



Weekly Message from

North Canaan Elementary School

April 5, 2024

I always enjoy the opportunity to speak with you at conferences, NCES families. I was pleased to hear of the students' success in sharing their achievements last Wednesday and Thursday. We are also thankful to you for supporting the Scholastic Book Fair. Through your generous support, we were able not only to purchase books for the library, but also to donate 17 books to NCES students through the Share the Fair program. Mrs. Erickson and I are appreciative of your support for and encouragement of our students' love of reading!

Click on the blue or highlighted links.

You can read this week's message and any of the previous Weekly Messages on the NCES website: [Click here to read.](#)

Upcoming events:

- **April 8** Nature and art activity after school (grades 4-6) until 4:30pm
 - **April 9** Recreational activity after school (grades 4-6) until 4:30pm
 - **April 9** Board of Education meeting, 6:30 pm in the library
 - **April 10** Rescheduled PTO Meeting, 6:30 pm ([Online meeting link option](#))
 - **April 11** Spring photos
 - **April 11** STEAM activity after school (grades 4-6) until 4:30pm
 - **April 15-19** Spring Recess
 - **April 22** Nature and art activity after school (grades 4-6) until 4:30pm
 - **April 23** Recreational activity after school (grades 4-6) until 4:30pm
 - **April 24-25** [Science Assessment](#) for grades 5 and 8 only
 - **April 25** STEAM activity after school (grades 4-6) until 4:30pm
 - **April 26** Regional Dance at Lee H. Kellogg, 6-8:30pm, [Permission Slip](#)
 - **April 27** PTO Bingo Night: Doors open at 5 pm. Games begin at 6 pm.
 - **April 29** Board game activity after school (grades 4-6) until 4:30pm
 - **April 30, May 1-2** [SBAC ELA/Literacy](#) for grades 3-8
 - **April 30** Recreational activity after school (grades 4-6) until 4:30pm
- Other May and June events will be added.*
- **May 7, 9, 10** [SBAC Math](#) for grades 3-8
 - **May 17** Walk, Bike, or Roll to School at 8 am
 - **May 31** [Salisbury Central School 8th grade Dance](#), 6-8:30 pm, [Permission Slip](#)
 - **June 10** 8th Grade Graduation at 6:30 pm

UPDATED CALENDAR CHANGE: On Monday, June 10th and Tuesday, June 11th students will be dismissed at 1 pm for teacher professional learning. Wednesday, June 12th will be a full day of school. THURSDAY, June 13th is now the last day of school (unless school is closed again due to inclement weather) and is also a 1 pm dismissal. [Click here for an updated calendar.](#)

Earthquake Today: Only some of the students and staff felt the earthquake this morning around 10:15 am. We thought that perhaps something heavy was being transported in the hallway. Everyone is safe. If we have an aftershock, we will be prepared and will let you know.

Spring photos will take place on Thursday (April 11th.) Ordering details went home with students on Monday. You can also order before picture day on www.lifetouch.com using the following identification: EVTCBKCM3.

Name the Rock Snake: The North Canaan Recreation Commission needs your help to name the rock snake that will be growing throughout the summer in town. Click the link to learn more.

FitKids: This year KIDS Marathon is FitKids with the final mile in Hartford on a school day. Interested students in grades 4-8 took home the following two forms for participation in our local run and for the waiver for the final mile: [Kids Marathon \(Hartford Marathon\) 2024](#) and [2024 Spring Student Release Waiver.pptx](#) . We will organize a field trip for the final mile closer to the event and another permission form will be needed.

Upcoming Solar Eclipse: As I wrote to you earlier this week, next Monday, April 8th, we will have a partial eclipse, similar to the one in August of 2017.

- The following is a two-page handout distributed by the National Science Teacher Association: [SolarEclipse_Handout.pdf](#) . It helps explain the eclipse and ways to observe it safely.
 - Students have been informed about the eclipse in their classrooms.
- Each student will receive a special set of eclipse glasses on Monday that MUST be worn while LOOKING UP AT THE SKY walking home, on the school bus, and during the eclipse, from 2:15-4:30 pm on Monday, to protect their eyes.
 - Please remind your children of the importance of keeping the glasses on during the entire time of the eclipse, if they are outdoors and want to look at the eclipse.
 - As an extra precaution, Mrs. Noubleau, Mrs. Johnson, and I will each be riding a school bus to be sure students are wearing their glasses when needed. We will be stopping the bus for a few minutes to look at the peak of the eclipse around 3:25 pm.
- The following simulator shows what we expect to see:
<https://eclipse2024.org/eclipse-simulator/2024/117740?elevation=272>.
- The next total eclipse in Connecticut won't happen until May 1, 2079!

Summer Mountaineer Experience: Registration is open for students currently in grades 5-8 to participate in this summer program at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, July 8-19. [Link to Registration Form](#) ([Spanish Translated Form](#) and [Portuguese Translation](#).) Students will learn leadership skills, social emotional skill development, and teamwork through outdoor activities (canoeing, paddle boarding, swimming, rock climbing, hiking, stream walk) and indoors activities (Flying Cloud, Agriculture and Technology Center, Art Garage, digital printing STC, yoga.)

Kindergarten Registration: If your child was born in 2019, click the blue link for more information on kindergarten registration. We are scheduling appointments for the April 24th & 25th registration dates and look forward to seeing you!

Our *school-based health center* is opening April 23rd! The following packet of forms went home with each student before conferences: [School-Based Health Center Overview and Forms](#). You can complete the forms at any time and send them with your child to school.

☰ **State Assessment Schedule for Families 2024**. The annual state assessments will begin after April vacation. Please take time to read the letter and enter the dates into your calendar so that students will be prepared on testing dates. Thank you, as always, for your support.

7th & 8th Grade Regional Dance at Lee H. Kellogg School

Friday, April 26, 6 - 8:30 pm.

Admission is \$5 on the night of the dance. Refreshments will be sold separately.

Click the following link to complete the online permission form: [Permission Slip](#)

Hotchkiss School Events: Click the [registration link](#) to enroll your child, ages 8-12, to learn to play chess. All player levels are welcome. Enrollment is limited.

Enjoy the weekend,

Dr. Roy

NCES Principal

