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Your Public Schools Niagara Falls, NY

Empire State Advantage Gold Level Awardee

Community Newsletter

June 2017



Volume 2 Issue 10

Summer Programming For EVERYONE!

This summer, the District is offering more summer programming than ever, all of it free for students.

"I believe this is important to do," said Superintendent Mark Laurrie. "Participating in these programs not only helps prevent "summer slide," but also gives students expanded learning opportunities and recreation."

"Summer slide" is the tendency for students to forget some of what they learned during the school year. Many students are at loose ends during summer months; organized activities help parents by providing supervision and combatting boredom.

Among the offerings is the Extended Learning Program. NFCSD students will reinforce their skills in math and reading in the morning, and enjoy arts, crafts, swimming, and more in the afternoon.

"The morning session will be divided into two, 90 minute blocks. Students will receive 90 minutes of Literacy instruction and 90 minutes of Math instruction," said Response to Intervention Coordinator and Teacher on Special Assignment Cathy Sullivan. "The afternoon portion of the program will include lunch, followed by recreational activities, and activities that extend the learning from the morning session."

Open to all students exiting Kindergarten to grade five, the participants will enjoy activities planned and facilitated by the Niagara Falls Girls and Boys Club.

The programs runs July 10 to August 10, Mondays-Thursday from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m., and is held at air conditioned elementary schools. Busing is provided from a child's home school and snacks and lunch are included, all free.

Summer Fine Arts Camp 2017 is another option for students in grades five and six. In it, District students will explore many facets of Fine Arts: choral, band, theatre and more. Held at Harry F. Abate Elementary School from July 17 to July 27, Monday through Thursday, the camp runs 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Transportation available at 3 p.m. dismissal.

For the scientific-minded, there are three different STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) camps being offered to students in various grades.

District students entering grades seven through nine can take part in Robotics Camp, where they will spend a week designing and building a robot. By week's end, students will be directing their robots in a competition.

NFCSD students entering grades one through four can explore STEM principles through hands-on activities at STEM Camp.

NFCSD students entering grades five and six can learn to code using a programmable robot called Sphero when they attend Coding Camp.

These STEM Camps will be held at Cataract Elementary School August 14 through 18 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Camp Wolverine and Camp Wolverine Jr. are two camps for students within the Functional Life Skills/Autism program.

These are summer programs focused on maintaining the academic, vocational, social, and behavioral consistency of self-contained special education students in the District's Functional Life Skills/Autism classes. Past Camp Wolverine attendees have thoroughly enjoyed the experience, which incorporate lots of fun. Eligible students are ages 5 to 20. Camp Wolverine is held at Niagara Falls High School; Camp Wolverine Jr. is held at Cataract Elementary School. They run from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Monday-Thursday. Busing is provided.

Summer Camp 2017 for prep and high school students takes place at NFHS starting July 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Busing and lunch are provided. Activities include supervised, organized fun including sports, dance, athletic conditioning, arts and more.

District students may also be participating in opportunities at Niagara University, which is offering Kindercamp to District students entering Kindergarten in September.

Kindercamp is a half-day program designed to provide students entering Kindergarten the opportunity to interact with children their age, while practicing school readiness skills and behaviors. Two sessions will be offered on the Niagara University Campus.

Session 1 runs from July 10 to 13; Session 2 runs from July 17 - 20. Morning sessions take place 9 a.m. to noon; the afternoon session runs from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Busing is not provided.

Another opportunity at Niagara University, through the 21st Century Grant is the Civic Engagement Camp, which helps students in grades seven and eight learn to make a difference in the civic life of our community. That camp will run July 25, 26, 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Transportation and lunch are provided.

Not all young children are school aged, but for the younger set -- in school or not -- there will be occasional



opportunities to join two very popular community members at the public library. Superintendent of Schools Mark Laurrie and Spike the Wolverine host Storyhour With The Superintendent at the Earl Brydges Library on Main Street and at the LaSalle Branch. The next one will take place July 6 at 2:30 p.m. in LaSalle. The event features storybook reading and an activity, as well as photo opps with Spike!

"It is never too early to start forming relationships with our families and promoting literacy," the Superintendent said. "Young children may also start developing the sense that school is a fun place, and we want that; we want children to enjoy school."

Of course, the traditional Summer School also will be held. Run by Orleans/Niagara BOCES, classes for grades six to 12 are held at Niagara Falls High School. Here is some general information on that:

Summer School Offices Open 7/3/2017
Driver Education Begins 7/5/2017
All Registration Ends 6/29/2017
Students Schedules Mailed 7/6/2017
Registration Posted on the Web for Participating Districts 6/1/2017
Faculty Meetings 7/11/2017
School Begins 7/12/2017
Mid-term Ends 7/27/2017
Mid-term Report Cards Mailed 7/31/2017
Driver Education Ends 8/17/2017
Summer School Classes End 8/15/2017
Summer Regents Day #1 8/16/2017
Summer Regents Day #2 8/17/2017
Middle School Report Cards Mailed 8/18/2017
Summer School Office Close 8/22/2017
High School Report Cards Mailed

For more information, visit www.onboces.org. A link to Summer School is provided at the left side of the page.

Whether or not your family participates in any summer opportunities through the District, we encourage students to be active and to keep reading about what interests them, practicing whatever sport or instrument they

may play, and indulging their curiosity. September is right around the corner! Summer is a great time for students to learn about what they find interesting, just for the pleasure of it.

**2017-2017
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www.nfschools.net**

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From the Superintendent



Mark Laurrie

As we prepare to celebrate graduation with our Seniors, I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have worked at, with, or for the school district in this past academic year.

Staff members and teachers have offered new ideas. New grants have been secured. Partnerships have evolved.

It is positive and encouraging to me and to our students.

For example, thanks to the \$1.2 million from 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant and \$600,000 over four years from the Family Community Engagement Program or "My Brother's Keeper," we can fund summer learning, and increased partnership with the NFPD Junior Police Academy, mentoring, academic achievement, and a host of other things. We are also expanding our partnership opportunities with organizations like the Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club, Community Missions, and Niagara University.

Within the District, I have had the opportunity to spend a lot of time in schools and classrooms, and I see enthusiasm there among teachers and students.

I have had the benefit of a Student Advisory Council, whose members have offered frank opinions and given valuable perspectives.

Many employees have offered new ideas and have shared their thoughts in a candid and productive manner, and I appreciate that. New ideas have germinated because of this, and several people have taken the lead in bringing new events and celebrations to our community of schools.

We want everyone who has an idea to come to the table. That is how organizations continue to improve.

For the students who will be leaving us this month, please know you are always welcome here. We want your feedback. We want you to come back and talk to succeeding classes, to share your experiences and advice. I hope some of you will consider coming back as teachers, psychologists, counselors, nurses, or other support staff. We will always need good people who care about the District in the way alumni do.

Please know the work continues this summer, and a good percentage of our staff remain on duty, preparing to make September 2017 the best opening of schools yet. There will also be hundreds of students taking advantage of summer camps and learning opportunities, and I hope the percentage of students who do is very high.

We are here to assist you in any way we can. Have a wonderful summer.

We can't wait for September!

From the Board



Ron Barstys

As we close the 2016-2017 academic year, I feel very positive about the direction our District is headed. With our Superintendent having completed his first 12 months leading the District, we have seen many new ideas and increased staff enthusiasm.

Teachers and staff I have spoken to report feeling empowered and encouraged to try creative approaches to student learning and parent involvement.

As our community experiences new initiatives to promote our area and we witness more young people stepping into leadership roles, it is wonderful to see that same energy taking hold in our District.

The results so far are promising. More than 2,000 people attended the NFCSD All Arts Festival. I was one of the 2,000, and I could not have been more impressed!

Cataract moved up 12 percentage points based on the English Language Arts and Elementary Math Assessment test results, putting that school in the top 10% of elementary schools in NYS that achieved this jump in points.

This summer, our District is offering more opportunities for students to participate in organized summer camps than ever before.

Extended learning programs began to operate in every school, effectively extending the school day for those who chose to participate.

Staff members have begun to be recognized each month at Board meetings for excellence- improving morale and inspiring colleagues.

We are about to launch a District app, available through your device's Play Store, to make communication easier than ever before.

At 79th Street School, we are about to open a new playground for improved recreational time.

The cornerstone of educational success, though, continues to be, and will always be, what children learn at home: how highly education is valued; whether student achievement is monitored; and whether children are taught that each one of them can succeed by applying themselves.

To support families, the District has created two new initiatives: Welcome to the World, in which infants are welcomed to our District at birth with a Wolverine bib and literature about developmental stages, along with early literacy support, like reading to young children; and Storyhour with the Superintendent, whereby young students and toddlers are encouraged to hear a story, meet our high school mascot, and become familiar with, and feel positively about, the idea of school.

This year, there will also be a Cap and Gown Walk opportunity for soon-to-be graduates, who will visit elementary and prep schools, inspiring and reminding the younger students that they are working toward an achievable goal.

If you haven't paid much attention to the changes in the District so far, we welcome you to get on board. It's an exciting time for everyone's best thinking to make real and meaningful impacts on our students and community. Have a safe, productive summer, and we hope to see your children at one of our many exciting camps!

Walk Against Child Abuse



Focus on Families parent Cher Curd had a suggestion for staff members Judy Martin, Margaret Mozell, and Bryan Rotella: how about a walk against child abuse? She and Ms. Mozell got to work and within a few days, had a location, promised participation from the Niagara County Department of Social Services, and Niagara County Sheriff Office deputies, the Niagara Falls Police and Fire departments, and residents.

The Walk Against Child Abuse at Hyde Park was a big success, with guest speaker Ann Marie Tucker, Executive Director, Child Advocacy Center of Niagara, and an array of participants eager to walk.

There were professionals and residents, politicians and candidates, officers and students and even some dogs.

One sheriff's deputy brought his whole family. All had one goal in taking part: to raise the awareness of child abuse and learn about the resources available to help/ Watch for the Walk Against Child Abuse 2018; it will be bigger and better.

The Child Advocacy Center of Niagara is a program responding to reports of child abuse and maltreatment or when a child has been trafficked or has witnessed domestic violence. It works with law enforcement, child protection, prosecutors, victim advocates, medical professionals and mental health practitioners in a child-centered facility to reduce trauma for children, coordinate services, provide a comfortable environment for interviews and other services and assure access to medical, mental health, advocacy, and support services.



Here are some of the services offered:

1. Family Services- provides support to victims of domestic violence or other crimes who report to Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center's emergency department.
2. The Niagara County Family Violence Intervention Project - addresses the related issues of child abuse and domestic violence through collaboration, training and education.
3. The Child Fatality/Serious Injury Review Team - dedicated to learning from tragedy to prevent harm to children.

4. The Safe Harbour Project- serving children who have experienced trafficking or commercial exploitation.
5. Stewards of Children - a nationally developed evidence-informed seminar for adults to prevent, recognize and react to sexual abuse of children.

The Child Advocacy Center of Niagara can be reached 285-0045.

According to the County's website, "There are five units in two County offices that investigate complaints of abuse and maltreatment or neglect against children under the age of 18 years.

Caseworkers initiate investigations within 24 hours after receiving a report from the hotline and are prepared to begin a complete safety assessment of the children involved. Office staff can answer questions during regular office hours but actual reports should be made to the hotline."

If you have suspicions of child abuse or neglect to report or you are concerned about the health or safety of a child, immediately call the NYS Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-342-3720

Thanking parents, volunteers

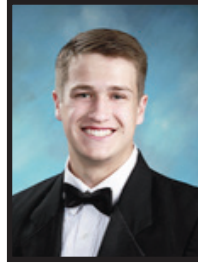


School communities took time out to thank parent and community volunteers by hosting breakfasts, dinners, or assemblies in spring. Above, HANCI Foster Grandparents at Cataract Elementary School enjoy breakfast. Below, Board member Bishop Kevin Dobbs at Niagara Street School's breakfast for volunteers; Rev. Eugene Copelin presents. Far below, a celebration at Kalfas Magnet Elementary School.

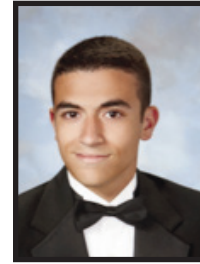


Scholarships awarded

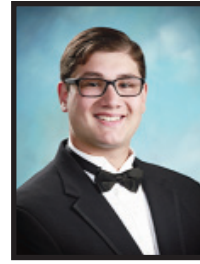
Recently, 14 seniors accepted a total of \$17,500 in scholarships at the Niagara Falls Education Foundation annual dinner. Five scholarships are sponsored by companies or individuals; the rest are provided directly by the Foundation, whose mission is to provide resources to recognize the current accomplishments and promote the future success of the students in the Niagara Falls City School District. It also recognizes individuals as Distinguished Alumni or Emerging Leaders. Those honors went this year to the Honorable Sarah Sledona and Don J. King, and Lana Perlman, respectively. Below are the scholarship winners and the scholarships they won. Missing is Wan Xiang Chen, awarded a Foundation Scholarship; he intends to study psychology.



Max Asklar
Mark Cerrone , Inc.
Engineering
\$2000



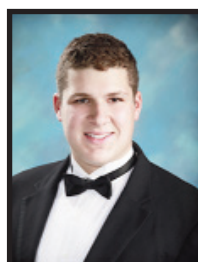
Christian Meranto
Mark Cerrone , Inc.
Urban Planning
\$2000



Patrick Nossavage
Joseph R. Argy
Memorial
Scholarship Award
for Entrepreneurship
\$2000



Hailey Stahlman
Phyllis E. Jahn
Community
Scholarship Service
Scholarship Award
\$1500



Michael Laurrie
Alden & Sam
"Coach" Rotella
Memorial
Scholarship Award
\$1000



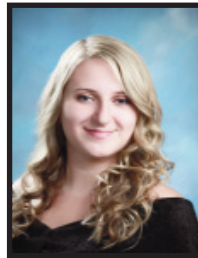
Nicholas B.
Carruthers
NFEF Scholarship
Technology
\$1000



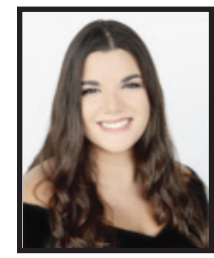
Allison Hubert
NFEF Scholarship
Awards
Trauma Surgeon
\$1000



Kaitlyn Ivancic
NFEF Scholarship
Awards
Social Science
\$1000



Ciara Lascelle
NFEF Scholarship
Awards
Medicine
\$1000



Daniel Lia
NFEF Scholarship
Awards
Performing Arts
\$1000



Devin Sanders
NFEF Scholarship
Awards
Chemical Engineering
\$1000



Tyler Sanders
NFEF Scholarship
Awards
Meterologist
\$1000



Olivia M. Showers
NFEF Scholarship
Awards
Political Science
\$1000

**Parent Network of WNY and
the Niagara Falls City School District present**

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2017

**OBSERVING AND COMMUNICATING BEHAVIORS
&
WHAT TO DO ABOUT CHALLENGING BEHAVIOR IN THE HOME AND COMMUNITY**

Presented by: Marcus Thomeer, Ph.D.

<p style="text-align: center;">Observing and Communicating Behavior in the Home and Community 10:00 am - 12:00 pm</p> <p>Do you recognize the behaviors that could be effecting your child's development? Do you know how to document these behaviors and effectively communicate them to educational professionals? This workshop will give you the tools to document your child's behavior, know whom to share these observations with and how to communicate them effectively. As a bonus, you will also walk away with resources to develop skills to manage stress in the home.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Challenging Behaviors 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm</p> <p>Parenting is a full time job with many daily challenges. As parents we teach our children what is the right thing to do and what they should not do. The purpose of this workshop is to help parents recognize the early signs of conflict and put in place plans that can manage the conflict before it turns into a full blown storm.</p>
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Sponsored and Funded by:

Niagara Falls City School District

Free Lunch will be provided for parents who have registered by June 14th. Parents must have a child registered in the Niagara Falls School District.

Niagara Falls Public Library
1425 Main Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14305

Call to reserve your spot today!!
(716) 332-4170 phone;
1-866-277-4762 toll free
www.parentnetworkwny.org

Check your local TV broadcasts for cancellation information.



From here to university (or college)

How NFHS students are racking up college credit

College is expensive.

Not just “tighten your belt” expensive, but “someone will be paying this off for years” expensive. Like a mortgage.

Even with Gov. Cuomo’s free college program, students still must pay for textbooks (expensive) and room and board (more expensive - often a higher cost than the tuition itself).

That is just one reason why it is smart to earn some college credits in high school. If students can shorten the amount of time they need to complete a degree, it can translate in thousands of dollars in savings. And it gets them out into the workforce faster, so they pay off debt sooner.

In the District, students interested in racking up college credit are introduced to the opportunity as soon as grade eight. The Early College High School program is designed to assist students who would be the first in their families to complete college.

Early College High School (ECHS) began in 2002, an initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and others. The goal was to graduate high school students with more than a high school diploma. Instead, participating students who complete the program

leave high school with up to two years of college credit under their belts.

Since its inception, the initiative has expanded and is underway in more than 200 communities; Niagara Falls is one of them.

At Niagara Falls High School, ECHS is made available through an ongoing partnership between the District and Niagara University.

But that is just one path to college credits. NFHS had articulation agreements with Niagara University and Niagara County Community College. Eight science courses offered at NFHS can earn a student three credits each at NU. There are four math classes and two government classes that also offer three credits each.

For NCCC, there are two English Language Arts classes, a Spanish II class, two physics classes, and two math classes that earn three credits each at NCCC, plus classes in marketing, accounting, Microsoft Office and more that can knock some college electives off right from a seat on Porter Road. A student who is shrewd and focused can leave high school

with as many as 24 credit hours complete--that’s a full year of college out of the way.

While articulation agreements earn credits at a particular college or university, they are also free of charge at NFHS. Other programs, for which there is fee, albeit a greatly reduced one, are taught by teachers certified to teach college level courses. These result in a transcript, just as if the student had attended on the collegiate campus.

Advanced placement courses--commonly called AP-- are nationally recognized courses that equal college credit at most universities and colleges, if the student earns a three or a four in the course.

NFHS also participates with NUStep, a program of Niagara University, which allows academically-qualified students to begin earning college credit while still in high school. Successful participation also strengthens a student’s academic high school record when applying to colleges, and allows students greater course flexibility upon attending college. It opens the possibility of early degree completion in college and facilitates the transfer



ability of credits. Participants are likely to benefit from a significant financial savings.

Similarly, NFHS participates in the College Acceleration Program (CAP) of Niagara County Community College, through which students can experience college-level work before they’ve left high school. CAP is a concurrent enrollment program established as a cooperative agreement of the State University of New York (SUNY) and NFHS.

Courses are taught by teachers at the high school for dual high school and college credit at a reduced rate of tuition. Only those students who are recommended by their guidance counselor, principal, and teachers are accepted into the program. Students must meet the course prerequisites. A CAP student is actually enrolled at NCCC with the same privileges as a general student.

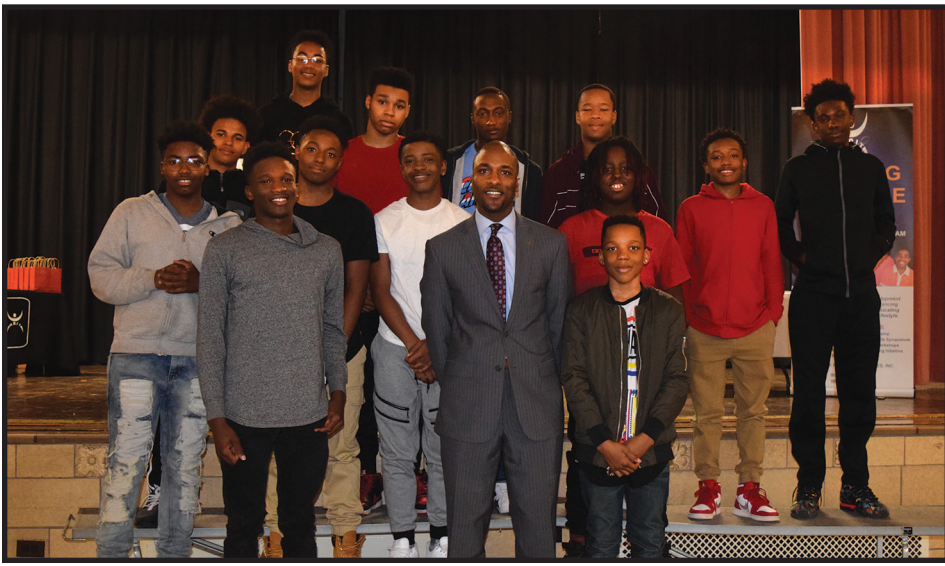
NFCSO All Arts Festival



More than 2000 people attended the NFCSO All Arts Festival in May. Every school participated in presenting interactive visual and performance art and music - possibly the biggest celebration since the high school opening ceremonies in 2000.



Winning



LaSalle Prep School welcomed LaSalle Senior High School Alumnus Modie Cox for a seven-week program, Winning Because I Tried (WBIT). Mr. Cox was a basketball star at LaSalle Senior High School who played professional ball with a full scholarship to the University at Buffalo. He worked as a substitute school teacher in the Buffalo Public School District while pursuing a master's degree in Urban Planning, then went on to pursue his dream of motivating youth. After serving as the director of Buffalo PAL program, he decided to pursue his goal full-time.

Through his WBIT program, run with business partner John Wallace, he has devoted himself to helping youth make better choices and believe in themselves. WBIT has worked successfully with Erie County Youth Services, the Boys and Girls Club, Kids Escaping Drugs, the Gow School, Sweethome High School, and many others.

"For me, this is monumental because I was a student at LaSalle," Mr. Cox said. "It is exciting to be back at home; it feels good."

The program was weekly and included topics like leadership skills, decision-making, and etiquette.

"We have received positive feedback from the students," Principal James Spanbauer said. "We will have Mr. Cox back again, and I believe Gaskill has invited him as well."

The mentoring program promoted positive youth development by increasing self-esteem, advancing a can-do attitude, and promoting habits to ensure a healthy lifestyle.

It featured games, lectures, and activities to re-enforce positive messages.

Mr. Cox knows whereof he speaks. He recalled his time in school, and how positivity was not always his motivating factor.

"I was always in the office because I was in trouble; now I'm there to provide something different."

Participating were:
 Wilfredo Borges
 Jhaidyn Coleman
 Michael Davis
 Carl Dobbs
 Felix Elicier
 Ahmir Feagin
 Kendall Foreman
 Lonzee Griffin
 Shaheim Hamilton
 Jerrin Hunt
 Keshawn Scott
 Mehki Starks
 Jaden Washington



**Congratulations to the
 Class of 2017!
 June 24
 Noon**

Firefighter and Boardmember Earl Bass, Legislator Owen Steed, Deputy Police Chief Carl Cain, Councilmembers Charles Walker and Ezra Scott, USMC James Colquitt Jr. Youth Bureau Director Sanquin Starks were among the guest speakers at the Young Men's Leadership Group at Harry F. Abate Elementary School this year. Sam Fruscione facilitated this after school club, the purpose of which was to teach grade five and grade six male students the importance of being responsible, and to empower them to become leaders.

79th Street School: Living Wax Museum



Grade four curriculum includes learning about New York State history. In Jerri Presutti's class at 79th Street School, that presents an opportunity to dig in to the project-based learning this teacher prefers.

Nikola Tesla explained that he discovered alternating current. Lucille Ball offered that she was raised in an indigent household. FDR reminded his listener that established many programs for the poor in addition to guiding the country through World War II.

In addition to the social studies lessons learned, the project also gave students a chance to practice some presentation skills, in sharing their bios with parents and other adults.

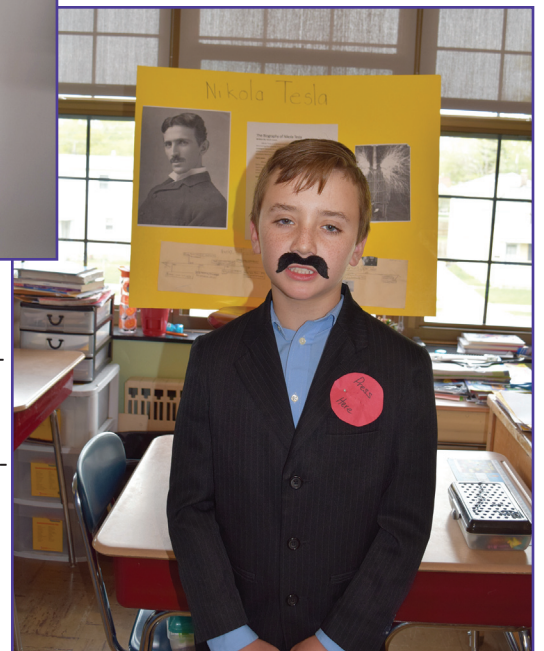
The project is an annual one in this grade four class.



Students researched a historical figure, prepared a short oral biography, and adopted the dress and mannerisms of their subject to present the Living Wax Museum.

Attendees approached each historical figure, pressed a paper button affixed to the students' clothing, and the individual came to life, offering the prepared information and thanking the participant for visiting the Living Museum.

Represented were abolitionists, scientists, athletes, poets, comedians, and even a U.S. president.



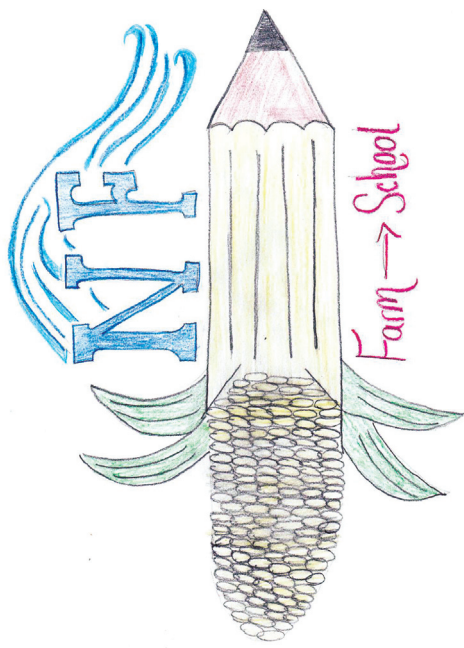
Participating were:
 Laura Aube as Lucille Ball **
 Erin Bailey as Elizabeth Cady Stanton
 Asya Barnett as Elizabeth Blackwell
 Zoe Barone as Mary Jemison
 Hannah Benjella as Eleanor Roosevelt
 Amelia Brown as Lois Gibbs
 Dominick Casal as Willis Carrier
 Salvatore Constantino as Babe Ruth
 Emilee Duffy as Katrina Trask
 Laurana Laurino as Sybil Ludington
 Craig Leslie as Jackie Robinson
 Gavin Lewin as Nicola Tesla**
 Nathan Malaney as Joe Namath**
 Levi Manning as Levi P. Morton
 Emily McCarthy as Mary Walker
 Trevor Meidenbauer as Franklin D. Roosevelt
 Rory Miller as George Eastman
 Kayla Putman as Sojourner Truth
 Jacob Quarcini as Lou Gehrig
 Dianne Reulliard as Susan B. Anthony
 Tyler Swartz as Thomas Edison
 Trinity Toliver as Madame C J Walker
 Malik Townsend as Frederick Douglass**

** Pictured



Malik Townsend as Frederick Douglass is pictured waiting for a visitor to press his "button" to activate his speech.

Farm to School



The winning logo by Niagara Falls High School Nate Reilly, at left. Runnerup below by Gaskill Prep School student Jasmine Connell.



The Niagara Falls City School District Farm to School Committee is pleased to announce the winner and two runners-up for the Farm to School logo contest. Nate Reilly, a Niagara Falls High School student, submitted the winning logo. Our two runners up are: Daniel Wijesirwardern from Maple Avenue Elementary School and Jasmine Connell from Gaskill Prep School. There were

more than 70 submissions from various art classes and afterschool activities. The winning logo will be used on all Farm to School related marketing and promotional materials for the District.

The Farm to School Planning Committee is a sub-committee of the Wellness Committee for the District. The committee is comprised of faculty and non-profit community partners. The Farm to School Planning Committee is working on a sustainable implementation plan for the District on Farm to School related activities and curriculum to include school gardens and increased purchasing of local foods farmed in Niagara County.

The winners will be provided prizes by their respective schools.



Runnerup above by Maple Avenue School student Daniel Wijesirwardern.

Schools get vegetable gardens



The Highland Community Revitalization Committee (HCRC) and Niagara Falls Councilmember Kenny Tompkins brought some basic and timeless lessons to students in the District.

Schools including Gaskill Prep, Hyde Park Elementary, Henry J. Kalfas, Niagara Street, and GJ Mann Elementary, received garden beds in which to start community vegetable gardens.

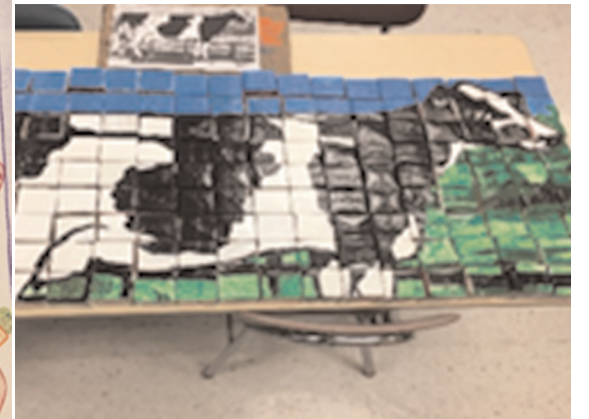
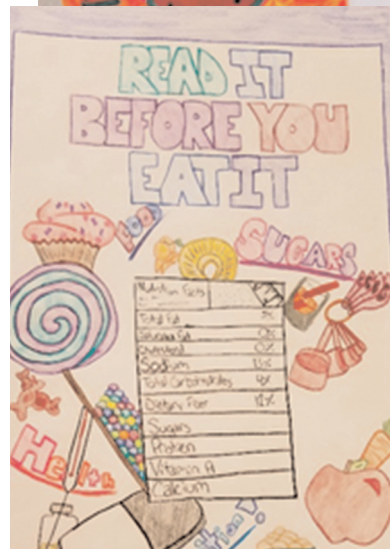
Renee Mathews, executive director of HCRC, explained that the beds came from a grant from the William G. Mayne, Jr. Business/Community Enhancement Program. Last year, five garden beds were installed at Kalfas Magnet Elementary School; this year, 10 more beds will be installed, giving children a chance to learn about gardening and the surrounding community a chance to harvest fresh vegetables.

"HCRC would like to send out a warm thank you to our sponsors and schools for their participation and enthusiastic support," she said.

"I learned gardening at my grandfather's knee," said Councilman Tompkins. "Growing our own fruits and vegetables was something that was passed down through the generations in my family and something I still do today at my home. I am thrilled to see community gardens in our city, especially at our elementary schools where our children will be able to benefit from a bountiful harvest of what they sowed. Not only are we teaching them to enjoy healthy eating, but we're passing down a life skill that in some ways has been forgotten."

The school district is grateful for the partnership.

Cornell Co-op Extension



Healthy Marketing Supports Wellness By Jennifer Tynan/School Coordinator for Creating Healthy Schools and Communities

Healthy marketing is an important part of Creating a Culture of Wellness in schools. Although children's food choices are affected by many factors, food marketing plays a key role. Studies show that food marketing attracts children's attention, influences their food choices, and prompts them to request that their parents purchase certain products. Schools are encouraged to promote healthy foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy products. The District is committed to providing a school environment that ensures opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day.

Students need to be educated on making informed choices about nutrition, health and physical activity. One strategy for promoting healthy foods and beverages is for students to create their own art work to display in the cafeteria. Creating Healthy Schools supported several healthy

marketing projects this year. Under the guidance of art teacher Katie Churakos, students at Gaskill Prep. researched Healthy Topics to create a poster with a logo and slogan.

Another group researched a fruit or vegetable on their new lap top and created a beautiful painting of their image. Works of art were on display at the student art show.

Rob Lynch worked with his art students to create three beautiful murals to support a healthy food theme that will be displayed in the High School cafeteria.

Mike Johnson had his after school art club paint on dried milk carton panels to create a large mural of a cow at Maple Avenue.

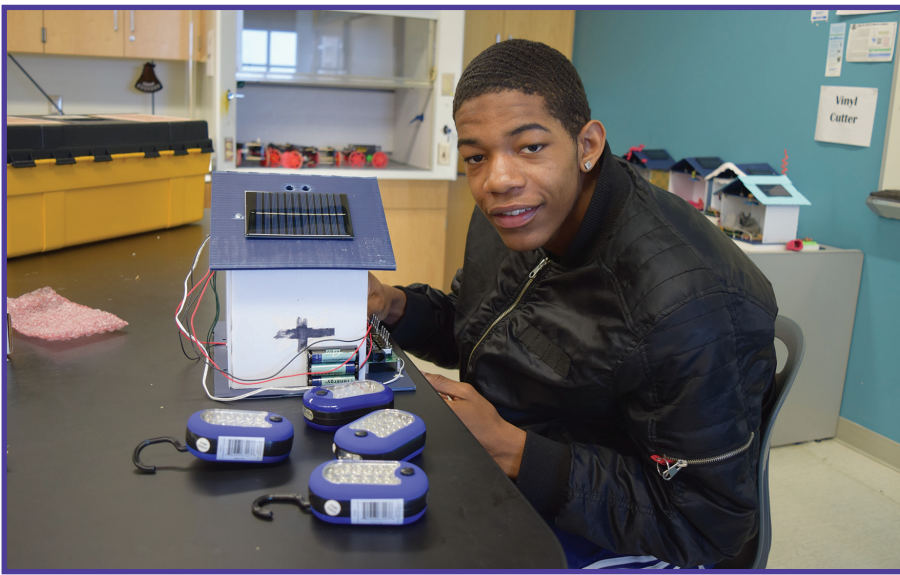
These projects will brighten the school walls and create a healthy environment. Eating healthy is a journey shaped by many factors. When students are surrounded by healthy images, it can have a positive effect on their choices.

If you would like more information on Healthy Eating Topics in Health Education, see page 8 of the District Wellness Policy, which can be found on the District Website.



Thanks to a collaboration with the City, each District school was able to get a free tree to plant in its yard. City Forester Joe Urso met with District maintenance personnel to choose the best locations for the trees to be planted. The Arbor Day celebrational activity helped students learn about proper planting. Above, Mayor Paul Dyster helps plant at Gaskill Prep School.

National Grid at NFHS STEM labs

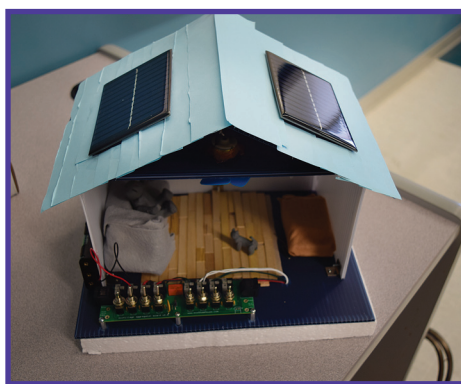


National Grid has been a great partner in Niagara Falls High School's STEM labs. When the curriculum was being designed, they helped write it, serving on the STEM Advisory Committee. It went further, providing funding for graduate-level science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and Advance Manufacturing professional development coursework at Niagara University for 45 District teachers for three years. Employees of National Grid have spent time with Niagara Falls High School students, discussing their careers and helping students begin to think about career opportunities in energy.

For its efforts, National Grid was awarded the District's Golden Apple Award in 2014.

So it not surprising National Grid took a big part in Niagara Falls High School's sustainability curriculum this year.

Daniel Keating, John Burke, Andy Hector, and Jon Nickerson from National Grid talked to students in Valerie Rotella Zafuto's and Deanna Matsulavage's labs for a few days in May, and helped the students build model houses that include solar panels.



Attention to detail: This solar-paneled model even includes a clay human and dog.



The three mandates National Grid has for partnership are education, environment, and energy. The project includes all three.

National Grid regional manager Ken Kujawa said that National Grid sponsors STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs because doing so creates opportunities for tomorrow's leaders.

"It's important to teach the next generation of workers that science can be fun, and that they become interested in STEM-related careers," he said. "Many engineers, scientists and those in other professions will be aging out of their jobs in the coming years, and National Grid will need talented people who are good at math, engineering and technology."

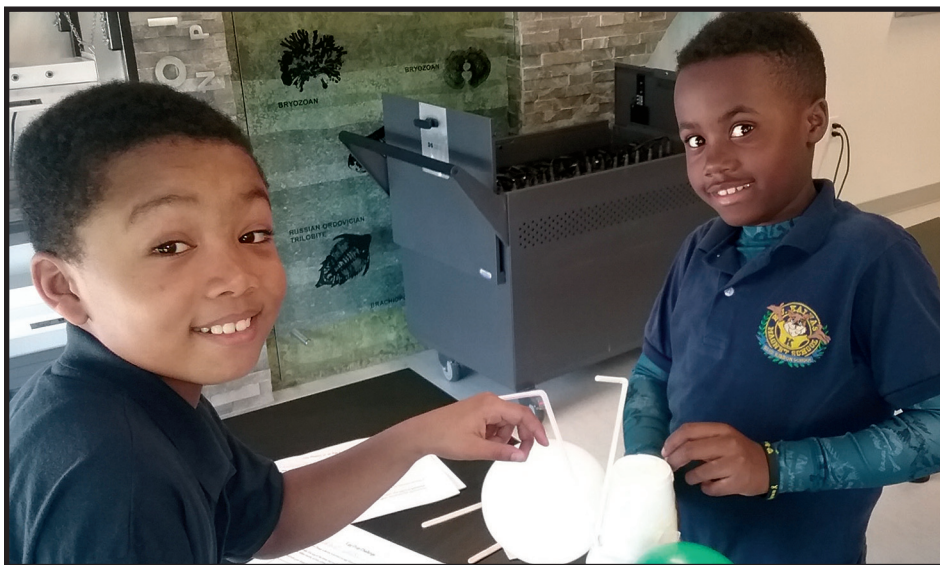
Students built the model houses, let the solar panels soak in the rays and calculated the energy each house used with a program called Eco CAD. The eco|cad Design Group creates renewable teaching aids for use in STEM classrooms using environmentally friendly architectural and electro-mechanical design with renewable energy and real-time energy monitoring.

The District continues to be very appreciative of the time and expertise National Grid shares with our students.

Above left, Kasim Coleman works on the finishing touches.

Above right, Daniel Keating, Manager, Customer and Community Relations, National Grid, and students Ke'chella Radford and Autumn Hubler.

Kalfas STEM classroom



Mary Pogel and Linda Johnson's class participated in a STEM activity called Egg Drop. The students had to design and build a device that would safely protect a raw egg from breaking or cracking when it was dropped from a height of 10 feet. They could choose from Styrofoam cups, cotton balls, balloons, popsicle sticks, string, straws, masking tape and/or newspaper to build their container. Eight groups of five students worked together during the project.

Three of the eight groups successfully created a safety zone that protected their egg from cracking or breaking. Fun was had by all students.



The boys and girls in Joanne Touchette's grade two class have been learning about the water cycle and how the sun's heat energy is responsible for powering the never ending cycle. They visited the STEM lab this week and conducted an experiment in which they created their own "water cycles" using water, food coloring, markers, and a gallon bag.

The students placed their bags on a heat source and observed how the water they collected turned into water vapor, condensed to form clouds, and produce tiny rain drops (precipitation) all inside their model. They then wrote about their observations in class.



Looking Ahead

JULY

6

Board of Education
Reorganization meeting 5 p.m.
Regular meeting 5:30 p.m.
Storyhour with the
Superintendent LaSalle Branch
Library

10

Extended Learning Summer Camp
begins at various sites
Kindercamp begins at NU

12

Summer school begins
Summer Camp begins at NFHS

17

Fine Arts Camp begins at HFA

25

Civic Engagement Camp begins at
NU



The athletic fields at Niagara Falls High School will soon be adorned with street banners, pictured above. District staffer Paul Grant and artist Mike Recchione designed the banners, which will include the names of sports played in areas near where they are displayed. The District thanks Paul and Mike for their work. Look for these beautiful banners at the fields.

Kudos!

Budget/Vote Results (unofficial at press time)

Tracy Vincent 449
James Vincent Cancemi 872
Herbert Lewis 195

Budget Yes 1165 - 77.4%
Budget No 338

Congratulations!

The Gaskill Prep Concert Band and Concert Choir both earned *Gold with Distinction* ratings at the May 12 Darien Lake Music Festival. In addition, choral student Maliq Howell received the Outstanding Choral Soloist Award for the entire festival!

Niagara Falls High School Concert Band took first place and best overall and the Jazz Band earned second place in New York City.

Allison Hubert is a Hewitt Award winner, receiving a scholarship as the top female scholar athlete among nine local high schools at the 52nd annual Thomas E. Hewitt Sports Awards Dinner. Congratulations also to Christian Meranto, Hewitt Award nominee.

Lexi McCoy earned first place in Automated Manufacturing Technology (Team) and Derek Soluri earned first in Welding Fabrication (Welding II, Team) in the Skills USA Competition.

Your Public Schools is written by Judie Glaser jglaser@nfschools.net

June 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
BOE Board of Education CES Cataract Elementary GPS Gaskill Prep LPS LaSalle Prep NSS Niagara Street PAC Performing Arts Center at NFHS TLC Meeting Teaching, Learning, Consulting				1 Hyde Park PEG Meeting 6 p.m.	2	3
4	5 NYS Assessment Grades 4 & 8 Science Written	6	7	8	9 NFHS Half Day Staff Dev. P.M. NFHS Class Day	10
11	12 NFHS No School Super. Conf. Day NSS Spring Concert 9:30 a.m. & 1:15 p.m.	13 79th Street PEG Meeting 6:30 p.m. DPC Meeting Central Office 5:30 p.m.	14 79th Street Pre- K 4 Celebration	15 BOE Review Session 5:30 p.m.	16 NFHS Senior Prom, Post Prom Party	17
		Regents Testing through June 23				
18	19 79th Street, Hyde Park Fun Day	20	21 Prep Schools Half Day Staff Dev. P.M. 79th Street Grade 6 Graduation	22 BOE Regular Meeting 7 p.m. Elementary Schools Half Day Staff Dev. P.M. Last Day for Students	23 Prep Schools No School Super. Conf. Day A.M./P.M. Staff Development	24 NFHS Class of 2017 Graduation Noon Conference Center Niagara
25	26	27	28	29	30	