

# March News

NEVIS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2018

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Spring Sports Rules Meeting Monday, March 12, 6:30-Tiger Arena
- Spring Musical March 17 and 18
- Lifetouch Spring Pictures Wednesday, March 21
- ALICE Safety Procedures on page 6-7

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## From My Position, Gregg Parks.....

### Nevis Public School ALICE Safety Procedures

This past summer our school district elected to go with a more proactive approach towards handling an intruder in our building. We have chosen to use the A.L.I.C.E. system for training our staff and students to handle emergencies in our building. A.L.I.C.E. is an acronym for:

**A: Alert** – Teaching staff and students to be aware of their surroundings and empowering all staff to alert others in plain language in the event of an emergency.

**L: Lockdown** – Our current lockdown procedures may be a good starting point. However, our staff and students will be trained in enhanced barricading techniques to become a harder target if necessary.

**I: Inform** – Provide as much accurate and real time information as possible so staff can exercise the best available options for the safety of students and staff.

**C. Counter** – An effort of last resort. This is not about teaching kids to fight but rather about providing options during life and death situations if an intruder were to gain access into the building, classroom or workspace.

**E: Evacuate** – This is the first option when available. Students and staff are encouraged to remove themselves from the threat if possible.

Our administration and staff have been training to implement A.L.I.C.E. and we will continue to develop drills to prepare our student body. This past summer staff members were given advanced ALICE training. The teaching staff were provided with an introduction to ALICE and we are taking online ALICE certification. The ALICE training team will continue to provide training opportunities to build confidence and empower staff to act in the best interest safety.

### The Bottom Line for Safety at Nevis Public School:

1. The safety of our students and faculty will always be our top priority.
2. The district is continually updating security procedures based upon best practices.
3. Working with the Hubbard County Sheriff's Department, we have recently updated our understanding, training, and planning for a worse-case scenario of an active-shooter in our school.

Frequently asked questions can be found on page 6-7 of this newsletter.

**“Kindergarten  
Round Up will be  
held March 26 at  
6:00 p.m.”**

**“Pre-School  
Registration  
scheduled for  
April 10”**

**“End of Quarter 3  
is March 23”**

## Principal Michaelson —

As we close out February and begin March, we find ourselves well underway of third quarter. Our students have had a busy month! In the elementary, students celebrated the 100th day on Tuesday, February 13th and Valentine's Day on Wednesday the 14th.

Winter sports are wrapping up their seasons and will be entering playoffs. Other organizations have been busy, as well, this month; Knowledge bowl competitions, FCCLA, Math league, Robotics, and Special Olympics. On March 2nd, student council will host a blood drive for our community, staff and students to help donate to a worthy cause.

I want to thank our families for your diligence in having your students at school, on time and well prepared for learning each day. Attendance is a HUGE variable in success in school. The flu bug has been going around so make sure your child gets adequate sleep and has proper attire when going outside. Please continue to be mindful that our students' academic day continues until dismissal each afternoon and it is very important that students are not dismissed early unless an unavoidable appointment or emergency is involved.

In closing, I want to share with you our commitment to safety at school with the recent events in the news. Nevis staff has practiced and reviewed policies when dealing with crisis situations. I encourage you to talk to your child about such events, effects on families, and mental health. If you have any concerns or questions feel free to contact me.

## Spring Musical to be Performed March 17 and 18

“Into The Woods” is a musical about a curse by a once-beautiful witch placed on a baker and his wife rendering them childless. Three days before the rise of a blue moon, they venture into the forest to find the ingredients that will reverse the spell and restore the witch's beauty: a milky-white cow, hair as yellow as corn, a blood-red cape, and a slipper of gold. During their journey, they meet Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel and Jack, each one on a quest to fulfill a wish.

The cast is comprised of a talented group of young performers: Jada R., Max E., Tahya B., Lydia B., Grace W., Charity N., Paige C., Allee F., Bella M., Caleb W., Breanna B., Gabby D., A.J H., Krysten S., Jade R., Layla M., Amy B., Sofie A., Sara B., Paige C.. Tech/Chorus: Micah K., Mallory K., Marley W., Izzy W., William B., Grace W., Mariya B. and Pimnipa P. The musical is co-directed by Jen Geraedts and Beth Grafenstein as the music director. Set and costumes are designed by Mel Spry.

## Miscellaneous Stuff to Know

**End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Term** -- The end of the second term is Friday, March 23.

**Hoops For Heart** — Our elementary grades, 1st - 5th, took part in our annual Hoop/Jump Rope for Heart event on Friday, February 16th. Students had chances to take part in six different stations on shooting and jumping for 60 minutes, and took a healthy snack break. Also, the student body surpassed their goal of \$4,500 by raising \$7,350, a school record. Also, Mrs. Klimek's class was the class challenge winner raising \$1,400, for most money raised by a class. It was another successful year and lot of fun times.

## Miscellaneous Stuff to Know

### **Junior News:**

**ACT** – The registration deadline for the ACT test given on Saturday, April 14 is March 9. Juniors interested in attending a university should consider taking the test. Juniors will have the opportunity to take the ACT during the school day on Tuesday, April 3. For questions and concerns, please contact Mrs. Sandmeyer.

**NCAA Registration** – Any junior interested in playing sports at a Division I or II school after graduation should obtain information from Mr. Wormley to start the registration process. This is a required process for any student interested in playing sports. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Wormley at 218-652-3500, ext. 158.

**Kindergarten Round Up** is scheduled for Monday, March 26 from 6:00-7:00p.m. for parents and their child who is turning 5 by September 1, 2018 for the 2018-2019 school year. If you have any questions, please contact Principal Michaelson or kindergarten teachers, Mr. Jason Durham and Mrs. Wendy M-B.

**Math League** — The Nevis mathletes recently finished the season at their final meet in Bemidji on Monday, February 12. Tom A. placed 12th overall, earning 2nd Team All Conference. Tom earned 20 points during the season. Kyrsten S., earned 12 points, Gabrielle D. earned 8 points and John M. earned 6 points. There are eight team members on the varsity team. Each team member takes two individual tests, and then all members join together to complete the team test. The Nevis team finished fifth in the conference with 67 points earned and 14 team points. First was Bemidji with 174 points earned and 39 team points. Second was Thief River Falls with 124 earned points and 28 team points, third was Greenbush Middle River with 90 earned points and 24.5 team points, fourth was Badger with 65 earned points and 15.5 team points, sixth was Park Rapids with 61 earned points and 13 team points, and seventh was Bagley with 30 earned points and 4 team points. The earned points are the total of all eight team members' points plus the team tests. Tom, Kyrsten, Gabrielle, and John earned 48 of Nevis' total points. At the end of each meet the points are tallied and the teams are ranked. The ranking results in the team points. As a result, Nevis finished fifth overall.

**Pre-School Registration** for the school year 2018-2019 will take place on Tuesday, April 10 from 1:00-7:00 p.m. in the Early Childhood wing of the school. **There will be no Pre-K (4-year old) class that day.** For children age 4 by September 1, 2018, we offer a Monday/Wednesday or a Tuesday/Thursday all day pre-kindergarten program. For children who are age 3 by September 1, 2018, we offer a Monday/Wednesday 8:30-11:30 a.m. School Readiness class. Advance registration is required in our preschool classes as class size is limited. Please bring to registration the following: birth certificate, a copy of immunization record and a copy of your child's preschool screening (if they have been screened previously at a site other than Nevis School).

If you have any questions regarding preschool registration, please call Abby Henry at 218-652-3500, ext. 303.

**Regional Science Fair** — The following students participated at the Regional Science Fair held at BSU on February 9th. All students placed either receiving red, blue or purple ribbons. Megan L., received the highest awards for her project. ( Does the soil type affect the levels of minerals in well water?) and is advancing onto state competition in April. Megan also received \$100 from the BSU Chemistry Department for Exemplary Chemistry Project and a t-shirt from 3- Suns Research.

Students receiving blue ribbons were: Paige C. (How Wifi radiation affects plant growth), Allee F. (Does surface substrate affect how fingerprints transfer?), Addison L. (Does Cetaphil lotion work the best?), Jade R. (Does biking increase in students more than

## Miscellaneous Stuff to Know

running?), Amy B. (Does vision affect the sense of taste?), Marissa E. (Can you switch out activator in slime?) Edison K. (How much energy do different types of wood have?), Mackenzie M. (Do different amount of acids, baking soda or cornstarch, change the rate of reaction?). Ian A. (What type of bridge can hold most weight?) Students who received red ribbons are: Sarah B. (How does lighting affect a student's performance), Brianna B. (Does the material affect the transfer of fingerprints?), Ethan K. (Do earthworms affect plant growth?), Molly L. (Are eye witnesses reliable?).

**Robotics** -- Construction of the robot was completed February 18. The team will compete in the regional competition at The Great Northern Regional in Grand Forks on March 1-3. They will also travel to Minneapolis to the Mariucci Arena to compete at the Medtronic Foundation Regional March 29 -March 31.

**Special Olympians** -- The Area 2 Special Olympic Swim Meet will be held in Bemidji on Friday, March 23. This is the fifth year the team has participated in unified relays for swimming. The Nevis Special Olympic athletes participate as part of the Walker/Hackensack/Akeley/Nevis Team (WHAN). The 2017-2018 Special Olympic Team includes: Abby D., Samantha F., Anna M., Maggie S., Dee Z., Mary Z., and Rose Z. Our unified partners are: Annalise A., Victoria C., Jack D., Jack L., Jack M., and Tom W.

Our coaches are Donna Rehkamp and Brandy Vredenburg, and. Thank you to our unified partners, athletes, and coaches for their hard work and dedication.

**Spring Picture Day** -- Lifetouch will be at the school on Wednesday, March 21 to take spring pictures. Additional information will be sent home with the students as that date approaches.

**Spring Sports** -- Spring coaches are getting ready for the start of the seasons. Michael O'Rourke is back as the varsity softball coach assisted by Crystal Bessler. The junior high softball team will be coached by Alexis Poncelet. Returning to coach baseball will be head coach Bill Dent, and junior high coach Shawn Klimek. The golf coach is Olaf Netteberg. Jen McNamee will be the head track coach and will be assisted by Tom Stambaugh and Stacy Feder. Official practice start dates are March 12 for varsity softball and track. Varsity baseball and golf start on March 19. The start of junior high practices will be dependent on the weather.

If students are interested in playing any of the spring sports, it is required that a current physical is on file and the student Minnesota State High School League form is signed. Both of these forms must be on file in the high school office prior to an athlete beginning practice.

There will be a parent/athlete/coach meeting for all spring sports participants on Monday, March 12 at 6:30 in the Tiger Arena. If you should have any questions, please contact Mr. Wormley, Activities Director at 218-652-3500, ext.158.

The area basketball at BSU will be on Thursday, March 15. The coaches are Tom W., and Jack L.. Our unified partners are: Annalise A., Victoria C., Jack D. and Jack M.

The area swim meet will be at Bemidji High School on Friday, March 23. Unified partners competing will be Annalise A., Victoria C., Jack D., Jack L., Jack M. and Tom W.

**Student Council** -- Student council is sponsoring a spring blood drive on Friday, March 2 from 9:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m. in the Early Childhood Wing #303 (enter through door 3). If you are willing to donate blood, please contact student council advisors—Lynne Gustafson or Jodi Sandmeyer—or register online at [www.bloodhero.com](http://www.bloodhero.com).

**Testing** -- There is a variety of testing during the month of April. Teachers are currently preparing students for the tests. Students are encouraged to do their best on all the tests. To help accomplish this, a good nights rest the night before and a healthy breakfast in the morning before the test is very important so students will be more refreshed and ready to take these tests. If you have any questions regarding the tests, please contact the high school office. During testing day on April 3, 9th grade students will be going on a visit to Central Lakes College with their advisors. Below is a list of the dates students will be testing:

**March**

5- MTA testing begins

**April 2018**

3- ACT-11th grade students will be dismissed from school about 1:30

3-4 MCAReading—4th—8th,10thGrades

5-6 MCA Reading- 3 grade

12 MCA Science —5th, 8th and 10thGrades

19-20 MCA Math — 4th-8th, 11th Grades

24-25 MCA Math- 3rd grade

**April 30-May 11, 2018**

NWEA Testing—Grades K-2

**YOUTH SURVEY —**

**HUBBARD COUNTY PARENTAL CONSENT NOTIFICATION**

Nevis is partnering with Hubbard in Prevention to conduct a youth survey during the week of March 11 In order to better understand youth health behaviors. As part of this effort, we are asking youth in grades 5-12 to participate in a confidential survey called the Hubbard County Student Survey.

We would like your child to answer questions about their feelings, their school and community, as well as perceptions of, access to, and use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs. They survey includes about 30 questions and will take about 30 minutes. The survey will be administered by school staff, and staff have been instructed on how to maintain student confidentiality.

Your child does not have to participate, but we really want to hear what your child has to say. If you allow your child to participate, they can skip any questions they are uncomfortable answering and can stop the survey at any time. Your child’s response will be strictly protected. Students are not asked for their name, identification number or date of birth. No one can identify your child’s responses. All students’ responses will be combined and reported together.

Survey results will help guide our school and community in creating and improving youth health programs.

We hope your child will participate. If so, there is no need to do anything. If you do NOT want your child to participate in this survey or have any questions, please contact Jodi Sandmeyer. 218-652-3500 ext 170.

**Nevis Public School  
ALICE Emergency Response  
Frequently Asked Questions Sheet  
Alert-Lockdown-Inform-Counter-Evacuate**

**What is the purpose of ALICE?**

The philosophy of ALICE is to enhance our current emergency procedures by using technology, information along with training to empower staff and students to make quick decisions in a crisis situation. The goal is to remove as many people as possible away from the danger zone to increase their safety and chance for survival in an active intruder situation.

**How is this different than what we did before (Hard Lockdown)?**

The Hard Lockdown was a passive approach to an active dangerous situation. In the past, with Hard Lockdown, we simply locked the doors and waited. ALICE is a proactive approach to a dangerous situation. With ALICE, you can make the best decision for yourself based on the information shared with you. In many situations, lockdown may still be the best option; however, we will incorporate a barricade measure which will provide extra time and shelter from a threat to prepare for the next step.

**What is expected of staff and students in an ALICE situation?**

The expectations of students and staff in the event of an ALICE situation are to take the most appropriate action that leads to the safest conclusion for all involved. All stakeholders will need to quickly process available information, take appropriate action with resolve, and commit full to those actions whatever they may include until all are safe.

**How likely is it that we will ever need to use ALICE?**

It is highly unlikely that we will ever encounter a serious crisis situation at the Nevis Public School; however, in the small chance that something dangerous occurs, ALICE procedures can provide options to keep our students and staff safe and increase their survivability during the situation.

**Can we use cell phones during an ALICE situation?**

Yes.

**When and where can ALICE responses be applied?**

Anywhere and anytime, a critical decision needs to be made to increase the safety and security of all.

**What is counter and what is expected of me?**

“Counter” is an ALICE response that is the last resort and should be used only in the most extreme situations such as when an intruder is near you and cannot be avoided. During a counter event you should be as chaotic as possible by screaming, yelling and throwing whatever is available to disrupt the intruder’s thought process until evacuation is an option. The counter response is much like “stop, drop and roll”.

## ALICE Safety Procedures continued...

### **Where are the rally points for an evacuation?**

Rally points are “safer” areas outside the immediate vicinity of the school selected by our teaching staff and adults, that students, and staff can go to after they have evacuated.

While we can never address all of the “What If” scenarios that may occur, ALICE provides us the best available options to meet the demands of the potential emergency situation involving an intruder.

As stated by ALICE trainer Jack Richards, “There are no guarantees in life, and we cannot guarantee that no one will be hurt in a planned attack, but we do guarantee that by doing something instead of nothing you increase your odds of survival.”