

Middle School Monthly

North Shore Middle School

October

Edition 2, Volume 8

Principals Message

As September draws to a close, I look forward to my favorite month of the school year. October brings cooler nights, changing leaves, spirit week, pep rallies, a huge homecoming parade, our sixth grade Greenkill trip, and of course, Halloween!

Last month, I had the pleasure of meeting with every team and I was so impressed with how well our students articulated their school experiences to me. Mostly, children cited the following as reasons why they are enjoying school so far: 1) they love being with their friends every day 2) teachers are really nice and supportive 3) they enjoy the lunch period and recess time with their friends 4) "teachers find really fun and creative ways to make us enjoy learning."

"Teachers find really fun and creative ways to make us enjoy learning", 7th Grade student

When asking students what we could do to improve the quality of their experience, the most common suggestions were as follows:

"We could use a study hall period so we have more time to organize ourselves and get things done."

"We should be able to express ourselves more by decorating the outsides of our locker."

"We should be allowed to leave campus to get lunch like the HS students."

"We should be allowed to wear hats in school and carry our cell phones."

In a community where everyone matters, we need to find a way to honor student voices while also holding the line on issues that impact health and safety. Hopefully we will find a way to address student concerns while also maintaining a safe and orderly school for our children.

In the end, we want to encourage students to use their voices to advocate for themselves, build academic skills, and find ways to love and engage in learning.

Important Upcoming

Middle School Events

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Tuesday, October 4:
MS Picture Day

Monday October 17:
PTA Meeting 9:00 AM
Cafeteria Guest Speaker

Spirit Week Begins!

Friday, October 21:
Pep rally, Gym 2:00 – 3:00
PM

Saturday, October 22:
Homecoming Parade
12:30 PM Glenwood
Landing School

Don't forget to...



Visit our School Store,
open during student
lunch periods!

If you have suggestions about how we can do more of this, I urge you to get involved with the *MS PTA*, join committees like the *School Climate Committee*, or simply send feedback or great suggestions to ferrism@northshoreschools.org. September was a terrific month for our students and staff and I am looking forward to a wonderful October as well.

Sincerely, Marc Ferris

NSMS PTA: TOGETHER WE CAN Speaking For "Every Child" With "One Voice"

Happy autumn! What a great September for the PTA. Membership is soaring and so is the enthusiasm and commitment. We have had our first PTA meeting and our committees are off to a wonderful start. The Innisbrook fundraiser is going strong with profits earmarked towards the cost of the Grade Trips. The PTA Reflections National Contest is underway and students are encouraged to let their inspiration and creativity blossom, the theme being "Diversity Means....."

Tickets are now on sale for the Murder Mystery Night to be held at the Swan Club the eve of November 11th. It will be a night to remember! Profits will help fund Middle School speakers and enrichments for our students. PTA members are advocates for the well-being of children and youth. We work with the State and National PTA to spark changes in legislation that benefit our children.

For more information about advocacy, please visit nyspta.org. At the next PTA meeting on October 17th, Principal Ferris will report on how our 7th and 8th graders did on the NYS Youth Development Survey conducted last year. It was designed to assess risk and protective factors that predict and measure substance use, gambling and other problem behaviors such as delinquency. Speaker Detective Pamela Stark will follow. Remember, Children First – You Make the Difference! See you on October 17th.

-Best Regards from the NSMS PTA Executive Board

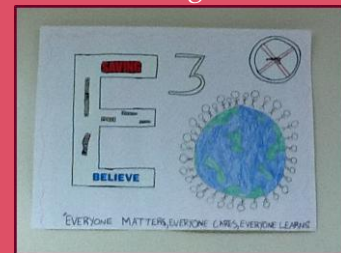
Guidance Happenings

North Shore Middle School is a school where we truly believe in E3:

**Everyone Matters!
Everyone Cares!
Everyone Learns!**

This year, Guidance Counselors are proud to introduce an award that recognizes our students' outstanding efforts in helping to build a positive learning community. In September we witnessed E3 actions all over the school. For example, we saw students helping teachers with bulletin boards; helping peers find their new classrooms and experienced 8th graders reaching out to support our new 6th graders.

One student went out of her way to support a struggling classmate and deserves recognition...



September's **E3 Award** was presented to Chloe Fichtl for her outstanding contribution to North Shore Middle School's E3 community. Congratulations, Chloe!!!

We encourage parents, teachers and students to nominate next month's E3 winner by speaking with your guidance counselor. Sincerely,
The Guidance Department