

N.C.S. NEWS

September 1, 2011

DATES TO REMEMBER

Special Points of Interest:

- Labor Day—September 5— No School
- F.S.A. MTG- Sept. 13— 6:30 p.m. @ Doris Jones Community Center
- N.C.S. Board Meeting— Sept. 20— 8:00a.m. @ N.C. S.
- Early Release— September 23 & 30—Dismissal at 12:00
- Picture Day—September 27— Uniforms needed for pictures

Update :

Students will only be allowed to wear jeans on Friday's with the permission of their teacher for the cost of a dollar.

From the Office

Welcome back!

Thank you for sending in your white envelope with your signed forms so promptly. If you still have your white envelope, please send it in as soon as you can.

We appreciate when you call us and let us know your child will be out sick. It saves us time and a phone call.

Bus changes will only be made in case of an emergency and ALL bus changes must be submitted to the office in writing (written note or fax) with a parent/guardian signature and a working number for confirmation. If a bus change is not confirmed, no change will be made. No bus changes will be made after 1:00pm on a full day or 10:00am on a half day. WE DO NOT ACCEPT ANY VERBAL OR EMAIL BUS CHANGES FOR ANY REASON.

From the Health Office

Thanks to all parents who have responded to the request for physicals and immunization records.

If you have not turned in Physicals or medication forms for children who need them, please send them as soon as possible.

-Mrs.Raymond

Family School Association

Our association is in the process of becoming part of the National Parent Teacher Association. The election of officers will be held within the next few weeks. If you are interested in running for office, please call me. - Jesse Scott

Counselor's Corner

Welcome back to the 2011-2012 school year! My name is Cheri Keetch and I am the School Counselor. School Counseling services offer group/individual counseling and help with bullying issues and crisis situations. I also help children learn how to get along with others.

If you would like further information regarding counseling services please contact me at the school.

Kindergarten

Welcome to Kindergarten!

Thank you for getting your child's school supplies in so quickly. Please continue to check communicators especially for upcoming permission slips. Continue working on writing first names, the numbers 1-5 and our color sight words. We are looking forward to a great year in Kindergarten!

Thank you,
Miss Kerl, Miss Haungs, Miss Vetrano

Second Grade

Dear Parents,

Hello and welcome to the 2nd grade for the 2011-2012 school year at NCS! We look forward to working closely with you this year. Please check and sign your student's communicator daily for homework assignments and important information. Our first expedition is called "Can You Hear Me Now?" and will focus on citizenship, character traits and voting. Please look for permission slips for our first field work experience. Thank you for all of your time and support!

2nd Grade Team

Miss Smith, Mrs. Swiatek and Mr. Morgan

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade is off to a fabulous start. We have spent the first weeks of school learning about classroom norms, procedures, and expectations. We encourage students to be responsible for themselves, their actions, and their assignments. Please follow through with those expectations at home as well. We look forward to kicking off our first expedition. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher.

The Fourth Grade Team

Mrs. Schoepflin & Mr. Klein

First Grade

Welcome back, and "Happy 2011-2012 School Year", families! We hope you enjoyed a safe and fun-filled summer. Thank you to families that have submitted their child's school supplies, and monthly whole-class snack. As you've read in the overview, first grade is a significant transitional year from Kindergarten. We are anticipating tremendous holistic growth in our students, as the year progresses. To help make this come to fruition, please make every effort to send your son/daughter to school daily.

Additionally, please encourage him/her to complete homework nightly.

Please review sight words, handwriting of upper and lower case letters, identifying beginning, middle, and ending sounds, and writing and counting numbers 0-100. Our first expedition, entitled, "It Takes A Village", will kick off with students hosting a special "Grandparents Tea" on Friday, September 9th. Stay tuned for upcoming details!
The First Grade Team

Third Grade

We're off to a fabulous start in third grade! It has been wonderful getting to know the students and building our classroom communities. Thanks to those of you who sent in school supplies. If you have not had a chance to do so, please send them in as soon as possible. Please be sure to have your child read and practice math facts every night. Your support at home is essential and greatly appreciated! We have already planned some exciting field visits so check your child's communicator for permission slips and important information. Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. We're looking forward to an exciting year of learning and fun!

Mrs. Yates, Ms. Gantz and Mrs. DuFour

Fifth Grade

The fifth grade has already been successfully working together as a cohesive team. We came together on the first Friday of school, where we put cooperation, respect, and responsibility to the test in a variety of team building activities. Our hopes are high for a successful year of outstanding opportunities, fantastic field work and perfect projects.

We will be kicking off our first expedition at the beginning of the month in September. Our first expedition will be "Are We Missing the Boat?" where we will be examining the history of tourism in the Niagara Falls region on both the United States and Canadian sides of the border. Our second expedition, "Anato-Me" will begin in the late fall and we will study the different systems that help our bodies work. In the spring we will begin our third and final expedition, "Coming to America," where we will investigate the history of immigration in the United States. We always encourage parent and family involvement, so anyone wishing to volunteer to speak as an expert in one of these fields or simply to join us as a chaperone for our field work is always welcome.

A note to our parents and guardians, please remember to have all forms signed and returned to school as soon as possible. Additionally, please check and sign your child's communicator on a nightly basis, as notes or reminders will be written here. Any questions or comments, feel free to contact your child's teacher and we will be sure to respond as soon as possible.

Thank you for all of your support.

The Fifth Grade Team Mrs. Felmet, Ms. McGuire, Mr. Wiles, and Mr. Weaver

Sixth Grade

Grade Six News

In sixth grade we are excited about the year ahead of us. It will be our last year at Niagara Charter School and we are preparing ourselves for Middle School.

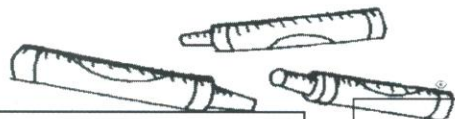
A primary focus this school year is getting along with other people. We will be learning about bullying and how to combat those inappropriate behaviors. We are already working on team building activities. To practice these skills in depth, Sixth Grades are having a field day on Tuesday, September 6th. Please remind your sixth grader to wear sneakers and jeans or pants suitable for outside activities with their uniform shirts on that day.

Our sixth grade team this year is Ms. Bruno, Mrs. Hill, and Mrs. Stevens. We look forward to meeting the families of our students and working together for a successful year.



Art

Currently, students are beginning their first projects of the year. Having spent the first two weeks reviewing the rules and procedures, we are ready to get to work. While some of our first projects will relate to grade level expeditions, other grades will be spending this first quarter focusing on the fundamentals of art. Additionally, in September and October, all grade levels will be visiting the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo. Look for permission slips in the next few weeks, or check the school calendar for specific dates.



Music

We are off to a great start in music class this year! So far we have been busy learning many new songs and singing games. During the year, students will build on their repertoire of songs and will learn how to play songs on classroom instruments. Our school band program just started back up for grades four through six. If your child is in band, please encourage him or her to practice on a regular basis. Unfortunately, there are a limited amount of school instruments, so there will not be any more students added to band unless they own or rent a band instrument. If you would like to speak to me about renting or buying an instrument, please do not hesitate to call.

Mrs. Kester

From the Special Education Team

Welcome Back! We are so excited for another school year to begin! We are sure there will be great success with your child's education. Lynn Kirshy and Amy DiMaggio are the Special Education Team. We will be your child's Special Education Teachers (Consultant Teachers) for the 2011-2012 school year. We will be working with your child to reach their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals. Each quarter your child will receive a regular report card, as well as an IEP progress report. This report will go over the progress your child is making on their IEP goals.

There are a few things you can do at home to help your child reach their IEP goals. Some of these ideas include:

- reading daily with your child
- studying spelling words
- studying sight words
- practicing math facts with flashcards

Grades 1 and 2: addition and subtraction

Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division

- assisting with homework

If you have any questions or would like to contact either one of us, you can call the school at 297-4520. Mrs. Kirshy's extension is 7122. Miss DiMaggio's extension is 7110. We are looking forward to a great year and thank you for the exciting opportunity of working with your child!

Sincerely,

Amy DiMaggio & Lynn Kirshy



Gym

We are off to a great start in "PhysEd" at Niagara Charter School!!!

As part of our exciting experiences, we have been working on the concepts of "team-building." Students have been reviewing rules and behavior and how to work and play as a team.

Ask your child about how we work together and some of the rules we know and understand.

Each month we have a student of the month. The character trait that is being emphasized at Niagara Charter this month is "Respect."

I have chosen Kidisha Thomas as the student who best demonstrates this trait in "PhysEd."

Congratulations Kadisha Thomas!!!



Congratulations September Student of the Month!

Kindergarten

Egypt Holland & Saree Cap

1st Grade

Dominick Homeyer & Dustin Hardy

2nd Grade

Latiesha Ellison & Brea Bennett

3rd Grade

Jazlyn Parks & Amelia Strong

4th Grade

Johnasia Ridgeway & Zakarria Perkins

5th Grade

Kahleel Dexter & Elijah Cap
Nicholas Sczezerba

6th Grade

Damier Newton & JaQuan Sherles

Music

Aviel Brinson

Art

Leah Strong

Gym

Kadisha Thomas

PARENT LETTER

www.niagaracharter.org

Special Points of Interest:

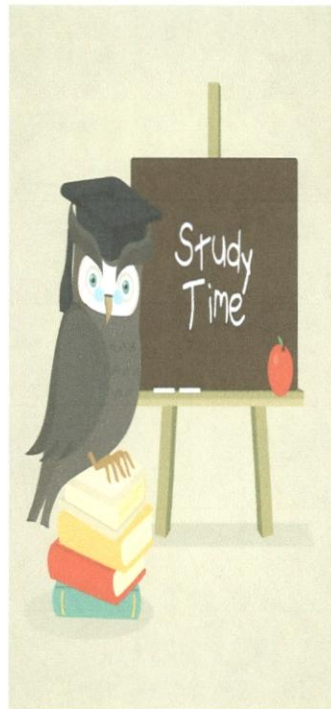
- *Labor Day — September 5 — No School*
- *F.S.A meeting @ the Doris Jones Center 6:30 p.m.—September 13*
- *Early Release — September 23 and 30th— Dismissal at 12:00*
- *Picture Day—September 27*

WELCOME BACK!!

Welcome back to all of our new and returning students! All of us at Niagara Charter are so excited for the 2011-2012 school year!!!

- This year we have several new staff members. Kyle Weaver is the new Teaching Assistant in 5th grade, and Christie Grant and Theresa Lyness are our new Building Based Substitutes.
- The teachers spent the second week of August in professional development delving into the New York State Teacher Standards, student-led conferences, and linking assessments to learning targets.

- Our Counseling Center is again headed by Mrs. Keetch. Please let the office or your child's teacher know if you would like to make a counseling referral.



Congratulations to our September Students of the Month! September's winners will be posted in the front hall. Students are chosen based on their good choices, work ethic and willingness to help others. Each month a new student is chosen from every homeroom.

A FEW REMINDERS

* Teachers have voicemail and email accounts. Please feel free to leave a message, using either means. Teachers will make every effort to call back within 24 hours. We do not put calls through to classrooms unless there is an emergency. This helps us to keep instructional time running smoothly.

* If you would like to meet with a teacher, please call and make an appointment.

* We try to keep homework at a manageable level. Homework is an important part of the learning process and should be completed and returned. Please remember that one of the most important things your child

can do is read every night for at least 20 minutes. If your child is not reading independently, read with him and talk about the story.