



Quarter Two News

from 7th grade Team Two

**Allin, Kuehl, Dunkelberger, Hovden,
Bollum**

Welcome to Quarter 2, Team Two Students and Families!

Thanks to all of our NMS students for their effort during Quarter 1! We appreciate the communication and support from parents and families as well. This newsletter contains information about our Quarter 2 units as well as other tips for success in 7th grade.

Core Class Information:

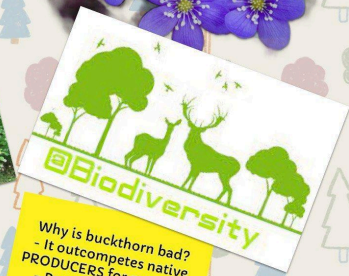
Science: Mrs. Allin (aallin@northfieldschools.org)

During quarter one, science students studied ecology. The culminating ecology project assignment was differentiated with three options. Many students did an outstanding job on their one-pager, letter or persuasive presentation. I am showcasing a few of the projects in this newsletter. Thank you to the many students who are doing a great job of listening to their classmates, sharing their own ideas, using class work time well, and submitting work on time.

BEAT BUCKTHORN



Buckthorn was brought from England as a hedge and has become a ruthless invasive species disrupting the balance of the ECOSYSTEM.



Why is buckthorn bad?
- It outcompetes native PRODUCERS for resources
- Provides a home for unwanted pests
- Decreases BIODIVERSITY

How buckthorn recks havoc in plant COMMUNITIES and POPULATIONS
- it outcompetes native plants for space, sunlight, and other abiotic factors.



How to remove this pesky ORGANISM (buckthorn)
- first remove all berry producing buckthorn
- second section by section remove the rest of the buckthorn
- repeat at least once a year

Help Monarchs!

By Yina Zhang



What's happening?

Monarch populations have been decreasing for years now, due to limiting factors, such as use of pesticides against milkweed, the producer that monarchs lay their eggs on. Unfortunately, not many people are doing anything to help with the alarming rate monarch populations are decreasing. Monarchs have a big part they play in their community, so having them die off would impact their ecosystem hugely. When monarchs make their journey back from their winter retreat, they lay their eggs on milkweed plants they find along the way. Recently though, milkweed populations have been dropping, due to human use of pesticides against milkweed. Plus, human logging and deforestation has destroyed many of the butterfly overwintering sites. The butterflies need these overwintering sites to insure that they survive the winter, and so that they can lay the eggs of their next generation when warmer temperatures come.

How can you help?

Planting butterfly gardens filled with milkweed and nectar flowers, and avoiding pesticides are all great ways to help monarchs. Another way to help is to spread this word: monarchs are dying off, and we need to keep them going. Tell your friends, your family, your neighbors, and anyone else! Help anyway you can.



Dear People of Northfield,

Buckthorn makes a great hedge. It leaf's out early and keeps its leaves late into the fall. In fact, that is why it was brought here from Europe in the first place. What you may not know is that buckthorn is an **invasive species** that is damaging our local ecosystem. That is why we should work together to remove it.

If buckthorn just stayed where we put it, it would be fine, but it unfortunately doesn't. The same qualities that make it such a great hedge also help it spread and dominate our **ecosystem**. It spreads fast and has no natural **limiting factors**, which are things that keep a **population** in check. In Europe, there were buckthorn-eating insects, so it wasn't a problem. Here, however, it is a different story. We have no buckthorn-eating insects, so the population is growing out of control.

You might be wondering why buckthorn is such a problem. Because it leaf's out before other plants like wildflowers, it cuts off their sunlight and causes them to die. It can grow to be 10-25 feet high, depending on the variety, which is tall enough to effectively cut off the sunlight that small plants and shrubs need. Its size also helps it crowd out and steal moisture from other plants. When it crowds out shrubs and small trees, the birds that nest in them need to find somewhere else to live, and when it kills our deep-rooted native plants, it causes soil erosion.

In addition to the problems caused by crowding out our native species and taking their sunlight, buckthorn also causes other problems that range from merely a nuisance to an agricultural threat. Its berries can cause annoying spots on your driveway pavement, which can be annoying, but is just a nuisance. The berries, however, contain a laxative that can kill small birds. Buckthorn can also be a home to an insect called the soybean aphid. This insect can reproduce rapidly and can cause a soybean yield loss of 40% in the most extreme circumstances. Finally, buckthorn can serve as a host for other invasive species, like garlic mustard.

For all these reasons, buckthorn lowers forest **biodiversity** and is a threat to our ecosystems. Do not despair, however. It is possible to remove. If you just have a few buckthorn plants that aren't where they are supposed to be, you can probably get rid of them with a weekend of pulling, and then you just need to stay vigilant. However, if you have a significant amount of buckthorn, you will want to take it out in sections, first taking out the berry-producing plants since these are the plants that produce more buckthorn. Once you have those removed, you can start removing the rest of it. Just like with a small amount of plants, you need to stay vigilant to stop it from spreading again.

Buckthorn is a bigger hazard to our environment than most people realize, but if we know the threat it poses and we work together, we can remove it and help protect our environment and agriculture. Thank you for your time.

Robert Steed

October 23, we started investigating how living things heal. The unit begins with doctor reports of a student who dropped a heavy weight on his foot. We use this as an anchor to study how skin, bones, muscles, blood, and nerves work together and heal. We are using microscopes to zoom in for a closer look at these structures and consider how their structure impacts function. Soon we will begin an egg lab in which we investigate how cells get materials needed to grow.

In December we plan to start a new unit in which the anchoring phenomenon is a student who is suffering headaches, lack of energy, and weight loss. Our students look at possible medical conditions and figure out the best diagnosis. As in our current unit, we will do labs, investigate data and other evidence, and figure things out together.

Student notes are a key resource for keeping track of what we have figured out. We do phase one note taking together, with students processing, connecting, and summarizing more independently, but with guidance. Students get frequent reminders on how many pages of their notes should be completed. Periodically, we do note progress checks. I write notes pages that should be done on pieces of paper and put them in a beaker and a student randomly draws out a page. Tests are open note.

A key resource when students are absent are teacher slideshows, posted in Schoology by date. Please encourage your student to use these slideshows when they miss class.

Please contact me with questions. I look forward to a wonderful quarter two!
Amy Allin

Social Studies: Mrs. Hovden (lhovden@northfieldschools.org)

Greetings! To close Quarter 1 in social studies, we wrapped up our mock trial. I'm so impressed with the students' hard work and enthusiasm for this activity!



Our first day of Quarter 2 is Election Day! We will have a mock election that day, which culminates last week's 2024 Election presentation in which students learned about voting, political parties, the candidates, and the Electoral College. Following the election wrap-up, we will have our own experience with a campaign and conduct a mock election.

This activity will conclude our unit on Civics and Citizenship.

On November 22, the selected group of 25 students will participate in the optional field trip to the Democracy and Justice Center and State Capitol in St. Paul. This is an exciting opportunity for students to learn more about civics. Applications are due by November 11th and are available in my classroom.

In late November, we'll move into topics in U.S. History. We'll begin with the post-Civil War time period, covering the Reconstruction Era. We'll examine the changes in the United States with the rise of industry and the impact of the Gilded Age. We'll move forward in history from there.

In this quarter (January), we will also study World War I. For this unit, students will read a novel set during the time period. We have five different books students will be able to choose from and they'll be bringing one home to read. In the World War I unit, the main homework is for students to read their books. Look for more information about this in late December. We'd love for you to encourage your child to keep up with their reading. Additionally, if your child is a struggling reader, we can connect when the time comes and make plans for support.

Thanks so much!
Lisa Hovden

Math--Mr. Dunkelberger (Dunk)

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Quarter one has come and gone. It was a good start to the year in math. Building up endurance to completing math assignments independently has been a focus to start this year. We covered our unit 1 and 2 on Integer and Rational Numbers operations (including negative and positive fractions and decimals). Overall, we finished strong this first quarter with work completion in class, but it has taken a bit of support to make sure students are completing/turning in both the homework and quizzes daily.

A Math: We are wrapping up Unit 2 on Rational Numbers, with the Unit 2 Test scheduled for Wednesday (11/6). Following that, we will transition to Unit 3 on Order of Operations, where we will build on the concepts from Units 1 and 2. After Unit 3, we will move into Unit 4, which focuses on Solving Equations. This unit will involve isolating variables using inverse operations, and students will deepen their understanding of simplifying expressions by combining like terms and applying the distributive property. Finally, in Unit 5, students will use the skills they've learned to tackle Solving Inequalities.

AA Math: We are nearing the completion of Unit 3 on Order of Operations, with the test scheduled for next Friday (11/8). After that, we will move into one of the key units that lays the foundation for Pre-Algebra, focusing on Solving Equations. Unit 4 will begin with simplifying expressions and then progress to solving more complex multi-step equations. This will lead us into Unit 5 on Solving Inequalities, which is similar to solving equations and involves applying inverse operations as we did previously.

This quarter, I'll be focusing on reflecting on routines and using class time effectively. Please remember to check Skyward regularly to support your student's math learning at home. I provide students with about 15 to 20 minutes (sometimes more) to complete homework in class, but this may not always be sufficient. Extra time at home may be needed, especially if students are falling behind or don't have a flex or study hall period.

Additionally, I want to remind you that students have the opportunity to correct any test problems they got wrong. They can earn half credit back, which is a great way to enhance their understanding of the math concepts we're covering and improve their overall grade.

Looking forward to the next quarter of working with your students.

Brent Dunkelberger

Health--Ms. Bollum (lbollum@northfieldschools.org)

Health Class Update

Health class is going to finish Chapter three then move into Unit 2.

Unit 1:

- Chapter 3 Hygiene

Unit 2: *Taking Care of Mental and Emotional Health (Chapter 5 & 6)* includes:

- Being mentally and emotionally healthy.
- Making sense of emotions.
- Stress
- Bullying
- Stages of grief.
- Suicide
- How to get help or help others
- Mental health project

SEL Unit: Emotion Management includes:

- understanding anger.
- staying in control.
- coping with stress.

Ramp-UP lessons include:

- Mindset
- Student Support Services “asking for help.”

Excited for quarter 2 to start!

MS. Linnea Bollum

English 7: Mrs. Kuehl (hkuehl@northfieldschools.org)

News from Mrs. Kuehl’s English 7 class:

Thank you for a terrific start to the school year! During quarter one, we completed our first 5-paragraph essay, studied the elements of fiction in our short story unit and began our grammar unit. In addition, students completed 5 weeks of Reading Plus assignments.

As we begin quarter two in English 7, we will be wrapping up a unit on grammar. In this unit we have studied how understanding and using proper grammar helps us communicate more clearly and effectively. In quarter two we will be writing our second five-paragraph essay that focuses on gratitude. We are looking forward to using the skills we learned in our grammar unit in this new writing assignment.

After writing the essay, we will begin our study of Charles Dickens and his ghostly tale, *A Christmas Carol*. We will be studying the themes found in this classic piece of literature. In addition, we will focus on how history and the time period in which Dickens was writing affected his message. That unit will take us right up to Winter Break.

After Winter Break, we will end quarter two with our study of poetry. We will be reading and writing poetry during this unit.

We will also continue our work to improve our comprehension and reading fluency using our individualized, online reading program called *Reading Plus*. Please remind your student to practice their reading each week that there is an assignment. If your student's Skyward account shows missing work in this area, you can easily check how they are doing by asking to see their Reading Plus Dashboard. Each week that Reading Plus is assigned, students will have 4 empty boxes that will be checked off when the lessons are complete. In addition, students may make up their missing lessons simply by completing extra lessons after their weekly assigned lessons are completed.

Please let me know if you have any questions about your student's progress or coursework. I am looking forward to a fantastic second quarter!

-Mrs. Heather Kuehl

Other Helpful Information:

Tips for Organization:

Completing school work and meeting deadlines are important skills. We continue to encourage active planner use in 7th grade. All students should have a system for keeping track of due dates and important events.

Students are also encouraged to check Schoology regularly. When students are absent, they can find lessons and materials on Schoology in each of their courses. This is the best place to look to find out what they miss. Please encourage your child to look in Schoology during or after an absence and to complete absent work in a timely manner.

FLEX study halls:

Many students in grade 7 have a FLEX study hall during 4th hour. We intentionally use the word FLEX because students have the flexibility to work with several of their teachers during this time. On our team, Mr. Dunkelberger (Math), Mrs. Hovden (Social Studies), Mrs. Allin (Science), and Mrs. Kuehl (English) all have study hall 4th hour every day. In addition, Ms. Bollum (Health) has some availability during 4th hour. Therefore, students who have a question for any of those teachers have the opportunity to work individually with them. Many students who use their study hall time well are able to complete all of their 7th grade homework within the school day. We give our students lots of reminders about this opportunity, but reminders from home are helpful also. If you see that your student is struggling with any content, and they have a 4th hour study hall, please encourage them to take time during study hall to meet with their teachers.

Interested in donating to our PBIS Program?

Looking for a way to support PBIS? We always appreciate donations! We will accept any NEW items that you think a student may enjoy receiving as a prize. Items could be school supplies, gift cards, games, fidgets, healthy snack and/or drink, a Northfield hat or t-shirt, etc. These items can be turned in to Mrs. Rose (Math Teacher Team 1) or given to the office and let them know it is for the 7th grade school store. We will also accept monetary donations that will allow for teachers to purchase prizes for the school store or for their own classroom store. Here is a link:

<https://northfieldschools.revtrak.net/middle-school/ms-donations/#/list>

Quarter 1 Celebration

Last Thursday, October 31, we celebrated students' academic efforts during Quarter 1 with a movie in the auditorium. 7th grade students did an excellent job showing PRIDE during our celebration time and we look forward to experiences like this in the future!