Halloween trick or treating is occurring a little late this year…but enjoy a safe and happy celebration!

Due to concerns over the potential impact of the storm that visited our region this week, Halloween trick or treating has been rescheduled for Saturday, November 3 in all of the communities in which North Allegheny students reside. School parties for elementary students have been postponed until Friday, November 2. Our weather experts anticipate the rain and wind will subside by then – so children of all ages will be able to enjoy this popular tradition.

We all know that Halloween is an exciting holiday for children, but it is also a time when extra safety precautions should be taken to ensure that every child has an experience that starts and ends with a smile! Following are some safety recommendations from Safe Kids USA for parents to consider.

Surveys tell us that only about 1/3 of parents take time to talk to their children about safety on Halloween, but more than twice as many parents say they have fears about their child’s safety as they go out to trick or treat. As is the case with most situations, a little advance planning and communication about this issue can potentially make a big difference.

All of the NA elementary schools will have Halloween parades on Friday, November 2. Students and staff will circle the school campuses in their Halloween costumes. Parents and friends are invited to enjoy the happy spectacle of goblins, princesses, super heroes, ballerinas, ghouls and creatures of all kinds marching together.

Come to pick your favorites and marvel at the creativity of our students!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bradford Woods Elementary (Parade Only)</td>
<td>2:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin Elementary (Parade Only)</td>
<td>2:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hosack Elementary</td>
<td>2:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ingomar Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mcknight Elementary</td>
<td>1:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marshall Elementary (Parade Only)</td>
<td>2:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peebles Elementary</td>
<td>1:45pm</td>
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</tbody>
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Children should:

- trick-or-treat with an adult until they are at least age 12.
- only trick-or-treat in familiar areas that are well lit.
- cross streets at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks when they are available.
- walk on sidewalks or paths; if there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
- never dart out into the street or cross in between parked cars.
- wear light-colored, flame-retardant costumes decorated with reflective tape or stickers.
- wear well-fitting, sturdy shoes to prevent trips and falls.
- carry a flashlight or glow stick to make sure drivers can see them.
- wear face paint and makeup instead of a mask that may restrict their ability to see clearly.
Red Ribbon Week

Across NA, students celebrated Red Ribbon Week October 22 – 26 by participating in a variety of creative activities designed to promote good decision-making. The focus of this national effort is to help students understand they are responsible for making healthy choices in life – and that choosing to be alcohol, tobacco and drug-free is one of the best choices they can make.

Many schools had themes each day of the week to emphasize the message of the Red Ribbon campaign. For example:

- Monday was “Neon Spirit Day” at Marshall Middle School. Students and staff demonstrated they were ‘too bright to do drugs’!
- Tuesday was “Sock It to Drugs” day at Carson Middle School. Students and staff members wore crazy socks to show support for the message of the week.
- On Wednesday, students and staff at Ingomar Middle School wore sweat suits and warm up gear to reinforce the theme “Exercise Your Right to Say No to Drugs and Alcohol.”
- On Thursday, everyone was challenged to “Be a Hero, Live Drug Free” on ‘Wear Red, White and Blue Day.’
- On Friday, the theme at Franklin Elementary School was “Stay in the Game and Play Drug Free,” so everyone could wear their favorite team jersey.

Students were given a number of important facts about the potential impact of drug and alcohol use on their lives, as well as strategies for decision-making, dealing with peer-pressure, and getting help when someone is struggling with drug or alcohol issues.

Parents are a big part of the equation when it comes to the decisions children make with regard to drug and alcohol involvement. There is no single factor that is more important to a child than a parent’s influence on this matter. These are some ways in which you can help your child make good decisions:

- Tell your child the facts about alcohol, tobacco, and drug use and abuse.
- Store medications securely in your home. Teach your child that medication should only be taken under the direction of a trusted adult, such as a doctor, nurse or parent.
- Be a good role model for your child by rejecting drugs and keeping healthy habits in your everyday life. If you or someone in your family has a drug or alcohol problem, seek help.
- Keep lines of communication open with your child.
- Engage your child in role-playing activities so he/she is better prepared to resist alcohol, tobacco, and drugs when they are offered.
- Encourage your child to enjoy a variety of healthy activities. Help build your child’s self-esteem by offering opportunities for him/her to be successful at some activity or endeavor he/she enjoys.

Red Ribbon Week only comes around once a year, but our focus on keeping students free of drug and alcohol involvement is a priority every day. Please partner with us in this important work to protect every child’s health and well-being.
Miss Pennsylvania Visits McKnight

The children in second grade and third grade at McKnight Elementary School recently had a special visitor who delivered an important message about the importance of preventing bullying and encouraging respect among friends.

Jessica Rood, Miss Pennsylvania Collegiate America 2013, spent time reading to those second and third graders on October 19. Ms. Rood is currently a student at LaRoche College and was crowned Miss Pennsylvania in August. She will go on to represent Pennsylvania at the national Miss Collegiate America Pageant in July in Orlando.

Being Miss Pennsylvania and going to college at the same time keeps Ms. Rood on the move. She is a sophomore marketing major and has participated in a number of charity events as part of her responsibilities as a pageant winner. However, she has shown a commitment to the pageant platform: The Crown C.A.R.E.S. (Creating A Respectful Environment in Schools). It is this cause that brought her to McKnight to read to students and discuss bullying prevention.

Ms. Rood read “Sticks, Stones and Stumped” written by Deb Landry and illustrated by Mellissa Pelletier. This book brings animal characters to life who are dealing with issues of verbal and physical bullying from the perspective of both the victim and bystanders. By sharing this story and encouraging children to identify with the situation, Ms. Rood reinforced McKnight’s commitment to having a bully-free school environment.

“The students enjoyed the day,” said Ms. Rachel Fields, Assistant Principal at McKnight, “and they had the chance to hear an important message in a new way. We are happy that Jessica took time to visit our school.”
Remember to Vote on November 6!

Every fall for eleven consecutive years, students in the North Allegheny School District have been confronted with the thoughtful challenge of finding a way to express their individual feelings about belonging and diversity through creative writing, music, or the visual arts. Year after year, students have produced excellent works of art to illustrate what they know about the importance of being both unique and accepted in the world.

The Annual Diversity Expression Contest is sponsored by the NASD Marcia Martin Unity/Diversity Committee and is open to all NA students in grades K-12. This year, entries will be accepted between November 12 and December 7, in every NA 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.”

Application forms, which must accompany submissions, are available on the NASD website: www.northallegheny.org.

Students may choose to express their own thoughts about the importance of belonging and individuality using any written form – such as poetry, personal narrative, play, or essay – or via music, the visual arts, multi-media or photography. Further details are also available on the NASD website.

This year, winners will be honored by the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of School Directors at an early evening awards reception on March 20, 2013. The ceremony will occur prior to the School Board meeting and include a reception for the family and friends of the winners, as well as their teachers and principals. The award-winning submissions will be highlighted and the ceremony will be videotaped for later broadcast on NATV-Cable.

Each winning student will receive prizes from the Unity/Diversity Committee, the Superintendent of Schools, and Barnes & Noble Booksellers. A reception will also be hosted by Barnes & Noble at their store in Cranberry Township, where all winning entries will be on display for a period of time in the spring.
Third Grader Wins PSBA Poster Contest

When Owen Jin, a third grade student at McKnight Elementary School, submitted his poster design to the PSBA Stand Up for Public Education Campaign earlier this year, he could not have imagined that he would be one of more than 1,200 young people who were also participating in this contest.

The theme that students were asked to illustrate for the contest was "What Public Education Means to Me." Owen designed a poster that includes a diverse group of young people holding signs reading "Fairness, Friendship, Knowledge, Fun, and Respect." The young people are standing on a colorful rainbow that stretches over a public school building. The sky is bright blue and the sun is shining down on the students. These rich metaphors and Owen’s careful execution of the concept made him one of two winners in the Grade 2 - 3 category of this statewide contest. PSBA received more than 400 submissions in this single category.

Owen’s poster was displayed at the recent 2012 PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference at the Hershey Lodge & Convention Center. A scanned image of his poster was included in the 2012 PSBA Poster & Essay Contest book, which was distributed to each attendee and the contest winners. He was also awarded $100 and a certificate.

PSBA’s Stand Up for Public Education Campaign is an outreach designed to share the good news about public education – the successes, the triumphs, and the academic gains our students are making. In a time when there are many criticisms and skewed perceptions about the impact of public education on our children, PSBA is working to help communities have a balanced perspective on this issue and set the record straight.

During the United Way 2012 campaign, please remember the NA Foundation is a United Way partner. You can direct your 2012 United Way donation to the NA Foundation by selecting code #3567.
NA Students Selected for Honors Orchestra

The North Allegheny School District is proud to announce that thirty-two high school students were selected this year for the PMEA Honors Orchestra. The best of the best high school musicians are chosen through an adjudicated audition process to participate in the PMEA Honors String Orchestra annually. Based upon their performance at this event, they may have the opportunity to participate in Region, All State, Eastern Division and National MENC Orchestras. Congratulations to the following accomplished musicians:

Heather Barczynski  
Madi Beining  
Nathaniel Chen  
Julie Choe  
Anthony Cicco  
Bella Danailova  
Mitchel Doerzbacher  
Danny Driscoll  
Olivia Eastly  
Connor Goodman  
Megan Howell  
Jason Hu  
Sheel Kundu  
Daya Lee  
Rebecca Lee  
Jason Lin  
Sarah Luo  
Victor Mao  
Sarah May  
Kelsey Neff  
Brianna Patricca  
Emma Pearson  
Austin Reder  
Gabe Ren  
Elizabeth Scherer  
Kavita Shankar  
David Skrovanek  
Michael Tai  
Stephen Timcheck  
Maria Veres  
Sean Xiao  
Linda Zheng

The NASH Honors Chamber Orchestra was also honored as a group when they learned they will be featured performers at the PMEA State Convention to be held in April 2013. To be recognized with such an invitation by the professional organization of music educators in Pennsylvania is an exceptional commendation.

The North Allegheny High School Orchestra instructor and ensemble Director is Ms. Sarah Lavelle.

GOD OF CARNAGE

A Play by YASMINA REZA

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

Box office hours beginning October 30th
Tuesdays & Wednesdays 10am –1pm
Thursdays 12 – 3pm
Friday, November 16th 10am –1pm
and 30 minutes prior to each show

Please call 724-934-7288 during box office hours for more information.

NASH Auditorium 10375 Perry Hwy., Wexford, PA.
2012 School Bus Safety Poster Contest Winners

North Allegheny elementary students participate every year in the PennDOT School Bus Safety Poster Contest. The NA Health and Safety Committee conducts a District-wide competition to select two winners whose posters move on to compete at the state level.

The theme of this year’s contest was “Stand Back from the Yellow and Black!” There were a total of 409 posters submitted from the District’s seven elementary schools.

Three winners from each building were selected in Division I (grades K-2) and Division II (grades 3-5). The First Place winners in each division were then adjudicated to select the Grand Prize winners whose work would be submitted to the statewide competition.

The First, Second and Third Place winners from each school are:

**Bradford Woods Elementary School**

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<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>1st</th>
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<th>3rd</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Ryan Kiefer</td>
<td>Carolyn Mole</td>
<td>Daniel Seibel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Alexis Ky</td>
<td>Eric Mole</td>
<td>Samantha Ky</td>
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**Franklin Elementary School**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Saanika Chauk</td>
<td>Siena Gallo</td>
<td>Mira Botula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Ethan Song</td>
<td>Arvind Seshan</td>
<td>Sanjay Seshan</td>
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**Hosack Elementary School**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Lillian Paul</td>
<td>Ashlynn Harrison</td>
<td>Lucia Wells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Luke Genter</td>
<td>Laura Schwendeman</td>
<td>Katerina Balouris</td>
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**Inomar Elementary School**

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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Jackson Wilhite</td>
<td>Parker Demsey</td>
<td>Gino Misiti</td>
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<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Paige Grogan</td>
<td>Liz Reynolds</td>
<td>Ava Eggert</td>
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**McKnight Elementary School**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Scott Nalepa</td>
<td>Owen Jin</td>
<td>Sophia St. Myer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Rina Tu</td>
<td>Emilie Whitwolf</td>
<td>Makayla Wach</td>
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**Marshall Elementary School**

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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Ethan Goetz</td>
<td>Kiana Kazemi</td>
<td>A.J. Burkarth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Zehrs Mehdi</td>
<td>Rachel Robertson</td>
<td>Sanjay Seshan</td>
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**Peebles Elementary School**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Arvind Seshan</td>
<td>Sanjay Seshan</td>
<td>Logan Husek</td>
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Scott Nalepa and Alexis Ky were selected as the District’s Grand Prize winners. Their posters were entered in PennDOT’s statewide competition.

The District’s Health and Safety Committee recognized all of the winning students from each school and presented them with an award and gift at a special luncheon and ceremony held in their honor on October 15, 2012.
Register for the SAT Preparation Course

If you plan to take the SAT Exam in January, it would be a good idea to enroll for the Winter Session of the NA SAT Preparation Course. Students who have taken advantage of this unique and affordable opportunity will confirm the fact that participation in this course can make a significant difference in overall test results.

Members of the North Allegheny Math, English, and School Counseling faculty keep this course up-to-date by incorporating changes to the curriculum as they are made to the actual SAT exam. The goal of the course is to provide students with an overview of the SAT and provide instruction on test-taking strategies applicable to the SAT subtests.

The SAT Preparation Course will also provide students with the opportunity to discuss, dialogue, and problem-solve with content area teachers as they work on acquiring new strategies and practice taking SAT tests. In the first year that the Course was available to students, the District was able to compare scores for students who took the test before taking the SAT Prep Course and after taking the SAT Prep Course. On average, students’ scores increased by 26 points!

The SAT Prep Course is offered in four sessions with the choice of day, evening, or Saturday classes. The dates coincide with scheduled SAT dates. In order to defray the cost of providing this exclusive student resource, students pay a small fee to enroll. Registration forms are available through the School Counseling Offices at NAI and NASH or from the Special Education and Pupil Services Department. Those interested may call 724-934-7221 for additional information. *Click here* to access the latest SAT Preparation Course Registration Form.

Register now for the NA SAT Prep Course Winter Session!
Are you planning to take the SAT on January 26, 2013? This is the perfect time to enroll in NA’s own prep course. Classes run December 4 – January 24. Four sessions are offered – there is one to fit your schedule!
Deadline to register November 30.

Did you know you can receive an email or text message from SchoolMessenger?

In the event of a school cancellation or delay or any emergency/crisis situation the North Allegheny School District will provide key information to parents via SchoolMessenger.

Make sure your contact information is up-to-date and your personal preferences are indicated in your account today!

If your son or daughter will need money to attend college in the near future, don’t miss Financial Aid Night!

November 20, 2012
6:00-8:00pm
NASH Auditorium

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Due to weather-related concerns, our October newsletter has been delayed. We apologize to our advertisers and expect to be back on our regular schedule in the following months.

www.northallegheny.org