



Northstar Notes Home of the *Polars*

Main Office: 715.852.5100
Student Services: 715.852.5103
Partnership Coordinator: 715.852.5107

December 16, 2021

Northstar Middle School Calendar

December

- 16 Band 8 Concert, 7pm
- 21 Band 6 Mini Holiday Concert, 2:20pm

December 23 – December 31
All Schools Closed for Winter Break

January

- 3 Classes Resume
- 7 Choir 8, Tour of Elementary Schools
- 4 Dairy Queen Fundraiser, 4 – 9 pm
- 11 5th Grade Parent Preview Night, 5:30 - 6:30 pm
- 11 PTSA Executive Board Meeting, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
- 14 End of 1st Semester
- 14 Quarter 2 Athletics Ends
- 17 No School for Students, Staff PD Day
- 18 No School for Students, Staff PD Day
- 20 Select Choir 7/8 UWEC Festival, All Day
- 20 Quarter 3 Athletics Begin
- 25 Band 6 Concert, 7pm
- 27 Orchestra 6 Concert, 7pm @ North

THANK YOU TO ALL

for your understanding, patience, and flexibility as we continue to navigate the challenges associated with COVID-19 in our schools and community. Our Polar students and families continue to show grace and positivity during this very fluid time. Enjoy your winter break and stay safe and healthy!

Important Links

Northstar Middle School Website

[ECASD Latest COVID-19 Information](#)

[ECASD 2020-21 School Year Calendar](#)

[ECASD & Community Resources](#)

[ECASD Community Events and Resources](#)

[December Lunch Menu](#)

Tech Support and Resources

Technical Support for all ECASD families is available from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM Monday through Friday by calling 715-852-3411

Lus Hmoob

Yog koj xav tau tus neeg Hmoob txhais daim ntawv no ua lus Hmoob rau koj los yog koj muaj lus nug txog daim ntawv no, hu rau Annie (715-852-6577).

En Espanol

Spanish: Si desea que alguien le traduzca esta carta o si tiene preguntas, llame a Irene Salazar al (715) 852-4943.



Find us on Facebook [HERE](#)

News and Announcements

QUARTER 3 ATHLETIC SEASON SIGN UP NOW

Our Quarter 3 athletics season is quickly approaching! Register your athlete by Friday, Dec 17 using the form below. Quarter 3 sports offered are: Girls Basketball, Boys Swimming, and Wrestling. All sports are for grades 7 & 8. There are no athletic offerings in Quarter 3 for 6th grade students. Quarter 3 season starts on January 24th and ends on March 18th. Look for more information after Winter Break. Questions? Contact Mr. Jablonske @ jjablonske@ecasd.us. Link: [Registration Form](#)

FORENSICS SEASON IS STARTING

Last call to sign up for Forensics. If interested, please contact Mr. Steffens in room 845 or Ms. Tracy in Room 740. All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are welcome.

FILL THE POLAR PANTRY FOOD DRIVE

Join us for our first annual food drive to help fill the shelves of our very own food pantry, the Kitchen Cupboard. Drive up, drop off, and donate items on **Saturday, Dec. 18 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm**. See [page 11](#) for details!

WINTER WEATHER PLAN

Families, please see [Winter Weather School Closing Guidelines](#) for details regarding the ECASD options for the 2021-2022 school year. Please let us know if you have any questions.

SPECIAL EDUCATION FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

Check out the [December Newsletter](#) from our ECASD Special Education Department.

1st SEMESTER ENDS JAN 14

Potential failure notices for students receiving a non-passing grade were mailed home last week. Be sure to contact your child's teacher to get back on track should you receive a notice. Teacher gradebooks are updated often go give you accurate information regarding missing assignments and current grades. Don't forget to check Skyward!

WINTER AND HOLIDAY HELP

Do you need some help over the holidays? Click [HERE](#) for more information on helpful programs in Eau Claire County or go to <https://www.ecasd.us/ECASD/media/District-Site/PDFs/Holiday-Help-2021.pdf>. Included is information about meals for the holidays along with assistance for gifts.

Winter Holidays



CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH US!

North High School
Staff Presents

FREE
HOLIDAY
DINNER
DRIVE-UP

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 22
4 TO 6 P.M. (UNTIL GONE)
NORTH HIGH MAIN ENTRANCE

HAM, ROASTED POTATOES,
BROCCOLI SALAD, ROLLS & DESSERT



News and Announcements

Season of Giving Program – Families Helping Families A BIG THANK YOU!

Thank you to all Northstar families and staff who participated in this year's Season of Giving Program. Because of you, we will present the ECASD Homeless program with:

- ❖ **\$1,050 of gift cards** (Mega Holiday, Walmart, Festival and Kwik Trip – 50 cards total)
- ❖ **\$ 690 in cash** (from your generous contributions during our “donut and donate” event yesterday!
- ❖ **Plus even MORE money from Student Council's Penny War.** . . total will be counted later this week, and we will report in news blast next week!
- ❖ **Also, \$200 in gift cards were donated specifically for Northstar families in need.**

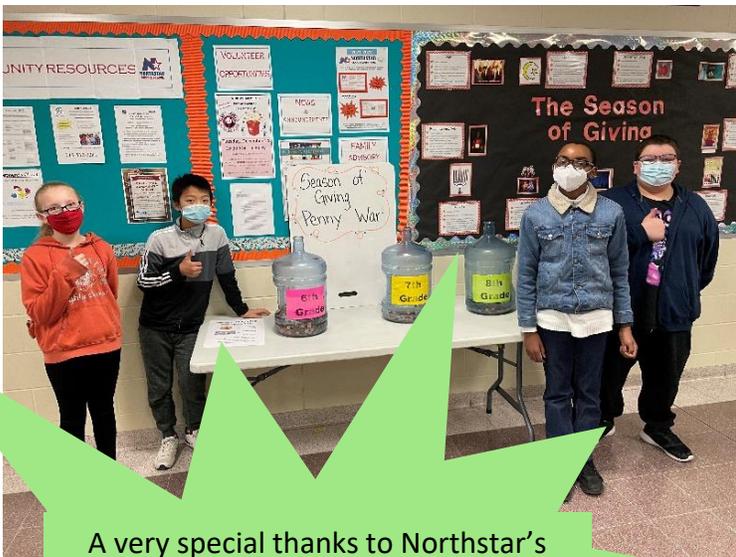
That's **\$1,940** towards helping make the holiday season bright for families in our ECASD community.

In addition, your participation supported Northstar's PTSA

- ❖ **\$700** was earned for the PTSA (through Season of Giving and Holiday
- ❖ Scrip Card rebates)



Northstar sincerely appreciates your generosity. Happy holidays to everyone!



A very special thanks to Northstar's

Student Council

for sponsoring a Grade Level Penny War. All funds will benefit ECASD Homeless Program. Look for results in next newsletter.

Your generous hearts are a gift to many.

SMALL TALKS – HOW WE PREVENTS UNDERAGE DRINKING

During the holiday season, kids may have more exposure to alcohol. A statewide campaign called Small Talks is encouraging parents and caregivers to have short, casual conversations about the dangers of underage drinking with the children in their lives. Here are the three ways to prevent underage drinking for the holidays.

- **Have age-appropriate conversations.** Parents have the most influence on their children's choices on underage drinking. [Click HERE for tips on having age-appropriate talks about alcohol.](#)
- **Prepare kids for situations with alcohol.** It is important for kids to have the tools to handle peer pressure and navigate social situations. [Click HERE for ways to help practice and support.](#)
- **Limit opportunities for alcohol use and model good behavior.** Holiday parties for adults may include alcohol. When attending, remember to model good behavior. If hosting, consider an alcohol-free event. [Click HERE if you want to do](#)

Farewell Officer Erickson . . . Welcome Officer Xiong!

Meet Northstar's New Student Resource Officer, Officer Xiong!

Officer Xiong was born and raised in Eau Claire, WI attending Sam Davey (Kindergarten), Putnam Heights (1-4th grade), Manz (5th), and South Middle School. After graduating from Memorial High School in 2009, Officer Xiong went on to attend CVTC, where he obtained his Associates Degree in Criminal Justice. He then went on to obtain a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology at the University of WI – Stout as he was interested in learning more about human behaviors. Officer Xiong completed the Law Enforcement (L.E) training at the Police Academy during his tenure at CVTC

Before coming to Northstar to serve as our SRO, Officer Xiong worked as a patrol officer for the past five years, assigned to the Patrol Division, responding to calls for service throughout the city.

When asked what he finds most challenging about law enforcement, Officer Xiong said “working around staffing issues. There is a nationwide shortage of law enforcement officers that causes a lot of overtime opportunities that need to be filled.”

What does Officer Xiong enjoy most about law enforcement? “No two days are the same. You are always doing something different. Each day is full of surprises. I also love working and seeing the people of community we serve and the impact we make on a day-to-day basis.”

Officer Xiong is looking forward to his new role as Northstar's Student Resource Officer--eager to build relationships and to provide a safe environment at school for our students, staff and families.

WELCOME to Northstar, Officer Xiong. We are excited to have you as a part of our Polar family.

THANK YOU, Officer

Erickson, for the

tremendous way you have served Northstar students, families, and staff these past six years as Northstar's Student Resource Officer. Best of luck to you as you continue to serve our Eau Claire community in law enforcement. You will be missed!



Officer Xiong Fun Facts

Favorite Hobbies Include:

- ❖ Anything Outdoors
- ❖ Traveling to New Places
- ❖ Trying New Food
- ❖ Taking Naps (almost as much as his dogs enjoy taking naps!)

News and Announcements

DID YOU KNOW? . . .

Northstar has its very own **THERAPY DOG!** And we couldn't be more excited! **Meet Valor!**

Student Achievement Specialist, Jana Schimoeller, saw first-hand the positive effects a dog's presence brings to a school as she worked with students in a previous school who employed a therapy dog. Knowing this, she decided to find a dog that would be a great fit for Northstar and applied for a "career changer" through Occupaws in Madison, WI. Occupaws trains dogs to be guide dogs, but only around 30% of each litter makes it to the formal training. Dogs begin formal training sometime after they turn 1 year old and those who need a new "career" can be adopted. The universe had other plans and instead of getting a young dog, Occupaws asked Jana what she thought about adopting an 8-year-old yellow lab who had spent his past 6 years as a guide dog. Jana was open to the idea, and after meeting Valor, she instantly knew he was the perfect dog for Northstar. A week later he passed his therapy dog test and is now happily "employed" as Northstar. Although many students have dogs at home, there's a truly sometime special about a dog at school. Valor loves nothing more than to be pet and will get as close as he can for some belly rubs. Jana remarked, "I have seen how Valor's presence has brightened a students' day, soothed a staff member with a migraine, and calmed a struggling student.



Meet Valor, Northstar's Therapy Dog



Students can find Valor in Room 884 for a quick scratch or snuggle. Valor's presence at Northstar is good for the soul!



Meet Valor, Northstar's Therapy Dog



Valor also visits classrooms and strolls the hallways, connecting with students right where they're "at".



News and Announcements



STOCK YOUR CUPBOARD FOR THE HOLIDAY BREAK

To place an order, go to link:
[Kitchen Cupboard Order Form.](#)

Upcoming Orders Due:
Dec 20, 8 am

***Orders may be picked up:
Tuesday, Dec 21
Wednesday, Dec 22
7:30 am – 3:30 pm

Kitchen Cupboard will be closed over the holiday break
and reopen Jan 3rd.

Interested in
helping with
our Kitchen
Cupboard?
Contact
[jjunker@ecasd](mailto:jjunker@ecasd.us)
.us for ways to
get involved!



Volunteer Opportunities:

1. **Students** to help stock shelves and pack food bags
2. **Adult volunteer** to pick up food from Feed My People Food Bank periodically

CALLING ALL NORTHSTAR STUDENTS.... Registration is getting close!

January 2022 will mark the start of next year's registration process. Counselors will be reviewing the course selection/registration process with students during the school day starting the **first week of January**, so please mark your calendars and talk with your student about their class selection/registration during that time. We believe it is important for parents/guardians to be involved in the registration process, so we ask parents/guardians to sign the student's registration card to indicate approval of the student's course selection.

Attention 8th Grade Students and Families....

Academic and Career Planning (ACP) presentation

You will learn about the high school registration process and academic and career planning for high school and life beyond. The ACP seminar covers important steps in preparing for your child's successful transition to high school. Our goal is to provide you and your child with the necessary information to link your child's academics to their future education and career goals. Parents/Guardians and students are encouraged to view the seminar together. Topics to be covered: Things to consider when planning your future, Xello (free electronic career/education tool), and preview of high school course selection/registration process.

Please review the following Academic and Career Planning (ACP) Seminar with your student prior to winter break.

Click the link to start the presentation: <https://youtu.be/Mvj3gCxSSYQ>.

Each grade level will receive registration materials on the following dates:

Current 6th graders- January 7th

Current 7th graders- January 21st

Current 6th and 7th grade Arctic Zone- January 13th

Current 8th graders (all)- January 6th

News and Announcements

Northstar is fielding its first **Battle of the Books** team in recent history! 4 teams are preparing to challenge each other by reading a state selected list of **20 books**. Students meet in the library once a week to discuss the books, write questions, and take practice quizzes on the books' plot, character, theme, setting, and other elements. Northstar's winning team will participate in the statewide battle at the end of February. Thank you to the students who are choosing to engage in this rigorous, academic competition



COVID-19 Testing Opportunities At Schools

The Eau Claire Area School District is pleased to announce an opportunity with Accelerated Clinical Laboratories (ACL) for voluntary COVID-19 testing at school locations. Beginning December 6, there will be drive-thru testing provided for students who have been identified as close contacts so they can conveniently test on day six or seven of their quarantine period, and for any child or family member who is experiencing COVID-like symptoms. Both the Antigen and the PCR tests will be administered. Testing will be Monday through Friday at designated schools and times.

[Please see Drive-Up COVID Testing at Schools](#) for more information and to pre-register.

Important

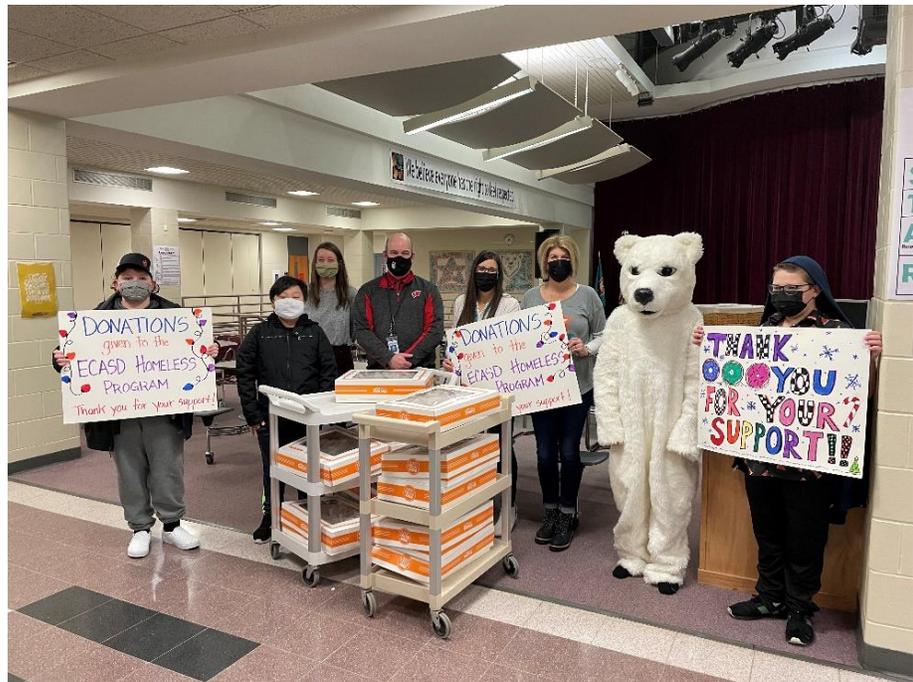
Donut and Donate Event

Our heartfelt thanks to **NORTHSTAR FAMILIES** for all your support this year! We loved treating you to a donut at morning drop-off yesterday!

Families also had the opportunity to donate spare change that morning to our **Season of Giving Program**.

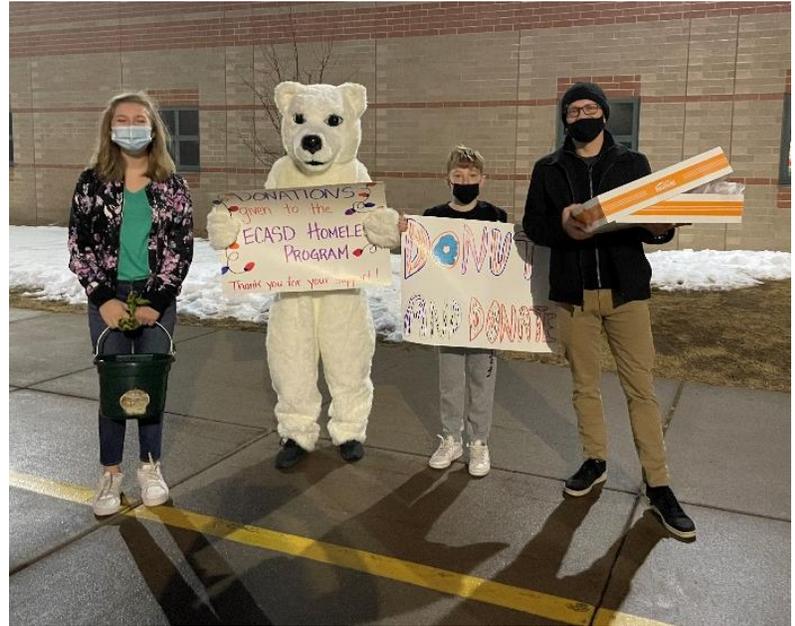
Northstar families raised **\$690!**

Proceeds benefit the ECASD Homeless Program!



Student Council members and Polar staff prepare to hand out donuts to say thank you to Northstar families! The weather cooperated with balmy, almost "spring-like" conditions!

Donut and Donate Event



THANK YOU

Festival Foods (Birch Rd) & **Kwik Trip** (Black Ave/North Crossing) for donating **30 dozen donuts** towards our efforts to raise money for ECASD Homeless Program.



Give Back to your Fellow Students and Families!

Help us stock Northstar's Kitchen Cupboard
by participating in our first annual



Fill the Polar Pantry Food Drive

December 18 (Saturday)

9am – 12pm

Items will be collected at Northstar's Door #5 using the south parking lot.
We will have signs pointing to the drop off location.

Drive up, Drop Off and Donate!!

Hosted by our very own Mr. Brown (ARCTIC Zone Advisor) and his family

In memory of Mr. Brown's Uncle Jerry who had a huge heart for his community. Each year "Uncle Jerry" would host a food drive around the holidays to help those in need. Mr. Brown's Uncle Jerry passed away 1 year ago; Now, Mr. Brown and his family carry on his tradition each year of helping others.

Join us in helping our Northstar community!



the Kitchen Cupboard
Items needed for

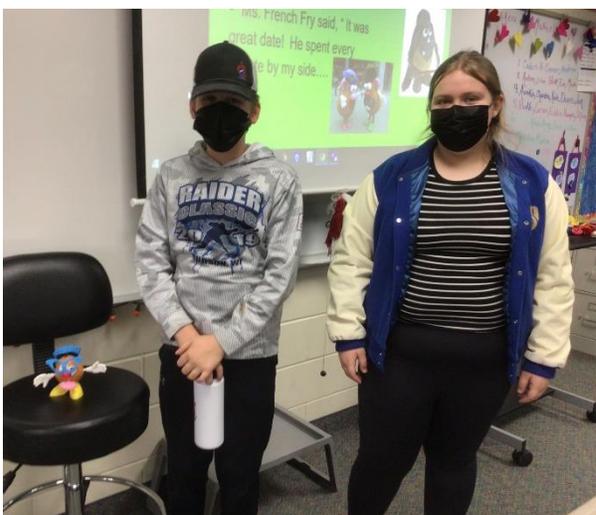
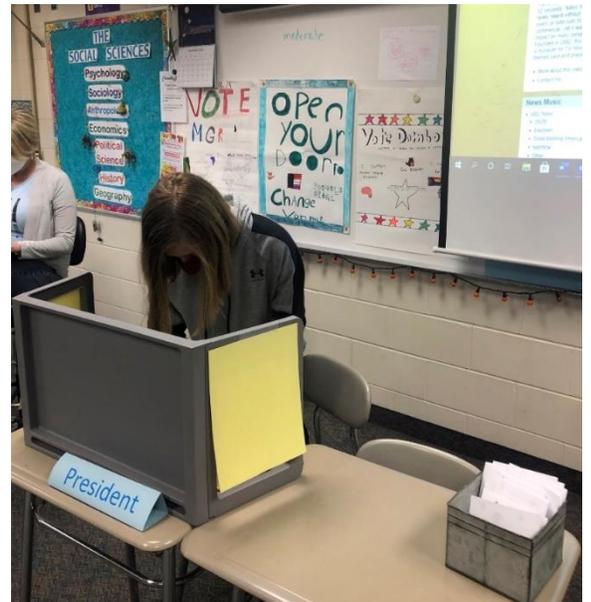
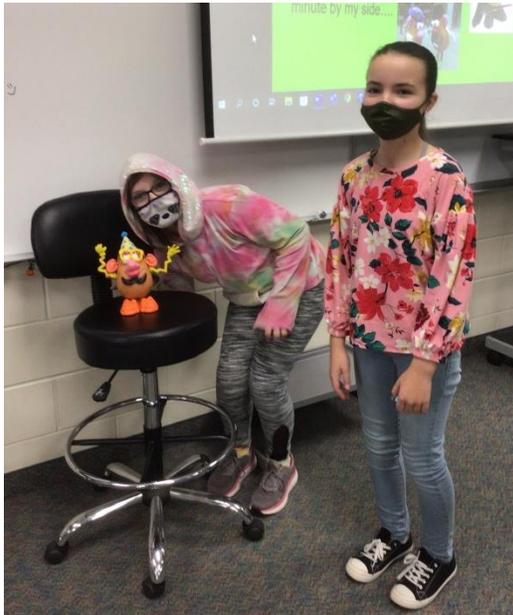
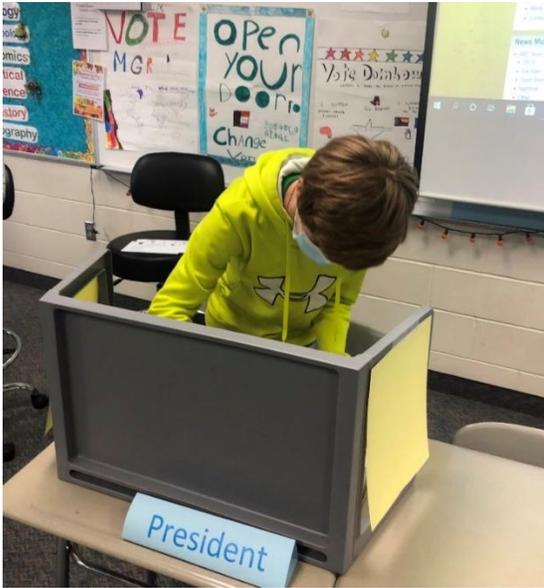
- ❖ feminine products
- ❖ laundry detergent
- ❖ household cleaning supplies
- ❖ deodorant (both men and women scents)
- ❖ shampoo
- ❖ conditioner
- ❖ body wash
- ❖ toothpaste
- ❖ side dishes (i.e. Rice a Roni)
- ❖ granola bars
- ❖ spaghetti sauce
- ❖ crackers
- ❖ beef jerky
- ❖ snacks
- ❖ items to make a meal (i.e. chili ingredients)

Cash donations are also appreciated. Mr. Brown's family charity, W.I.N.G.S. will match up to \$200 of cash donations!

Polar Highlights

7th GRADE SOCIAL SCIENCES LEARN ABOUT OUR GOVERNMENT

When learning about the executive branch, students could choose to run for class president. Students made posters, gave speeches about the issues that mattered to them, and shared the strengths they had that would make them a good president. Students were then able to vote for the students running for president. Each class has elected officers, and they plan on meeting with the principals to suggest some options that they would like to see at Northstar! They did an amazing job!



Polar Highlights

LEARNING ABOUT THE JUCIDIAL BRANCH: Mr. Potato Head VS US Government

During the political science unit in 7th grade social studies, students learned about the US Judicial Branch. They had a simulation that taught them the different courts and important vocabulary that they needed to know to understand key ideas. The court case was Mr. Potato Head VS the US Government. Each group created a potato head that served as a witness in the case. We had a lot of fun learning together! Mr. Potato Head was found innocent. It was discovered that his evil twin brother, Darth Tator committed the crime.

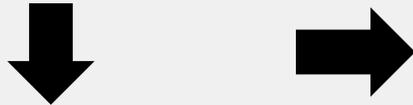




DISCOUNT CARDS ARE A GREAT STOCKING STUFFER!!

At \$10 per card, it is a great way to support Northstar students AND local businesses all in one swipe! Click [HERE](#) to download a form. Turn in to main office or send to school.

Ways to Help Northstar. . .



EARN BOX TOPS with these HOLIDAY FAVORITES!



From sides to snacks to dessert, your holiday meal can give back to schools, too. Remember to scan your receipts this holiday season!

See a full list of products at btfe.com/products



Tuesday,
January 4th

Pinehurst Dairy Queen
4-9 PM

10% of proceeds support Northstar

Northstar PTSA Executive Board Meeting You're Invited!

Please join us to learn more about what's happening at Northstar

When: Tuesday, January 11
Time: 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Where: Northstar Commons

Use the link below to complete membership form and return to main office.

[2021-2022-PTSA-MEMBERSHIP-FORM](#)



Community Food and Other Resources

Eau Claire Area Community Food and Other Resources

Be sure to check out the updated ECASD Community Food and Resources page on the ECASD website. (Also available in Spanish and Hmong)

SOME of the information you will find include:

- ECASD School Meals – FREE breakfast and lunch for students through end of the school year!
- Weekend Kid's Meals
- Eau Claire Area Pop-Up Food Pantries
- School Supplies and Clothing Resources
- Child Care Assistance
- Free Covid Testing and Vaccines
- Rental Assistance
- Smartphone Program
- AND MORE!

There are many great resources available to our ECASD families! Click [HERE](#) for more information or visit <https://www.ecasd.us/ECASD/media/District-Site/PDFs/December-2021-ECASD-Community-Resources.pdf>



COMMUNITY EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Looking for activities to engage your school-aged children? Check out the [**ECASD Community Events and Resources**](http://www.ecasd.us/District/About/Community-Events/Community-Event-Flyers-(1)) [http://www.ecasd.us/District/About/Community-Events/Community-Event-Flyers-\(1\)](http://www.ecasd.us/District/About/Community-Events/Community-Event-Flyers-(1)) page at the District website for information regarding upcoming community events and continuing resources for school-age students and their families.

Feed My People Weekend Meals

Feed My People is partnering with the Eau Claire School District to provide extra food for our families on the weekends. If you would like to receive the weekend meal pack, please complete the weekend meals permission slip online at: <https://bit.ly/3y88udA>. There is no financial information required to sign up for this program. Call Jenn Junker at 715.852.5107 or email jjunker@ecasd.us with questions.

CONSIDER JOINING AN AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB IN 2022!!

Northstar Clubs have been a huge success during quarter 2. We are proud that 61 students were given an opportunity from staff after school to participate in Calm, Book Club, Garden, and American Sign Language clubs. Thanks to our club advisors for making these opportunities possible for our students!