



## September 2011 in a nutshell



### Physical Building

Nottingham West Elementary School has never looked better! Cafeteria floor was buffed and polished; the gym has a new shine. Barry Currier, Steve Vargas, Bill Armstrong and Ryan Leary performed another exemplary and professional job amidst the hot and humid weather conditions that had lingered throughout the summer months. They are able to accomplish this even while we hosted the preschool summer school program from July to August. We also had new tile floors installed in some of the classrooms, rooms were painted for new occupancies and teachers moved rooms in several classrooms. Parents and teachers alike commented that they again have surpassed the expectations for making the school look like new!

### Meet and Greet New Students

Each year, Mrs. Eno and Ms. Williams invite students across the grade levels who are new to our community to a *Welcome to Our School Lunch*. This provides our new "Wildcats" the opportunity to meet their guidance counselors as well as other students who are sharing a similar experiencing of moving into a new school, meeting new friends and transitioning into a new grade. Students talk about where they are from and how the transition is going for them. They are encouraged to ask questions or simply report about any interesting stories they may have about becoming a part of our school community.

### Mrs. Troup: Personal Traits Poster

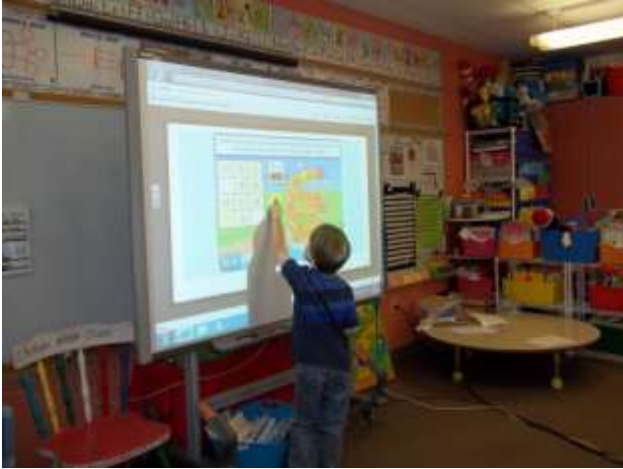


Skyler and Kiersten from Mrs. Troup's fifth grade class show off their personal-traits poster. Together with Ms. Mohring, Nottingham West Elementary School's music teacher, students explored skills, interests, and descriptive words to express their personalities. This activity was the ultimate use of language arts skills because it incorporated the visual arts, literary arts and musical arts. Students started with a shape to represent themselves and one word to describe themselves. Students added unique craft materials to represent various aspects of their personal traits and skills. Later, as a class, the students will be composing a rhythmic song that will highlight their combined key words. Their song will be accompanied by instruments. This was a great team building activity for the beginning of this school year and an added opportunity for curriculum night on September 15th. Instead of marking the student seats with a name tag or letter from their child, parents had to find their child based on the words and items that appeared on the class posters. Rave reviews and interesting conversations emerged from their search for their child.

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## SMART Board and Odyssey Math

The students in Mrs. Searles-Allen's Class were gifted a SMART Board in the middle of last year. This technology has allowed us to reshape the way we interact with lessons. The students are able to use touch gestures to interact with lessons in exciting ways to help foster a deeper engagement in the classroom. This year we have taken on a new twist with prepping for the testing season. We were introduced to the Compass Learning Odyssey website. The students engage in a lesson a day from the site. It follows the GLE's and curriculum standards so all is needed is to link the standard being worked on in class that day to the interactive lesson on the site. It allows the students to watch fun characters "teach" them the concept, they interact with the software to answer related questions in game form, and finally, the SMART Board lesson is closed with a five question quiz in a NWEA type format. The students continue to enjoy each SMART Board lesson presented on a daily basis and look forward to the learning that develops each time the board is turned on!



### Smartboard in Mrs. Catabia's Classroom

Already into the school year, Mrs. Catabia utilized the SMART board in many wonderful ways in her classroom. The SMART board is used for fun literacy based activities like building words and phonics skills. The students get to listen and read online books that support the literacy curriculum and science topics. The students' favorite activities are the engaging lessons that have been created to support our Everyday Math curriculum. Students use the interactive Calendar and activities on the SMART board to gain the important information that they fill out in their daily calendars. This activity reinforces important math skills in the first grade curriculum. According to Mrs. Catabia, "*Utilizing the SMART board in my classroom has been a fabulous experience! My students are always fascinated and engaged, and even ask to earn "extra SMART board time."*

### MATH SUPERSTARS SUMMER PROGRAM

This is the first summer that Math Superstars offered an enrichment on-line summer program. Students who wanted to participate in extra math challenges were able to download Math Superstars worksheets. Additionally, students could also participate in the regular Math Superstars challenged offered throughout the regular school year.

***Congratulations to students who participated in the Summer Math Superstars program.*** The students who completed 20 weeks:

**Grade 1:** Emily Dozios, Nicholas Allard, Addison Bowley, John Crawford, Gavin LeClair, Hadara Ochieng, Shayla Stevens, Dean Wimmer, Emily Menon, Anisa Pillot, Devyn Sakati, Allison Abbott, Alexander Blais, Rachel Haydar, Kendall Nangle, Corey Provencher, Kate Vowels, Aiden Wilder, Mallory Bushnach, Kaci Mosher, Madissen Dwelley, Noah LeClair, Nora Greene, Lucas Haydar

**Grade 2:** Ryan Carter, Marissa Dwelley, Madison Nicolosi, Keith Chafe, Molly Macklin, Robert White, Amber Gagnon, Andrew Porter, Madelynn Bowen, Lindsay Gasdia, Mitchel Greeno, Jacob Pinard, Kayla Warrington

**Grade 3:** Joshua Dolan, Rebecca Manning, Isabella Marinilli, Josiah Pillot, Annika Sinclair

**Grade 4:** Hannah Peterson, Jack Gasdia, Daniel Gamache, Jacob Gamache, Sara Leone, Jillian Nangle, Owen Sullivan, Tabitha Stevens, Tara Piantaggini, Chloe Provencher,

**Grade 5:** Ashley Blais, Dhruv Patel, Alexis Charbonneau, Shelby Scott, Surina Sakati, Emily Kleiner, Sarah Lavoie, Matthew Manning, Michaella Bowen, Abigail Dubois, Ellie Ochieng, Dean Poulin,

**Perfect Attendance for 2010- 2011** was awarded to those students with 2 days or less absence or tardy and dismissal days. (When calculating perfect attendance: 1 tardy equals 1 day absent; 1 early dismissal equals 1 day absent.):

*Hunter Attenborough, Gavin Ball, Alexander Blais, Janay Brinson, Katherine Callery, Olivia Callery, Joshua Caron, Keith Chafe, Jacob Champagne, Ariel Chapman, Morgan Connors, Matthew Cummins, Natalie Daigle, Abigail Deely, Oscar Delacruz, Irene Denyou, Alexandra Downey, Ryan Downey, Abigail Dubois, Alec Dubois, Celine Dumais, Anna Fraser, Conor Funk, Cory Geoffroy, Liam Gilligan, Kalie Hayes, Kaitlyn Hennessy, Cameron Jewett, Shawn Kelliher, Kyle Ladebauche, Mia LaFrance, Siena Lee, Jacob Leigh, Areanna Lemon, Sara Leone, Sarah Linnehan, Heidi Londono, Cameron McClure, Gage McTaggart, Ariadne Metzler, Owen Moreau, Saram Nadeem, Rachael Nunn, Brendan O'Connor, Tyler Oslizlo, Kaiden Palladino, Dhruv Patel, Hima Patel, Jeremy Remillard, James Rowe, Matthew Ryan, Austin Salisbury, Adam Scharn, Mary Cate Soucy, Sean Tanabe, Alvin Thumi, Kendyl Trott, Owen Watts, Rachael Willey, and Mitchell Wong,*

### **ROCK UNIT with MS. TORRES**

Room 303 has been busy learning about the different types of rocks during their study on rocks and minerals. To understand sedimentary rocks better, students of Miss Torres' class made "edible sedimentary rocks". Each part of this edible rock represented a different form of sediment and was layered to show the layers that are apparent in sedimentary rocks. This was a **delicious** way to reinforce how rocks are formed!

### **CAMPELL'S LABELS**

Nottingham West continuously collects Campbell Soup labels and has been very busy adding the points donated over the summer months. Thanks to all of the parents who have been sending in their labels with the UPC codes. Take a moment to check out the NWES website for a list of collectable items that count toward our growing balance.

### **Library NWES--Mrs. Brun**

Parents and Guardians are invited to come into our library and browse through our extensive selection of resource books. We have many choices in the area of Reading Support, Writing Support, Mathematics, Science, Behavior Management, Proactive Discipline, Self-Esteem Activities, Character Education and Homework Support. These books are available to be borrowed by all parents/guardians (see school website for available books): Tuesday mornings from 8:45 - 10:45 A.M. and on Friday afternoons from 1:00 - 3:00 P.M.

### **Curriculum Night**

We hosted our Curriculum Night (Open House) on Thursday, September 13 and September 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. We welcomed many parents and guardians during the evening. The evening is always informative and allows parents to learn about their child's classroom, their expectations and, of course, meet the new teacher.



Mr. Frank Rosier, from Fidelity Investments, visited Mrs. Troup and Mrs. Serian's 5th grade class to discuss The Stock Market Game. The SIFMA Foundation's Stock Market Game™ (SMG) gives students the chance to invest a hypothetical \$100,000 in an online portfolio. The students work in teams to invest this money. They think they're playing a "game", but they are actually learning economic and financial concepts that they will use for the rest of their lives. Thanks to a grant from the SIFMA Foundation, the program is offered at no cost. Mr. Rosier spent time with the students explaining his career at Fidelity Investments while also teaching the basics of stocks, bonds, commodities and mutual funds. He demonstrated various websites that students can use to determine the prices of stocks and the analytical process required when purchasing stocks. The students will be competing in The Stock Market Game until the end of April which will allow them to see the change in their portfolio over time

### **Bus Evacuation Drills**

The first bus evacuation drill was conducted on September 14. Bus evacuations occur each Fall and Spring. Students learn how to evacuate a bus safely in case of an emergency. Students are under the supervision of the bus drivers who conduct the drill and discuss bus safety with the students.

### **Music Department**

Starting in September, students could enroll in the Nottingham West Fourth and Fifth Grade Chorus enrichment-- **100** students signed up to participate! Under the direction of Kirsten Mohring, chorus students meet once a week and learn a variety of music to perform in school and evening concerts. Future performances include; A Winter Celebration, community caroling, a special performance with the B Naturals from Alvirne High School, Arts Night, and Grandparents' Day. The chorus program runs from September to May. The chorus students are very excited for our upcoming events and can't wait to show everyone that they have talent!

### **Book Buddies**

Book buddies is an enrichment activity that many teachers facilitate to build future leaders and encourage students at Nottingham West to enjoy reading. As seen with these young partners, older students love picking out a book of interest for their younger friends. Mrs. Troup's fifth grade class and Mrs. Stratton's second grade class have had a history of cooperative learning. After their first meet and greet sharing sessions many of Mrs. Troup's students returned to their own class with a new found friend. Comments like, "My book buddy is awesome!" or "Wow, we have a lot in common!" By adding the element of book buddies to a younger class's experience, it is like giving them a personal tutor. Readers are leaders!

### **Meet Alvirne's Clas of 2022**

Members of the Alvirne Class presented T-Shirts to first grade students with the message to work hard in school.

