

North Salem Schools

DEDICATED TOGETHER



Parents ♦ PTO



Teachers ♦ NSTA



Kids ♦ PQ MS/HS

A Partnered Publication
NSTA ~ PQ PTO ~ MS/HS PTO
2009-2010
Second Edition / Winter 2010

***February 23, 2010,
will be recognized as the
100th Day of School
Take a look at
some of the highlights of
our first
100 Days...***

NORTH SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT—A COMMUNITY

“A team is like a puzzle; it’s a bunch of pieces that we have to put together.”

—PQ Positive Message of the Day

NORTH SALEM PRIDE

At the January 20th Board of Education Meeting, Dr. Michael Hibbard, our Assistant Superintendent, presented the Annual Student Performance Report: District Performance on AP Testing, SAT, and ACT.

It’s important to know that Dr. Hibbard prefaced his presentation with recognizing the work and commitment of our students who take these rigorous and challenging courses; the AP teachers, who do a lot of work with their students beyond classroom time so that they will be well prepared.

Dr. Hibbard recognized that the success of all of our students begins with our Kindergarten teachers. Dr. Hibbard recognized the strong education system that we have in North Salem, due to our students, faculty and staff, department leaders, principals, and parents. NOW, that’s North Salem pride !

Here’s a short summary of the data Dr. Hibbard presented:

The report shows that more and more of our high school students are taking AP tests; there’s a clear and steady trend of improvement in all levels of AP exams; and North Salem scores in SAT Reading and Math are significantly higher than the average scores in NY and the USA; North Salem performance in ACT Reading is high and steady; ACT Math, performance is high, has improved, and is currently holding steady.

Hear Dr. Hibbard’s comments and presentation in its entirety: Visit the District’s website, click on Board of Education, Video on Demand.

www.northsalemsschools.org



Community Connection –

The students of the North Salem/Middle High School participated in an open invitation to take a photo of our schools. The task: take a photo that best represented our school. Students were free to choose the angle of the shot, as well as to determine if it would be black and white, or in color. Students were encouraged to submit their photo for judging. The Advocates for the Arts were involved in choosing the best photo. The winning photo will be enlarged sufficiently to completely fill the orange wall in the landing of the main stairwell of the Middle/High School.

A personal invitation to North Salem Class of 2006 Alumni

OPTIONS next PHASE

Dr. George Bovino, Assistant Principal MS/HS;
Joan Gabel, paraprofessional MS/HS;
RoseMaria DosSantos, Director of Continuing Education; **Susan Moyer**, Advocates for the Arts; **Jo Treitman**, community resident; came together to create

Professional Help Advisory Services for Employment

OPTIONS next PHASE—Professional Help Advisory Services for Employment

This is a Résumé Writing/Job Search Workshop to provide insights about job searching and résumé writing along with tricks for getting a résumé noticed, how to maximize the return on Internet job boards and key pointers for successful interviews, along with advice regarding networking techniques. Subsequent focus workshops on careers will be held in June. A personal invitation to this workshop was sent to all members of the North Salem Class of 2006. We look forward to welcoming our alumni back to school for this event.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Fifth Graders Collaborate with Second Graders

Ms. Oddo’s fifth grade class and Mrs. Heisey’s second grade class collaborated to combine their literacy skills. They combined their oral reading, auditory, descriptive writing, and visualization skills to create a fantasy story and illustration. Ms. Oddo’s class spent a unit of study on fantasy writing. Within this unit they studied various fantasy elements in literature. Using the book, *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*, by Chris Van Allsburg as an anchor, they created fantasy stories. This anchor book is bound with illustrations that only have a title and a caption. The fifth graders built their stories around a picture of their choice. Mrs. Heisey’s class collaborated with Ms. Oddo’s students upon completion of the stories. They received a short mini lesson on visualization skills and were paired up with a fifth grader. The fifth graders read their stories aloud to Mrs. Heisey’s class as the second graders created visualizations based on the descriptive details in the stories. Once the illustrations were complete, the second graders presented them to both classes. The students enjoyed this collaboration and look forward to working together once again on their writing during the school year. Ms. Oddo’s class found it fascinating to compare the details in the pictures from the Harris Burdick book vs. the illustrations from Mrs. Heisey’s class. The fifth graders hope to collaborate with the second graders on their writing the next time around.

Second Grade Poets – Learning & Sharing Together

Mrs. Healey's and Mrs. Kugel's second grade class have been learning all about the three types of communities. Students worked together to create poems describing each type of community. They had a lot of fun!

I can SEE the bakeries cooking in the city.
I can SMELL the popcorn twirling in its cart.
I can TASTE the hot pretzels sizzling on the sidewalk.

I can HEAR the buses driving on the road.
I can TOUCH my credit card waiting to be spent in my wallet.
I know an URBAN community is near.

I can SEE the pigs in the field eating slop.
I can SMELL the grass growing on my lawn.
I can TASTE apples in the apple patch.
I can HEAR the birds chirping in the sky.
I can TOUCH the apple trees swaying in the field.

I know a RURAL community is near.

I can SEE banks on the side of the road.
I can SMELL the grass blowing in the breeze.
I can TASTE the pizza baking in the house.
I can HEAR the bus always stopping.
I can TOUCH the trees blowing in the wind.
I know a SUBURBAN community is near.

In Spanish, students just finished a Pyramid Poem! In six lines students had to describe their appearance, personality, and interests. The shape of the poem then becomes a dress for the girls; and a wide shoulder male physique for the boys. The poems were used to construct their bodies, which they then decorated!

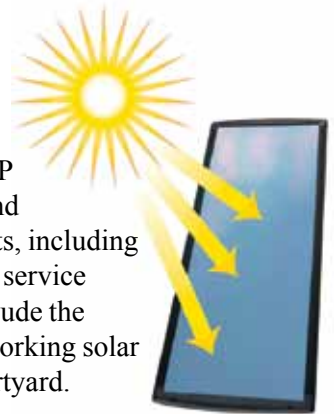
GOING GREEN-TOGETHER

SUSTAINABILITY

In an attempt to reduce our carbon footprint both locally and globally, the 7th grade team has been working on bringing about more awareness to our students and their individual contributions to this global problem. In doing so, we are also working on manageable solutions for both our school and at home. We are very fortunate to have two seventh graders on the District Committee for Sustainability. Our student representatives bring great ideas to this Committee as to how we can improve our carbon footprint here in the middle school. They both are very vocal and eager to be part of the solution.

PHYSICS PROJECTS

After the AP Physics exam scheduled for May 10th, the AP Students will turn their time and attention to a variety of projects, including school and community related service projects. Plans at this time include the design and construction of a working solar panel for the High School courtyard.



High School Environmental Club and RECYCLING

The North Salem Environmental Club voted to make recycling in the high school its main focus for the 2009-2010 school year. The club is filming a documentary about their mission and has met with Mr. Green of Buildings and Grounds to collaborate about recycling efforts in the high school. They've visited classrooms to see where more recycling bins are needed and have conducted many brainstorming sessions to figure out the best way to get all students in the school involved in recycling efforts. In its second year, the club meets every other week to discuss how to make individual students, the high school community and North Salem more earth friendly. Some of the members are working on a mural in the high school hallway to promote green living.

LEARNING – GLOBALLY



On February 2nd, while we in the United States celebrate Groundhog Day, in France they celebrate "La Chandeleur" or "Le Jour des Crepes" (The Day of Crepes). On this day they predict the future. With a coin in your writing hand and a crepe pan in the other hand, you flip the crepe. If you catch the crepe in

your pan, your family will be prosperous for the rest of the year.

While 6th grade French students in Mrs. Arnold's class didn't flip the crepes in class, they did learn about and celebrate the holiday by eating ice cream crepes. Overwhelmingly, this is the students' new favorite French holiday!



Fifth Grade Garden Club

The students in the Garden Club are studying to become certified Junior Master Gardeners. Right now, the garden club members are growing plants under the grow lights. So far, we have healthy cherry tomato plants and cucumber plants with baby cucumbers on them! The students have learned the difference between male and female flowers from studying the flowers on the cucumber plants. We are hoping to have some fresh, tasty crops during these cold winter months.

Passing On – ACTS OF KINDNESS

Middle/High School Students will recognize Heart Health Month by helping others...

The North Salem High School National Honor Society collected donations to help fight against heart disease on February 5th, with participation in the **National Wear Red Day**. Wear Red Day is an important part of the Go Red for Women goal to build awareness and to urge women to take concrete actions to reduce their risk of heart disease.



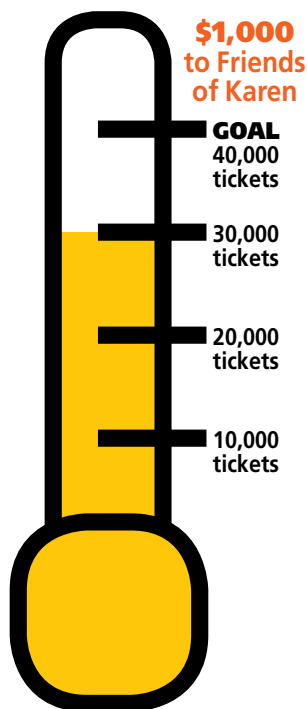
A Seventh Grade Tradition

For the fifth year in a row, Dr. Feliciano's seventh grade math students have participated in the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital Math-A-Thon. Her students have been working diligently in their math classes to complete a packet of math problems as well as raising money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. This year 62 students participated and raised **\$2,626.26**.

PQ + MATH = SUCCESS FOR A GREAT CAUSE

120 PQ students, Grades K-5, participated in the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital Math-a-Thon. Students chose to solve math problems either in a workbook format or online to

raise money for this great cause. This year, PQ raised about **\$8,000**, bringing PQ's total to over \$100,000 raised over the years.



TAKE IT TO THE HOOP!

Pequenakonck students will participate in the annual Hoops For Heart event sponsored by the American Heart Association in February. Students in Grades K-5 will have the opportunity to participate during grade level specials.

NEW THIS YEAR...this important event is being introduced to our kindergarten classes.

Our students have raised a tremendous amount of donations over the years and have been recognized for their efforts by the American Heart Association. Last year, our PQ students raised a total of \$9,396, placing our school among the top ten schools in the Northeast. This total also ranked PQ 53rd in the country!

CONGRATULATIONS, to all students who participated last year and the **BEST OF LUCK** to the students who decide to participate and contribute to this great cause.



RACE TO 1,000 IN 2010

The PQ second graders are working together to demonstrate positive behaviors in all areas in school. Each class is earning points for exhibiting the behaviors of Tigers CARE. Our goal as a grade is to reach 1,000 points before Valentine's Day. A bulletin board was created to display our progress: Race to 1,000 in 2010.

Good luck second graders!



We CARE – We SHARE

A new PQ initiative this year through the Tigers CARE Program.

The We CARE - We Share program at PQ is going very well. The container in the front hallway is filling up with tickets the students have earned and the "goal meter" is climbing higher every month! The students have already earned over 30,000 tickets toward their goal of 40,000. We have just added another component to the program. Classes will be making Valentine's Day cards for the children of Friends of Karen. We hope to take some pictures and videos in some of the classes showing the students making the Valentine's Day cards. These pictures/videos will then be turned into a presentation that will be shown at our Tigers CARE assembly in June, at which time we will also give Friends of Karen the \$1000 gift.

Staying SAFE, Staying HEALTHY

STAYING SAFE

Middle/High School Assistant Principal, Dr. Bovino, PTO members, and student representatives, have been working together to develop a personal safety initiative for the school year.

Topics include: **Internet Safety, Self-Defense, Driver Safety, Personal Integrity on the Internet, Spring Break Safety, and Dangers of Abusive Relationships.**

- Mr. Pat Storino, (formerly of the District Attorney's Office) spoke to Middle School students about internet safety. The middle school students debriefed and discussed the topic with High School Student Peer Mediators.
- Middle and High School students learned self-defense techniques from Martial Arts Masters.
- A representative from the Women's Center met with 9th and 12th graders regarding the dangers of an abusive relationship.
- North Salem Alumni, Damon J. Quattrochi, sophomore at Bucknell University, visited with 9th grade students to talk about preserving one's integrity on the Internet. Mr. Quattrochi spoke candidly with the students about making the right choices when communicating via Facebook and other social internet sites. He discussed the effects of internet indiscretion relating to college acceptance and employment opportunities.

Students shared some of the lessons learned:

"Do not put any inappropriate pictures on Facebook because colleges look at Facebook pages."

"I learned that when you delete a file on your computer, it doesn't get fully erased."

"Think before you act on the Internet."

"What you do now on the Internet can have effects on your later life; for example, college or getting a job."

"Don't put up bad pictures of yourself on Facebook. Pictures that you send to someone can spread around quickly."

In the Spring, prior to Prom, an assembly on drunk driving will be presented to all Junior and Senior students. Students will experience a simulation of what it feels like to drive while impaired. Attendance at this assembly is required and is a pre-requisite for Juniors wishing to apply for a parking space on campus.

Next up and down and all around...

A unique experience looms ahead for our 6th grade physical education classes.

The OFF THE FLOOR unit incorporates the cargo net, climbing ropes, trapeze (very low) teeter-totters, springboards, rope swing jump rope, and vertical and horizontal jumps. While having a great time, the students develop muscular strength, coordination, balance and confidence.

The 7th and 8th grades will alternate time playing either indoor soccer/lacrosse and rotating into the weight room, where age specific exercises and technique will be taught and practiced.

WELLNESS—KEEPING IT HEALTHY

Our family's health and safety is our most important concern and responsibility. Wellness related to our entire District community is an initiative that we all take seriously. The health and well-being of our children, staff, and families is a priority. Here's an update on some of the Wellness activities happening in our schools.



A COMMUNITY PLAYING TOGETHER

Middle School Physical Education Students are about midway into the Basketball unit. Grades 6 and 7 have worked on basic skills via a circuit; each station highlighting a specific skill. Eighth graders took a more holistic approach to fine tuning their game. Teams were formed and the students had a tournament with the emphasis on participating and getting everyone involved.

The District Wellness Committee welcomed two High School student members to the Committee. We are excited to have their perspective, input and participation!

February is Heart Health Month and the Committee is planning activities throughout the buildings for students and staff. Our student members will be presenting Heart Healthy facts during morning announcements and students will learn about their blood pressure. Blood pressure screenings will be held throughout both buildings at specified times throughout the month. The Committee is hosting a workshop on **Balancing the Demands of Work and Life** on February 23, 2010 at 3:15 p.m. in the Library Classroom of the Middle/High School. The topic is sponsored by the Employee Assistance Program and all staff is invited to attend.

March is National Nutrition Month which includes National Breakfast Week. The Committee will be emphasizing the importance of eating breakfast. Breakfast is one of the most important meals of the day for students as it gives them the start they need to stay alert and perform better in school. Breakfast also helps children develop healthy eating habits and contributes to their overall well-being. Activities are being planned to stress healthy eating and limiting snacks with little nutritional value.

We invite students, teachers and parents to kick off National Nutrition Month by looking at their food choices throughout the day and taking the healthy eating habits challenge!

All are welcome to participate in the District Wellness meetings. Meeting dates are posted on the District Website under Wellness.

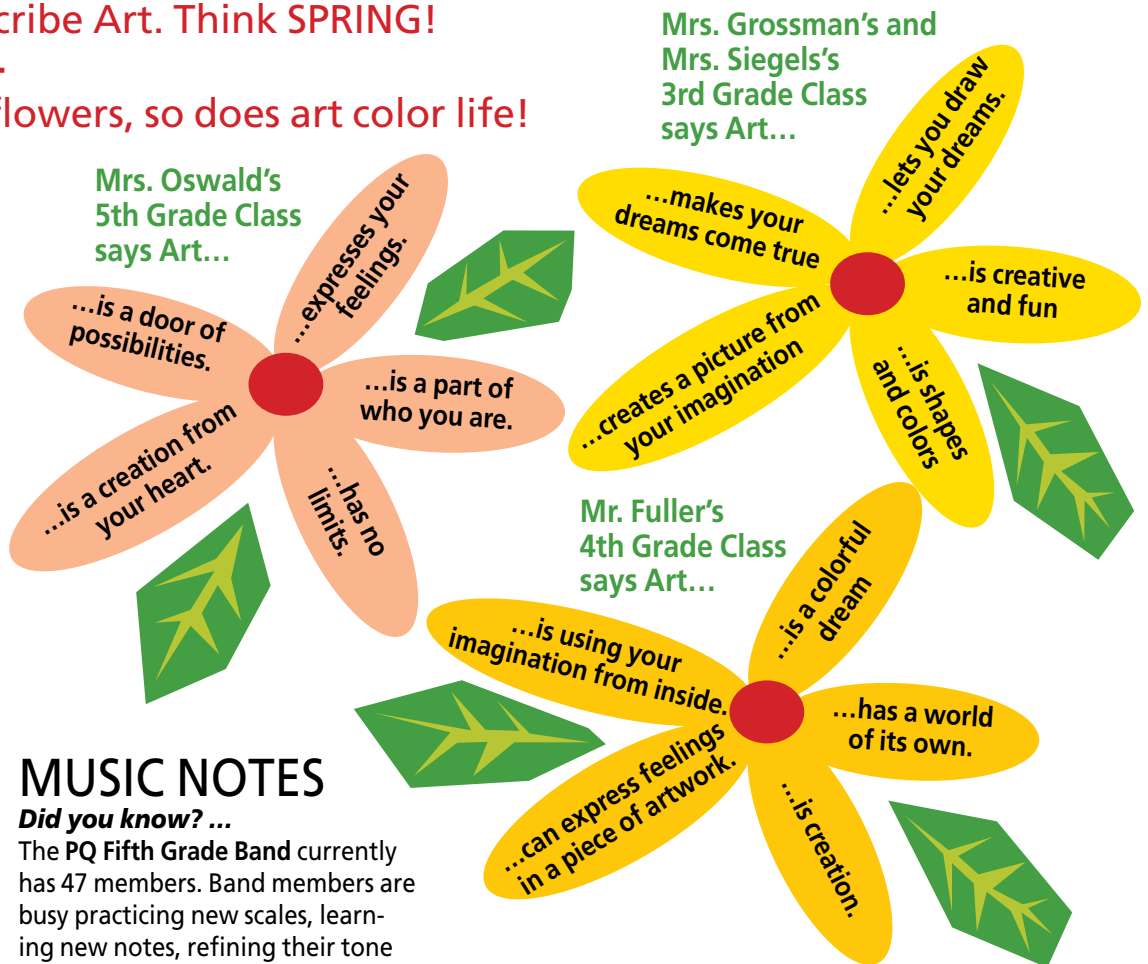
North Salem and the ARTS

PQ Art classes describe Art. Think **SPRING!**
ART IN BLOOM—
As the sun colors flowers, so does art color life!

PQ CHORUS SINGING ON A HIGH NOTE !

PQ Fine Arts Night
Tuesday, May 18, 2010
7:00 p.m.
Pequenakonck
Elementary School

This year, for the first time, all 47 members of the PQ Chorus will be attending and participating in a vocal competition entitled "The High Notes Festival." The Festival will take place on June 4, 2010, at Lake Compounce in Bristol, Connecticut. The chorus will perform for at least 20 minutes, and an award plaque will be presented along with adjudication forms and taped comments from several of the judges at the conclusion of the selections. The students will be judged in the following areas:
tone, intonation, diction, technique, interpretation, balance and musical repertoire. The motivational ratings include;
Good – Excellent – Superior.



Mrs. Oswald's
5th Grade Class
says Art...

Mrs. Grossman's and
Mrs. Siegel's
3rd Grade Class
says Art...

Mr. Fuller's
4th Grade Class
says Art...

MUSIC NOTES

Did you know? ...

The **PQ Fifth Grade Band** currently has 47 members. Band members are busy practicing new scales, learning new notes, refining their tone quality, and learning new band pieces! Band practice takes place on Tuesday mornings at 7:45 a.m. PQ received a new Tenor Saxophone this year and one of our fifth grade alto saxophone players will be making the transition over to the new instrument!

The **PQ Fourth Grade Band** is 73 members strong! They have been busy learning how to put their instruments together, reading notes, and figuring out where to put their fingers! They are anxiously awaiting their first ever band rehearsal.

The **Fifth Grade General Music** students have been busy trying out some of the new music software this year. Students have composed music using the *Groovy City* software. They have built their own city landscape while learning about compositional form. The *Mixcraft* software has enabled the music students to add musical backgrounds to poetry and to create musical moods.

NORTH SALEM STUDENTS POINTS OF PRIDE OUTSTANDING TALENT

Two very talented high school students in Ms. Marinovic's Photo II Art Class won certificates for the work they submitted to photography contests.

A photograph was accepted into a very competitive student exhibit in a contest sponsored by Drexel University. Our North Salem student was one of only 150 students accepted; 2200 images were received from all over the country. An exhibit of the work at Drexel's photography gallery will be held from January 30 to February 27, 2010. The photography gallery is located on the fourth floor of the Academic Building located on the NE corner of 33rd & Arch Streets, in Philadelphia.

An Honorable Mention at this year's Westchester Landtrust Photography exhibit, *Wonders of Westchester*. Our North Salem student's work was on display for viewing at Lift Trucks Project Space in Croton Falls during the month of January.

Come to the Show!

YOUR TICKET TO THE BEST SHOWS IN TOWN !!

The Winter season offers several opportunities for our students at North Salem Middle/High School to participate in many wonderful art exhibits in and around the North Salem area.

Our art students take pride in their work and are delighted to receive the support of friends, family and school staff at their exhibit openings. These exhibits are our "big games" in the visual arts. Please consider supporting our art stars by attending the openings of the following annual exhibits:

High School Invitational:

SMALL WORKS EXHIBITION 2010

**Opening Reception February 4th
4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**Show runs through March 4th
Wednesdays 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.
Thursdays 12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.
Saturdays 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.**

Features work from 30 area high schools and is a diverse and impressive show held in the Choate Gallery at Pace University Campus in Tarrytown.

KATONAH MUSEUM YOUNG ARTISTS 2010

**Opening February 7th, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Show runs from February 7 - 14, 2010
Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.**

The work of area Senior High School students is displayed and is of extremely high quality. Many pieces created by students who will go on to study visual art in collage.

The opening is always well attended.

ART AGAINST ABUSE ANNUAL EXHIBIT

sponsored by the Elizabeth Butler Foundation
February 26 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The Hammond Museum, North Salem, NY

This show is a powerful forum for expression and education about healthy and unhealthy teen relationships. The pieces created by our students become the property of the Elizabeth Butler Foundation and travel around the county and State with the aim of educating young people about healthy vs. unhealthy relationships.

DREXEL UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY

**Show runs through February 27th
Academic Building**

**NE Corner of 33rd and Arch Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

North Salem Photo II Art Student photograph on display.

.....
Join us and consider yourself at home!

OLIVER!

**North Salem MS/HS Auditorium Stage
Friday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday Matinee, March 7 at 2:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$10**

In answer to many people "wanting more" after the success of *Hello, Dolly* last spring, *Oliver!* will appear on the North Salem auditorium stage. Our production of the musical version of the Charles Dickens novel *Oliver Twist* features more than 80 middle and high school students. The show follows Oliver from his humble beginnings in a workhouse in Mudfog, England, to the discovery of his family in London, with all the adventures both good and bad in between. Reconnect with literary favorites like Fagin and the Artful Dodger.

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Broadway comes to North Salem with

LES MISERABLES

**Friday and Saturday, April 23 and 24
North Salem MS/HS Auditorium Stage**

The North Salem High School Drama Club will be presenting a production of *Les Miserables*. The play is an adaptation by playwright Tim Kelly of Victor Hugo's timeless novel. *Les Miserables*, set in pre-revolutionary Paris, tells the dramatic and moving story of Jean Valjean's inspiring struggle for redemption and peace, and Lt. Javert's 20-year attempt to capture Valjean. There are many intriguing subplots to add to the audience's enjoyment.

MATH

You may be old enough to have heard of the “new math,” but probably as far as you can tell, that was what you were taught in school. Have you asked people older than yourself, what exactly the “old math” was? What was once old, is new again!

Here’s a lesson on what our student across the District are learning in Math.

In Kindergarten

In Kindergarten it is always an adventure to learn about and explore math concepts! Our Kindergartners learn math concepts through a hands-on and manipulative based approach. The children use buttons, keys, dinosaur and teddy bear figures, and shells to learn about sorting and classification. They use links, pattern blocks, unifix cubes, and their classmates to learn about patterns; how to identify and create them as well as use them to help solve problems. In geometry the children build pictures with shapes, go on “shape hunts,” and use marshmallows and toothpicks to create three-dimensional shapes.

In conjunction with the geometry unit, the Kindergarten classes will be taking a trip to the Aldrich Museum to study shapes in the world around them. When learning about the concepts of more/less, fewer/greater, equal to, and most/least, the children use a variety of objects to create graphs. They practice forming numbers using a variety of modalities: shaving cream, gel boards, etc....

In AP Calculus

Students have started to work on integration by finding areas under the curves of graphs. They have done some lab activities using the TI Nspire calculators, in which the students are able to plot rectangles under the curves of the graphs that they have generated and can then approximate the area using the rectangles. The more rectangles that they use to divide up the interval, the closer they will be to the exact area. We will be extending this concept soon to find volumes of various solids. Students will start out by slicing the shape into discs and finding the volume of each disc. Again, the more discs they use, the closer they will be to the exact volume.

In addition, the students use some computer software called Calculus in Motion to help visualize the shapes formed when spinning a graph around a line. Using the software with the SmartBoard allows the class to interact with the visual images presented.

AP review sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings beginning March 10th. Multiple Choice Mondays is when the AP Students look at strategies to approach multiple choice questions, and they are starting to work with free response questions. Students have been asked to form study groups in order to support and learn from each other. Extra help sessions are available after school. The website for AP Calculus can be found at <http://vincentmath.eboard.com>.

In Fourth Grade Math

Throughout the month of January students have been working on a multiplication and division unit. Students have been learning how to use a variety of strategies to multiply two-digit numbers by one-digit numbers and two-digit numbers by two-digit numbers with and without regrouping. Students also have been using a variety of strategies to divide two-digit dividends by one-digit divisors with and without remainders. During the month of February 4th grade students will continue to practice and review these multiplication and division skills. In addition to doing basic computations of multiplication and division, students are also challenged to solve word problems to further demonstrate their understanding of math concepts. Students will also be working on a measurement unit using both the customary and metric systems in February.

Teachers use many resources to present new math material to students. The SmartBoard is frequently used and provides a visual for students to make learning more interesting. Our new math book, Envision Math provides numerous lessons, which can be used on the SmartBoard. Teachers also have created their own interactive lessons using the SmartBoard to help improve student motivation and understanding of new material.

Additionally, use of computer programs such as “Study Island” and “Fast Math” give students the opportunity to further develop and improve their math skills. Students use manipulatives and teacher-made games as well.

North Salem High School Math Students—in a league of their own!

NY Math League is a competition that takes place six times over the course of the year. There are approximately 350 schools in New York State that participate. The students participate in the contests in their own schools, and then scores are reported to NY Math League. The Math League has schools compete by county.

North Salem competes against 16 schools in Westchester County. Our high scoring students are recognized at High School Academic Awards night in May.

North Salem High School Students meet with math teacher Ms. Lynda Vincent after school on the appointed contest days (usually in shifts, since there are so many of them). There are six questions on each contest, and they range from algebra to pre-calculus or calculus.

Math students in 5th - 8th grade are expected to keep a working math notebook for their entire middle school years. Students have about 40 pages of notes from grade 6; and 26 pages and counting in 7th grade. This notebook will be continued through 8th grade and can be used in high school as a reference. This year, 5th graders joined in and are now keeping a working math notebook as well!

In First Grade

The first grade classes are currently studying geometry in their math program. Patterns, symmetry, shapes and solids are being explored with the help of manipulatives. It is exciting to make many shapes and learn about their properties and attributes. First graders are also working on creating a shape riddle book and playing a variety of geometry based games. Our first grade mathematicians have been busy this year mastering other new concepts involving addition and subtraction as well.

"Math is not a spectator sport!"

Students in 7th grade math are expected to come into math class and take personal responsibility for their learning. As the National Council of Teachers coined many years ago, "Math is not a spectator sport"... students realize that they must participate in class by bringing in their supplies, being an active listener, asking questions, doing their homework, analyzing their own performance, setting goals, and being respectful of others.

When 7th graders walk into math class their first responsibility is to read the "Check-in-Center." This lists what must be completed before the actual math lesson begins.

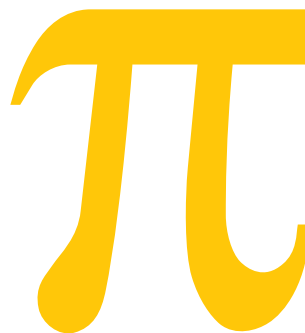
Another important aspect of middle school math (and at PQ in the upper grades) is the weekly maintenance sheet. We highly

believe in spiraling in new material while also maintaining skills and concepts from previous chapters. By the time of the State Assessments in early May, the students should be fully prepared because of the review from the maintenance.

Each student also participates in the monthly Math Olympiad competition. Amy Reynolds, the Gifted and Talented teacher, runs this program. All students have one day of training per month for the competition and one day to take the test. They come to their math classroom and half of the students are trained with Ms. Reynolds, and the other half with Dr. Feliciano. They take the test during math class and then results are compiled, and used as extra credit on an upcoming quiz.

The training and participation in this contest is invaluable as the questions have the students use higher order thinking skills that will prepare them for the SAT math questions! Seventh grade math includes: algebra, geometry, number theory, exponents, and number systems.

Next up... The Pythagorean Theorem unit! FUN!!



FUN IN MATH

The High School Math Honor Society is in the process of planning activities for Pi Day, which will be celebrated on Friday, March 12th. (March 14th is a Sunday this year.)

In addition to the games and contests that are traditionally sponsored, there will be a Pi Day Scavenger Hunt, a Pi Day Rap/Song/Poem contest, a "pie"-eating contest, and other surprises.

The HS Math Club has over 60 students who are participating in the NY Math League Contests this year. The contests will continue through April.

CONGRATULATIONS!

SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

FIFTH GRADE SCIENTISTS...

are studying some of the systems of the human body. This is a fun and exciting unit for the students, because the students learn about how their bodies work by doing "science experiments" on themselves. For instance, when studying the circulatory system, students learn about blood pressure and pulse. Then they take their own pressure and pulse. They learn the importance of exercise for the health of their hearts, and they test their active heart rate to find out what types of activities increase heart rate the most.

For the muscular system, the students do experiments to test their muscles and investigate "muscle memory." For the respiratory system, the students find out how much lung capacity they have when active and when resting. For the nervous system, the students conduct different memory and perception tests to better understand how their brains function.

These are just some of the examples of the many fun, hands-on activities students take part in to understand how the different systems in the body function together to make them all that they are. The human body is amazing, and hopefully when this unit is over, the students have a better understanding and appreciation for their own bodies.

Fifth Graders are making chemical compounds using gumdrops, marshmallows and toothpicks. Students had to use the molecular formula to create the compound.



under the big blue tent

News from PQ Library Media Center

Fifth Graders in Mr. MacCary's after school Library Media Club are recording book review podcasts. They will be presented on the PQ Library Media Website to encourage both reading and student presentation skills. Mr. Rocco Varuolo, North Salem Technology Director, will be facilitating the uploading of our MP3s created with the *Audacity* Recording program to our District's website.

Look for a link to the book review podcasts on the LMC (Library Media Center) website soon! Any students or staff who would like to share their enthusiasm for a particular book in an audio book review format for the web should speak to Mr. MacCary. We hope to have a large selection of podcast book reviews to bring attention to great reading choices.

Research, Research, Research

After returning from their trip to Boston, Massachusetts, where they visited the Granary Cemetery, our seventh grade students created their first piece of historical fiction. In an interdisciplinary unit between Mrs. Hoagg's English classes and Mrs. Koestner's social studies classes and with the enormous help of Cynthia Sandler, our Library Media Specialist, this assignment challenged our students to meet the state standards in both English and Social Studies.

The project required that students select a headstone at the cemetery of a non-famous person, and upon returning to school, they would then research the historical time period and possible cause of death for their individual. They were required to find two primary source documents in which one document validated the historical time period and the other document provided a plausible cause of death.

After the research was completed and the primary source documents were found, students then tried their hand at writing historical fiction—everything from colonists sentenced to be burned at the stake for being a witch to piracy on the high seas. It was a challenging activity, but our students did a great job!

Classroom Critters—

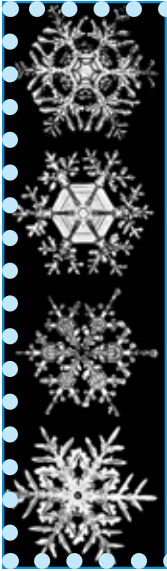


Fourth and fifth grade students at PQ are delving into experimental research design based on their observations of goldfish, mice, and a hamster. Students follow a question with their predictions and work together to identify the independent and dependent variables. After establishing the control, the children

conduct multiple trials and analyze their results. Student-created questions have included: "Do mice prefer tunnels of a particular diameter?", "How does a food reward affect a hamster's performance in a maze?" and "Do fish actively seek out the company of other fish?"

The A.P. Physics class is studying Thermodynamics, which is the study of energy conversion between heat and mechanical work involving variables such as temperature, volume and pressure. The class is exploring the four laws of thermodynamics and the amazing work of the French physicist and military engineer **Nicolas Léonard Sadi**. He is often described as the "Father of thermodynamics," being responsible for such concepts as Carnot efficiency, Carnot theorem, Carnot heat engine, and others. We will be experimenting with a working Stirling engine, which is a classic example of an external combustion engine.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Are you wondering when our next snow day will be? Ask an 8th grader!

In both Science 8 and Earth Science 8 students are becoming master forecasters, learning all the ins and outs of meteorology and climatology from their former meteorologist teacher, Mrs. Valenti.

Students study synoptic weather maps, read and analyze real weather data and describe the motion of air masses and fronts. They can now predict that elusive but always anticipated snow day!

When you drive into the back parking lot of the Middle/High School, have you ever looked into the windows of the garage-type doors? Ever wonder what's going on in there? Well, it's Mr. Hendrie's Technology Ed classes. Here's a peek inside this amazing classroom...

High School Technology News:

We are excited to announce that The North Salem Foundation for Learning awarded a grant to the Technology Dept. for the research and development of a cost-effective savonius wind powered generator.

Mr. Hendrie attended an alternate energy program called "Kid-Wind" at Somers Middle School, directed by Mr. Bill Rock of the Somers Tech Ed Dept. The workshop addressed vertical axis wind generators. In an attempt to adapt the topic to our Energy & Power course (open to students in grades 9-12), we applied for this grant. One of the seniors in our Principles of Engineering class, is working on the prototype. His final design of the generator will serve as one of the exciting future projects in the Energy & Power course.

Ornithology Club News

Frigid arctic air and snow-covered ground have produced challenging conditions for local bird species. Our six winter feeding stations have been over-run by birds searching for a meal. Cardinals, Gold Finches, Mourning Doves, Dark Juncos, Nuthatches and Downy Woodpeckers are just some of the species that visit daily. Members of this after school club recently planted bee-balm seeds in the greenhouse. This spring, these flowers will be transplanted outdoors to attract hummingbirds.



New School Record in Robotics!

Two North Salem Students revolutionize the challenge!

Since 2004, technology students have been competing in the current version of our hydraulic robotics project. The project places students in the situation of building a robot that is powered by water. Students must engineer a mechanism to pick up ping-pong balls from our game-table and deposit all 16 of them into a designated tube. Students who achieve 100% are invited to try to beat the school record.

In May of 2008 two 7th grade young ladies held the middle school record. Their time was a remarkable 4 minutes, 1 second. In October 2008, two 7th grade boys topped that record with a blazing speed of 3 minutes, 44 seconds.

After many revisions, frustrations and much practice, two of our second quarter, 7th grade girls completed the challenge in a lightening fast ONE minute and 28 seconds... a time that is even faster than the long-standing high school record established back in 2005! One young lady has been quoted as saying that her biggest frustration was: "... that every time we fixed one problem another one would pop up. This made me even more determined. I just couldn't stop thinking about our project." Her partner said: "It took us a lot of practice to learn to work the robot so good together."

The girls plan on demonstrating their project here in March for the Technology Teachers of Westchester and Putnam, when North Salem's Tech. Ed program will be showcased.

MAKING PREDICTIONS IN KINDERGARTEN

As part of the Science 21 inquiry based science curriculum, Mrs. Mittelstadt's Kindergarten Class made predictions based on exploration with four of their five senses.

A different object was hidden in each of four boxes. Each day a Mystery Box was presented and the students used their sense of hearing, touching (feeling the movement), smell and sight (observing the size of the box) in order to make an educated prediction of what was inside the Mystery Box. Those predictions were charted.

At the conclusion we opened each Mystery Box and discussed their predictions, deciding that none were "wrong" even if their prediction was not what was actually in the box—they were educated predictions based on observation. The Mystery Box activity was exciting and enjoyed by all.

Other Outstanding Achievements:

- Last quarter one young man in our first period class completed seven AMAZING technology projects! That's just eight weeks!
- Another student built a fully functional metal detector!
- Two 7th grade boys completed the robot challenge in 2 minutes 55 seconds!

WOW!! Now, that's amazing!

Language ARTS

I HAVE A DREAM TOO

In recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Black History Month, the 5th grade poets in Ms. Federici's and Ms. Schmitt's would like to share their Dreams with you...

I HAVE A DREAM TOO

I have a dream that one day that this nation will stop wasting our mother earth with litter.

I have a dream that one day we can put a stop to oil spills and put a start to clean oceans!

I have a dream that one day this earth WILL turn with peace.

I have a dream today

I have a dream that no animal will die in a hopeless shelter!

I have a dream today

I have a dream that these streets will be cleared of neglected and homeless animals!

This is my faith and hope. With it I will be able to make a difference in pollution!

This is the day all the people will walk an earth filled with peace love and happiness!

I HAVE A DREAM TOO

I have a dream that one day this nation will not fight in any wars and solve all problems with peace.

I have a dream that one day people will care about Mother Nature and pick up all litter.

I have a dream that one day no animal will be killed because it would not sell.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day no one will hunt for fun.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day people will discover a way to transport someone/something without polluting the earth.

This is my hope and faith. With this faith we will be able to accomplish most anything.

This will be the day when the nation becomes an example for all others.

Patriots' Pen Essay CONGRATULATIONS!! to one of our 7th grade students who has made it to the regional and now state level for this year's Patriots' Pen essay contest. This contest, which is sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, truly promotes a positive view of our veterans. This year's focus was no different; students were asked to write about when our veterans should be honored. It is true that students could earn an extra-credit grade for English, but more importantly, students connected with a very relevant topic.

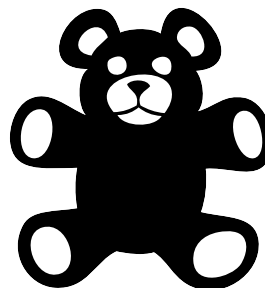
North Salem Students Love to Read

We read for information from the time we begin to read, but third grade is often thought of as a critical year when students make a transition from learning to read to reading to learn.

To support this transition, students in Dr. Maier's Reading Support groups engage in a variety of activities to help them become better readers and writers. Small groups work with reading and writing high frequency words using the Smart Board to explore ABC order, meaning, and decode anagrams. Each week the groups explore and use new vocabulary words to expand their word knowledge. Reading fluency using poetry is an integral part of our day. Children practice choral reading poems and then take them home to continue building their fluency. Each session also includes work on comprehension skills and strategies to help students think about what they are reading and analyze text more deeply.

This year, as a technology complement to support time, all Grade 3 students in reading support have been enrolled in "istation," a web-based supplemental reading program reviewed by the Florida Center for Reading Research that offers fun, engaging activities to improve students' vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. istation has been installed on computers in students' classrooms so that as time allows, students who need additional practice with reading skills can continue to get individualized support in the classroom.

Whether it be the SmartBoard or istation, the students report having fun as they improve their reading skills.



Second grade reading students of Mrs. Martz and Mrs. Hester enjoyed a Teddy Bears' Picnic. Students brought in a stuffed animal from home and shared information such as the name of the animal, how long they have had it and why it's special. Cookies, brownies, and juice were enjoyed while listening to:

"Where's My Teddy?"

"It's the Bear" and

"The Teddy Bears' Picnic."

*A good time was had by all,
and the students can't wait for
the next picnic!*

Social Studies

Did you know: During the second marking period, 11th graders in Regents Level U.S. History and Government studied the following topics—Nationalism, Sectionalism, Reform, Expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction. These topics cover the time period that spans the years 1812 to 1877.

Did you know: Most 11th Grade U.S. History students voluntarily purchased a subscription for *UPFRONT* Magazine, published by *The New York Times*. The magazine offers stories on current national and world events, written on a high school level. The goal of the Social Studies Department in asking students to purchase the magazine was to help students become more aware of the events shaping their world. The entire school year, 14 issues, costs only \$10.

Did you know: During the second marking period, 9th graders in Regents Level Global History and Geography 1 studied—Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, The Byzantine Empire and Russia, and The Muslim World.

Global History and Geography I students recently completed the Roman Newspaper project. They had to create a newspaper that included stories describing the social, military, political, and religious life of Ancient Rome. Also, the inclusion of obituaries, editorials, pictures, advertisements and other newspaper elements allowed students to become Roman newspaper journalists and editors.

FIFTH GRADE INVENTORS

In Ms. Federici's, Ms. Schmitt's, and Mrs. Oddo's fifth grade classes are working on a "Live Event Learning Experience" centered around Inventions. The students will research a particular invention for which they will coordinate a display to share with other classes. The students are responsible for designing the exhibit, scheduling the visits and creating an invitation to provide teachers with the information.

HIGH SCHOOL U.S. HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT STUDENTS completed presentations on inventors of the Industrial Revolution. Each student was assigned the task of describing the inventor, their invention, and how it impacted people in the past. Also, they had to make a connection between the original invention and a modern version.



The fourth grade classes attended a one-hour presentation at PQ from David Osborne and John White from St. Paul's National Historic Site in Mt. Vernon, New York. Their presentation explored the era of the American Revolution, including songs and emphasizing the life of a typical soldier. Both men came dressed in costumed replica period clothes and shared many interesting details about what it was like to live during this particular period in history. Our fourth grade classes study the American Revolution and colonial times as part of our social studies curriculum so this was a meaningful program for them. Thank you to the PQ PTO for funding this program.

November Boston Adventure



Never before in the history of The Boston Adventure, did the 7th graders travel back in time to Colonial America in November. True to the spirit of New England, the weather was nippy, but our spirits and excitement were high. The trip was a complete success. Plymouth Plantation was in full working operation, which is something seldom seen in late spring. Our costumed guides were exceptional as they regaled us with stories of our forefathers. The Duck Tours were a bit chilly on the Charles River but our captains kept us warm with their humor, and The Blue Man Group was the highlight of our trip when they used Mr. Birdsall (7th grade science teacher) in one of their acts. Although the date for next year's trip is not yet set, if we need to go again in November, we now know it will be awesome but cold.

What makes North Salem Special

Did you know that Mr. Ritchie celebrated 50 years in North Salem in December?

Mr. Ritchie began as a custodian and bus driver at the Croton Falls Elementary School. He worked eight hours as a custodian and four hours as a bus driver each day. During the early days Bob was the only custodian in the building.

On Monday, December 14th, in conjunction with the PTO, PQ celebrated this momentous anniversary. The children enjoyed cake with Mr. Ritchie, who is known for his love of sweets. After school Bob celebrated with the staff and PTO Executive Board. The staff acknowledged Mr. Ritchie with a song and a gift certificate for a tree to be planted on the school grounds this spring. This is the perfect gift for Mr. Ritchie; he loves the PQ grounds and has cared for them through the years. CONGRATULATIONS, MR. RITCHIE, AND THANK YOU.

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IT'S GREAT TO BE 8!

A DAY IN THE LIFE A THIRD-GRADER AT PQ...

is packed with learning excitement! Upon arrival at PQ, third graders follow a variety of morning routines established within each classroom.

At the start of the day, students receive small group instruction in core academic areas. Literacy Block follows: This includes Foundations (word work), reading and writing.

In Reading, third graders explore a wide variety of genres such as poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. Many activities are integrated, such as choral reading for fluency, guided reading, paired/shared readings and Reader's Theater.

In writing, students explore the entire writing process. They are encouraged to write narratives which draw upon their own memories and experiences.

The remainder of the day is dedicated to Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics. A myriad of topics are explored in Science; such as, weather, tropical rainforests, and simple machines.

Social Studies, the study of the United States is used as a means to compare and contrast life in China and Brazil.

Currently in Mathematics, 3rd graders are working at learning multiplication and division. All third grade students have access to FAST Math, a computer program designed to assist students in mastering their math facts in all operations. At some point during the day each class welcomes an opportunity for a read aloud. Homework is assigned nightly to reinforce skills taught throughout the day.

At 11:00 a.m., following a brief snack, third graders explore Specials: Music, Art, and Physical Education. A visit to the PQ Library is scheduled during the six-day rotation.

Recess (outdoors, weather permitting) and Lunch are scheduled 12:30-1:30 p.m.

HOW WE SPENT THE HOLIDAYS

In December, the Advocates For The Arts helped students deck the Middle/High School hallways for the holidays with the annual holiday window painting event. Grades 6-12 participated in a fun filled and festive event!



The kindergartners spent December disguising gingerbread people! As part of a literacy unit in which the children were learning more about: story retelling, characters, story setting and how to make connections to text, the children disguised gingerbread people to "save them from being chased and eaten."

The children created a variety of disguises: super heroes, princesses; holiday characters, pirates, snowmen, and many other clever and imaginative characters. The children learned how to compare books; make predictions and most of all enjoy stories and reading. As a culminating celebration the kindergarten classes created gingerbread houses.

February will bring about lessons in letter writing while making and writing Valentines. The children will also celebrate the 100th day of school with a variety of 100 day collections and counting activities to help build number sense and numeration skills.



Fifth Graders wrote about holiday traditions shared artifacts regarding their traditions such as holiday cookies, ornaments, photos, and menorahs. Chanukah, potato latkes, and injecting jelly into donuts were some of the experiences our fifth graders enjoyed.

What makes North Salem Special

NORTH SALEM WINTER TRACK TEAM SIMPLY THE BEST!

The North Salem Winter Track Team has had a tremendously positive season thus far. The season began with 45 athletes who all exhibited the founding characteristic that the entire track program is built upon: Respect, Dedication, and Hard Work. At the first competition for the freshman and sophomores at Rockland Community College the team excelled in winning six medals which included two gold medals for top place finishes. Our next meet took the team down to the Armory which is located in the heart of Manhattan.

The team set several personal bests and used this meet as a springboard to catapult them to greater achievements throughout the season. At the League Championships the 4 x 200 meter relay teams (both boys and girls) took Gold and were respectively crowned League Champions. Led by Senior Captains Danny Schepps and Christian Guzman the team is looking forward to competing in the Westchester County Championships at the Armory. For all statistics/results please follow the progress of the team at <http://nstrackandfield.blogspot.com/>.



HELPING OUR KIDS TO SUCCEED

The School District's Mission and Beliefs is to engage students to continuously learn, question, define and solve problems through critical and creative thinking. Knowledge, problem-solving skills, technology skills, and intra- and inter-personal skills are all important for achieving the Mission.

Dr. Cyganovich, Principal of North Salem Middle/High School enclosed a letter with each student's second marking period report card encouraging parents to measure the accomplishments of their child against the expectations that have been established at home for academic excellence.

Dr. Cyganovich recommends that students use the report card as an opportunity to reflect on the strategies that have led to their own achievements and the changes needed to accomplish goals.

CLASSIFIEDS

MEMBERS WANTED: International Club

Are you interested in learning about other cultures?

Do you want to investigate your own heritage?

Would you like to travel through research to other countries and learn about how other boys and girls live?

Would you like to help with a project to help when there are disasters in the world?

If so, join us on Tuesday afternoons and help us to start PQ's International Club. Please see Mrs. Heisey and Mrs. Locascio at PQ.

Need Help with Math?

Math Honor Society has resumed the lunchtime help sessions for math. The sessions are on Wednesdays during periods 5, 6, and 7 outside of the middle school cafeteria. Math Honor Society students are available at those times to help with math questions.



Career Fair Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Do you have an interesting career? Do you love what you do? Come share your experiences with our sophomores at our annual Career Fair on Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

To sign up to participate or for more information, please contact Mrs. Verdejo in the Guidance Office at 669-5414 x2064.

WANTED – ALL BOOK LOVERS



Any students or staff who would like to share their

enthusiasm for a particular book in an audio book review format for the web should contact Mr. Noel MacCarry, PQ Library Media Specialist. macCarryN@northsalem.k12.ny.us

A big celebration for Earth Day 2010

is in the works and any ideas from the North Salem community would be appreciated by the North Salem High School Environmental Club. Please contact mcCarronk@northsalem.k12.ny.us

GREEN IS LIFE.

*Abundant in nature,
green signifies growth.
Moving forward, renewal,
health, and environment.*

Top two main reasons why people choose to live in North Salem*:

- 1. Rural Character**
- 2. Quality of Schools**

**Town of North Salem, NY, Comprehensive Plan Survey – July 2009*

This year, the mission of the North Salem Teachers' Association and the Pequenakonck and Middle/High School PTO's together is to encourage our families, faculty, and staff to join us as we support the District's efforts to go green and do our part to maintain the beauty and rural character of our town and our world. Every bit does help.


Let's work together to become informed of the important issues, events, and triumphs in our quality schools. We will work together to ensure the continued success of our District as we move forward.

North Salem Teachers' Association and The Pequenakonck and Middle/High School PTOs look forward to our extended partnership with our school organizations: The Advocates for the Arts, The Foundation for Learning, and our CSEA Staff Members.


NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PQ / MS / HS PTO AND NSTA
230 JUNE ROAD
NORTH SALEM, NY 10560

North Salem Schools

DEDICATED TOGETHER



Parents ♦ PTO



Teachers ♦ NSTA



Kids ♦ PQ MS/HS