



# Northridge Elementary PTA February Newsletter

## Principal Woodhouse is WILD about a challenge!

Dear Parents and Students,

February is an interesting and busy month for students, parents and teachers! As Robert Frost says, "The best way out is always through...". I have been impressed with how diligent students and teachers have been to consistently perform regardless of the task, and to push through. They are an example to me, and I strive to match their drive.

This month, we are engaged in an epic reading battle. Had I known the students would be such fierce competitors I may not have accepted the challenge. However, now that the game has started, I am taking every opportunity to increase my reading resume. Please continue to encourage your students to read. It is for a great cause- student learning! There isn't anything I wouldn't do to help students achieve.

Game on!

Mr. Woodhouse

## Calendar Items

### February

- 2-6 – Book Fair
- 9 – Kindergarten Registration
- 10 – Parents and Pastries
- 10 – SCC 1pm
- 9-13 – Class level Storytelling Competitions
- 16 – President's Day – No School

- 18 – Grade level Storytelling Competitions
- 20 – Executive Board Meeting – Nom. Comm. Report
- 21 – Ballroom Team Match @ UVU
- 26-27 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Clear Creek (26<sup>th</sup> @9am-27<sup>th</sup> @2pm)
- 27 – Storytelling Festival Assemblies

### March

- 2-6 – Take Your Family To School Week
- 3 – PTA General Membership Meeting @ 10 a.m.  
Nominees for 2015-2016 presented
- 5 – Northridge Night Out: Family Fun 6-7 pm, Power of Parental Involvement w/ Amanda Dixon @7pm
- 10 – SCC 1pm
- 14 – 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Knowledge Bowl
- 21 – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Knowledge Bowl
- 27 – Family Skate Night 6-9 p.m.
- 30 – Apr 3 – Safety Week
- 31 – Internet Safety Parent Night w/ Sam Farnsworth 6-8pm, General Membership Meeting, PTA Elections & PTA Board Meeting immediately following

## Please wish

- Feb. 18th - Sherri Burton
- Feb. 22nd - Lynette Christiansen
- Feb. 27th - Stephen Bunker
- Feb. 28th - Debbie Smith

## a WILD February Birthday!



## **WILD about our PTA President's Message**

Hello Northridge community. Can you believe how fast the year is going? With your help we have accomplished many things this year and there is still much more on the horizon! This newsletter is full of upcoming activities, and we hope all of them will help enrich the fun and amazing learning environment at Northridge! We continue to encourage you to join in the fun by volunteering. We love meeting you this way and have enjoyed your strengths and talents you have shared with the children at the school.

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Geyerman and Mrs. Poynter and wish them well. Mrs. Geyerman is still seen throughout the halls of Northridge, but is not in the Science classroom. The children love her and miss her. Mrs. Poynter was a fabulous music teacher and all the children loved her. She made a huge impact on each child that came through her doors. We have always appreciated their support of the PTA and will miss them in the classroom. Thank you for being great parents, supporting the activities that we provide at the school, and more importantly, supporting your children in their education at Northridge.

Co-PTA Presidents,  
Amy Fox  
amyjfox@outlook.com

Teri Allred  
luvdaoogs@comcast.net

## **Who is Northridge WILD about?**

Guess who, of our amazing Northridge faculty, is also a Utah State University Aggie Marching Band alumni. (They danced back then. This means he has some wicked dance moves.) Hint...he's also our newest faculty member.

While at Utah State, he volunteered at a school in Logan, where he realized how awesome it was to be able to work with kids and help them discover the world. It took him nearly a year of investigating the possibility of teaching before he decided to change his previous career plans and just go for it!

He had also begun to see in his other studies how vital education is to so many other parts of society, and he decided he wanted to be on the front lines making it happen. Northridge is thrilled to have him on our front lines.

When he is not with his students, planning for or thinking about the classroom, he does have a variety of hobbies. He enjoys current events, reading, music (flute, guitar, piano, singing, and other random instruments he's learning), running, learning languages, sports (mostly watching, but sometimes playing too), and exploring, trying new things. His favorite author is Charles Dickens.

He also spent seven weeks of his student teaching in a village in western Norway (after equal time in a Utah school). Afterwards, he traveled through Denmark, Finland (where he met Finnish teachers and their 4th and 5th graders at their school), Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, and Belgium on his way home. This explains his favorite drink Elderflower juice. (It's found in Europe, and sometimes available at IKEA. Teacher Appreciation, please take note. ☺)

If you don't know by now this will definitely give it away. He says he "gets totally pumped talking about astronomy, but most of that will have to wait until I have some 6th graders to teach. This year, however, I'm pretty excited to get to plant and animal genetics/adaptations."

Still stumped? It's Mr. Holladay! He was born November 14<sup>th</sup>. He believes every teacher should have an alarm clock, a computer, and an e-reader/tablet. A constant supply of pretzels would be nice too. He says he's introverted and pleads the fifth when asked who his favorite sports team is. Keep your eyes peeled, it sounds like he does not put his Box Top\$ in the BYU box.

In high school he was nicknamed Ernie but we should probably stick to Mr. Holladay. If teaching were no longer an option, he'd love to try out being a sociologist. I also asked "If you could have any person (living, dead or fictional) as a principal, who would it be?" He chose Atticus Finch.

If you have not met Mr. Holladay or missed him at Parent Teacher Conferences, please plan to attend some of the Take Your Family to School Week activities in March and welcome him (and his hissing cockroaches) to our Northridge family.

## **Let's get WILD about BoxTops**

We have a Box Top competition going on right now between the boys and girls! Get your Box Top\$ in before February 18th and put them in the boys or girls box by the office. The student's name and teacher needs to be on their bag of Box Top\$ if they would like the chance to win a prize. Winners will be announced within a few weeks after the competition ends. Thanks for clipping those Box Top\$! Every cent earned from your Box Top\$ goes directly to Northridge Elementary.

## **WILD about new Kindergarteners**

Kindergarten Registration begins Monday, February 9th. Please register your kindergartener (if you have one) that week as it determines class loads and the number of teachers for the 2015-2016 school year. If you have a neighbor with a future (2015-2016) kindergartener kiddo, or a friend looking for a fabulous school to send their kiddo to, please pass this information along. Thank you!

## **WILD about Ballroom**

Our Northridge Ballroom teams brought home the Sportsmanship Award, silver and bronze ribbons and two excellent student awards at the Alpine Team Match on January 24<sup>th</sup>.



## **We're WILD about Storytelling**

The PTA is excited to sponsor the Northridge Storytelling Festival this month! We would like to encourage as many students as possible to participate this year. Storytelling is a great skill for students to learn. It supports literacy development on many levels and builds confidence in public speaking.

Stories may be original or adapted from books, folk tales or skits. Stories need to be less than 10 minutes in length and practiced in advance of the competition (no ad lib allowed). There will be small prizes for all who win at the classroom and grade levels and ribbons or trophies for the school level participants and winners!

There will be one overall winner from K-3 and one from 4-6. The overall winners are eligible to compete at the district level for the opportunity to tell their story at the Timpanogos Storytelling Festival! Several Northridge winners have gone on to tell at the Timpanogos Festival. Let's continue to represent our fabulous Northridge community!

Classroom competitions will take place February 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>. The classroom winner(s) will then compete with their grade levels on Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. The grade level winners will present their stories in a school-wide assembly on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. The winners will be eligible to audition for the Timpanogos Storytelling Festival. Participation is optional, but we really hope many will choose to participate. What's your story?

## **We'll miss Mrs. Poynter WILDly!**

Our students have enjoyed over five years of great programs, traditions, and learning thanks to Mrs. Poynter. Mrs Poynter's Christmas, Halloween, Spring Music Programs and contagious enthusiasm leave an impression that will be hard to duplicate. She has introduced our kids to a variety of musicians, composers, and instruments. She emanates Northridge spirit and has made a difference. Thank you!



Best of luck to your lady Timberwolves and your new adventures! We will miss you!

## **Parent University**

### **We're listening!**

**On the parent survey at the beginning of the year, many parents indicated there aren't enough opportunities to understand various education standards and issues. We hope you will enjoy these wonderful opportunities!**

**3/5 Power of Parent Involvement  
w/ KLS's Amanda Dickson  
7pm**

**3/31 Internet Safety  
w/ ASD's Dave Farnsworth  
6pm**

**5/7 Sage Tests  
w/ASD's David Smith  
6pm**

**Si quieres ser más cómodo en estos eventos con un traductor, por favor contacte con nosotros en:  
northridgeelementarypta@gmail.com**

## WILD about Safety

Safety Week will be held Monday March 30th - Friday April 3rd. The students will have the opportunity to participate in different safety activities and win prizes throughout the week. We will also be holding a parent meeting one evening on Internet safety.

Northridge Safety week schedule:

Monday- Keeping safe from Bullies  
Tuesday- Staying safe online  
Wednesday- Health and Hygiene  
Thursday- Good person/bad person  
Friday- Pedestrian safety

We will have a Internet Safety Parent Night 6:30 pm- 7:00 pm Tuesday night. (General PTA Election Meeting will be immediately after the speaker.) There will be a movie for kids in the small gym.

If you are interested in helping with Safety Week please contact a member of the PTA Board or email [NorthridgeElementaryPTA@gmail.com](mailto:NorthridgeElementaryPTA@gmail.com).

## WILD about PTA Officer Nominations

The Northridge PTA Nominating Committee has begun their work contacting the nominees and selecting a willing nominee for each position on the PTA Board. They will announce their nominees at our **General PTA Membership Meeting Tuesday, March 3 at 10 AM**. The meeting will be held in the small gym at the school. The General PTA Election Meeting will be immediately following our Internet Safety Parent Night, Tuesday, March 31. We encourage you all to come and support the future PTA Leadership. Anyone interested in filling a board position that does not receive the nomination may run from the floor of the election meeting as long as they have filed their intent with PTA Secretary Beth Ann Jessee at least five days prior to the meeting.

## Nighthawks are WILD about Running Club

Are you ready to put on your running shoes? Running Club will start back the first Friday in April in conjunction with Safety Week. We invite every Nighthawk to join in the fun, health benefits, and camaraderie of Running Club.

## We're WILD about Teacher Appreciation

Teacher Appreciation Week is coming up May 4-8. If you are interested in serving on a committee to show our wonderful teachers and staff how much we appreciate them or volunteer to decorate a door, we'd love to have you! Please contact Linda Chadburn at (801) 709-8935 or [lchadburn@alpinedistrict.org](mailto:lchadburn@alpinedistrict.org).

## WILD about Reading

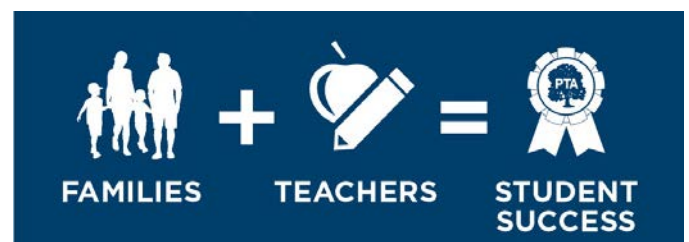
As our reading contest gets underway there are a few things we would like to emphasize. Scavenger Hunt papers can be turned in whenever they are finished. Your child's name will need to be written at the top. Thursday, February 12th & 19th & Friday, February 13th & 20th will be Treasure Box days, your child can claim their prize at the back doors as they go out to lunch recesses.

We have also added the parent challenge. Can your child read more minutes than you or even Mr. Woodhouse? Feel free to add your minutes read on the back of the slip that you are recording minutes. You can even post them on the Northridge Elementary Facebook page. Go to Facebook and "like" Northridge Elementary PTA, if you have not already. Please record minutes on the slip **OR** as a post, but not both. Once on Facebook find the guys below or click on these pirates below to find the Facebook link.



Do you need more minutes to help reach our goal? Bring a parent or guardian and a good book to read, and while you're there you can eat some muffins & have something to drink. Parents & Pastries will be held Tuesday, February 10th. AM students, please come from 7:30 - 8:00. PM students, please come from 8:45 - 9:15. Thank you so much for supporting our students and encouraging them to be excellent readers. Remember every minute read outside of school counts. That means class baggy books, PTA baggy books, & any story you find in ANY book so get reading!!

## WILD about Take Your Family To School Week



Northridge will be participating in the National PTA's Take Your Family to School Week **March 2-6, 2015** to encourage family engagement in education and help build partnerships among parents, teachers and

administrators. The theme is "Supporting Student Success" and we will celebrate with various fun activities throughout the week. This is a PTA sponsored event and we have been given a grant from the National PTA to make these activities possible. Please join us for:

### **Tuesday or Wednesday "Meet & Eat!"**

Join your child for Breakfast or Lunch. Bring your own or eat at school! To order a meal from the cafeteria, use this link: <http://bit.ly/1CBTAfz> (Signup deadline 2/20).

Contact your students' teacher for times & meet up with your student on the stage, in the Cafeteria, at their regular lunchtime.

### **Tuesday**

**General PTA Membership Meeting** will be held to hear the nominees for next year's officers and discuss the upcoming events and review all that happened in February. The meeting will be at 10 a.m. in the small gym. Please plan to attend.

### **Thursday Evening (6-7:30) Northridge Night Out!**

Come and experience Northridge in a whole new way!

**School scavenger hunt** with a drawing for multiple gift cards and event tickets for participants.

**Hands--on experiences** in our specialty classes

**Are you smarter than a Northridge Student** competition- adults vs. kids! (Watch for Mr. Woodhouse & his mustache!)

**Various classroom activities and booths** throughout the school

**Amanda Dixon** from KSL will present "The power of Parental Involvement"

**Friday – Chess Challenge!**

Challenge your student to a game of chess during the recess chess club.



Research shows that family engagement is key to students succeeding in their education. Students with involved parents are more likely to earn higher grades and pass their classes, attend school regularly, have better social skills and go on to post secondary education. Family engagement and supporting student success make up a huge part of PTA's mission. We are very excited to see these priorities combine in Northridge's first ever Take Your Family to School Week this year!

### **PTA General Membership Meetings**

**All members are encouraged to attend and participate**

**Tuesday, March 3 at 10 a.m.  
Nominees for 2015-2016 presented**

**Thursday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m.  
Election for 2015-2016 Officers**

### **Wild About Communication: We're @**

If you would like to receive this newsletter in Spanish, please contact us.

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