

The Howl

The Northeast Elementary School PTA Newsletter
January 2022



Greetings From the PTA

Welcome back! We hope that your holiday break offered a bit of calm and relaxation amidst the crazy going on around us!

We're looking forward to an engaging Winter and Spring filled with Basketball, Ski Club, STEM enrichments, Talent shows, and a Carnival!

We know that this period of time is stressful for many families and that differences in opinion on how our schools are handling the pandemic may be causing strife. The PTA wants to lend our ear to your concerns or help you get answers to your questions. We also want to remind you that while our Northeast teachers and staff are enforcing district policies, they do not make them. Let's do our best to keep our communications friendly and kind.

Updated COVID Guidance

The guidelines are ever-changing – Complete, official up-to-date rules are available on the ICSD website, but we have tried to summarize the rules as of 1/6/22 here:

All Children who test positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, should complete the TCHD form of a positive antigen test, inform the school nurse, and self-isolate for 5 days from symptom onset or positive antigen or PCR test (if asymptomatic). If there are no symptoms after 5 days, or if symptoms are resolving, children can return to school. (Children must be fever-free for 24 hours to return to school.) Children should wear a mask around others for 5 additional days (those who are unable to wear a mask should self-isolate for 10 days).

If your child was exposed to someone with COVID-19:

Fully vaccinated children should continue to come to school and wear a mask around others for 10 days, testing on day 5 if possible.

Partially vaccinated and unvaccinated children should self-isolate for at least 5 days (possibly up to 10 for some health conditions) and then wear a mask around others for 5 additional days, testing on day 5 if possible.

Also, If your child is fully vaccinated, it is suggested that you inform nurse Maria so that your child will not have to quarantine if they are considered a close contact at school.

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Highlight!

After-school enrichments are back!

Registration is open for grades 1-5 and will close on Jan 15. The session will start Jan 24 and each class lasts 6 weeks. COVID safety protocols will be followed, with small class sizes that are cohorted by grade. To register your child, visit this

link: <https://forms.gle/tTEg3aWbLVgUeRJK6>

Check your email for the flyer with the schedule and class descriptions. If you have any questions, you may contact

northeastenrichment@gmail.com.

Generosity in Action!

Thanks to our amazing NE community, 19 NE families with 36 kids received warm clothes, toys, books, family activities and stocking stuffers this holiday season!

A big thank you to the families who volunteered to sponsor a child or two or donated funds towards gift cards, and to teachers who put together toiletry bags for each family. And thank you to our family liaison, [Mackenzie](#), for making it all happen!



Reminders:

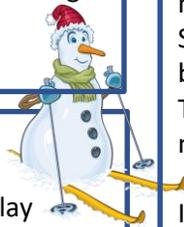
Buy a PTA membership to support the school!

Join the PTA by paying \$10 for an individual or \$15 for a family. This funding goes directly to teachers or to cover schoolwide events like Movie nights and the Carnival.



Intramural basketball

Starting soon for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders! Thanks for your patience as a few last kinks are worked through. Questions, contact Brian Rohan at btrohan@gmail.com



Snowy Day Gear

Please send your children to school ready to play outside in cold weather and able to sled and make snow angels in the snow. They need snow pants, boots, hats, mittens, and a warm coat every day! If you're in need of gear for your kids, please reach out to Mackenzie Torelli, our Family Liaison at mackenzie.torelli@icsd.k12.ny.us

Ski and Snowboard Club

Starts Wednesday, January 12th!

Join the PTA Listserv!



Don't miss out on all the great news, important information, and exciting events! Sign up at <https://bit.ly/3Cd9oGR> and click on "join group".



School Cancellations and Delays

ICSD will inform caregivers of emergency cancellations or delays via an automated telephone, email, or text message. Please verify that your contact information in SchoolTool is correct. Additionally, up-to-date info will be posted on the ICSD website, as well as on the ICSD Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram feeds. Many local media stations will also have information on closings.

In the event that a two-hour delay is activated, all bus routes will be delayed by exactly two hours and school will start exactly two hours later than normal. Simple breakfasts will be available to students when schools open, and regular lunches will be served at modified times. Schools will be dismissed at their normal times at the end of the school day. If conditions do not improve within two hours, classes may be canceled for the entire day, and the same methods of notification outlined above will be followed.

A note from Ms. O'Connor, our music teacher!

Hello, Northeast Families! We've gotten off to a great start in General Music this year. Thank you for the warm welcome as your new music teacher. One thing is for sure: Northeast is full of wonderful music-makers!

In January our students in K-3 are learning about two important styles of uniquely American music: jazz and the blues! We can trace the origins of these styles to the western coast of Africa. When enslaved people were brought to America, the melodies and rhythms of their homeland came with them, and eventually transformed into what we now call jazz and the blues.

Kindergarten and first grade students have been learning to connect their feelings to how we sing, as well as learning a blues version of The Itsy Bitsy Spider. 2nd graders have been exploring the life and music of jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald, including learning how to do a little scat singing. 3rd graders are writing their own blues lyrics, and will be learning to play some simple variations on the 12-bar blues.

Our 4th and 5th graders have been beginning to use an exciting music website called Soundtrap. We are even featuring some student compositions on the morning announcements! ICSD has purchased accounts for these students which they can access from home at <https://www.soundtrap.com/>. The majority of students will be able to use their school email and password to log on, but a few may need to use the password Soundtrap123 with their school email. If you would like help logging in from home, don't hesitate to contact me by email at kathleen.oconnor@icsd.k12.ny.us! I encourage you to ask your student to share their music with you. I will also be setting up some online galleries for Northeast parents to listen in the near future, so stay tuned!