

NORTH STAR NEWS



Principal's Message

Hello North Star Parents,

As year two at North Star draws rapidly to a close it feels as though the special events come tumbling one after the other so quickly that we're catching our breath trying to keep up....end of year concerts, picnics, field trips, poetry parties, mother's day celebrations, lip syncing, field day, fifth grade move-up ceremony, and the list goes on! There's one relatively low-key, quiet, end of year event, however, that touches all of our hearts in a very special way. It's an "in school" celebration, and because it's planned primarily for the benefit of our students and teachers, not many parents have the opportunity to experience the magic of our "Young Authors Convention." Because of this, I'd like to take the time to share the highlights of this event with you.

Simply put, this hour and a half provides us the opportunity to celebrate our growth as writers with one another. Students meet with a teacher in mixed grade level groups of about ten to twelve, and share their favorite writing pieces. As students share, their peers are encouraged to compliment, question, and make suggestions for revisions. Having participated in Young Authors days in many schools, over many years, it never ceases to amaze me that such a seemingly simple concept can be so profoundly satisfying on so many levels. Everyone listens politely and respectfully to one another. Primary teachers are amazed at the writing of the upper grade students, as the upper grade teachers are equally astounded at the knowledge of writing displayed by our youngest learners. A visiting listener is astonished at how smart our North Star students are. Fourth and fifth graders are so complimentary of the basic writing of the first graders. Likewise, the younger students ask insightful questions about the more sophisticated writing of their older peers. Students are heard asking one another what "inspired" them to write their pieces. In my group of eleven I heard poetry, persuasive letters, non-fiction essays, fairy tales, and more. Students made suggestions for improving one another's "word choice", and complimented each other on their use of "details, which made great pictures in the readers' minds." As adults, we teachers can't help but gush afterwards about what a great experience Young Author's Day is. My only regret is that I didn't write a new piece this year; last year I wrote and shared two. Next year I'll be ready when Nicole asks, "Mrs. Lanciault, where's your piece?"

Switching gears, as we wind down the year, I want to take this opportunity to thank Kelly Westcott, our guidance counselor, for so capably taking over in Maribeth Courtney's absence this spring. Kelly has jumped right in and done a wonderful job of keeping our staff (and me!) organized. Her endlessly cheerful manner and efficient management style have been tremendous assets to our North Star academic learning community. Thank you so much, Kelly!! You've been stellar!!!

It's May and we're still in the thick of the end of the year crush of events. Am I looking forward to summer, and the chance to take a little breather? You bet...would I trade all

this hubbub in for peace and quiet every day? No way--it's what makes elementary school the joyful place that it is. We're making memories now for our children, memories they'll never forget. In closing, I'd like to invite all of you great parents who have helped make memories for our children, and who have volunteered in any capacity this year, to attend our Volunteer Reception, which will be held on Wednesday, May 30 at 10:00 am and 3:00 pm in the library, immediately following the Spring Choral Concerts.

Thanks for another shining year!! We value your support, and couldn't do all we do for children without our wonderful North Star parents.

Happy Summer!
Andrea Lanciault

IMPORTANT DATES

May 14-25 th	Dimes for Delaware Babies Campaign
Monday, May 28 th	Memorial Day: NO SCHOOL
Monday, June 4 th	FIELD DAY at NSE
Monday, June 4 th	7pm - PTA Mtg. for Committee Chairs and PTA Board Members
Thursday, June 7 th	Early Dismissal and LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Our March of Dimes *Dimes for Delaware Babies Mile Of Dimes Campaign* is in full swing! As always our North Star School Community has been very generous! We still have several days left to donate towards a better future for Delaware's Babies. On Friday, May 25, 2007 we will stick several teachers and administrators to the wall during lunch (AM and PM Kindergarten will be given a chance to participate). Strips of tape will be sold for a cost of \$1.00 each, adding to our March of Dimes contribution. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this campaign! Keep up the good work!

Anyone interested in helping this campaign or future Community Service projects should call Kathy Mikles at 234-2914 or Vicki Pfeifer at 234-2057. Thank you for another great year!

2006-2007 PTA Officers

Meena Caulfield, President	234-2633
Karen Gannon, Vice President.....	234-4379
Kim Hoeschel, Secretary	239-3762
Vivienne Delano, Treasurer	235-1570
Karen Gannon, Dir. of Fundraising	234-4379
Jessica Seitzman, Dir. of School Support ..	235-2289
Chris Manniel, Dir. of Student Services	239-5018
Michelle Scott, Trustee	235-0715

PTA e-mail: nspta@dca.net
Calendar: http://calendar.yahoo.com/nsecalendar
Website: http://www.k12.de.us/northstar

PTA PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Dear North Star Parents,

Wow, where has this year gone?? Our children have had a great academic school year, thanks to our wonderful North Star teachers!! The North Star PTA has had a very productive year as well! Of course none of that would have been possible without our wonderful North Star community!!! I would like to thank you for making this a great school year! Your time was greatly appreciated!!! Whether it was being a board member, chairing or co-chairing a committee, volunteering at an event, or just providing your moral support, **you** make our community strong!

Speaking of strong, we had a very strong slate of individuals elected at the May PTA meeting for the 2007-2008 Board of Directors for the North Star PTA. I would like to congratulate the new board!!

2007-2008 Board of Directors for the North Star PTA

President:	Karen Gannon
Vice President:	Sharon Bailor
Treasurer:	Ed Gregware
Secretary:	Kim Hoeschel
Fundraising:	Jessica Seitzman
School Services:	Julie Edminston
School Support:	Peggy Centrella
Trustee:	Meena Caulfield

I would like to thank Michelle Scott for graciously filling in for the Vice President position this year! She was a tremendous help. Thank you Michelle!!

I had a great year with the North Star PTA this year! It has been a pleasure working with the current board, administration, faculty and parents this year. Thank you Vivienne, Karen, Kim, Michelle, Jessica, and Chris for all your hard work on the board this year!!! I truly appreciate all your hard work in making this a great year!

What a way to end a great year, a great social event! I hope you were able to come out to Deerfield and enjoy a wonderful social evening! Everyone had a great time at the 2nd Annual North Star Basket Auction. A big thank you to Karen Gannon and Gillian Waugh and their committee for an awesome night! Fun was had by all!

Please check the calendar link on the school website or the PTA website for timely information on upcoming events
(<http://redclay.schoolnet.escholar.com/outreach/ns/pta>)!!

North Star academic learning community is a great place to be!! Please have a safe summer!

Meena Caulfield

President

North Star PTA

MeenaCaulfield@comcast.net

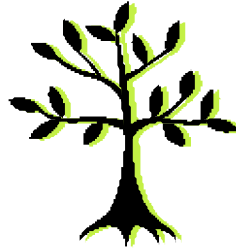
Landscaping May 2007

The landscaping committee continued the work of beautifying the grounds of North Star Elementary school this year.

In the fall of 2006, the trees funded by the Urban Forestry grant were installed around the playground. They included five Amelanchier 'Autumn Brilliance', four sycamores and four oaks. All have leafed out this spring and really enhance the landscape.

Also in the fall, four maple trees that had been planted in very small corners of the island in the parking lot were transplanted to a more spacious location. The maples now encircle four picnic tables and the area serves as an outdoor classroom as it is adjacent to a meadow and a hiking path. Four hawthorn trees were planted in the parking lot island to add visual interest.

Deanna Pillarelli, landscape designer and owner of Garden Escapes, completed a design plan prior to our applying for the grant in 2006. We would like to continue implementing the plan by adding trees to the front and side of the school building, hopefully planting this fall. The landscape committee is applying for another tree grant to cover the cost of these trees.



STAFF APPRECIATION

The Staff Appreciation committee would like to welcome back Keely Maegerle from maternity leave. Also, a big thank you to Carla Marshall, You did an outstanding job teaching second grade! You will be missed!

Happy Secretarys Day to Ms. Austin and Ms.Cawley! We honored them with a gift card, for all their hard work. We couldn't ask for a better team in the office!

We celebrated "Our teachers" here at North Star, the week of May 7th. Each morning a poem was read by the children in their honor. Thank you to the Montgomery boys, for reading them!

The "Omelet King" cooked a delicious breakfast for the staff on Friday, May 11th. They enjoyed pastries, fruit and lots of goodies. Andrea and Kelly also thanked the staff with a gift!

The end of the year is near, and we will be looking for contributions for our next luncheon. If you are interested in helping, contact Julia Montgomery MONT5496@comcast.net or 994-7496.

Thank you, Staff Appreciation