



Your Public Schools Niagara Falls, NY



Empire State Advantage Gold Level Awardee

December 2017

Community Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 4

The Stewardship Project Vote December 12

*The Stewardship Project:
protecting the community's
investment in public schools.*

Every District is required to complete a periodic assessment of all its buildings. New York State Education Law and regulations require a building condition survey (BCS) for all occupied school buildings to be conducted at least every five years. Based on the findings of that survey, districts must then decide what action needs to be taken to protect the substantial investments communities have already made in their schools. Taking appropriate action also protects communities from having to scramble with an unprepared-for calamity, like a leaking roof for example.

The District's BCS drew attention to some needed projects. There are also some items that simply need to be addressed, and some that it just makes sense to address.

Here are some highlights.

Roofs & Lots

New roofs are needed quite badly at Maple Avenue School and Cataract Elementary School. In addition, it seems like the 'new' high school opened yesterday, but in fact it was 2000 when the first students reported to class.



The roof had been on the structure for some time before that memorable day, meaning the roof is nearing the end of its 20-year warranty-- and it shows. In this case, we can address the NFHS roof without replacing it; we can use a product that essentially seals it and comes with a 20-year warranty.

**On December 12
from noon to 9 p.m.,
vote on a
\$55 million capital
projects referendum.
No increase to the
school tax levy!
Please read all about it!**

Likewise, the well-used facility, which welcomes not only students but the community at large for events and programs that take place almost every day of the year, is surrounded by a well-used parking lot. It needs repair, too. Just take a drive there; see for yourself.

Kitchen at 79th Street School

Seventy-ninth Street School is the only remaining school with no hot kitchen. To build one within the existing footprint of the building is a goal of this project. That's an issue of parity; every student should be able to get meals of comparable quality, as fresh and as hot as possible. That is especially true in a community where some students may get their most nutritious meal during the school day.

GJ Mann

Sections of sidewalk and curbs need to be repaired or replaced, the hardwood gym

floor must be repaired and re-finished, some acoustic ceiling tiles need to be replaced and new windows and window treatments are necessary to make the GJ Mann school plant what it should be.

Above left, the NFHS parking lot.



The "new" Niagara Falls High School.

Cataract: Bigger isn't always better



Many will recall that before it was an elementary school, Cataract Elementary School was Niagara Middle School. Middle school students are larger than elementary school students. With some students in Universal Pre-Kindergarten being only four-years-old, they are quite a bit smaller in stature than the 12-year-olds who used to attend the school. Desks can be changed, but not everything is easily adjusted to very small children, especially those who are mastering the most basic of skills. That is why we need to update the facilities to make them easier for the students to use. Imagine if your home toilet were as high as your hip. It would create a problem, wouldn't it?

Air Conditioning

Four elementary schools -- Mann, 79th, Hyde Park, and Maple need air-conditioning. As this autumn showed, there is no telling how long it will be hot outside and with extended school day programs and summer programming, this has become a greater issue. It is also an equity issue, as Niagara Street, Cataract, Kalfas, and Abate are already climate controlled year-long.

CAT 6 Wiring

With the coming of full implementation of computer-based testing and all the technology in the classroom today, it is necessary to keep Ethernet and other technology cables compatible and up to the job of transmitting all the data needed among laptops, interactive white boards, and printers. Category 6 wiring will ensure we are able to use our investment in technology to the maximum degree with no problem, now and for the foreseeable future.



Above, the roof at Cataract School.

Funding and school by school projects, pages 4-5.

From the Superintendent



Before the holiday crush begins, I am asking residents to take a moment on **December 12, Tuesday, between noon**

and 9 p.m. to cast a vote on the calling \$55 million capital projects we are calling The Stewardship Project.

This issue is full of detailed information, but in general the purpose of these projects is maintain our infrastructure -- things like roofs, parking lots, curb and sidewalk work--as well as upgrading our wiring for technology to Category 6 twisted pair cable for Ethernet and other network layers.

GJ Mann needs new windows and window treatments. Maple, NFHS, and Cataract need roof repair or replacement. The need to attend to the parking lot at NFHS is evident to anyone who drives through it; time and daily use take a toll. Seventy-ninth Street School needs a kitchen, as it is the only school in the District that does not have one. We are also planning, if this referendum is successful, to air con-

dition the remaining four elementary school that are not already air conditioned.

These projects will cause NO INCREASE TO THE SCHOOL TAX LEVY.

We do, however, need a 60% in favor vote in order for these referendum to pass.

If successful, the projects will be completed in two phases, and will generate work for the skilled trades and labor. The District is happy to use local, union labor to enhance our physical plant.

I am fortunate that previous Superintendents and the Board of Education, with the support of the community, have made wise investments in our school facilities and made sure our students have the best technology, STEM labs, and athletic facilities. With your help, it is my goal to take proper care of the community's schools.

Finally, from our District family and my own family to each of yours, best wishes for a happy, safe, and memorable holiday season and healthy and productive New Year.

From the Board



Art Jocoy Jr.

Each December, the Niagara Falls Education Foundation, Inc., hosts the Cataract City Classic in Niagara Falls. Although a separate entity from the school district, the Foundation designates its scholarships solely for graduating seniors of Niagara Falls High School.

The Classic features the Wolverine basketball and hockey teams in competitive match-ups against formidable opponents.

In 2017, at the annual Foundation Scholarship and Alumni Recognition Dinner in April, \$17,500 in scholarships were awarded to 13 Seniors headed into various fields of study. Our friends at Niagara Falls Coachlines, Mark Cerrone, Inc., the family of Alden and Sam Rotella, and friends of Phyliss E. Jahn join us in awarded these funds. The Foundation scholarship funds come from proceeds of our dinner, as well as proceeds from the Classics. In addition to enjoying enthusiastic play at the

basketball and hockey tournaments, your attendance also helps funds these scholarships.

Join us in the Wolvarena for basketball Friday December 8 and Saturday December 9. Here is the schedule.

Basketball:
Friday: 5:00 Lew Port vs Sweethome
6:30 Royhart vs East Aurora
8:00 NFHS vs McQuaid
Saturday: 12:00 Medina vs Nichols 1:30
Franklinville vs Niagara Catholic 3:00
Amherst vs Buffalo East 4:30
Wilson vs Grand Island
6:00 Williamsville N. vs Monroe HS
7:30 NFHS vs Park School.

The hockey classic will take place December 29 and 30 at the Hyde Park Ice Pavillion.

Friday 29th
5:00 Lew Port vs NT
7:00 NFHS vs Amherst
Saturday 30th:
5:00 Consolation
7:00 Championship

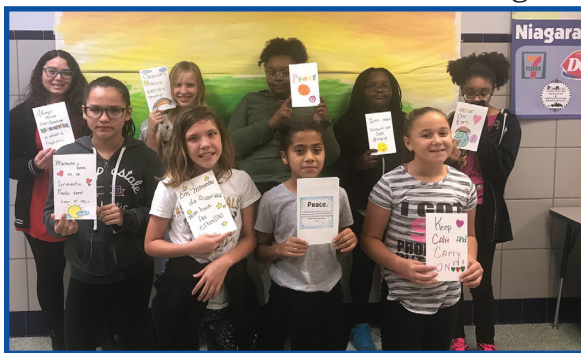
Tickets to the Classics are \$5 general admission, \$3 with student identification.

Please join for a great family activity that supports a great cause.

Around the District

Congratulations to LaSalle Prep School October Leaders of the Month:

Ali Fakih, Sakiya Hill, Christian Charsley, Zackary DeFranco, Niya Panell, Haleigh Routhier, Chloe Moseman, Talent Johnson, Jordan Byrd, Dezarae Davis, Jessica Eagan, Delavonte Shine, and Julia Condino.



Michele DiGregorio's Service Learning Club from Niagara Street School teamed up with the Character Council of Western New York on the "Caring" and "Citizenship" in Action Letter Project for Puerto Rico. Our students created bright, encouraging and caring cards with inspiring messages for children and families affected by Hurricane Maria. With the help of Nilia Guadalupe, a counseling intern from the University of Buffalo, we were able to create cards in English and Spanish. Nilia is fluent in Spanish and was raised in Puerto Rico.

The Niagara Falls City School District held its 29th Annual Fifth and Sixth Grade Elementary Mile Run in autumn at Niagara Falls High School.

This year's event, sponsored by Niagara PAL, Niagara Falls Board of Education, NFHS Cross Country and NFT, had 112 participants from the elementary schools, and was highlighted by Ethan Copelin, a fifth grader at GJ Mann Elementary, who recorded the fastest time of 6:31.

Bria Freeman (GJ Mann-7:11) finished first in the sixth grade girls group, while Vincent Misterkiewicz (Maple-6:50) paced the sixth grade boys. Amber Hermanson (79th-7:42) rounded out the winners, topping the fifth grade girls group.

Top three finishers in each group were as follows:

Grade 5 Girls

Place Time School Name
1st 7:42 79th Street Amber

Cataract City Classic!
December 8 & 9 -
Basketball Wolvarena at
NFHS!
December 29 & 30 - Hockey
Ice at Hyde Park
Step into the den....

Hermanson
2nd 8:18
Maple Avenue Zoey Ranieri
3rd 8:38
Niagara Street Neveah Halls
Grade 5 Boys
Place Time School Name
1st 6:30 GJ Mann Ethan Copeline
2nd 6:31 Abate Jonathon Touma
3rd 7:02 79th Gavin Lewis
Grade 6 Girls
Place Time School Name
1st 7:11 GJ Mann Bria Freeman
2nd 8:06 Niagara St Savannah Moore
3rd 8:33 Kalfas Kristalina Marrero
Grade 6 Boys
Place Time School Name
1st 6:50 Maple Vincent Misterkiewicz
2nd 7:19 Maple Carson Robins
3rd 7:29 Niagara Street Jason Pryor

2017-2018
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THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME
at all Board of Education
Meetings.

Wolverine Football



For Varsity Football games at the NFHS Main Stadium, please be aware of the following policies, which are in place for all home games.

1. All currently enrolled Niagara Falls High School Students must show their Niagara Falls High School ID upon entering the stadium.
2. All Prep school and elementary school students must be accompanied by an adult in order to be admitted to the game.
3. All visitors must remain in the bleacher area or on the outside of the perimeter fence. No spectators will be allowed within the track or infield areas of the stadium.
4. **Visitors to the NFHS Main Stadium will not be able to re-enter the stadium once they leave.**

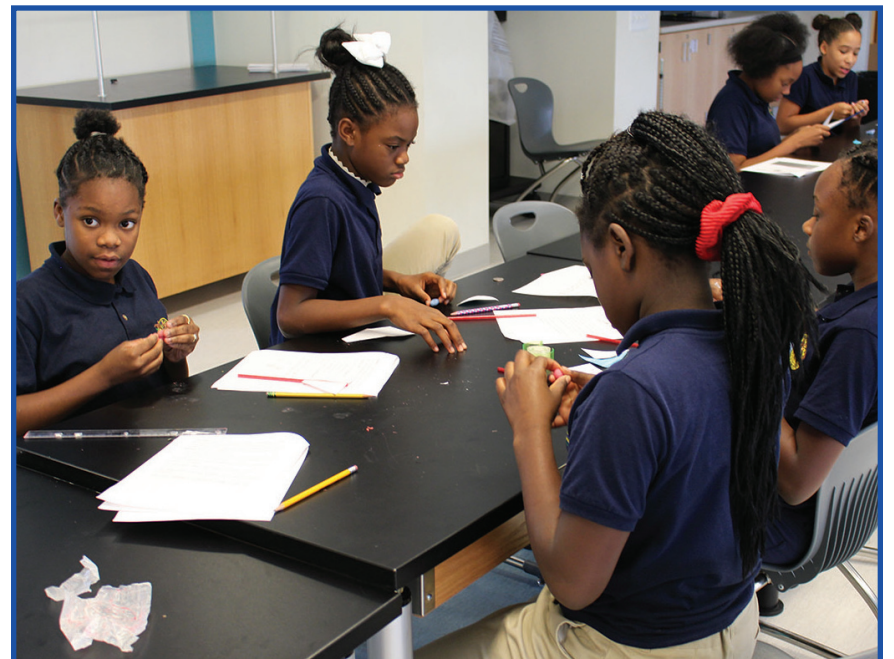
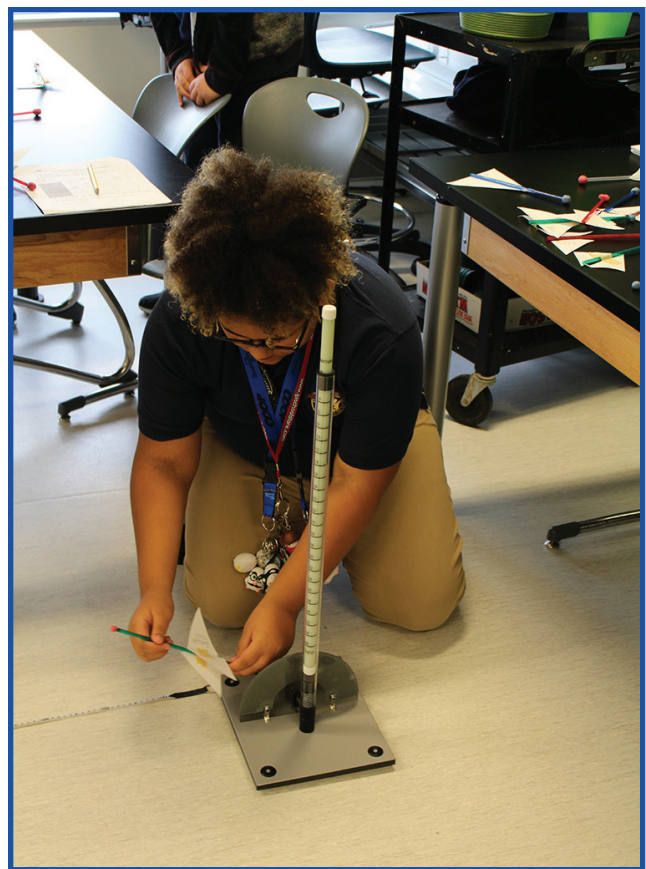


Learning takes off at Kalfas



Rockets

Grade five students in Tom Filosofos' class at Henry J. Kalfas Magnet School learned what it is like to be scientists during an activity in the STEM Lab. The students used the scientific method to design rockets using a straw, index card, tape, and clay. Students created a hypothesis to predict the distance the rockets would fly. Once the rockets were created, students tested them and measured the distance that the rockets traveled. After, students wrote a conclusion about the findings of their experiment.



Briana Walker, a meteorologist at WKBW-TV Channel 7 News, visited Maria D'Antonoli's and Chirara Durkin's classes and did an informative weather presentation.



Cornell Cooperative Extension

By Jen Regan, Creating Healthy Schools and Communities
Healthy Holiday Tips

The holiday season is a time for celebrating with family and friends...which means food, food, and more food! Not to mention that with more to pack into our already busy schedules, who has time for exercise?

Keeping up with healthy habits has benefits for your whole body – like helping to avoid holiday weight gain, helping to fend off holiday stress and fatigue, and helping to keep your immune system strong. With a little thought and planning, you can still enjoy the holidays, while keeping food nutrition and physical activity in mind.

Tips for healthy holiday eating:

- Feed your children – and yourself – a light meal or snack before going to a holiday party. It's harder to avoid overeating when you're overly hungry.
- Set a good example for children by eating fruits, vegetables, and whole grains with meals or as snacks.

- Offer to bring a healthy, low-calorie dish to holiday parties so you'll know that at least one healthy item will be available.

- Teach your children to eat smaller portions of food to control their calorie intake.
- Choose water or bubbly water mixed with 100% fruit juice. Drinks that are high in added sugars have calories, but no beneficial nutrients.
- During this busy season it might be tempting to save time by eating fast food – it may be handy, but is often high in fat and low in nutrition.

Tips for physical activity:

- Do fall and winter chores with your kids – raking leaves, shoveling snow
- Have fun together outside – go for a walk to look at holiday lights, tumble in the leaves, go sledding, build a snowman
- Stay active by snowshoeing, ice skating, bowling, or skiing
- Turn on holiday music and have a dance party
- Give gifts that encourage physical activity

A School by School Look at the Stewardship Project

For the very curious or technical-minded, here is a laundry list of projects by school.

79th Street School

Renovate Athletic Site (Does Not Incl Playground/BB hoops)
 Repair and Reseal Pavement (Play Area)
 Parking Lot repairs
 Replace Drainage Catch Basin (NW site)
 Replace Sidewalks
 Evaluate NW corner of bldg proximity to tree roots
 Provide bollards at NE end of boiler room
 Repair or replace ADA tactile warning strips
 Evaluate Concrete Floor Water Infiltration
 Refinish Hardwood Flooring (Stage)
 Repair Exterior Wall Veneer (Repoint 50% Brick)
 Replace Acoustic Ceiling Tile - 2x4
 Replace Acoustic Ceiling Tile - 12x12 inc. abatement
 Replace all millwork at all classrooms
 Provide vertical grab bars at ADA toilet
 Patch plaster (water damage)
 Upgrade handrails with extensions for ADA compliance
 Replace basketball backstops
 Provide gym divider curtain
 Provide cubicle curtain tracks at Nurse Suite
 Repair / Refurbish gymnasium wall pads
 Teacher lounge - provide interior partition wall
 Teacher lounge - provide single interior door
 Replace Aluminum Entrance System
 Replace Damaged Seating in Theater (35%)
 Replace Exterior Doors and Frames - Single
 Replace Exterior Doors and Frames - Double
 Replace Hollow Metal Doors, Rated, Pair
 Replace Hollow Metal Doors, Rated, Single
 Replace Roof Ladders
 Replace Sheet Carpeting
 Replace Single Interior Wood Doors & Hardware (30% of total)
 Replace Toilet Partitions
 Replace VAT w/VCT, including abatement (all classrooms)
 Replace VAT w/VCT (Classroom 104 - not included abv)
 Reset Lintels and Restore Damaged Masonry

Abate School

Replace Asphalt Play Area (Seal)
 Repair and Replace Plaza/Sidewalk
 New Elevator Cab & Hoist System (3-stop elevator)
 Repair & Seal Concrete Floor & Foundation Walls
 Repair / Replace brick faces plaza bench/kneewalls
 Replace Sliding Wood Door System

Replace Interior Wooden Door
 Replace Damaged Hardwood Floor
 Replace Sheet Carpeting
 Replace Acoustic Ceiling Tiles
 Replace Athletic Sheet Flooring
 Replace Rubber Stair Treads (Stairs near Stage)
 Replace Wall & Floor Mounted Wood Benches
 Repoint / repair brick masonry exterior walls
 Replace single stainless steel door (pool/shower rm)
 Replace Rubber Stair Treads/Risers - Classroom Stairs
 Replace garage door #23 with man-door and window
 Replace backer rod / sealant at underside of skylights
 Replace center mullion at Door #2 with removable mullion
 Replace wall pads at Multipurpose Rm (second floor)
 Strip and re-seal ceramic floor tile
 Upgrade monumental stair guardrail for safety
 Replace door hardware to match all keying cores

Cataract

Repair Roof Ladders
 Repair Exterior Wall Veneer Masonry
 Replace Damaged Window sills
 Repair EIFS System
 Evaluate & Repair Aluminum Window System
 Replace Sound Absorbing Wall Units (Acoustic Wall Panels)
 Evaluate Exterior Masonry Grouted Joints
 Exterior Door Repairs - Replace glazing with broken gas-kets
 Repitch Roof, Flashing Repairs
 Hardwood Floor Repairs (Gym)
 Replace Rubber Tile Flooring (Room 145)
 Replace Sheet Carpeting
 Replace Stage Curtains
 Replace ceiling (plaster) with GWB (Girls Shower Room)
 Replace ceiling access panels in Shower Room ceiling
 Repair foundation wall
 Provide replacement VCT (vestibules Door #2 and Band Rm)
 Repair GWB soffit w/Acrovyn (gym)
 Repair GWB soffit (Main Corridor B)
 Repair GWB wall (Home & Careers rm)
 Provide vertical grab bars at ADA toilets
 Consider adding mobile ADA access lift for stage
 Consider replacing ACP in pool area with Tectum Deck
 Replace half-doors at under-stage storage area
 Replace exterior single door
 Replace corroded mullions at exterior door pairs

Hyde Park School

Add ADA accessible entry ramp at front door
 Repair & Replace Exterior Steps

Repair Concrete Retaining Wall
 Replace ADA tactile warning pad
 Replace concrete curb
 Repair Sidewalks
 Exterior Plaster Repairs (soffits / entrances)
 Replace rubber flooring
 Hardwood Floor System - Refinish (stage)
 Hardwood Floor System - Replace (gym)
 Repair and Seal Cast Floor Decks (Rated Floor Penetrations)
 Repair Exterior Wall Veneer - Repoint 60% brick (excluding newer classroom additions)
 Repair Foundation Cracks - Interior
 Repair Foundation Cracks - Exterior
 Repair or Replace Wood Framed Knee Wall (Under Stage)
 Repairs to Roof Membrane
 Replace Acoustic Ceiling Tile (including abatement)
 Replace Acoustic Ceiling Tile
 Replace Acoustic Metal Wall Panels w/Acoustic Wall Panels
 Replace basketball backstops
 Replace Exterior H.M. Utility Door (upper roof)
 Replace Hollow Metal Fire Door System - Single
 Replace Interior Wood Doors - Pair
 Replace Interior Wood Doors - Single
 Replace Pews & Benches (Locker Rooms)
 Replace Roof Ladders (chimney and gym)
 Replace Tile carpeting (Admin Offices)
 Replace VAT Flooring w/VCT
 Replace VAT with VCT
 Replace VCT Flooring w/VCT
 Replace VCT Flooring w/VCT
 Replace VCT with VCT
 Replace wood floor with VCT (Classroom 4)
 Strip and refinish terrazzo stairs
 Replace Dukane Amplifier - café.

GJ Mann

Repair and Replace Sections of Walkways
 Replace curb - concrete
 Refinish and Repair Damaged Hardwood Floor (Gym)
 Repair Exterior Wall Veneer (40% of total)
 Replace Acoustic Ceiling Tiles
 Replace Acoustic Ceiling Tiles - including abatement
 Replace Acoustic Ceiling Tiles - including abatement
 Replace and Repair Exterior Vents
 Replace VAT w/VCT
 Replace Window Shade with roller shade
 Replace Window System
 Upgrade Exterior Signage

Maple Avenue School

Evaluate & Remediate Exterior Cast in Place Walkway
 Repair and Replace Sections of Walkways
 Replace Sections of Fencing
 Resurface Asphalt Parking Lot
 Evaluate Interior Plaster & Partitions for Damage
 Patch/repair plaster ceiling (stage)
 Refinish concrete treads and steel risers (NW stairwell)
 Refinish sealed concrete in locker room vestibule
 Repair and refinish Damaged Hardwood Floor (Gym)
 Repair Exterior Brick Veneer - Repoint 50% of total
 Replace / restore 4 pool ladders
 Replace 2x2 tectum ceiling panels (at Gym)
 Replace Access Stairs to Mechanical Room
 Replace Acoustic Ceiling Tiles
 Replace Aluminum Window Sills
 Replace and add wall pads throughout gymnasium
 Replace marble threshold at locker room door
 Replace millwork (Classrooms 1, 2)
 Replace resilient wall base w/new - classrooms
 Replace resilient wall base w/new - corridors
 Replace Roof System - Shingles and Shakes
 Replace Roof System w/Built-Up
 Replace Sheet Carpeting
 Replace Sheet Flooring w/VCT - including abatement
 Replace Stage Rigging and Curtains (Alternate?)
 Replace VAT flooring with VCT - including abatement
 Replace VAT w/VCT - including abatement
 Replace VCT Flooring
 Restore cupola, wood trim, copper roof, bell
 Stairs: Repaint / refinish treads (SW stairs)
 Stairs: Upgrade guardrail at NW stairs for compliant
 Stairs: Upgrade non-compliant guardrails at SW stairwell



Ava Bordeleau

A School by School Look at the Stewardship Project

Gaskill Prep School

Replace & Repair Sidewalks
 Replace Exterior Steps (smaller exterior 5-6 risers)
 Provide wheelstops west parking lot
 Replace or Provide new Exterior Guardrails w/Handrails
 Concrete Floor Repairs
 Evaluate Concrete Floor Moisture Infiltration
 Replace/repair shifting Interior Brick Veneer (stairs)
 Evaluate Interior Plaster Damage (Rm 321)
 Remediate Plaster & GWB Ceilings
 Repair and Repaint Exterior Window & Door Framing
 Repair Masonry Parapets
 Repair Stair Stringer and Landing Support (SE Stair)
 Repairs to Exterior Brickwork - re-pointing
 Replace Acoustic Ceiling Tile (12x12 - including abatement)
 Replace Acoustic Ceiling Tiles (2x4 - not inc lights)
 Replace Exterior Door Assemblies, Repair & Repaint
 Replace H.M. door with Stainless Steel door (pool)
 Replace Hardwood Flooring (1st floor gym)
 Replace Hardwood Flooring (stage)
 Replace Exterior Window Sills
 Replace Historic Aluminum Windows
 Replace Metal Fire Doors - Pair (Boiler Rm)
 Replace or Retrofit Handrails (non-compliant) - Interior
 Replace Roof Ladders, including masonry restoration
 Replace Solid Core Wood Doors & Hardware (Basement) - Pairs
 Replace Solid Core Wood Doors & Hardware (near Rm 101)
 Replace VCT w/VCT + Versa-shield underlayment
 Replace VAT (including abatement) w/VCT + Versa-shield underlayment
 Seal Crack & Penetrations in Foundation Wall
 Upgrade non-compliant Metal guardrails (fourth floor landing)

LaSalle Prep School

Repair Exterior Concrete Steps (smaller 5-6 risers)
 Replace Exterior Metal Stair Railings
 Replace Asbestos Tile with CPT or VCT
 Replace VCT Flooring
 Replace CPT & base with same
 Replace Acoustic Ceiling Tile (2'x2') - 10% of total
 Replace Acoustic Ceiling Tile (12"x12" including abatement)
 Replace Hardwood Flooring
 Repair & Repaint Ceiling With Exposed Beams - Natatorium
 Provide Vertical Grab Bars at accessible toilets/stalls/room.
 Repair Water Damage at Plaster Wall and/or Ceiling
 Replace CPT Tile Carpeting
 Assess Interior Brick Veneer for Deterioration
 Evaluate Interior Unit Masonry Partitions
 Evaluate Pool Wall Components for Leaking
 Metal Coping System to Prevent Deterioration to Exterior
 Refinish Hardwood Floor & Restore Court Markings
 Repair and Repaint Exterior Window & Door Framing
 Repair Exterior Wall Veneer - 30% of total
 Replace Door Assemblies & Wooden Roof Access Door
 Freight Elevator - Replace Components
 Replace Metal Fire Doors
 Replace Solid Core Wood Doors & Hardware - Storage 217B
 Replace Solid Core Wood Doors & Hardware
 Replace Wood Doors Interior Paired door
 Code Compliant Handrails Extensions
 Provide Pair of Rated Doors at at Stairwells including rated wall
 Replace door w/ 1 Hour rated door
 Replace gym wall pads
 Replace acoustic wall panels
 Replace tectum lay-in panels (Girls Gym) (exist grid to remain)
 Replace basketball backstops

NFHS

Add dock bumpers and repair concrete at PAC
 Evaluate Concrete Basement Floor Deficiencies
 Evaluate Cracking in Interior Masonry
 Evaluate Exterior Wall Veneer (Moisture & Integrity)
 Monitor Terrazzo Cracking
 Provide roof ladders to service inaccessible roof drains
 Replace Roof
 Replace Smoke Vents & Provide new Fall-protection Guard Rails
 Replace wall pads
 Replace/Repair Rubber base
 Repair classrooms sinks

General election polling places

EXCEPT
 those who usually vote at **St John DeLaSalle** -- will vote instead at **LaSalle American Legion, 8643 Buffalo Avenue**

Noon to 9 p.m.

Funding

The District has found a way to meet its needs without burdening the local taxpayer, by using, in part, QZABs or Qualified Zone Academy Bonds. Congress created the QZAB program, which provides bondholders with a federal tax credit in lieu of a cash interest payment. The federal government provides the interest payment, so the district then is typically only responsible for repaying the value of the bond. This reduces the burden on local communities when financing school renovation.

But what about the value of the bond? In our case, due to the relative poverty of our area, we realize a 98% reimbursement rate from the State on approved capital projects. That leaves a local share of only two percent. However, the District still has \$1.4 million in EXCEL grant funds, with which it can pay that two percent.

Moreover, the State reimburses its 98% based on a calculation that includes an interest rate that districts using don't actually pay, thereby reimbursing a bit more than the district actually spent.

These projects will not increase the school tax levy.



Highlights

- Cataract: new roof w/ 20-year warranty; age appropriate toilet rooms
- Maple: new roof w/ 20-year warranty
- Mann: new windows, window treatments, electrical service
- 79th Street: hot kitchen
- Hyde Park: Masonry re-pointing and HVAC
- 79th Hyde Park, Mann, Maple: Air Conditioning

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

More crosswalks painted



They are vibrant, visual reminders to drivers that they are in a school zone. The bright, differently-themed artworks in the crosswalks of schools presented an opportunity for teachers, parents, and students to work with the City of Niagara Falls, Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Creating Healthy Schools and Communities Program, and GOBike Buffalo to create the art with a purpose. The hope is that, while residents enjoy the art, they also slow down in school zones. Above, Maple Avenue School. Below, Cataract Elementary (left), 79th Street School (right).



Snapshots, Bits and Bobs



For many, the official start to the holiday season is long before December. Halloween is the first in the triumvirate of holidays with Thanksgiving and either Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa (or, depending how the calendar falls, Eid al-Adha, though that will not fall in December 2017). It is also a favorite among many children. Getting in the spirit as Cruella DeVille was 79th Street School Principal Diane Coty and her friend, Quincy, while at GJ Mann Elementary School, Elizabeth and Emma Brehm were among those enjoying a Spooktacular Concert performed by LaSalle Prep School students.



Author and motivational speaker David Kohout presented to LaSalle Prep School students recently. Mr. Kahout has spoken to schools for the last 11 years and presents discussion on teen violence, bullying, suicide, character and self-esteem, purpose, motivation and encouragement as well as drugs and alcohol. His main message was one of empowerment and not comparing one’s self to others.

Did you know? Through the efforts and donations of Niagara Falls Teachers, Non-Instructional Administrators and Supervisors, Civil Service Employees Association, and CSEA Teaching Associates bargaining units, students benefit all year every year from funds and goods collected to provide school supplies, holiday meals, extra food for families and more. Your District is proud to employ unionized staff, and your staff is proud to help support students in need.

Niagara Falls High School donated nearly \$750 to hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

Watch in January for a theater production at Gaskill Prep School, which is now offering both a drama club and

a Global Studies, grade nine-level class for students who want to enter Niagara Falls High School positioned to take college credit bearing classes before graduation. By having Global Studies off the plate, students can find openings in their schedules in junior and senior years to take classes that will yield college credit--saving time and money. Look for more in the January issue.

More and more of our schools are establishing social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter. Search for Maple Avenue, Niagara Street, NFHS Extended Day, Wolverine Athletics and more. Like us, follow us, and stay informed. And of course, download our District app! BB District/Niagara Falls CSD.



Julia Bordeleau

Spotlight



Tammi Antoine John had a powerful message for the students at the Community Education Center.

“You are not where you come from.”

She candidly shared her story of a difficult upbringing, but today, she owns a dance studio, and is herself skilled in ballroom dance, swing, jazz, foxtrot, modern, and hip hop.

She assured the students that each of them could choose to succeed.

“You don’t have to live whatever life you’re living; who told you that?”

Her remarks were part of the Empower My Purpose youth empowerment conference in October. Students heard a message, then broke out into

sessions to discuss topics such as substance abuse, mental health, self esteem, or nutrition.

Board member and NF Fire-fighter Earl Bass spoke to the morning session of students. Several area businesses contributed items to be used as door prizes and the entire conference was sponsored by the District and Roger Trevino of Niagara Falls Redevelopment.

The conference was attended by students in grades nine through 12. Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center provided conference bags for the students.

The conference was organized by Administrator Dorothy Brundidge.



Nominate for MLK Awards

Each year, The Niagara Falls City School District, the National Federation for Just Communities of WNY, Inc., the Niagara Falls Housing Authority, Niagara Falls Police Department, Niagara County Leg. Owen Steed, Families and Children’s Services of Niagara, the Niagara Gazette, the Rainforest Café, and Leadership Niagara organize a celebration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As part of that event, awards are given to deserving individuals. The Spirit of Dr. King Award recognizes the unpaid efforts of someone who lives the values espoused by Dr. King. The Civil Rights Achievement Award recognizes efforts, performed in a

paid or unpaid capacity, to further the civil rights agenda. A Youth Civil Rights Achievement Award is bestowed on a student at Niagara Falls High School.

In 2017, the Civil Rights Achievement Award was presented to Bill Bradberry; the Spirit of Dr. King Award to Ron Anderluh; the Youth Civil Rights Achievement Award to Grace Stewart.

The community can nominate by visiting www.nf-schools.net or calling 286-4245 for the forms.

The celebration takes place in 2018 on January 11 in the Performing Arts Center at NFHS.

Safety Corner

Cold Weather Safety Tips from Health Services

At this time of year, it is a good idea to talk with your children about cold weather safety. Extra care is needed especially in younger children to be sure that frostbite does not occur.

Make sure all children including teenagers have appropriate outerwear every day. Warm jackets, hats, scarves, boots, and an extra pair of gloves in their pockets will protect them during extremely cold temperatures.

Develop an emergency plan and review it with your children in case you are not home either before or after school. If a bus is delayed, they need to know where, when, and how to get help. Tell your child that if you are not home while they are waiting outside for the bus, how long they may wait outside, where to go in the event the bus is delayed, and what the dangers and risks of extreme weather are. Advise your child to seek help

if they have:

Wet clothing, boots or gloves, snow or ice next to bare skin which cannot be removed.

Pain or numbness or burning anywhere on their skin (especially hands, feet, ears, or nose).

To wait no longer than five minutes if temperatures have dipped into the teens, especially on a windy day. Teach your child about:

When to ask for help. Where to find safe shelter in an emergency

Who is the designated adult to go to in your neighborhood

How to protect themselves with proper winter clothing.

The danger signs of frostbite.

Stay safe and healthy enjoying the winter fun by following the Cold weather safety tips!

Adopted from the www.schoolhealthny.com

Knitting donation at CEC



In honor of ADK month, Alpha Delta Kappa, a sorority of women educators, presented a check for \$100 to Brandie Brown's class at the Community Education Center.

Mrs. Brown and her students knit hats for infants, which are then donated to area hospitals. Her lunch group has already donated more than 50 hats made by her students. This donation will buy supplies like more knitting looms and yarn.

Pictured are Brandie Brown, CEC teacher, Lindalee Menchetti and Sylvia Bailey, Alpha Delta Kappa members, and a few knitters Cor'rishia Thomas and Mylaya Brown. Other knitters not pictured are Amyah Green, Brittany Columbo, Amber Pou & Victoria Harris.

You never know who you will see

Don't forget to tune in to the OS-Cchannel 21 (or 21.4) Educational Access Television on Spectrum cable to see community members discuss local affairs. From the District to the Firefighters Telethon, shows from the Niagara Falls Housing Authority, Video Histories, City Council meetings and more, you can support your local media production students and see people you know by watching the OSC. You can also access programming by visiting www.nfschools.net and clicking the TV icon on the homepage. From school assemblies and high sports to discussions of issues of the day, you never know who you will see on the OSC.



Looking Ahead

- January 1
No School
- January 2
Classes Resume
- January 11
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration 6 p.m.
- January 15
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day No School
- January 17
Districtwide Parent Tech Night at GJ Mann
- January 18
BOE Review Session 5:30 p.m.
- January 22
Regents Exams through February 25
- January 25
BOE Regular Meeting 7 p.m.
- January 26
NFHS No School Superintendent's Conference Day

Kalfas School Celebrates 60th Anniversary



Henry J. Kalfas Magnet School hosted a semi-formal event to celebrate its 60th anniversary earlier this fall. The school formerly known as Beech Avenue School, opened in 1958.

Beech Avenue School was the focal point of desegregation efforts. The process was not accomplished as quickly or easily as one would hope, but, in the fullness of time, it was considered to be very successful in achieving

integration.

In 1978, Beech Avenue School was rededicated as the Henry J. Kalfas School in honor of the former Superintendent, who was also the first principal of the school, and who played a key role in integration. Among the guests at the celebration was Henry Kalfas' daughter, Andrea Hake.

Kalfas School has been a magnet school since 1990.

Earlier this year, students participated in a ceremonial ribbon cutting, rededicating the school.



December Celebrations

Who's celebrating what? Here is a primer.

Boxing Day is a holiday for many Canadians on December 26. It originated in the United Kingdom, and is celebrated in a number of countries that previously formed part of the British Empire. It gives people the chance to take part in the post-Christmas sales or watch ice hockey games.

Christmas celebrates the auspicious birth of Jesus Christ, and is full of great religious and festive celebrations, in all round the world. For the majority of Christians the Christmas Day is celebrated on the December 25, every year.

Hanukkah also known as the Festival of Lights is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BCE.

Kwanzaa is a holiday celebrated in the U.S. honoring African heritage and culture, observed by lighting a kinara (candle holder). It is observed from December 26 to January 1, and culminates www.365celebration.com

December 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Kalfas, Hyde Park Picture Retake Day	8 Cataract City Classic Basketball at NFHS	9
10	11 79th. Street Secret Shopping - 11/13. NSS Holiday Concert 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.	12 Public Vote on Capital Projects Noon to 9 p.m.	13 BOE Review Mtg. 5:30 p.m, 7 p.m. Regular Meeting, 8 p.m. Statutory Meeting	14 Children's Holiday Fest Hyde Park PEG 6 p.m. NFHS Parent Mtg. 6:30p.m.	15	16
17	18	19 Gaskill Winter Concert	20 NFHS Prism Concert 7 p.m.	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Winter Recess No School				Cataract City Classic Hockey at Hyde Park Pavillion	