



Greetings, Northeast Families,

Northeast is a wonderfully diverse community. We truly affirm and celebrate that diversity, and cherish and explore our differences and similarities through social and academic outlets. Some members of our community have expressed fear and confusion in response to recent acts of bias nationally. We believe it is vital that families, students and staff know our deep commitment to welcoming and supporting all who are a part of our Northeast family, regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, language, socioeconomic status, religion or political affiliation. Part of doing this well means teaching students about issues of human rights and social justice, in addition to designing intentional community-building learning experiences to connect us. We are proud of who we are at Northeast, and will continue to remain a supportive community where **all** belong.

The case study we are highlighting this month comes to us from third grade, where students are searching for solutions to a real problem here at Northeast: water consumption and conservation. Through this inquiry-based case study, students will explore the following questions:

- How much water is left in cups at the end of the day?
- Do we have a water meter here at Northeast? What does Northeast pay for water?
- How much water do we use at Northeast?
- How many jugs do we go through a day, a week, a month, a school year? What is the cost of each jug?

The long-term learning target is: I can explain why and how to conserve water. Students will collect data, learn from experts, engage in fieldwork, design solutions, and ultimately contribute to smarter water use here at Northeast. They will create public service announcements, and a website chronicling their learning for future generations. We're looking forward to seeing what students create.

"It's Cool to be Kind" has started in 3rd grade, and information about it is hanging in the upstairs ramp hallway. Students brainstormed acts of kindness each day, and are committing to doing good for others throughout the month of December. This was totally student-inspired, and we are proud to bring this into our school community for all who would like to join. Check it out if you plan to stop by the building (sign in and get a visitor's badge first, please). We are kindness crusaders!

Please join me and other families for "Coffee with the Principal" Wednesday, December 21, from 7:30-8:30 in the Library. This is an informal gathering, so bring questions, ideas, anything you'd like to discuss. We'll have coffee and fruit for you to enjoy as well.

Enjoy this upcoming winter break. I hope you and your family are able to relax, read, and revel in each other's company. As always, please reach out by email (lily.talcott@icsd.k12.ny.us), phone (257-2121) or by stopping in any time. Thank you for your commitment to our children's education.

Sincerely,
Lily Talcott