



# Lion's Den Newsletter

March 2016

## Principal's Message

As we continue to progress through the school year, we cannot forget the basics that help our students succeed... reading! Making reading a fun family experience encourages students to invest in this skill. Reading with children, even in the upper grades is highly motivating for students. Sharing a chapter book or taking turns and discussing the book with your child models how important and enjoyable reading is.

*The more that you read,  
the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
the more places you'll go.*  
-- Dr. Seuss

Boys often fall behind girls in reading skills. An area that seems to be critical to stimulating reading success among young male readers is the choice of materials. Boys differ from girls in the choices they make of reading material:

- Boys are more inclined to read informational texts, magazines, and newspaper articles
- Boys are more inclined to read graphic novels and comic books
- Boys tend to resist reading stories about girls, whereas girls do not tend to resist reading stories about boys
- Boys like to read about hobbies, sports, and things they might do or be interested in doing
- Boys like to collect things and tend to like to collect series of books
- Boys read less fiction than girls
- Boys tend to enjoy escapism and humor, and some boys are passionate about science fiction or fantasy

Supporting your child by reading with them and thinking strategically about their choices in reading material will stimulate their desire to read!

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### **Odyssey of the Mind Represents Nordstrom!!**

*Odyssey of the Mind* is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and World level. Thousands of teams from throughout the U.S. and from about 25 other countries participate in the program.



This year, Nordstrom School sent 6 teams to Belmont to compete in the long-term and short-term problem solving competition. All of our teams placed, with four out of six qualifying for the state competition in Riverside! Congratulations to the students, parent advisors, and to Ms. Gillani for the weeks of dedication and hard work that produced excellent presentations, exciting team work, and educational challenge!

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## SBAC - Smarter Balanced Testing Consortium

Our students are so smart and they have learned so much this year! The SBAC is one measure to determine your student's growth. The SBAC not only tests student's content knowledge but it also test their reasoning, critical thinking, and problem solving. Nordstrom window for testing will be April 25th - May 16th. This will be three weeks that we would ask for students to come to school on time, with breakfast, and well rested. More information about this will come as we approach the testing window.

If you would like to see a sample practice test you can go to the website:

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org>

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## Home and School Club News



**Nordstrom's Spelling Bee** went off with a buzz! The students were excited to participate and the results are currently being tallied. If you didn't get in your sponsorship or would like to add to your student's fundraising, please visit us online at <http://nordstromhsc.wix.com> or deliver to the front office. Entries will be accepted through March 15th! Keep your eyes opened in April's newsletter to see who our lucky lottery winner is.



**"Sneezing Beauty"** our own Nordstrom Theater Club's production of Sleeping Beauty with a twist will be performed March 10th and 11th. Students will get to enjoy this satire at a special assembly and two evening performances will be held. Time and locations will be sent home in the Friday folders!

**Parents and Pastries.** Our first Spring Parent Mixer will be taking place Friday, March 18th in the MPR room from 7:20am to 7:40am. Please join us after drop off and get to know your Nordstrom Community!

**Framed Art Event.** ArtSmart workshops are currently underway for select grades. All grades will have their masterpieces available for viewing at Nordstrom's Framed Art Event Pre-Order occurring March 30th through April 1st. Now is your chance to see the true artist within them. Viewing and purchases can be made during morning drop off and after school. Details and order forms will be coming home with your students.

### SAVE THE DATE!

April 30th is Nordstrom's exclusive auction night! Put on your party hat and join us at the Morgan Hill Masonic Center. Tickets will be available soon for this night of fun, food, and fundraising...it's FIESTA time!

## Upcoming Events

## March

- 1 End of Second Trimester
- 4 Home & School Club Meeting, MPR, 8:00am
- 10 - 11 Theater Show
- 11 Report Cards Go Home
- 14 ELAC Meeting, 6:00pm, RC
- 21 School Site Council, 2:15pm, RC
- 24 Lion's Den

**25 & 28 No School, Holiday**

## April

- 1 Home & School Club Meeting, MPR, 8:00am
- 5 Spring Pictures
- 11 - 15 No School, Spring Break**
- 18 ELAC Meeting, 6:00pm, RC
- 25 School Site Council, 2:15pm, RC
- 25 SBAC Testing Begins and continues through May 16th
- 29 Lion's Den
- 30 Spring Auction