



Neill Elementary School

Be Respectful! Be Responsible!

Heather Hanson, Principal

Mary Kay Olson, Instructional Assistant

October 2014

Halloween Parties



Students will be having a Halloween party in their classrooms sponsored by the PTSA on Friday, October 31st, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. When choosing a costume please be respectful of the traditions and heritage of other people and cultures. Do not wear costumes that show cultural or ethnic groups in a derogatory or stereotyped manner. We encourage creative, non-frightening costumes that are easy to put on and move about in. No witches, devils, violent characters or costumes that would scare small children are allowed. Also children may not bring fake swords, knives, guns, etc. Thank you.

From the Principal

Dear Neill Families,

The school year is off to a great start with students and staff learning routines and building community in the classroom. This year we will be focusing on student achievement, positive behavior, anti-bullying and a sense of belonging throughout the building.

The students in Grades 2-5 have been taking the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress Tests (MAP) in the areas of reading and mathematics. It is one measurement that will be used to monitor growth of individual students throughout the school year. It will be administered 3 times per year at Neill. The data will help teachers make data-based decisions for instructional purposes.

In addition, we will be implementing a support system (RTI) in the area of reading that focuses on interventions to meet the needs of all students. The intervention components will focus on: phonics, phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary and/or comprehension.

I wish to express my thanks to the Neill Staff, the Neill PTSA and the families that support me in my leadership role. I look forward to building strong, productive relationships with all students, families, and staff at Neill Elementary. Our commitment and dedication to education is beneficial to the success of our students here at Neill.

Home and school partnerships are very important. A dynamic educational program can be created through our collaboration together. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming parent teacher conferences on October 7, 9 and 14.

Sincerely,
Heather Hanson, Principal

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” ~Helen Keller



PARKING

Parking at Neill Elementary flows from east to west, with a one-way entrance on the east end and one-way exit on the west. Please note that there is **no parking in the bus lane—please turn left before the bus lane**. We have reserved the front parking spots for your convenience and handicap spots for those with passes. Also please use the painted crosswalk to walk or send children from the parking lot into the school. Thank you!

CONFERENCE DATES:

Conferences this fall are scheduled Oct. 7th ,9th and 14th.

STUDENT ARRIVAL TIME

Please note that arrival time for school is between 9:00 and 9:20 a.m. Breakfast starts at 9:00 a.m. Please do not send or drop off children prior to 9:00, as no supervision is available. Please respect the above time schedule. We appreciate your cooperation.

Absent Line—763-504-7410

Please call ahead if your child is going to be late or absent.





Food Drive: Neill will be holding it's annual food drive from October 21st - October 29th. We will be accepting items to donate to the Northwest Food Shelf which serves families in the northwest suburban communities. (This food shelf serves families in the Neill attendance area.) Food will be collected in each classroom at Neill.

Some of the needed items are: peanut butter, ramen noodles, jelly, cereal, chili, baked beans, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, toothbrushes, etc. Please consider giving as you are able. Thank you!

Congratulations to:

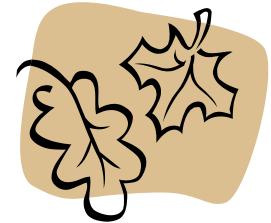
Bella Bocock who holds the new school push-up record of **79** (beating a 14-year-old record!), and Max Yurkevich who holds the new pull-up record of **20**, previously his own record of 15!



THANK YOU to all Neill families and friends who have supported Neill through **Target Corporation's Take Charge of Education program**. We truly appreciate all your support throughout the year. If you have not designated an organization to support on your Target card you may do so at any time, either online or at the Customer Service desk.

Thank you!

Brunswick United Methodist Church is partnering with Neill to support the children and staff through tutoring, volunteering in the cafeteria and media center, collecting supplies, and helping out at special events. Our contact person at the church is Cheryl Gibbons at connections@brunswicklife.org.



Thank you!

Vineyard Renewal Church has donated school supplies. We appreciate their continued support!



Late Students: The Neill school front doors are locked during school hours. Parents: please walk in with your students if they are late, get a visitor badge from the office and sign them in at the nurse's office for attendance.

End of Day Student Pickup—Please park your car in the parking lot, enter the front doors and head directly to the cafeteria. A supervisor will assist parents and students. Thank you!

Thank you!

New Hope Church has donated many backpacks and school supplies. We appreciate their continued support!



VISITORS and STUDENT SIGNOUT: Everyone who enters Neill School will check in and out in the office and wear a visitor badge. Also, if students are leaving during the school day they must be signed out in the main office or the nurse's office. Please send a note if a student will be signed out during the day. Thank you!

Thank you!

The Senior Living Community at **The Heathers** gave Neill a generous cash donation which was used to purchase school supplies. We appreciate their continued support!



2014-15 Neill Concert Season

Please mark your calendars for these important concert dates!

Band/Orchestra concert March 26th

Grade 1—May 7th

Grade 2—Feb. 24th

Grade 3—March 24th

Grade 4—Nov. 24th

Grade 5—Jan. 29th



Notes from the Health Office

What are Enteroviruses

Enteroviruses are common viruses

Most infected people have no symptoms or only mild symptoms

Children are more likely than adults to get infected with enteroviruses

The Minnesota Department of Health has identified enterovirus D68 every year since 2011.

Symptoms of Enterovirus D68

It can cause symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, cough, wheezing, rash and a fever.

Less often it may cause pneumonia and swelling of the lining of the brain or the brain.



How is Enterovirus D68 spread?

Enterovirus D68 is found in saliva, nasal mucus or sputum. It spreads from person to person when an infected person coughs, sneezes or touches surfaces.

Spreading of Enterovirus D68

Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.

Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth

Avoid kissing, hugging and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick

Use standard disinfection procedures for surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs.

Keep children home from school if they are sick

Hand sanitizers are not effective against the virus.

The Enterovirus D68 does not live long outside the body.

Once the surface is dry it likely does not contain the live virus.

Community Volunteers: This fall we welcome back our community volunteers., who last year provided over 1,000 hours of service! They work with Neill students in many ways such as tutoring students, helping in the media center, and helping in the cafeteria. Many thanks to those who give their time and support to make a difference here at Neill. If you know a community member (who is not a parent of a current Neill student) who would like to volunteer at our school, please have them call our main office at 763-504-7400 and leave a message for Sarah Steefel. Thank you!



Bob McCarthy helps Kindergarteners with their letters.





October DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 3, Fall Dance, 6-8 p.m.
- October 6, PTSA meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- October 7, 9, 14, Conferences and Book

Fair

- October 7, Fundraiser turn-in
- October 8, Steak Fry at Crystal VFW, 5-7 p.m.

- October 16-17, NO SCHOOL, MEA break
- October 31, Halloween Parties, 2:45 p.m.



LOOKING AHEAD:

- November 4, Election Day
- November 7, Picture Retakes

GRADE LEVEL HIGHLIGHT: EL TEACHERS

This is the second year the ELL department is working in the classroom with teachers in grades 2 through 5 utilizing the Push - In model as we described it last school year. We are working on vocabulary, reading and writing. We are still doing the "Minute to Win It" game/activity so the students get more involved in academics through games and play.

Our goal is for your children to improve their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. If you have any questions or comments do not hesitate to contact Mr. Fajardo or Ms. Cheryl Sanderson at 763-504-7430.

Este es el segundo año que el departamento de Inglés como segundo idioma continúa trabajando en los salones de clase con los maestros y maestras en los grados 2 a 5 utilizando el modelo en el cual el maestro o la maestra de Inglés como segundo idioma imparte clases de vocabulario, lectura y escritura. Continuamos trabajando con las actividades de "Minute to Win it" de modo que sus hijos e hijas se sientan más cómodos estudiando y aprendiendo a través de juegos. Nuestra meta es obtener el máximo rendimiento de sus hijos e hijas en lectura, escritura, comprensión auditiva y expresión oral. Si tiene alguna pregunta o comentario no dude en llamarnos al tel. 763-504-7430 con el maestro Fajardo o maestra Sanderson.



The Robbinsdale District 281 Cooks spaghetti dinner will be held at Robbinsdale Middle School 3730 Toledo Ave N. Robbinsdale on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 from 4:30pm until 7pm. The cost for adults is \$6.00, Children 6-12yrs \$3.00 and Children 5yrs & under are free. Tickets are available at the door. For any further information please contact Mary at 763-504-4813 or Penny at 763-504-7113.

Back-to-school safety reminders Toward the beginning of the school year it's always a good idea to remind students of ways to stay safe going to and from school or your bus stop. Here are some tips:

- Choose the most direct walking route with the fewest street crossings.
- If possible, cross streets at intersections that have crossing guards.
- There's safety in numbers: Walk to and from school or the bus stop in pairs or groups.
- Make sure kids don't talk to strangers, and to run and tell an adult kids trust if a stranger does speak to them.
- Remind your children to pay attention to the bus driver's rules, including staying seated and keeping heads and arms inside the bus.

Welcome!

Neill staff and students want to welcome our new Reading Corps Tutor Kate Gerke, who joins Pamela Suchecki. She will be tutoring in grades K-3. We also welcome Janet Sassone who will work with the primary grades on Reading Intervention.

District Policy reminders:

No cell phones or other electronic devices are allowed at school. Also students are not to bring trading cards or other similar items. Students may bring hats, but can only wear them outdoors. Thank you.



School Lunch Menus are found at www.rdale.org under Nutrition. Printed menus will be available at Neill in the kitchen and also in the main office. Thank you.