

Family Connections

Bi-Monthly Newsletter for Our NF Families



Monday, January 18, 2021

NF 3rd Grader Scores #1 in Ohio

Third grade student, Ender Johnson, was recently informed that he received a perfect score in the Word Masters Challenge, an annual, national vocabulary competition involving nearly 125,000 students. Ender didn't miss a single question on the assessment, and was one of only 28 third graders who achieved this result in the United States. In Ohio, Ender earned top status. The number one student in all 88 counties. Congratulations to Ender, his parents, and his ELA gifted teacher, Ms. Kris Schroeder.



February is Black History Month

Over the last several months, the relatively new Nordonia Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, (NDEIC), has been meeting to help celebrate accomplishments and support improvements with our minority populations, district-wide. The work of this committee has already resulted in some new initiatives such as Unity Week and the Black student organization at the high school. NF's new Black

Student Excellence partnership with the middle school has been delayed due to the unpredictability with school schedules. Continuing with their mission, the NDEIC will assist with some enhancements for February's Black History Month. Working on a consistent message throughout the community, the following events are being finalized for the month's theme, *Untold Stories: Representation, Identity and Diversity*.



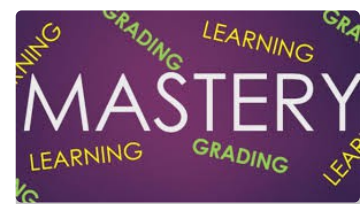
- Week 1: Representation: Local Heroes in Our Community
- Week 2: Identity: Ruby Bridges/K-6: Disney Ruby Bridges Movie Shown
- Week 3: The Arts:/NDEIC Performance of Lift Every Voice and Sing
- Week 4: Diversity: Family Traditions

Throughout the month, classrooms are encouraged to facilitate other activities showcasing the celebrations, challenges, and experiences of Black America. Our NF Black History Month Committee recently met to reflect on past practices and prepare for extra activities in our building. Staff committee members include: Ms. DeBord, Ms. Eland, Ms. Hochberg, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Wachs, Ms. Gruber, Mr. Cohen, Ms. Sacha, and Ms. Hatch.



Student Assessment Season

Throughout January and into mid-February, students across the district participate in several 'benchmark' assessments, primarily in the areas of ELA and math. NF students take the individual computerized test known as STAR. Additionally, children meet one-on-one with their teacher to complete a reading level assessment. The data received from these assessments is particularly important this year as we wonder to what degree, if any, the COVID pandemic interrupted student learning. In the next (6) weeks, certified staff and the Building Leadership Team, will drill through this data so that our instruction is guided by student progress.

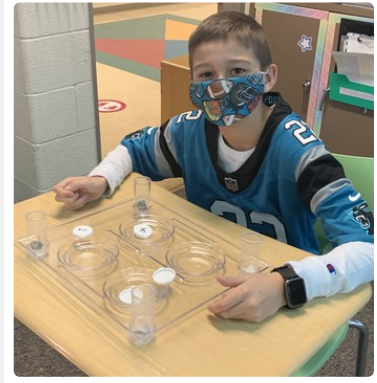
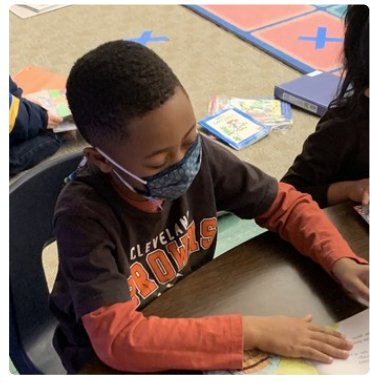


Therapy Services Available

During this pandemic, it is not uncommon for children to experience an increased agitated or anxious state of being. Luckily, NF can help support your child through our clinically-based counseling services. Ms. Julie Winston, community counselor, is here to help. Each Thursday, Ms. Winston meets with students in a confidential, individual manner to help support children with academic, social, and emotional challenges. Any NF student is eligible for receiving this high quality counseling service. If you have a concern, please contact our regular school



counselor, Ms. Leslie Witt, to learn about the referral process. An individual counseling appointment is absolutely free of charge, a cost that is rather hefty in the outside community.



A Simple Guide to Learning at Home

A lot of learning happens in the home already. Here's how we can harness what is already there and guide our students in demonstrating their learning when they engage in these activities.



Games

1. Take a game you already play well. Ask your child to change the game to make it more challenging.
2. Ask your child: Is this game fun? Is it a game of chance or skill? What skills did you demonstrate playing the game?
3. Create your own game.



Health

1. Take a walk or do other physical activity for twenty to thirty minutes a day.
2. Meditate or listen to a relaxation recording.
3. Keep a daily journal of how you are feeling.



Reading

1. Read for at least an hour a day.
2. Read something other than the news.
3. Keep a journal of what you read. What are your thoughts?



Media

1. Watch a film or TV show. What did you learn from watching? Did it change the way you view the world?
2. Critique the film or TV show: Was it worth watching? What would you change?
3. Research more about the topic of the movie, show, or film.



Create

1. Create a video, podcast, piece of art, craft, or piece of writing.
2. Collect feedback from peers through Google Docs or virtual tuning sessions.



Practice

1. Practice the skills you already have, i.e. music, cooking, sewing, gardening, drawing, sports, etc.
2. Develop a new skill.
3. Keep a log of how long you practiced. Reflect on what you learned.



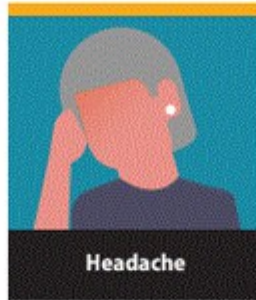
Redo

1. Is there a project, presentation, paper, or other product you created that you would like to try again?



Center for Collaborative Education
Transforming schools for student success

Patients with COVID-19 may have these symptoms:



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Macedonia Recreation Virtual Programs

NF Smart Phone App. Information

Download Today!

Additional Parent Resources

The K-12 School Counseling Department, along with our Drug and Alcohol Prevention Coordinator, Dr. Wallace, recently won a grant. Grant monies will be used this year to assist families with an entire host of topics in the following newsletters.



Clothing Request: Many times a day, children are in need of replacement clothes for bathroom accidents, recess mud spills, and art mishaps. Our NF Clinic, staffed by the wonderful Ms. Readus, is running low on clothes because, often times, borrowed clothes are not returned. Please check your children's closets for any unused shirts, pants, or sweatshirts. We'd be happy to take those materials out of your hands. The greatest need is for younger students.

Important Dates Ahead: Please make note that there is no school on Monday, January 18 for the observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, as well as Monday, January 25 for Teacher Records Day. Semester #2 begins on Tuesday, January 26th. NF welcomes back (6) students to in-person learning from their remote learning experience last semester.

Outdoor Recess: As we enter into the coldest of our winter months, parents and caregivers are reminded that students go outdoors for recess when the temperature is 20 degrees or higher. Students should have the appropriate winter clothes; including, a winter coat, gloves, boots and snow pants, (if the child wishes to play in the snow). Please comply with our winter recess expectations.

Grading Period Ends: The second quarter/first semester ends in January. Students will complete all lessons and assessments by Friday, January 22, 2021. Grade four students will continue to earn letter grades. Please encourage your child to complete any late or missing work. Attendance markings should be reviewed closely, as there has been a marked increase in 'unexcused absences' this first semester.


Valentine's Day: Our celebration of Valentine's Day will look and feel a bit different this year. Due to COVID precautionary measures, students will not distribute individual Valentine's Day cards/treats. The staff will still facilitate a student party, though.





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