

BEYOND THE STRIPES



June 2018

Welcome to *Beyond the Stripes*, a quarterly e-newsletter produced by the North Allegheny School District. *Beyond the Stripes* highlights District initiatives and features useful information to help NA Tiger families to succeed beyond the classroom.

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Avoiding Tick Bites

Over the last five years, Pennsylvania ranked first for the most reported cases in the U.S. for Lyme Disease. Lyme Disease is a bacterial infection transmitted to humans primarily through the bites of infected deer ticks. Many people are not aware when they've been bitten by a tick and may not make a connection when they begin to experience symptoms.

Symptoms include fever, headache, general achiness, swollen glands, fatigue and a possible bulls-eye rash, and symptoms may not appear for weeks, months, or even years after a tick bite. Children and youth are the most susceptible to Lyme Disease, and initial symptoms may go unrecognized and be considered normal childhood illnesses. By the time it is clear there is something wrong, the symptoms are often neurocognitive, usually showing up with behavior changes, changes in performance at school, and psychiatric issues.

Prevention is key to avoiding a tick bite. Here are a few tips you can follow this summer to make sure everyone in your family stays happy and healthy.

- Avoid exposure in wooded, overgrown areas, and stay on marked trails when hiking. Avoid going into the tall grass and brush if you can. Sports and athletic fields with well-groomed grass are safer.

- Wear protective clothing such as long sleeves, long pants tucked into socks, and closed toe shoes.
- Use insect repellent such as DEET on the body or Permethrin on clothes. Be sure to review safety information and assess the risks/benefits of these products, as many doctors consider them unsafe for use on children, especially those under the age of 3. Consult your doctor if you're hesitant of the products.
- Perform tick checks as soon as you come in from outside. Important areas to check for ticks include behind the knees, under the armpits, in the scalp, along the waistline, and the back. Parents/guardians should inspect their children daily for ticks.
- Shower daily.

The simplest way to protect your child is to remove a tick before it has a chance to transmit disease-causing pathogens. There are several tick removal devices on the market, but a plain set of fine-tipped tweezers works very well.

How to remove a tick:

1. Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick as this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers.
3. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
4. Never crush a tick with your fingers. Dispose of a live tick by putting it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet.

For further information, please go to [PALyme Resource Network](#) or the [Centers for Disease Control](#).



End of the Year Bus Behavior for Students and Parents/Guardians

As we approach the end of the school year, the District would like to remind all parents and guardians of school bus and bus stop behavior and safety guidelines.

- While on the bus, students must remain in their seats. Throwing items on the bus is prohibited, and students are not permitted to throw or drop anything out of a bus window.
- Students are prohibited from having water guns, water balloons, silly string, and similar items on the bus.
- Parents and guardians should refrain from bringing or using water guns, garden hoses, or water balloons at the bus stop.
- Parents and guardians should also refrain from shooting silly string, slime or other substances toward or on the bus as their student exits.

In recent years North Allegheny has had buses covered in silly string, slime and other substances, which requires significant cleaning and can damage the bus. Bus drivers have also been hit with water from hoses and water guns, which creates a safety hazard. While the students' school year may have ended once they stepped off the bus, the bus drivers still need to complete their bus runs, and a post trip and end of the year inspection later that evening. Completing their work after being hit with a water hose or silly string can make for an unsafe and unpleasant situation.

We understand that the end of the school year and beginning of summer is an exciting time for the community, but please remember to remain safe and courteous on the bus and at the

bus stop. Our bus drivers work hard all year to ensure our students get to and from school safely, so don't forget to thank them for their hard work!



NORTH ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT SAFETY & SECURITY

School Safety Starts at Home: Securing Weapons in the Household

During the School Safety Information Night on March 5, 2018, our local law enforcement partners stressed the importance of weapon safety and security at home. A few things parents and guardians should consider if there are weapons located in the household:

- Never leave weapons unattended for any reason. Use a safe, lockbox, or other secure location to store your weapons away from children. Hide the keys to locked locations. Safety is a habit. Free safety kits from Project ChildSafe are available at local police agencies in Allegheny County. [Find a location close to you.](#)
- According to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC's [Home Safety Handbook](#), BB guns can also cause injury and death, and should not be considered toys.
- Ask your neighbors, friends, and family if they have weapons in their homes before your child visits.
- If you have ammunition in your household, lock it in a separate location from your weapons.
- Talk with your children and explain to them the dangers associated with the misuse of weapons. [Check out these conversation tips](#) from Project ChildSafe.

Let's all work together to ensure our children and communities remain safe. Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and support.



Technology Services Summer Update

Technology Services wishes all of our students and parents/guardians a safe and happy summer! This summer, Technology Services will be hard at work getting ready for the upcoming school year.

TigerID

All students will receive a communication over the summer informing them of a change to their UserID and District email account. This change is part of the adoption of a new TigerID platform that will vastly simplify account management for students and staff. We anticipate that this change will occur in mid-July. An email will be sent to all families with details.

FOCUS 2020

Students in first through fifth grade will be receiving an iPad in an in-school deployment during the first week of school. Ninth grade laptop deployment is scheduled during the school day on the first day of school. That's a lot of devices to prepare, organize and deploy! Two Technology Parent Information Nights will be in the school calendar for our families to learn about the technology that is part of FOCUS 2020.

Some grade levels have been asked to take home their devices over the summer. Internet access will be filtered on the devices over the summer. Should you encounter any **technical difficulties** over the summer, our Technology Services Department is ready to help you.

Service tickets can be submitted by sending an email to servicedesk@northallegheeny.org. Technical support may be needed if the iPad is damaged, if it cannot connect to WiFi, or if applications are not functioning.



Safety Tips for the Summer

Did you know that June is National Safety Month? North Allegheny wants to ensure that all students stay safe over the summer months. Here are a few tips that students and families can do to stay safe and prevent injuries:

- Set a curfew and give your child rules to follow.
- Ask questions and stay in contact with your child while they are out.
- Know who your teenager is in the car with and who is driving.
- Discuss with your teenager the dangers of drinking, drinking and driving, and other dangerous behaviors.
- Supervise children when in or around water.
- Check to make sure that playground equipment is safe, soft, and well-maintained. Slides can often cause burns on hot, sunny days.
- Use SPF to avoid sunburn.
- Keep an eye on your child's social media activity.

Enjoy the summer, stay safe and best of luck to the Class of 2018.

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