



# NORTHERN EXPOSURE

The Newsletter of Village Academy North, Inc.

It's no secret that we are seeing the impact of H1N1 here at the school. The majority of the children that have presented with H1N1 actually seem to have caught it from their older siblings. We've thankfully not had

the situation where it runs rampant through a classroom. We thank parents for holding children out that they think might be ill, as well as our teachers and Molly Maids for keeping the school clean and sanitized!

VILLAGE  
ACADEMY NORTH

H1N1 UPDATE

DCF RULES

SAFETY

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## H1N1 UPDATE

We are still awaiting input from the Health Department on providing shots for our children, staff, and parents. We'll let you know when we know something new. In the meantime, if you have an opportunity to get a shot, I'd take it; I know that Babette and I will.

You have no doubt read that the impact of H1N1 is concentrated on younger people. There are many elements to this virus, but Dr. Snyder said on the Today show this morning that if you were born after 1968 you have never had exposure to any part of it.

If you or your child present with symptoms, go see your doctor. If you or your child has trouble breathing, I urge you to go to the ER - and fast. That is the number one indicator of the disease taking a very serious turn.

And remember to keep a bottle of sanitizer with you. We even put one at the main door to our home.

Finally, the best website for current information seems to be [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov).

## KEEP US OUT OF TROUBLE

Keeping our license, and our Gold Seal rating, is a constant effort. We can lose it for some strange things. For instance, we are having you sign the "flu information" forms because the state mandated we do that as a licensing requirement!

We definitely get in trouble if there are unlabeled sippie cups, bowls or food containers in the classroom. If you bring in a cup in the morning that isn't labeled, and the teacher doesn't notice it in the rush, and the inspector shows up...we get a violation. Please, Please don't bring anything into the school that is not labeled. If you do, just ask your teacher for a Sharpie.

Also, please don't bring breakfast for children that arrive after 7:30.

## THE CONGA LINE

We use a parent pick-up line at release for our VPK students, just like the elementary schools do. The process is most efficient and safest if you stay in your car and let us bring the child to you. The children are taught that they may not leave the porch without one of their teachers. Thanks for your help!

## A NEW LOW

We had a parent leave the Village the other day with their pre-schooler on their lap, "driving" the car.

I know most people my age probably did that as a kid, but I'd like to think we've evolved. It's not safe, and it's against the law. Please parents - just buckle your kids in every time you drive!

Also, please hold your child's hand tightly in the parking lot. We don't want anyone stepping out in front of a car.

## THINK OF IT AS PRACTICE

I may be running out of ways to be tactful about getting children to school on time. The academic period starts at 9:00 am; 9:15 for VPK 3 and 4. We still have an amazing number of parents bringing their children in after the start of class, and it really is disruptive. Try thinking of it as practice for elementary school, which starts at 8:30.

	OCT 26-28	OCT 30	NOV 11	NOV 26-27
DATES TO REMEMBER	School Pictures	St Johns County Schools Closed (Village North Open)	St Johns County Schools Closed (Village North Open)	Village North Closed (Thanksgiving)

## KIDS HEALTH

We've mentioned this before, but please visit <http://kidshealth.org>. It is an excellent website filled with information. I also recommend the Kaiser Family Foundation's site to stay abreast of health reform issues: <http://healthreform.kff.org>.

## AFTER-SCHOOLER NOT JOINING US? PLEASE CALL!!

When your elementary school child does not show up for their St Johns County school bus, the bus leaves anyway. We operate under different rules. We can't leave the school until school personnel certify to us that your child left the school a different way - parent pick-up, early, etc., and sometimes that takes them quite a while. So please call us prior to 1:30 in the afternoon if your child won't be joining us for the After School program that day.

## COLD WEATHER

We can hope that we've seen the last of the 95+ heat index weather, and that we are truly into fall. That means cold mornings and warm afternoons for outdoor play. Please make sure that your child has clothes for both cold and warm weather in their cubbie. And please label them! We end up with an amazing amount of clothes each year in the lost and found which then go unclaimed.

## AUTHORIZED PICK-UP LIST

I know we've mentioned this, but it never hurts to repeat it. Florida law prohibits us from releasing your child to someone who is not on your approved pickup list. We have over 150 children enrolled, and that's a lot of parents and people on the pickup list. Our front desk staff and Babette and I try to learn everyone, but we just don't always know you. And if you don't have a 4-digit code and a fingerprint that opens the door, you will be asked to provide picture ID. Last week I sent a Dad home who I did not know and who had forgotten his wallet. He took it with grace, but I just did not have a choice.

You cannot call us and add someone, no matter what personal emergency you might be facing. That's not our rule - its the state of Florida. To add someone to your authorized pickup list you must, at minimum, send us a fax, including your signature that we can compare to your enrollment form. Also, please remember that if someone is on your list, we can't remove them. So if you don't want them authorized to pick up your child anymore, you have to delete them.

## ADMIN NOTES

Parents need to slow down in the parking lot; we have a lot of children crossing to the cars, and sometimes they break away from their parents in spite of best efforts...We are a non-smoking campus, *including* the parking lot...Holiday shows this year will be held at The Village Academy, our main campus, due to space constraints here at *North*.