



Greetings, Northeast families -

This fall weather is upon us, as the leaves are changing colors and the air is getting cooler! This fall, we have kicked off our Month of Kindness, an entire month dedicated to making the world a kinder place. Each class (along with staff throughout the school) takes a day to do something particularly kind and helpful for someone else. It could be a simple act to brighten someone's day like making flowers for the folks at Kendal, or something with a bigger impact like organizing a food drive. We had a kickoff assembly, where we began with a whole-school singing of "This Land is Your Land", and the fifth graders then invited all of us to think of ways to demonstrate kindness for the month. We chronicle the acts of kindness via Twitter, so follow us @NortheastES to see all of the wonderful things happening here! Be sure to talk with your child about what her/his class is doing, and what he/she plans to do to carry this idea of kindness past October 26 and throughout the year.

As mentioned in the September Northeast Link, each month I'll share curriculum work that's taking place here at school, so that you have a better sense of what and how students are learning. This month's highlighted case study curricular unit comes to us from fifth grade, where Mr. Novick's students are exploring the seed to table process. Starting from the New York State science learning standards, students are collaboratively answering questions such as: What do you eat? Where does your food come from? What impacts plant growth? What should we scientifically analyze? As students dive into these guiding questions, they're faced with the challenge of designing experiments to control for different plant growth factors. They will then implement their experiments and track plant growth. While doing this, they'll be meeting with experts from surrounding institutions of higher education (Cornell, TC3), to ask questions and learn from the work of real professionals. In the end, students are tasked with drawing conclusions based on their findings, which they'll share with a wider audience in the end.

We're excited to try something new this year, and would like to invite you all into our classrooms to share it! For the past few years, we have had a harvest festival here at Northeast. After much discussion, our staff community decided to shift this this year, and make the focus on learning in the classroom. Keeping in the spirit of celebration, and welcoming all families to our school, each grade level will be inviting families in to have children share their learning on projects in the classroom. We welcome feedback about this new structure and twist on celebrating and coming together! Please keep your eyes peeled for the dates from each grade level, as these invitations to "Share in the Learning" days will be arriving in the upcoming months.

If you have not already joined the PTA and its listerv, please consider doing so. Details can be found at www.northeastpta.org. As always, I welcome questions, ideas, comments, and more either in person, via email (lily.talcott@icsd.k12.ny.us) or phone (257-2121). Continue to enjoy this changing season! Thank you for your commitment to our children's education.

Sincerely,

Lily Talcott