



HAWK HIGHLIGHTS



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- Wednesday, September 12: PTO Ice Cream Social, Information Night, and Magician Ed Pop! Come and enjoy the fun and learn about what our PTO does for our school. All are welcome!
- Friday, September 21 Autumnal Equinox Celebration (we'll need apple donations)
- Carnival! September 23. The District Elementary Schools will sponsor a collaborative carnival this year at JFK 12-4.
- Tuesday, September 25: School Photo Day
- Wednesday, October 3:
 - Early Dismissal (12:20)
 - Open House (6-7)
 - Title 1 Annual Meeting (5:30-6:00)
 - PTO Scholastic Book Fair (5:30-7:30)

Does your child need a backpack? We have many donated packs to choose from if needed. Call the office or stop in if you are interested.



HAWK HIGHLIGHTS ITEMS FROM MRS. MADDEN

“The Hawk Highlights” is our bi-monthly school newsletter that is sent home with students or sent via email.

Por favor llame a la oficina de la escuela si necesita este boletín traducido.

Here is the NEW address for our district’s homepage:

<http://www.northamptonschools.org/>

And the NEW address for our school’s site:

<http://www.northamptonschools.org/project/rk-finn-ryan-road-school/>

Click on “School News” to get the Principal’s Weekly Update and other school news! I also try hard to keep the Calendar up to date. Let me know if you have any feedback about the website.

Happy New School Year!!

It was fabulous to see all of our students back at school! It is always fun to watch old relationships rekindled and new ones begin to form. We are lucky to have such a strong and caring school community. Thank you to all the parents and families for all the good communication as we begin the school year. We appreciate everyone filling out all the necessary paperwork that gets sent home at the beginning of the school year.

SCHOOL WEB PAGE

<http://www.northamptonschools.org/project/rk-finn-ryan-road-school/>

Our school web page (at the above address...it is also linked from our district web page) includes a lot of school information and a link to our School Calendar. I also add a Principal’s Weekly Update every week that includes a few photos of the prior week’s activities at school. You can get the Principal’s Weekly Update emailed to you if you sign up for electronic communication—available in this edition of Hawk Highlights!. Please let me know if you have any feedback or ideas about the school site. I want it to be useful for families.



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IMPORTANT REMINDERS



Our district elementary schools provide adult supervision for students beginning at 8:30am. Please do not drop off students to Ryan Road School before this time. If you need before school child care, call the YMCA, which manages before and after school care right at our school beginning at 7:00 AM and ending in the afternoon at 6:00 PM. We all begin our day outdoors unless it is raining or colder than 15 degrees. Breakfast is available in the cafeteria beginning at 8:30. The bell rings to start our day at 8:50. Good attendance and arriving to school on time help children feel relaxed and be more successful at school. Some parents stay for our morning recess, which is fine (it often feels like a daily family party), but parent supervision is not required during this time. School is dismissed at 3:00.

At dismissal, Kindergarten students are dismissed from the main front entryway by teachers, first and second grade students will be dismissed by teachers from the doorway on the left, and 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will be dismissed from the doorway on the right.

SCHOOL HANDBOOK

Our Elementary School Handbook is available on our website. If you would like a hard copy, please call the school office, and we will send one to you. Please review the school handbook and return the attached Verification Form. Thank you!

PARKING

Please park and meet students at the end of the day. We have additional parking spaces by the basketball hoops so that there are enough parking spaces. Please use the designated spots in our parking lot. The drop-off spots are not for parking. Please be cautious when pulling out of parking spaces, as we have many parents who transport children, and the lot is bustling with people walking to and from the school building. Also, remember that there is **NO SMOKING** on school property. Please look at the attached **“Parking/Traffic Map”** and let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!

SCENT-FREE SCHOOL

Please remember that we are a scent-aware learning community. We have people here who have allergies to scented products, and we ask that you and your children refrain from wearing these products at school. Thanks for your cooperation.



CLASSROOM SNACKS

This is a reminder that there is a time every day in classrooms when the students have snack. We hope that families will send a healthy snack if they are able. We realize, however, that sometimes families have a hard time providing snack for their children. I buy snacks that we have in the office, and some teachers and staff help with purchasing snacks when they are able, but these donations from our staff and me are meant to support families who really need the extra support or if students occasionally forget a snack. Please send a snack to school with your child(ren) if you are able. Thanks!



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DOGS/PETS

All four of the Northampton Elementary Schools have established a district-wide rule about dogs (or other pets) on the playground and in the school. In the first case, even if dogs are on a leash, they cannot be brought onto the playground/school grounds during school hours. Many children are afraid of dogs, even if they are friendly, and we also cannot risk any of our students getting hurt by dogs. If you like to walk your dog to pick up your child(ren), please meet on the far side of the playground area.

There is also a district “Pets in School” policy – developed by the Health Services Department that states that we do not have pets visit schools. Again the reason for this is safety and respect for all, as well as allergies. There are special occasions when an animal can visit outside of the school and students can come out to see it. This always has to be arranged in advance with permission from the school nurse and the principal.

If you have questions about this, please email or check in with me. Thank you for your help and understanding.

WELCOME NEW STAFF!(You will soon be able to see all of our staff members on the school web site and on the bulletin board in our lobby, both of which are under construction.)

Elizabeth Hight: Floating Special Education Teacher. Ms. Hight worked as an ESP at Leeds school several years ago before obtaining a Special Education Teaching License. Before joining our community, she worked for 3 years in Holyoke as a Special Education Teacher.

Mary Coleman: Speech and Language Pathologist. Mary joins us after working in the Ludlow Public Schools.

Kayla Riel: Occupational Therapist. Kayla joins us with a good deal of experience in both pediatric and geriatric fieldwork. She is happy to be joining a school community.

Clara McCoy will be our full time School Psychologist. Clara was an intern with us last year on a part time basis, and we are thrilled to have her join our staff full time!

Beth Volkman: Beth will be a long-term substitute for our ELL teacher, Rachel Ellis, until early December.

Bridget Pelis has moved from the library to teaching First Grade. We are thrilled to have her continue with our school in that role.

New ESP in the Library: Jennifer Clarson. Jennifer is the mom of Maddie and Avery, who were in our 5th grade last year. Jennifer was a school librarian in NYC before the girls were born, and she has a Masters degree in Elementary Education.

Other New ESPs: Brian Peltier (with 5th grade), Jennifer Costa (with 1st grade), and Susan Lucas (with 2nd grade) are all excellent additions to our staff. In addition to their time with grade levels, they also assist with recess and lunch duties for various grades.

YEP: Ms. Liu and Ms. Keillor will be teaming up to lead YEP (Youth Enrichment Program) this year. YEP is our after school enrichment program, and you will receive information about our fall session soon.

Also, if you have heard that Mr. Kerstetter is back, he is filling in for 5th grade teacher Ms. Andrews until she recovers from surgery (soon).



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OUR SCHOOL GARDEN!

We will be continuing our partnership with School Sprouts this fall, which is made possible through NEF (Northampton Education Foundation) funding. All of our students will spend three classes in the garden in the fall and four in the spring. Gardening days will be on Fridays this year.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council usually meets on the second Wednesdays of several months throughout the school year. The responsibilities of the Council (as outlined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) are to:

- 1) Adopt educational goals for the school that are consistent with local and educational policies and statewide student performance standards
- 2) Identify the educational needs of students attending the school
- 3) Review the annual school budget
- 4) Help formulate a School Improvement Plan (aligned with the District Improvement Plan)

We need three new parent members.

If you are interested, please let Principal Sarah Madden know. We will need to approve the parent panel of members at Open House. Thank you!

Our current School Council Members are:

Sarah Madden, Principal and Co-chair
Rachel Ellis, ELL Teacher (on leave until December)
Vickie Brown, School Adjustment Counselor
Rebecca Minton, Physical Education Teacher
Stephanie Silverman, Parent

OPEN HOUSE

Our Open House will take place on **Wednesday, October 3 from 6-7**. October 3 is an early dismissal (12:20) day for students. Open House is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate learning and meet your child's teachers. We also hope all families will have their photos taken for our hallway display. The Scholastic Book Fair will take place from 5:30-7:30 in the gym. Also, we will have our Title 1 Annual Meeting (with pizza!) in the cafeteria from 5:30-6:00 with Beth Brady and Mary Beth O'Connor, our phenomenal Title 1 Teachers.

We look forward to seeing everyone for our Open House night!

HAPPY FALL!

One of our favorite traditions at Ryan Road is the way we celebrate the seasons. We will celebrate the beginning of Fall with an Autumnal Equinox celebration on Friday afternoon, September 21. It's always fun to think about things that are equal or have equality since the Autumnal Equinox and the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring) are the only two days in the year that have equal amounts of light and dark. We will end with an apple treat (thanks to parents for donating!). It should be a lovely day.



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SCHOOL PHOTOS

Tuesday, September 25 is school photo day. Call the office if you have any questions. Ordering information will be sent home with students soon.

BE A VOLUNTEER

All volunteers who work with students in the Northampton Public Schools need to be registered through our school volunteer program (VINS). If you plan to help out in your child's classroom or chaperone a field trip, you need to be a VINS volunteer. We have forms in the office, and Candy Tauscher, the coordinator, is located right here at our school off the library. She is eager to help you find just the right spot for your talents and interests. You can call her at 587-1332 or email her at vinsvolunteer@gmail.com.



Help Ryan Road School Reach You AND Save Trees!

Did you know you could get Ryan Road information and school flyers sent home electronically? Help us save resources and trees by signing up for Ryan Road emails. This has been a project of the School Council and last year we had over 60 families enroll helping us save reams of paper.

Plus you will receive an email with the weekly Principal's Update with information about the school (also found on our school website). If you are interested in getting backpack mail sent home electronically, you can call the School Office at 587-1550, email Vanessa Keillor at vkeillor@northampton-k12.us, or fill out the flyer included in this edition of the Hawk Highlights. If you signed up for the electronic mail last year, you are all set unless your email address has changed.

Look for attached information about our upcoming PTO Ice Cream Social on September 12 at 6:00!



Look for attached information about Grow Food Northampton's Red Bag Program for Ryan Road School!