



NELSON RIDGE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Megan Baldermann, Principal

Kathie Fiorillo, Assistant Principal

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

As November is behind us we continue to be very successful at Nelson Ridge. We can only be as successful as we are with all of your support. Thank you for your continued support and the importance you place on your child's education. You have supported us in so many ways:

- Your attendance at Parent/Teacher Conferences; it was good to see parents in the building
- Checking your child's homework and assignment notebook
- Encouraging them to do their best
- Encouraging them to read and study math facts

This time of year seems to be a time of reflection...as a staff we feel very fortunate to be working at Nelson Ridge and in the New Lenox School District and with your children. We are grateful and appreciate all of your support as we continue to navigate through this pandemic. We hope your holiday season will be restful, enjoyable, and safe for you and your family.



WHEN DO WE GO OUTSIDE FOR RECESS AND MASKS BREAKS?...

With the weather changing you may be asking when the students go outside for recess. All the students are expected to go outside to get fresh air and have the opportunity for physical activity.

We have indoor recess whenever the following happens:

- The temperature/wind chill is below 15 degrees.

- The snow is extremely wet.
- We are unable to clear a sufficient area of playground of snow.
- The playground is too wet.

Please be sure to have your child bring the appropriate outer wear when coming to school.





REPORTING A STUDENT ABSENT

We care about the welfare of the children at Nelson Ridge and want to ensure their safety. In order to do this, we need your cooperation. We ask that you adhere to the following regarding your child's absences from school:

- * Please call your child in absent each morning by 8:00 a.m. by calling 815-462-2870.
- * Please provide the students' name, grade, homeroom teacher, and reason for absence. If no reason is

given it will be considered an unexcused absence.

- * Calls will be accepted from parents or a responsible adult **ONLY**.
- * For longer absences, such as vacations, it is not necessary to call each day. You may write a note or e-mail the homeroom teacher **and** office letting them know of the days the student will be absent.

- * If your student has been home due to illness for three consecutive days, the school may ask for the documentation from a physician regarding the absences.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above information, please feel free to contact the office at 815-462-2870.



CHANGE IN STUDENT INFORMATION

Please remember when getting a new cell phone number, a new work number/change in job, or a new home phone number we do need **ALL** of that information in the office, We will update PowerSchool, as well as let the homeroom teacher know. It is **very** important we get this information in case your child is sick, needs to go home, or the teacher needs to contact you.

Please remember that the emergency contact should be able to reach the school within 15 minutes. If you have a change in address you **must** go to the District Office to change your information as well as provide proof of residency.





ART NEWS FROM MRS. KORDIK

Fourth graders are creating a snow globe print. A relief printmaking process is being used to create their print. They drew onto a piece of foam, leaving recessed areas on the surface. The students will ink the foam with a special roller, called a brayer. A piece of paper was laid on top and rubbed. The ink transferred to the paper creating a print of their drawing. Snow globe details will be added to create a base.

Fifth grade viewed a variety of stained glass windows including work from Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Comfort Tiffany. They also looked at the gothic windows of Notre Dame in Paris, France. After discussing the differences between the types of balance, the students created a symmetrical or asymmetrical watercolor painting. The student will choose a column from architecture, either Doric, ionic, or Corinthian, to draw around the window. The column will be shaded using drawing pencils to show the value and detail.

Sixth Grade layered and glued paper shapes to create a laminated paper sculpture. The sculpted paper shapes will create a pendant, pin or magnet. We discussed color schemes, unity and organic and geometric shapes. The layered paper becomes a small sculpture that is sanded to reveal the layers of color from underneath. The pieces will be completed with a gloss finish to enhance their color.



PRE SCHOOL SCREENINGS

New Lenox School District will be screening children from ages three to five in the areas of motor, cognitive, and speech/language development. Early childhood educators will present "game like" activities to your child which assess various development skills. All preschoolers who reside in our district are eligible to attend free of charge. This is a pre-school screening, **not** a kindergarten readiness screening.

This year the screenings will be held at Cherry Hill Elementary and Early Childhood Center.

2021-2022 Screening Dates
March 11th
May 6th

Call Cherry Hill School at 815-462-7831 to schedule an appointment.



5K RUN/WALK

FOR MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

Saturday, May 21, 2022

9am | New Lenox Commons

Featuring:

- Chip & bib 5K run/walk
- Wellness Fair
- Free fitness classes
- Youth activities
- Food trucks

Donations accepted, and sponsorships are available.

This is a non-profit event. All proceeds and donations will be evenly presented to 2 nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations: NAMI Will-Grundy and NLSD122 PTO.

TO LEARN MORE & REGISTER
visit bit.ly/5kNewLenox
or scan this image



NAMI Will-Grundy (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is based out of Joliet, IL. Its mission is to provide advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental illness can build better lives.

The NLSD 122 PTO (New Lenox School District 122 Parent/Teacher Organization) raises funds to help better the students/ education and wellness through library, music, art and physical education program enhancements, replenishing indoor and outdoor recess equipment, academic support grants and assemblies as well as teacher reimbursements and student scholarships.



*Believe
You Can*

5K RUN/WALK
FOR MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS



NLSD 122 PTO CORNER

Current events: Pie sale is currently going on and we are so excited to partner with our very own FLECKENSTEIN'S in New Lenox. Pie orders are to be in by December 3rd. Pick up will be Saturday, December 18th from 7a.m.-3:30p.m. This is a great way to support local and our wonderful school district. Please make checks payable to NLSD 122 PTO.

Pizza kits will be available for purchase starting December 1st.

BINGO is January 21st, so mark your calendars! If you know of any business' looking to donate baskets for raffle, please reach out to us on Facebook messenger or www.newlenoxpto.org.

BOWLING will be held in February. We are looking for 2 people to co-chair this event. Please reach out if you are interested.

5K walk/run for Mental Health and Wellness registration opens for Black Friday on November 26th. The event will be held on Saturday, May 21st. Registrants 12 and under will receive a t-shirt, bib and timing chip with their registration. There will also be a Wellness Fair as well with local businesses that promote mental wellness. Volunteers are needed for this event.

Chicago Wolves Hockey would like to do a fundraiser with the PTO. If you are interested in helping, this is an easy way to get involved.

****We would like to send a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all that contribute with our fundraisers. This all could not be possible without YOU!**

****If you would like to VOLUNTEER for anything please reach out to us. Being involved with the PTO is so rewarding.**

Next meeting is December 16th at 7:30 p.m. at Martino Jr. High School. Their own band/choir will be there as well. Come out, we would love to meet you!

www.newlenoxpto.org



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivaling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Hoop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily, Spotlight Challenges give users the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshot first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'selfie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking into locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like TikTok's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send Snaps directly to friends, but Stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in: strangers, bullies and groomers could use this information to engage in conversation and arrange to meet in person.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natorlinesafety



NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

NETFLIX

Netflix is a subscription-based streaming service that allows users to watch TV shows and movies on any internet-enabled device that supports the software, such as smart TVs, phones and tablets. The pandemic saw a surge in children consuming on-demand content as many families relaxed their screen-time rules. Netflix's diverse range of programming caters for all age groups – so it's important for parents to recognise the potential risks of children using the service and the measures to help their child enjoy a safe streaming experience.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Netflix produces and curates an extensive catalogue of content that can provide hours of entertainment. If they share the same user account as an adult, this can potentially lead to children accidentally viewing all manner of inappropriate content, including nudity, profanity and extreme violence. This can happen easily on shared accounts, as Netflix cannot establish who's watching.

BINGE-WATCHING

Netflix allows users to view shows and movies quickly and easily without adverts or interruptions, making excessive screen time a concern. Binge-watching has become more common during the pandemic, due to Netflix's regularly updated content and algorithms which recommend content very similar to what's previously been enjoyed. Marathon viewing sessions can lead to children staying up too late, affecting their mood and concentration the next day.

SCREEN ADDICTION

From TVs and phones to consoles and tablets, Netflix is available on almost any device with an internet connection – making it extremely difficult to manage children's screen time. The service is now adding games to its mobile app, tempting users to spend even more time on the platform. Screen addiction can distract children from important activities like schoolwork and socialising, and can impact their health by reducing their exercise and sleep.

HACKING ATTEMPTS

With millions of users worldwide, Netflix is often targeted by hackers who try to steal usernames and passwords to gain access to people's accounts. If successful, they can then steal payment details or try to sell stolen personal data on the dark web, providing other criminals with a profitable opportunity. Netflix also doesn't provide two-factor authentication, making the hackers' task that little bit easier.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Netflix's Teleparty feature became popular during lockdown periods as it allows users from different households (friends and relatives, for example) to synchronise when they watch content. It requires an access link to be sent to the people you wish to invite; the link, however, can also be distributed to people you don't know. A text chat feature enables interaction with the other users in real-time; this represents a risk to children if a stranger gains access to the Teleparty.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP ACCOUNTS SECURE

Netflix doesn't use two-factor authentication, so a strong password is vital. Your child's Netflix password should be unique (not one they've used elsewhere) and a minimum of eight characters with a mix of letters, numbers and symbols. Emphasise not to share their login details with anyone and remind them to always log out after using the app – so their account remains inaccessible, even if their device is lost or stolen.

CHECK MATURITY RATING

Netflix warns about content that includes violence, sex, profanity and nudity. These warnings form part of the show or movie's 'maturity rating'. Users can restrict age ratings to avoid children viewing age-inappropriate content. On their profile, open the Profile and Parental Control settings and choose the maturity level for the shows and movies you want to allow.

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CENSORED

CREATE A KIDS' PROFILE

Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile means your child can only access content which is suitable for children aged up to 12 years. All other content is automatically blocked. This rating can be further restricted via the child's profile settings. Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile will help to prevent your child from viewing age-inappropriate content.

HELLO
OSCAR

SET UP PROFILE PINS

Netflix account holders can lock profiles using a four-digit PIN. Doing this can prevent your child from accessing the wrong account and viewing content that isn't appropriate for their age. Try setting a PIN for each account on your Netflix app – ideally avoiding numbers that would be easily guessed, such as dates of birth. Remember not to share these PINs with anyone, including family.

SWITCH OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a show or movie concludes, Netflix's algorithms select content with similar themes that it thinks your child will enjoy next. This new content starts automatically after a 10-second countdown. Disabling this auto-play feature reduces the possibility of your child being shown something inappropriate and provides a natural break to help prevent them becoming too immersed in Netflix.

CHECK VIEWING HABITS

Netflix has tools which enable parents and carers to monitor what their child has been watching. Selecting 'Viewing Activity' in each profile's account settings displays a list of what content has been viewed (and when). This can reassure parents that their child is watching age-appropriate content and can open avenues for discussing your child's favourite shows and movies, and why they like them.

Meet Our Expert

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NOS National Online Safety
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Source: www.help.netflix.com, www.nationalonlinesafety.com, www.comingsoon.net

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DECEMBER

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1
Boys Basketball Practice
Art Club
Homework Club
Student Council

2
Boyd Basketball Game @Mokena
Homework Club
Scrapbook Club

3
Boys Basketball Practice 6:30am

4

5

6
Boys Basketball Practice
Red Ribbon Club

7
Boys Basketball Game @Bentley
Creative Coloring Club
Homework Club

8
Boys Basketball Practice
Art Club
Homework Club
Puzzle Club

9
Girls Basketball Party
Boys Basketball Game @Spencer Crossing
Homework Club

10
Boys Basketball Practice @6:30am

11

12

13
Boys Basketball Game @Home
Homework Club
Kindness Club
Red Ribbon Club

14
Boys Basketball Practice
Creative Coloring Club
Homework Club

15
Boys Basketball Practice
Art Club
Homework Club

16
Homework Club
Scrapbook Club

17

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19

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WINTER BREAK

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WINTER BREAK

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WINTER BREAK

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WINTER BREAK

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WINTER BREAK

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WINTER BREAK

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WINTER BREAK

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WINTER BREAK



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WINTER BREAK

31
WINTER BREAK



DECEMBER-2021

Nelson Ridge School Spirit Days

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Holiday Kickoff Wear your favorite holiday color	2 Mad About Plaid Wear flannel or plaid	3 Festive Fun Sock Friday Wear your favorite Holiday Socks	4
5	6 Candy Cane Week Kickoff Wear Red & White	7 Blizzard Day Wear White	8 Be Joyful- Wear something that brings you joy	9 Frosty the Snowman Wear your favorite winter hat & scarf	10 Are you RED-y for Holiday Break Wear Red or Nelson Ridge wear	11
12	13 Silent Night Wear your favorite PJs	14 Tree Toppers Wear festive headwear Antlers/ Elf Ears/ Santa Hat	15 Winter Vacation Wear Hawaiian Shirts or Vacation Wear	16 Winter Wonderland Wear your favorite ugly sweater or make one of your own	17 Character Day Dress as your favorite holiday character or holiday t-shirt. Ex: Santa, elf, reindeer, snowman, Grinch	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	