

dividends

of Learning in Northridge Schools



2020 Optimist International Essay Contest

The *Optimist International Essay Contest* is sponsored by *Optimist International* to give young people the opportunity to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live. The approach can encompass a young person's personal experience, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. In addition to developing skills for written expression, participants also have the opportunity to win a college scholarship. *Optimist International* assigns a new topic each year and provides the rules and guidelines for holding this essay contest for students. The *Northridge Optimist Club* conducts a local level of the contest in conjunction with a selected grade level class within the Northridge schools. The winning contestant's essay is then eligible to compete for scholarship awards with other student essays at the Optimist District (State) level.

Several students in **Karen Forrer's** eleventh grade English class at Northridge High School recently completed entries in the club level contest conducted by *Northridge Optimist Club*. The topic of the 2020 contest was "*Is Optimism the Key to Achieving The Dreams you Imagine?*" The essays were completed by the end of February to comply with the contest rules.

An awards luncheon had been scheduled for March 17th to honor the winners, but the school closing and "stay-at-home" order made this impossible this year. The awards have been announced online on the club website (<http://www.northridgeoptimist.org/essay-contest-2020.html>), and award materials have been mailed to the contestants.

The first place award went to **Leah Adkins**, second place to **Ashley Kessler**, and third to **Kira Ball**.

Honorable Mention awards went to **Benjamin Vo**, **Diamonique Story**, **Corey Soles**, and **Hana Barajas**.

The top three received an Olympic style medallion (gold, silver and bronze), and all contestants received a certificate for their placing. Leah's winning essay was sent on to compete statewide with other winning student essays for a chance at a \$2500 scholarship from *Optimist International*.

The members of the *Northridge Optimist Club* pass along their thanks to all of the students for their fine essays, to Northridge High School and staff for hosting the event, to the judges **Tina Rezash Rogal** and **Kristen Tomlinson** for their significant efforts, and especially to **Karen Forrer** who put in a lot of extra effort on the project. The contest would not be possible without a dedicated teacher to direct the students, and her fine efforts are much appreciated.



Pictured to the right:
Leah Adkins
1st Place

Pictured left to right:
Mrs. Forrer

Kira Ball
3rd Place

Ashley Kessler
2nd Place

Public Hearing: Community Input Welcome on CCIP Funds

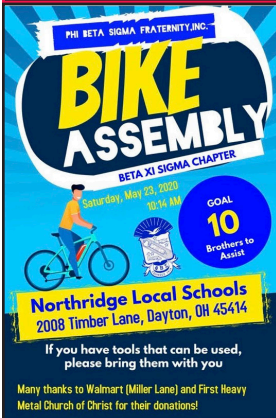
The Northridge Local Schools receive funds through the Ohio Department of Education via the Consolidated Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP). Monies received through IDEA-R are used to provide special education services for students with identified disabilities. Title I funds are used to provide reading and early literacy interventions to qualified students while Title II funds are used for targeted professional development, which must align with goals outlined in the CCIP.

Public input regarding the use of these funds for the upcoming school year is welcome. Public input can be given at a meeting on July 13th at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Education office, 2008 Timber Lane, Dayton, Ohio 45414. Comments may also be sent to Superintendent **Dave Jackson** at the same address.



Northridge Community NEWS

Bicycles for Second Graders



Second grade teacher **Steven Mills** and his fraternity came together with fellow second grade teacher **Trisha Baxter** and Elementary K-2 Principal **Todd Petty** to build 52 bicycles. Mr. Mills wrote a grant to **Walmart** to help with the cost of the bikes. Special thank you to Pastor **Brian Smith** of *The First Heavy Metal Church* for their

donation that helped to secure these bikes as a surprise for Mr. Mills and Mrs. Baxter's second grade class as well!



Polar Bear Book Swap



Special thanks to *Polar Bear Book Swap* for donating books to each PK-5 student for the first round of blizzard bag work. *Polar Bear Book Swap* is a community partner that does so much for the Northridge Local Schools' students to promote the love of reading.

Need Help with Food This Summer?

The Polar Bear Cafe (PBC) is pleased to offer nutritional support to children ages 1-18 this summer. The USDA waived many rules in the *Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)* during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis allowing the PBC to provide bulk meals for pickup. Each child will receive 5 breakfast meals and 5 lunch meals that meet or exceed the SFSP meal pattern requirements.

Registration is required! Visit www.PolarBearCafe.org to register online or stop by the school to complete a paper copy. Each family will be given a number tag issued to your household and must be displayed at pickup.

Pickup Details - Tuesdays ONLY from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (May arrive no earlier than 2:30 p.m. to get in line.) June 16, 2020 - August 18, 2020

An adult may pick up meals for all children in the household; children are not required to be present. Plan to get foods that require refrigeration, needing to be safely stored as soon as possible after pickup.

National Honor Society

Northridge Local Schools Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted new members. Students that were chosen for induction held a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher and consistently demonstrate scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship and character inside and outside of the school.

National Honor Society inductees received a certificate and a pin. While the requirements to be a part of this academic society are rigorous, it is the goal to retain inductees throughout their high school careers. The National Honor Society promotes community awareness by giving back through service projects. Members of the National Honor Society will participate in several service projects next year.

This year's National Honor Society Inductees: **Roger Mackey, Kim Ahuatl, Parker Banks, Jeremiah Carter, Savannah Couch, Brylee Dillon, Destiny Glenn, Riley Holmes, Harper Huling, Autumn Messer, Clifford Nelson, Alyssa Picklesimer, Matthew Quesnell, Kiersten Robards, Adam Shinlever, and Bayleigh Tipton.**

Freedom School and STEM School have been cancelled this summer due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Polar Bear Cafe

Northridge **HEADS UP** Core Values have been put to the test during the pandemic crisis.

- **H**onest, Consistent and Appropriate Communication
- **E**ducation as our Calling
- **A**lways Improving
- **D**istrict is Family
- **S**tudent Success
- **U**nderstand and Meet Legitimate Needs
- **P**ersonal Responsibility and Behavioral Integrity



Many students, families, education professionals, and community members have found strength and direction to navigate the channels of constant change and uncertainty. The Polar Bear Cafe team quickly shifted gears to provide meals during the school closure in an unprecedented

manner, but they did not do it alone. Volunteers were plentiful!

Familiar faces from school classrooms and offices were seen in the kitchen to help assemble meals and make deliveries to hungry polar bears. NHS Principal **David White**, NHS Asst. Principal **Tony Hiser**, teachers **Christie Healy**, **Rose Jepson**, **Deb Smith**, **Chelsea Smith**, **Taite Ackley**, **Sheena Burns**, **Brittany Pritchett**, Counselor **Emily Stewart**, Instructional Asst. **Nicholle Fiore**, and community member **Tina Fiore**, just to name a few. But there were so many more, and we couldn't have gotten it all done without you!



Thanks to *First Heavy Metal Church of Christ*, *New City Church*, the Northridge transportation team and supervisor, distribution was excellent!



Children ages 1-18 could go to one of over 20 stops throughout the community to pick up a nutritious lunch and breakfast. Service ran weekdays during the school closure beginning March 17th, until the last scheduled day of school, June 12th. A small army of faithful

volunteers made sure Northridge students who could not get to a scheduled stop were taken care of as well. Thank you **Tina and Nicholle Fiore**, **Tosha**, **Cheyenne**, and **Courtney Smith** for making home deliveries week after week.

Others made sure minds were being fed too. *Project READ* donated books for children of all ages, even the tiniest polar bear cubs. Thanks to Curriculum Coordinator **Laura Inkrott** and Testing Coordinator **Kim Harnett** for distributing the books at each of the meal bus stops.



EVENTS

Calendar

June 5

Blizzard Bag Drop-Off/Pick-Up

2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

K-5 in Back of Building
at Parent Pickup Area

6-12 in Front of Building
at Bus Loop

June 12

Last Day of School for Students

June 13 - 11:00 a.m.

Release of Graduation Video Link

June 15 - 6:00 p.m.

Class of 2020 Parade of Cars
(through community)

June 15 - 8:00 p.m.

Invitation Only

Graduation Event
at the Dixie Drive In

June 29 - 5:30 p.m.

Board of Education Meeting

Northridge Bear Boosters 13th Annual Golf Scramble

In Memory of Jim Scott

Dear Northridge Community,

I would first like to thank all of you for your continued support of the Northridge student-athletes. During the past 12 years the Bear Boosters and community have been able to raise more than \$30,000 to support athletes, sports teams, and coaches.

*However, under the current circumstances with the pandemic and the closure of Kittyhawk Golf Center, the Northridge Bear Booster golf outing, in memory of **Jim Scott**, will be cancelled this year. It is our full intention to reinvent this collaboration during the summer of 2021, so please stay tuned for additional information!*


*On behalf of the Northridge Bear Boosters,
Tony Hiser*

COVID-19 Won't Stop Our Improvements

For many around the world, learning something new and improving skills has been a focal point during these times. On top of planning distance-learning lessons, virtual meetings, and staying in contact with students and families, our Northridge staff has continued their professional learning to sharpen their skills as well. Teachers are learning new strategies to engage their learners through Google Classroom. Teachers in grades K-5 attended a virtual professional development with **Lisa Combs** about social emotional learning and how to embed that into instruction.

Teachers are participating in book studies to meet the needs of gifted learners as well. Staff members are completing self-paced webinars on many topics, including specific content areas, teacher self-care, and literacy. In the midst of uncertainty, there is something certain—we will all come back better!

This time has also been spent planning for the future. Kindergarten readiness is crucial to the rest of a child's academic journey. To better meet the needs of our youngest learners, the district has been working with Preschool Promise and the University of

Dayton. Through our collaboration, we have created a survey that will be going out to families of our current preschool students and kindergarteners. Topics of the surveys include ways we can support children birth to age 3, what school schedule works best for families of preschoolers, and why parents did/did not send their child to preschool. Those that complete the survey will be entered into a drawing for gift cards. Families of our current preschool and kindergarten students,  be on the lookout for the link to the survey.

2020-2021 School Calendar

August 17	First Day for Staff	January 15	Staff Development - No School
August 18-21	Staff Development - No School	January 18	Martin Luther King Day - No School
August 24	First Day for Students	February 12	Staff Development - No School
September 7	Labor Day - No School	February 15	President's Day - No School
October 22	End of 1st Quarter	March 22	End of 3rd Quarter
October 23	Staff Development - No School	March 26	Staff Development - No School
November 3	Staff Development - No School	March 29-Apr 2	Spring Break - No School
November 20	Staff Development - No School	May 28	End of 2nd Semester - Last Day of School - Early Release for students
November 23	Compensation Day for Fall Conferences - No School	May 31	Memorial Day - No School
November 24-27	Thanksgiving Break - No School	June 1	Compensation Day for Spring Conferences
December 18	Staff Development - No School		
Dec. 21-Jan. 1	Winter Break - No School		
January 14	End of 1st Semester		

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Northridge Board of Education
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