Happy Halloween!

Upcoming events
November 2 – Standard Time Begins
November 3 & 4 – Elementary Conference Days
November 12 – DAA Ceremony and School Board Work Session @ CAO Bd. Rm. – 7pm
November 19 – School Board Regular Meeting @ CAO Bd. Rm. – 7pm

NA students in elementary schools celebrated Halloween in their costumes this afternoon in advance of neighborhood trick or treating in most communities. Teachers, parents, and children of all ages found delight in the creativity and freedom of being someone or something else for a short time.

Giggles and squeals filled the halls of the schools as goblins and superheroes and princesses and monsters joyfully met up with one another to join in the all-school parades.

We wish all of our NA families a happy and safe Halloween. And remember – this is an extra-long weekend. There are no classes for students on Monday or Tuesday, November 3 and 4 due to in-service days for teachers. Isn’t that a treat?
NASH Students Excel at CalcuSolve Competition

Congratulations to the NASH teams for a fantastic performance at the Allegheny County CalcuSolve competition for grades 11 and 12! A team consisting of Joe Caulkins, Eric Mi, Jack Mo, and Bobby Upton earned second place, while Songela Chen, James McGaa, Gabe Ren, and Gabe Xu earned third place. Andrew Xu earned an honorable mention overall in the competition.

The CalcuSolve Bowl is a mathematical contest where students solve individual and team mathematical problems in a timed competition. It is sponsored by the II – VI Foundation, and held through the Allegheny County Intermediate Unit. The event was held at Duquesne University on Friday, October 10, 2014 where 50 teams of students in grades 11 and 12 from all over Allegheny County competed.

NA’s Technology and Engineering Department Earns Award

The NASD Technology and Engineering Department was recently recognized at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit as “Champions of Change” as part of Connected Educator Month. This award is given to educators and leaders who use blended learning, professional development and learning as a motivator to inspire 21st Century skills for students.

The Technology and Engineering Department here at NA has embraced change and STEM programming and recently implemented a new robotics and gaming curriculum. Congratulations to the technology and engineering team!
NASH Speech & Debate Program Lauded

The NA Senior High School Speech & Debate Program recently earned significant recognition by the National Speech & Debate Association. They were named #9 out of more than 3,000 schools nationwide for the 2013-2014 academic year.

The National Speech & Debate Association is the honor society for middle and high school speech and debate. Each year they publish a list of ‘Top 100 Schools’ in the nation recognized for their accomplishments in Speech and Debate. Members earn points and degrees through the honor society, based on competitive and service-related activities, ranging from the Degree of Merit with 25 or more points to the Degree of Premier Distinction with 1,500 or more points.

The NASH School Speech and Debate chapter achieved 600 or more degrees last year, placing it among the top 0.07% of schools nationwide and earned membership in the Association’s prestigious Pinnacle Society. This milestone is remarkable because it demonstrates outstanding commitment to teaching students essential life skills including communication, research, listening, writing, and organization. The coach is Ms. Sharon Volpe.

“These students and coaches have demonstrated outstanding participation and achievement in speech and debate activities,” stated Executive Director J. Scott Wunn. “We are pleased to honor them for their hard work and dedication, and wish them continued success in the coming season.” Recipient schools are published in Rostrum, the national magazine of high school speech and debate.

CMS Team Excels at English Festival

Last May, the Carson Middle School Library sponsored ten teams of 7th and 8th grade students to compete in the annual English Festival held by the Western Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of English at Duquesne University.

Murphy McAndrews, Selin Cetin, Claire Landis, Tess Hancock, and Emily Wilson, current ninth-grade students at NAI, earned a Trifecta, which is a first place achievement in three categories, and placed second for overall team points. The team was awarded $314 and was recently recognized at an awards brunch in September.

The Festival consists of four competitive events that focus on six required texts. Each event tests the team’s knowledge of characters, plot development, insight, and trivia. A total of 45 schools in the region competed in this event.

Howard Hanna Real Estate Services and the North Allegheny Foundation Present:

Saturday
December 6, 2014
11am – 4pm

A bus tour of six beautifully decorated homes within the North Allegheny School District.

$25 in advance
$30 day of Tour

Proceeds Benefit
North Allegheny School District and Howard Hanna’s Children’s Hospital Free Care Fund

For tickets and more, visit: www.northallegheny.org/foundation

You are invited to attend the
Superintendent’s Community Coffee

December 11, 2014
@ McKnight Elementary School 9:30am

• Meet District Administrators
• Hear an overview of key initiatives for parents
• Q & A will follow the presentation
• All NASH students who may be interested in this presentation are welcome to attend

www.northallegheny.org

Cinderella Fitzgerald once led the perfect life, until her father lost everything when the stock market crashed. Through all of the romantic pitfalls and twists, Cinderella finally learns that rather than depend on magic and fairy godmothers it’s better to make your own happiness.

Saturday, November 1, 2pm & 7pm
Tickets $6 at the door

For more information, call 412-369-5530
NAI Auditorium • 350 Cumberland Road • Pittsburgh, PA. 15237
NA Hosts 2014 School Bus Safety Awards Luncheon

The North Allegheny School District hosted the School Bus Safety Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at Marshall Elementary School. This luncheon honored District winners in PennDOT’s 2014 School Bus Safety Poster Contest. The theme of this year’s contest was “Be Smart – Be Seen, I wait in a safe place!” Tarun Kumar and Owen Jin were selected District Finalists and their posters were entered in the State-Level competition.

We are proud to announce that for the second year, Franklin Elementary student Tarun Kumar won First Place Division I in the competition! As a first place winner in the state, his entry will now be forwarded to a national competition to be judged next month.

District winners:

Bradford Woods Elementary School

Division I: 1st Isabel Curren
2nd Lydia Jones
3rd Tina Wisniewski
Division II: 1st Rebecca Thompson
2nd Emily Thompson
3rd Reagan Means

Franklin Elementary School

Division I: 1st Tarun Kumar (District Finalist)
2nd Katherine Hu
3rd Mahitha Bhonagiri
Division II: 1st Marissa Scheller
2nd Amogh Paruvelli
3rd Lydia Cwalina

Hosack Elementary School

Division I: 1st Thomas Ceraso
2nd Julia Fuchs
3rd Sam Lopuszynski
Division II: 1st Guinevieve Beecher
2nd Meredith Blough
3rd Katie Kantz

Ingomar Elementary School

Division I: 1st Hailey Miller
2nd Ellen Milcoff
3rd Kaitlyn Hetherington

Marshall Elementary School

Division I: 1st Michael Chalifoux
2nd Keely McMahon Regan
3rd Anoushka Amit
Division II: 1st Tejal Dahake
2nd Trinity Prusak
3rd Samhita Vasudevan

McKnight Elementary School

Division I: 1st Courtney Schmidt
2nd Jessie Lee
3rd Abbey Lang
Division II: 1st Owen Jin (District Finalist)
2nd Yunshu Li
3rd Karis Lu

Peebles Elementary School

Division I: 1st Ayah Sabil
2nd Lydia Haller
3rd Sierra Wise
Division II: 1st Anthony Puthenpurackal
2nd Rachael Johns
3rd Jackson Stone

Would you like to advertise in Tiger News?
To place your ad, call 412-369-5445

www.northallegheny.org
Entries will be accepted between November 10 and December 5, 2014 in any school office. Submissions must address the theme: “Each one of us is wonderful; together we are diverse and strong. Help make NA a place where everyone knows they belong.” Students may choose to express their thoughts on this concept using any written form – such as poetry, personal narrative, play, or essay – or via music, the visual arts, multi-media or photography.

Winners will be notified and honored by the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of School Directors at an awards reception on March 25, 2015. Each winning student will receive prizes from the Marcia Martin Unity/Diversity Committee, the Superintendent of Schools, and Barnes & Noble Booksellers. A second reception will be hosted by Barnes & Noble at their store located in Cranberry Township where all winning entries will be displayed.

For more information, contact Mrs. Amanda Mathieson, Principal at Hosack Elementary and Committee Chairperson, at 412-366-9664.
October 2014

Franklin Park Ranked One of the Nation’s Best Suburbs

Business Insider recently ranked Franklin Park as the 38th best suburb in the United States and the best in Pennsylvania in their “The 50 Best Suburbs In America” list. One of the factors in this ranking included a perfect 10/10 score for public school ratings in Franklin Park from GreatSchools.org. Other elements considered in this ranking include poverty and crime rates, average commute times, median household income, and a measure of housing affordability.

2014 Homecoming Celebration Begins a New Tradition!

The extra efforts from the NASH Student Council helped make 2014 Homecoming a huge success. Community members lined the sidewalk the entire length of the Senior High School building to watch as the Homecoming Court was presented and student-made floats representing this year’s theme ‘The Roaring Twenties ’ went by. The addition of a Bounce House and Football Toss Game this year raised $200 for North Hills Community Outreach. Those in attendance also appreciated the new options provided by the addition of Food Trucks. One of the NASH Student Council Co-Advisors, Mrs. Frances Hawbaker reported that “There was a very good turnout for the parade….it had a great community atmosphere!”

Homecoming King and Queen, Ryan Muskal and Casey Mrazik, were crowned during halftime and the NA Tigers football team topped the evening with a victory over Fox Chapel, defeating them with a final score of 31–21.

In this hilarious comedy, two English Shakespearean actors, Jack and Leo, find themselves so down on their luck that they are performing “Scenes from Shakespeare” on the Moose Lodge circuit in the Amish country of Pennsylvania. When they hear that an old lady in York, PA is about to die and leave her fortune to her two long lost English nephews, they resolve to pass themselves off as her beloved relatives and get the cash. The trouble is, when they get to York, they find out that the relatives aren’t nephews, but nieces! In the same tenor as the classic “Some Like It Hot”, our two actors now turned con men, head to York for an easy score. The results, however, prove to be anything but easy! In the end, the boys earn riches money can’t buy!

Reserve seating: $10 adults, $7 students
All tickets $10 at the door.

Box office hours beginning October 28th
Tuesdays & Fridays 10am – 1pm
Thursdays 12 – 3pm
and 30 minutes prior to each show

Please call 724-934-7288 during box office hours for more information.
NA Schools Rally Against Drugs & Alcohol

NA elementary schools participated in National Drug and Alcohol Prevention Week on October 20th through October 24th. In addition to participating in a variety of lessons and activities promoting good decision-making, students and staff members wore clothing to match building-wide theme days such as “Go Green. Don’t Let Drugs and Alcohol Pollute Your Life” and “Exercise Your Right to be Drug and Alcohol Free.”

NA Schools are also participating in Red Ribbon Drug & Alcohol Prevention Week from October 23rd through October 31st. Middle and high schools have planned a variety of drug and alcohol prevention activities, such as building-wide theme days, assemblies, special announcements, and a NASH “pledge wall” in the cafeteria.

IMS students are wearing red – “Wear red, keep drugs and alcohol out of your head.”

McKnight Shining Knights are Focused on Good Works and Kindness

Student members of the McKnight Shining Knights, a volunteer service group sponsored by the McKnight Elementary PFA, adopted 39 “grandfriends” at Vincentian Home as part of their “Adopt a Grandfriend” program. Each month, the students write letters, draw pictures, and make crafts for their assigned residents at Vincentian. The grandfriends also then write back to the students. In December, the group will be taking a field trip after school to visit their grandfriends and sing Christmas carols.

The Shining Knights also raised $450 to aid in the fight for childhood cancer research by raising funds through a lemonade stand. Additionally, students created 23 no-sew fleece blankets that were donated to Children’s Hospital for pediatric cancer patients.

In the coming months, students in the Shining Knights will be donating workbooks, puzzles, and activity-type books to benefit the children who spend the holidays at Hearth Homes as part of their “Holidays for Hearth” project and also collecting cans of soup for the NHCO.

Consisting of 98 student members and 40 parent volunteers and committee members, the McKnight Shining Knights plans a new project for students each month. The mission of the group is to build character, empathy, and compassion in both homes and schools through service related work.
NA Student Shines in Prestigious STEM Competition

NAI 9th grade student Nikhil Behari earned a STEM Award in the prestigious Broadcom MASTERS competition, a five-day STEM event in Washington, D.C. Nikhil, an IMS student at the time of the competition, placed second in the technology category with his project titled “Latencies, Haptics, & Passwords,” which worked to increase the security of password-protected information online.

Nikhil was selected to participate in this event as a result of his outstanding performance in the Carnegie Science Center’s Pittsburgh Regional Science & Engineering Fair earlier this year. Winners of this event were named on October 28th in Washington, D.C., after completion of a rigorous competition that tests their abilities in STEM subjects, teamwork and collaboration. Finalists were selected by a panel of distinguished scientists and engineers from over 2,000 applicants representing 46 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

As the second place winner in the technology category, Nikhil earned $2,500 towards a STEM summer camp program and an iPad.

We are Redesigning the NASD Website – Please Help Us!

During the 2014–2015 school year, the North Allegheny School District is gathering input to help guide a website redesign project. The feedback of our regular users will be very important to us in making decisions about how to reorganize our existing content through this project to make information more accessible, and what new content areas we might consider developing in the future.

Please help us make this a successful project by submitting your feedback via this electronic survey. Your input will be valued and appreciated.

We Need to Keep in Touch!

Please Update Your Contact Information

The North Allegheny School District utilizes two tools for contacting parents/guardians with important information – the Tyler Student Data Portal and SchoolMessenger.

1 Parent/guardian emails are used from the Student Data Portal to send information and updates to families throughout the school year. This includes important dates, key upcoming events, school notices, elementary Thursday E-Blasts, and letters from our principals and administration. Please ensure that your email information is accurate and updated in the Student Data Portal. This information may be easily updated by contacting the main office of the school where your child attends.

2 SchoolMessenger is the first and primary communication vehicle used by the District in the event of any emergency. All students and employees are asked to have a personal account in the SchoolMessenger system. SchoolMessenger is also used to notify parents regarding school closings, delays, significant health-related issues, and other critical issues. SchoolMessenger offers the option of parent notification via up to three prioritized phone numbers, an email alert, and/or a text alert. Parents must set up their own SchoolMessenger accounts and establish their preferences. They must also update this information when/if it changes. SchoolMessenger is NOT linked to the Student Data Portal. Parents can register for SchoolMessenger, update contact information, and configure preferences and settings by visiting the SchoolMessenger website. For more information, please click here.