

Northern Hills Principal's Notes - November 2011

Brent Brummet,
Principal

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Assistant Principal



Veterans Day Celebration

As we pause this month to give thanks for our many blessings, we are particularly indebted to the men and women who serve in our armed forces and protect the freedoms we enjoy. Northern Hills has a longstanding tradition of celebrating Veterans Day and recognizing the contributions of these brave and dedicated individuals. During November your child will be participating in various activities designed to honor our veterans and enhance their understanding of patriotism in an age-appropriate way. Also, we hope that you will be able to join us on November 11 for our culminating celebration. More details will follow from your child's homeroom teacher. If you are among our many military families at Northern Hills, thank you on behalf of our students, faculty, and staff for your service.

DPS Checks

With field trips, winter holiday activities, and class parties fast approaching, please be sure that you have completed your DPS background check and have been cleared if you intend to volunteer in your child's classroom. NEISD policy requires that all volunteers pass a criminal background check before they can interact with children. There is a "quicklink" to the background check application on the district homepage at www.neisd.net. From the "Parents" section, choose "Volunteers/Partners" and then "Online Criminal History Check." Please contact our office if you have a question about your clearance status. Note that this check must be completed again for all applicants this year regardless of the date of your last application in accordance with state law.

School Attendance/Tardies

Our time with your child is precious, and it is very important that s/he be at school daily to benefit from the quality instruction that the teachers at Northern Hills provide. Students arriving after 7:40 are counted tardy and must check in through the office with an adult. Students who are repeatedly tardy or absent miss important concepts, assessments, and extracurricular opportunities and may be in jeopardy of not being promoted to the next grade if their attendance falls below the 90% standard required by state law. In addition, parents of students with excessive unexcused absences are subject to prosecution under Section 25.093 of the Texas Education Code.

Although we never want an ill child to have to attend school, please be sure to provide documentation of your child's absence within two days of your child's return. During your child's absence, his/her teachers and /or school staff will be contacting you to assist in coordinating his/her return to school and the completion of the required makeup work. Northern Hills also offers Saturday Attendance Academy classes on campus to support those families who need the opportunity to make up missed instructional time to regain credit.

Cafeteria Balances/Parent Portal

Please monitor your child's cafeteria account to ensure that s/he maintains a sufficient balance. This information, along with your child's current grades and attendance record, can now be accessed via the NEISD web-based Parent Portal. The portal is a wonderful communication tool for families. A "quicklink" to Parent Portal registration can be accessed by clicking the "Parent Portal" link on the district homepage at www.neisd.net. Please call the school office at 407-5200 if you have questions or need assistance to register.

Awards Assemblies/Bronco Luncheon

At Northern Hills we take every opportunity to ensure that we are recognizing our super students for their many successes. This week our 1st-5th graders were recognized for their achievement in making "A" honor roll, "A/B" honor roll, and perfect attendance. Our kindergarten students will be honored for their attendance achievements in their respective classrooms. Also, 2 students from each kindergarten-5th grade class will be nominated each nine weeks by their teacher for the "Bronco Award." This award will recognize those students who exemplify our Self-Manager virtues - compassion, giving, honesty, perseverance, respect, responsibility, and self-discipline. Nominees will receive a commemorative certificate and an invitation to attend a special "Bronco Luncheon" hosted in the library in their honor. Our luncheon for grades 2, 3, and 4 will take place on November 3. K, 1st, and 5th grade students will enjoy their awards on November 4. We are committed to educating the "whole child" and placing a premium on character as well as curriculum. Congratulations to our many deserving candidates!

Thanksgiving Holidays

There will be no school from Monday, November 21 through Friday, November 25 in observance of Thanksgiving. The Northern Hills administration, faculty, and staff wish you and your family a healthy and happy holiday.

Northern Hills
Elementary

A Covey "Leader in Me"
Campus

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IMPORTANT DATES:

- ☉ Bronco Award luncheons - November 3 (2nd, 3rd, 4th) & 4 (K, 1st, 5th)
- ☉ Precious Minds parenting class - November 3
- ☉ Veterans' Day celebration - November 11
- ☉ Family Math and Science Night - November 16
- ☉ Thanksgiving holidays - November 21-25