

Natural Science Academy

- a school named for environmentalist, Michael Frome

A "Green" Environmental-focused Charter School

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NATURAL SCIENCE ACADEMY



Weekly Newsletter from the Director

Friday, February 10th, 2012



100th DAY OF SCHOOL

Today students celebrated the 100th day of school. Students traveled to classrooms with their Reading Buddy and did activities using 100: 100 Mile Map – How far is 100 miles? Using map skills, students found out what cities are 100 miles from where we are. \$100 – Students explored coins and answered - How much is

\$100? What can you buy for \$100? 100 Big Book Page – Students created a page using 100 as the theme for an all-school Big Book. 100 Macaroni Noodles – Using their creative art skills, macaroni noodles and a lot of glue, students created art using 100 noodles. Fun, fun, 100 day fun!

NSA WINTER WEEK

Winter Week is **next week** February 13-17. Informational flyer (below) and additional information sheet went home earlier this week with details. We are still hoping for snow for our sledding day, but if not, we'll play in the park.

NSA Winter Week

Monday, February 13th - Friday, February 17th, 2012

MONDAY February 13 th	TUESDAY February 14 th	WEDNESDAY February 15 th	THURSDAY February 16 th	FRIDAY February 17 th
Sports Day Wear your favorite Sports apparel	Career Day Dress up like what you'd like to be when you grow up	Western or Hippie Day Dress up like a cowboy/cowgirl or a hippie from the 70's	Hawaiian Beach Day Bring some shorts and a beach towel (no swimsuits, please!)	PJ's Messy Hair Day Wear your PJ's
		10:15-11:40am Winter Walk to Abdella Park Sledding/Play in the snow/park	11:30-12:00 Sing-a-long	
				2:00pm ALL SCHOOL Popcorn & a Movie
Door Decorating - each classroom will decorate their classroom door with a NATURE theme	Valentine's Day Celebrations		Last Day to finish up Door Decorating	Door Decorating Awards

Ideas for a Sustainable Valentine's Day

This article contains a number of suggestions to make Valentine's Day more eco-friendly.

http://www.nextstep.state.mn.us/res_detail.cfm?id=4577

Despite its early Christian roots, Valentine's Day nowadays is celebrated as a non-religious holiday that embodies sentiments of romance, love, friendship and/or devotion. It is also a much commercialized and "consumerized" holiday, with millions of dollars spent on cards, flowers, jewelry and chocolates, among other items, every year.

Even Valentine's Day, though, is capable of being celebrated in lots of ways that support principles of sustainability and that support a green economy. Here are a few suggestions for making February 14th more eco-friendly:

Forgo flowers and candy in favor of organic fruit, nuts, and other "healthy" options. Just refrain from telling the recipient(s) that you're trying to "save" them from themselves ;>).

Give an e-gift card to a local restaurant or retailer. Avoid plastic cards, which typically end up in the waste stream and in landfills. More and more restaurants and retailers these days are offering e-gift cards, or may still offer paper gift certificates (especially local establishments).

Create your own cards. Homemade gift cards still tend to have a leg-up when it comes to winning over hearts. Consider writing your own poem or creating a personalized message. If creativity isn't in your blood, look for sample card messages or poems online. If time is not on your side, shop for cards that are made from postconsumer waste and/or are FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)-certified, or send an E-card.

Make your sweetie a homemade meal. Consider using local, seasonal and organic ingredients in your cooking. Pair it with an organic wine and/or one produced by a local winery. If cooking isn't your thing, visit a neighborhood restaurant that specializes in local and/or organic.

Send/give pesticide-free flowers. South American countries are frequently the source of wintertime flowers. According to the Pesticide Action Network, pesticides may be used heavily on flower crops in such countries, which can pose health risks to workers, their families and communities, local wildlife, and groundwater. Pay attention to where your flowers come from--shop for flowers that are locally produced and pesticide-free. If local ones are in short supply, consider ordering from an online company that specializes in "green" flowers.

Show your love through Fair Trade and/or organic chocolate. Shop for chocolate that supports fair labor/trade standards and/or that are certified organic. Local food co-ops, some specialty or "natural" grocery stores, and green retailers are potentially good sources.

More ideas for eco-friendly and sustainable things to do on Valentine's Day can be found at the following websites:

<http://livegreentwincities.com/news/newsitem.aspx?newsitemid=7848>

<http://www.rethinkrecycling.com/blog/have-happy-green-valentine%E2%80%99s-day>



NSA BOARD

We have an opening on the NSA Board for a Parent member. If you are interested, please contact the school (me) or come to our next board meeting to check it out. Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:15pm. Our Finance Committee meets prior to the board meeting at 5:45pm which you are also welcome to attend. It is a less formal environment and allows time to answer questions. Thank you for your interest!



NSA 2012-2013 ENROLLMENT

It's hard to believe but it's that time of year! 2012-2013 open enrollment is now open. The online application form can be accessed from the NSA website. *If you are planning on having a sibling attend NSA during the 2012-2013 school year, you must fill out an online application! Siblings do receive preference.* Currently enrolled students do not need to fill out the online application as they are automatically enrolled for 2012-2013. Kindergarten Lottery will take place on Friday, March 2nd. Don't forget that you are our best form of advertising - please spread the word to family, friends and neighbors!

TESTIMONIALS

If you could write about why you chose to send your child to NSA, or what you really enjoy about our school, we would like to include written testimonies on our website so that others know why families choose NSA. Please e-mail it to the school at info@naturalscienceacademy.org, or send a handwritten statement to school with your child. Thank you to the families that have already sent in a testimonial. It is appreciated!

Easy Fundraisers – USED **INKJET** CARTRIDGES/CELL PHONES



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KEMPS MILK LIDS
& Land O Lakes Milk Caps



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TOPS

Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY 2012

Friday, February 10		100 th Day of School!
Monday, February 13		HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MS. LAURA FERGUSON!
Monday, February 13 - Friday, February 17		NSA WINTER WEEK
Tuesday, February 14		HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!
Tuesday, February 14	6:15pm	NSA Board Meeting
Thursday, February 16	6:30-8pm	Go WILD for Science Family Night
Monday, February 20		NO SCHOOL - President's Day
Tuesday, February 21		NO SCHOOL - Teacher Work Day
Wednesday, February 22 nd - Friday, February 24 th		ACNW Trip - 4 th /5 th graders
Tuesday, February 28	11:35am	MN Orchestra - Peter and the Wolf

MARCH 2012

Thursday, March 1	6:30-8pm	Go WILD for Science Family Night
Tuesday, March 6	4:15-8:15pm	Student-led Conferences

Tuesday, March 6th		NSA PAC Meeting - need to reschedule due to conferences
Thursday, March 8	1:15pm	Early Release - Teacher Staff Development
Thursday, March 8	4:15-8:15pm	Student-led Conferences
Friday, March 9		NO SCHOOL - Teacher Workday
Monday, March 12 - Friday, March 16		NO SCHOOL - Spring Break/Energy Days
Tuesday, March 13		NSA Board Meeting - need to reschedule due to Spring Break
Tuesday, March 20	6:15pm	NSA Board Meeting - rescheduled
APRIL 2012		
Tuesday, April 3	6:30-8pm	NSA PAC Meeting
Thursday, April 5	1:15pm	Early Release - Teacher Staff Development
Friday, April 9		NO SCHOOL - Spring Holiday (Easter)
Tuesday, April 10	6:15pm	NSA Board Meeting
Friday, April 13		Adventure Day - Bailey Nursery
Monday, April 16 - Friday, April 20		MCA-II Testing
Monday, April 23 - Friday, April 27		NSA EARTH WEEK
Thursday, April 26		Earth Day
Thursday, April 26	6:30-8pm	Go WILD for Science Family Night
April 30		HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MS. KIRSTEN KINZLER!
MAY 2012		
Tuesday, May 1	6:30-8pm	NSA PAC Meeting
Tuesday, May 8	6:15pm	NSA Board Meeting
Monday, May 14 - Friday, May 18		NWEA MAP Testing/MCA-II Science Testing
Monday, May 21 - Friday, May 25		MID-MAY MASH-UP WEEK!
May 23		HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. AARON BENES!
Monday, May 28		NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
Thursday, May 31	11am	Kindergarten Graduation
JUNE 2012		
Friday, June 1		Last Day of School
Friday, June 1	10:30am	5 th Grade Graduation
Friday, June 1		NSA EOY Family Picnic
Friday, June 1	1:15pm	Early Release - Teacher Staff Development
Monday, June 4 - Friday, June 8		Teacher Workday/EOY Staff Development
Tuesday, June 5	6:30-8pm	NSA PAC Meeting
Monday, June 11		Report Cards (TRAILS) Mailed
Tuesday, June 12	6:15pm	NSA Board Meeting
JULY 2012		
July 3		HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MS. KENDRA HUNDING!

*** NATURAL SCIENCE ACADEMY STAFF ***

Administrative Assistant	Pat Esparza
Director	Kirsten Kinzler
1-3 Classroom Teacher	Aaron Benes
1-3 Classroom Teacher	Laura Ferguson
4-5 Classroom Teacher	Kendra Hunding
Kindergarten Classroom Teacher	Jennifer Wolfe
Special Education	Rachel Blank
Special Ed Paraprofessional	Pam Ihns
Special Ed Paraprofessional	Reina Ferguson
Business Manager	Traci LaFerriere

Staff e-mails = firstname.lastname@naturalscienceacademy.org

**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE**



WJPB

NSA VISION: To develop a "green" school for children where the facility, operations, and educational program reflect a commitment to the natural environment.