simply update information and return the form to the school with any changes noted. Instructions will come with the paperwork! This will be less time consuming for you and will allow us to update information efficiently. Speaking of updating information, a parent passed along this tip. It is a good idea to put an index card with phone numbers of your work, cell, relatives such as grandparents, and neighbors in your child's backpack. That way, in the unlikely event that your child boards the wrong bus, he or she will know how to reach you or a family member. To ease anxiety in children, talk with your child and explain whom to call, etc... This can save a lot of unnecessary tears.

When materials come home from school on the first day you will notice a message attached to the school handbook requesting that you read it and sign a statement. For middle school students the same will be true of the discipline policy.

New for the fall also are buses! All Star Transportation has purchased all new buses for their fleet! When the bus arrives at your stop, not only will it be new but it will have a new number as well. The numbers will change but the stops will remain the same. We do not have the numbers yet as of this writing.

This year we welcome three new faculty members to North Canaan. Carole Armen has been hired to replace Mrs. Mead as an eighth grade language arts teacher, Tracy Augustine replaces Miss Carberry in first grade, who resigned this summer to pursue full time graduate studies and Emily Warner has been hired as the new school librarian. Ms. Armen holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Indiana University and an MA from St. Joseph College in West Hartford. She makes her home in Winsted, CT. Ms. Augustine holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Sacred Heart University in Connecticut and an MA from The University of Hartford. She resides in Avon, CT. Miss Warner holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Child Studies from St. Joseph College in West Hartford and an MA in Library Science from Southern Connecticut University. She is living in North Canaan.

Governor's Summer Reading Challenge. As I mentioned in June we are looking to report full participation in this great program. Forms were sent home on the last day of school in June and if you need extra report forms, stop in the office. Please report any reading your child has done over the summer.

Lunch program...as you can see there are new items on the menu. Our cafeteria program now carries an additional healthy certification and we are looking for ways to offer new, appealing menu items. Frequently throughout the year we will offer free samples. Aside from the daily entrée students may enjoy the salad bar; a peanut butter and jelly sandwich will also be offered daily as the sandwich. Our kitchen staff is trained in safe kitchen practices and avoiding cross contamination for those concerned about peanut allergies. We offer a peanut free table in the cafeteria also. Homemade soups will begin October 1. We hope that you will take advantage of the lunch program and as always feel free to stop by and have lunch with us! Any time! If you are packing lunches and/or snacks from home please refrain from sending in soda and power drinks.

85210...will heighten our awareness for healthy living. As our student council made us aware on the last day of school through their skits...8 hours of sleep, five servings of fruit and vegetables each day, no more than two hours of screen time, one hour of physical activity and zero use of tobacco and illegal drugs are important guides. Over the summer I saw many parents and children walking and riding bikes! I also saw many children riding bikes without helmets—please insist that your child wears this protection when riding. With the way traffic moves today, we don't want to see any tragedies.

Helpful and recommended website:

Schwablearning.org is a good parent resource and has a "Parent's Guide to Helping Kids with Learning Difficulties."

Dental care...it is a pleasure to tell you that the Maria Seymour Brooker Memorial Foundation of Torrington, through a grant, will provide oral health education and preventive dentistry to children attending elementary schools in Region One this year. Clinical treatment will be provided by a registered dental hygienist and will include exams, cleaning

and application of topical fluoride and dental sealants as needed. The oral health education program will offer age appropriate classroom education provided by a registered dental hygienist. In addition, the program will also include a recommendation system so that children needing urgent comprehensive care can be referred to a dentist at Brooker Memorial in Torrington or to a dentist in a town closer to where the children live. Brooker Memorial has extensive experience and expertise in providing oral health education and treatment to children. Services will begin Tuesday, September 11 and conclude on February 5, 2008 in North Canaan. A schedule, permission forms, etc..will be sent home by Mrs. Connell, the school nurse, the first day of school.

ALERT FOR PARENTS...NEW SAFETY SECURITY SYSTEM! Our school was constructed fifty-two years ago to purposefully give the public easy access to their school. Sadly, times have changed in our country, and I believe that the most responsible thing we can do to ensure the safety of all (adults and students alike) is to take precautionary measures by continuing to increase security. It appears that in this day and age we cannot be too cautious. Hence, I want to make you aware of some changes. Effective immediately, *all* exterior doors will remain locked throughout the school day. (When children and staff are outdoors, staff members will have easy access to the building with an electronic key). When you visit the building you will find that a new intercom system has been installed to the right of the front door. Visitors will simply announce themselves at the entrance and will then be admitted by office staff upon identification and stated purpose. In addition, please be aware that surveillance cameras are in use at the front door and at various locations around the building.

Last year as we practiced our emergency within the building procedures we learned something new each time. We gathered observations and new ideas each time and met with our resident trooper, who was present for each drill, and reviewed the results. The Connecticut State Police have been very supportive of measures taken at the school. We ask for your continued patience as we implement these new procedures. As always I completely appreciate your understanding and apologize for any inconvenience that you may encounter in visiting the school.

Enjoy the remainder of summer! Be safe, be happy, be healthy!

Recycling Program Continues Patricia Palmer

North Canaan Elementary School has been participating in a recycling program for printer ink cartridges, laser printer cartridges, and cell phones since fall of 2004. The money earned is used to purchase small electronic items for the school. In the summer of 2006, we used some of the money we earned to purchase cables to connect older science equipment to the newer computers.

Many brands of cartridges and cell phones are accepted, but not toner cartridges. Below is a partial list of brands:

- Ink cartridges: Canon, Compaq, Dell, Epson, HP, Lexmark and Xerox
- Laser cartridges: Apple, Brother, Canon, Epson, HP, IBM, Lexmark, Minolta, Muratec, NEC, Okidata, Opra, Panasonic, Pitney Bowes, QMS, Ricoh, Samsung, Sharp, Tektronic, Xerox
- Cell phones: Audiovox, Ericsson, Handspring, Kyocera, LG, Motorola, NEC, Nokia, Panasonic, Qualcomm, Samsung, Sanyo, Siemens, Sony and Sprint

To check for specific cartridge numbers and cell phone models, visit the Funding Factory website at http://www.fundingfactory.com/programs/recycling/qualifying_items.aspx. I will have a link to this webpage from the Special Projects page of the school's website.

I would especially like to thank several parents who have enlisted the help of their employers to contribute many laser cartridges. This project is a good way to help the school and help the environment. Enlist the help of family and friends. Send items with your child or stop by and drop them off. If there is any parent who would like to assist with checking cartridges for acceptability and boxing them up for mailing, I would greatly appreciate it. If you have any questions, contact me. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Another Way to Help NCES Patricia Palmer

Do you shop at Price Chopper? Each fall they have a program called *Tools for Schools*. By registering for this program at the service desk or online, each time you shop you earn points for the school. In addition, purchasing certain items identified in their flyer and on the shelves will earn extra points for the school. To register, all you need is your Price Chopper Advantage card. The website to register is <http://www2.pricechopper.com/toolsforschools/single.shtml>. I will have a link to this page from the school's website on the Special Projects page. Last year we purchased headphones for the younger students to use with the Lexia Reading programs. Get family and friends to register also. Thank you! Your help is greatly appreciated.

Scholastic Ordering Online Patricia Palmer

Over the years I have sent home flyers each month for the Scholastic software club. This program has evolved with time and it is now called *Click!* and contains many types of media including software, videos and games for various players. The prices are very competitive and they have excellent custom satisfaction standards. This program benefits the computer program because with each purchase, the school earns points which may be used to purchase software. Over the years, we have purchased typing games such as *Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing* to help students with their keyboarding skills and *Kidspiration* and *Inspiration* for creating graphic organizers to assist with writing in addition to individual software titles for the regular classrooms.

About a year and a half ago, Scholastic introduced a new feature to their clubs. Families may now order online. Here's how it works:

- Each month I will send home the flyers to let you know that titles are available online.
- Use the information below to access the Scholastic Book Clubs website.
- Browse the titles with your child, and place your order with your credit card.
- Your order will come to me, and your credit card payment will go directly to Scholastic's secure server. There's no need to send money to school.
- After I submit the entire class's order to Scholastic and receive it, your order will be delivered to our classroom for your child to take home.

Website: www.scholastic.com/parentordering

Class User Name: mrspalmersorders

Password: northcanaan

Remember, placing your online credit card order is completely safe and secure.

I have had a couple of parents who tried this program last school year and they said that the process was easy to use. I will continue to accept orders directly from you with a check made out to Scholastic, Inc. Thank you for helping us by supporting this program.

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