

Skinner North Community Newsletter – August

AUGUST 3, 2018

Happy August! We can't believe it is the first week of August. We are hoping you are fully enjoying summer, but we know this month will seem to fly and Tuesday, Sept. 4 will be here before we know it. We look forward to welcoming students back for a great year.

During the school year, we will send monthly newsletters via email and post these on the school website (<http://www.skinnernorth.org/latest-news>). In addition, we send email updates/reminders in between our monthly newsletters as needed. Each teacher will also send updates about classroom specific information as the school year starts.

Please read below for a few updates and calendar dates for the upcoming school year. Another great resource for school dates is <http://www.skinnernorth.org/calendar.html>.

We look forward to seeing you at the back to school picnic on Saturday, August 25 from noon-2pm, at our Back to School Open House on Wednesday, Sept. 12 from 5-6:30pm or on one of our volunteer days Monday, August 20-Wednesday, August 22 from 9-2.

Have a wonderful day,
Katie & Derrick

SKINNER NORTH QUESTION CORNER

Skinner North Question Corner. We will select and answer questions each month. We encourage you to submit your questions. We want to create a space where everyone feels comfortable asking questions.

Note: When you submit a question, you agree to have your question published and sent to the newsletter listserv (names will not be included). We will try to respond to all questions submitted, but some may not be answered/published. If you have an immediate concern or question, please always feel free to email.

Please submit your questions at <https://goo.gl/forms/yc3mMfMpT6HDjOUi1>.

Our teachers are amazing at communicating what's going on in the classrooms. We parents all love the time they take to include pictures. Currently, we use Bloomz, Shutterfly, Weebly, Parent Portal, Google, Survey Monkey at our school. Some platforms, like Google, require you to have/open an account to use. I did not participate in a parent survey because I didn't want yet another account/password. Isn't there a way to simplify across our school?

Yes, our teachers work hard to communicate about what is happening in classrooms. We intentionally use a variety of platforms to do this as it also helps in terms of reaching parents in various ways as there are a variety of preferences around communication. Platforms are also determined based on grade level need and student development, meaning we seek to help scaffold support for students in gaining more independence and accountability for themselves.

In terms of Parent Portal and Google, these are CPS specific. Grades and attendance are all done through Parent Portal, so it is a great way to monitor student progress. I highly encourage setting up an account. Get more information at <https://cps.edu/Pages/Parentresources.aspx>. We are a Google based district, so all staff have google suite (email, forms, classroom, etc.), so it often becomes a go to means of communication. As you mentioned, Survey Monkey is used at times to help those who do not have Google. If there is ever a survey sent that you cannot access, please reach out and we can provide a paper copy. We value everyone's perspective.

GOOD NEWS!

Shout out to Teachers



We have a fantastic staff full of life-long learners. Teachers work hard throughout the year and during the summer. Many of our teachers attended various professional learning opportunities, worked on planning and spent time at the school this summer preparing for the coming year with students. A few examples include: Constitutional Rights Foundation professional learning session; traveling to Uganda to study climate change and conservation; ThinkCerca training; taking classes towards a master's degree; working on novel study organization; and attending Reading Institute at Teacher's College at Columbia.

UPDATES

Back to School Picnic – Our Back to School picnic is Saturday, August 25th from noon - 2PM. Bring a picnic for your family and socialize with other Skinner North families. This is also a time to find out classroom assignment for your student.

Volunteer Days – Come help us get ready for the coming school year on Monday, August 20- Wednesday, August 22 anytime from 9-2! Volunteers can help clean up the grounds, paint, help with bulletin boards, organize supplies, etc. Students are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult.

Back to School Open House – Our Back to School Open House will be Wednesday, Sept. 12 from 5-6:30. This is a chance to learn more about your student's classroom/school and hear from administration and teachers about what to expect for the 2018-2019 school year. We hope to see you there.

Volunteering – Are you interested in volunteering at the school or chaperoning field trips? If so, please make sure your volunteer status is up to date. All volunteer candidates must complete a volunteer application through the Chicago Public Schools CiviCore database. Please visit: cpsvolunteers.org for more information.

Student Fees – As voted on and approved by our LSC, we have yearly student fees of \$100. Parents may also elect to pay for field trips as they occur instead of in September. We suggest you pay in

September, as that will allow teachers to reserve locations and transportation ahead of time. A breakdown of fees is available at <http://www.skinnernorth.org/student-fees-2018-2019.html>. Waivers are always available if needed. You can find a copy at the bottom of the aforementioned website or ask in the main office. **Starting August 1, 2018, you can now make an online payment at <https://magic.collectorsolutions.com/magic-ui/Login/cps-22591-skinner-north>.**

8th Grade Fee – As voted on and approved by our LSC, we have a fee for 8th grade students of \$50 that helps to cover the cost of Cap, Gown, Diploma Cover, Autograph Book, 2 Ribbons and Graduation Decorations. Find a detailed breakdown of the fee and other costs associated with 8th grade at <http://www.skinnernorth.org/8th-grade-student-fees-2018-2019.html>. Waivers are always available if needed. You can find a copy at the aforementioned website or ask in the main office. **Starting August 1, 2018, you can now make an online payment at <https://magic.collectorsolutions.com/magic-ui/Login/cps-22591-skinner-north>.**

Kindergarten Round Up - Our Kindergarten Round Up will occur **Tuesday, August 28.** Round Up has an AM and PM session. Attendance is determined by first letter of last name. If the student's last name begins with A-M, please come in the morning (8:45AM-11:00AM) and if the student's last name begins with N-Z, please come in the afternoon (1:00PM-3:00PM).

When you arrive students and parents will get the opportunity to do an activity in one of the classrooms. Students will then, play with one another with teacher supervision while parents go to the auditorium for a presentation and Q/A session with administration. Each student's reading level will also be assessed to help us start differentiated instruction as soon as possible. Students will receive their classroom/teacher assignment a day or two after round up.

If unable to attend Round Up, it is okay. We just ask that you please let us know in advance. Students who miss round up will be placed in rooms and then, assessed when the school year begins.

You can feel free to drop off your student's school supplies this day.

Breakfast and Lunch Menus – There are no menus for August. Please note: we are a nut free school. We ask that individuals do not bring nuts in their lunches. Also note, that if it says peanut butter, Sunbutter is used instead of peanut butter.

REMINDERS

Neighborhood Alert - There have been a number of car break-ins in the area. This includes our lots and the park district lot. These break-ins are occurring during high traffic times including dismissal. Please be aware and do not leave any valuables in the car even if you will only be gone for a few minutes. We are working with CPD, the alderman, the Park District and CPS security to help limit the issues. Please let us know if you see anything unusual.

UPCOMING EVENTS

For your convenience, we have included a tentative list of dates for the 2018-2019 school year. *Please note events may be added throughout the school year or adjusted if needed. We will communicate any changes by highlighting in yellow.*

2018-2019 Tentative Year-long Calendar of Events

- Volunteer Days Summer - Monday, August 20th - Wednesday, August 22nd
- Back to School Picnic - Saturday, August 25th from 12PM-2PM
- Kindergarten Round Up - Tuesday, August 28th
- Welcome Back Parent Coffee – Tuesday, September 4 from 8-9:30
- Back to School Open House - Wednesday, September 12th 5:00-6:30pm
- Book Fair - Wednesday, September 21th - Friday, September 28th
- Parent-Teacher Coffees (all 8:30-9:30am)
 - KDG Monday, October 15th
 - 1st – Tuesday, October 16th
 - 2nd – Wednesday, October 17th
 - 3rd – Monday, October 22nd
 - 4th – Friday, October 26th
 - 5th and 6th – Wednesday, October 24th
 - 7th and 8th – Thursday, October 25th
- Fall Picture Day – Tuesday, October 23rd
- Prospective Parent Open House - Wednesday, November 7th (5pm -6pm) and Wednesday, December 5th (5pm - 6pm)
- Special's Night – TBA
- High School Forum Sponsored by SNUG –TBA
- Picture Retake Day - Tuesday, December 4
- Week of Code - Monday, December 3rd - Friday, December 7th
- Art Show – TBA
- STEM Night – TBA
- Volunteer Day Winter - Thursday, January 3rd
- Science Night – TBA
- 8th Grade Picture Day - Wednesday, February 6th with retakes on Wednesday, March 6th
- Spring Parent Teacher Coffee (all 8:30-9:30am)
 - KDG Monday, March 11th
 - 1st – Tuesday, March 12th
 - 2nd – Wednesday, March 13th
 - 3rd – Thursday, March 14th
 - 4th – Friday, March 15th
 - 5th and 6th – Tuesday, March 19th

- 7th and 8th – Wednesday, March 20th
- Spring Picture Day - TBA
- Literacy Night – Thursday, March 21st
- Autism Awareness - Monday, April 1st - Friday, April 5th
- Washington, D.C. Trips - Thursday, April 4th - Saturday, April 6th
- Allergy Awareness - Monday, May 13th - Friday, May 17th
- Open House for Accepted Parents - (tentatively) Wednesday, April 24th
- Teacher appreciation week - Monday, May 6th - Friday, May 10th
- 7th/8th Grade Dance - Friday, May 17th at 4pm
- 8th Grade Luncheon - Friday, June 7th
- 8th Grade Graduation - Friday, June 14th at 9:30 am
- KDG Celebration - Monday, June 17th at 9:00 am

2018-2019 CPS CALENDAR

View the 2018-2019 CPS school year calendar using the following link:
http://cps.edu/SiteCollectionDocuments/SY18-19Calendar_English.pdf

2018-2019 LSC & FOSN MEETING SCHEDULE

Below is a list of all upcoming LSC and FoSN meetings for 2018-2019. You can find more information and minutes/agendas from past LSC meetings on our website (<http://www.skinnernorth.org/local-school-council-lsc.html>) as well.

2018-2019 Local School Council Meetings	2018-2019 Friends of Skinner North Meetings
Meeting # 1: Thursday, July 12, 2018 – Organizational Meeting @ 9AM Meeting # 2: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 - 8:30AM Meeting # 3: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 - 3:45PM Meeting # 4: Wednesday, October 17, 2018 - 5:00PM Meeting #5: Wednesday, November 7, 2018 - 8:30AM Meeting # 6: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 - 3:45PM Meeting # 7: Wednesday, January 16, 2019 - 5:00PM Meeting # 8: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 - 8:30AM Meeting # 9: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 - 3:45PM Meeting # 10: Wednesday, April 3, 2019 - 5:00PM Meeting # 11: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 - 8:30AM Meeting # 12: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 - 3:45PM	TBA
Monthly SNUG Committee Meetings	

- TBA

Monthly Wellness Committee

- TBA

CONTACT INFORMATION

Local School Council (LSC): Contact Brenda Delgado-Als (Chair) at skinnernorthlsc@gmail.com

The LSC works on issues regarding Community Engagement, Budget, CIWP, and Principal Selection/Retention – information is located at <http://www.skinnernorth.org/local-school-council-lsc.html>.

Friends of Skinner North (FoSN): Contact Vanessa Hermida (President) at fosnpresident@gmail.com.

FoSN focuses on community building, social events and fundraisers. For information on the committees, please visit <http://www.fosn.net/committees>

Get connected with FoSN, our Parent Organization. FoSN communicates via website, newsletter and Facebook. To sign up for newsletters email fosncommunications@gmail.com.

Diversity Committee: Contact Co-Chairs Lynn Watkins-Asiyanbi & Danit Schleman at sndiversity@gmail.com

The Diversity Committee’s mission is to promote an inclusive environment that celebrates diversity in order to prepare students to become members of a global community. The committee meets monthly and works with the Skinner North administration to help ensure diversity in the school staff, student body and curriculum. The committee also promotes inclusion through monthly themes and various events.

Main Office:

Bus, Attendance, Volunteering or Ventra Cards: Carmen Ortiz (cmortiz7@cps.edu)

Enrollment, Student Fees or Library Fines: Gloria Morales (gqmorales@cps.edu)

Parent Portal: Ramiro Santillan (rsantillan@cps.edu)

Medical Compliance: Nurse Gloria Thayer (gjthayer@cps.edu)