

# Within Our Schools

December 2017

**The Stewardship Project requires 60% in favor to pass.**

The NFCSD is proud to employ the women and men of NFT, NIAS, CSEA, TAUL, STU, and ASC.

## Progress, Optimism, and Next Steps

Since I was appointed to my post in 2016, I have been grateful for the enthusiasm and creativity staff members have shown. Many of you have brought new ideas and re-committed yourselves to exploring what is possible to improve student achievement, while supporting the healthy growth and social development of students. Many others have simply gone about doing their jobs with the professionalism and commitment I have always known our staff to have.

Thank you for that. Now I am coming to you to ask you to vote on an important capital projects plan we are calling the Stewardship Project: protecting the community's investment in public schools.

Let me give you the highlights of what we want to accomplish; a more exhaustive list is published in the *Your Public Schools* newsletter November and December issues.

Every school would benefit from the installation of Category 6 technology wiring, which would ensure compatibility with our existing and substantial investment in technology in our schools.

Seventy-ninth Street School remains the only school with no hot kitchen; we would like to rectify that.

In addition, the Board has decided that an important part

of these projects would be adding air-conditioning to the four elementary schools which do not currently have it: 79th, Hyde Park, Mann, and Maple.

Roof repair or replacement is necessary at NFHS, Maple, and Cataract.

At GJ Mann, we need new windows and new window treatments, as well as repairs to sections of walkways and up-graded exterior signage.

Anyone of us who has driven around NFHS lately will easily identify repair work to the parking lot as an important project to undertake.

Meanwhile at Cataract, we have very small children trying to make do with toilets designed for larger students. That doesn't work for anyone.

We have to have this vote on December 12 because of a special funding mechanism we can utilize (see next page), so I am asking you to make time in this busy season to cast a vote.

No one cares about our students more than we do; please vote on school improvements.

“As usual, these projects will not result in an increase to the tax levy.”



Mark Laurie

### Highlights

Air-conditioning at 79th, Hyde Park, Mann, and Maple.

Roofs at NFHS, Maple, and Cataract

CAT 6 wiring all schools

Kitchen at 79th

Windows at GJ Mann



# Congratulations!



*Above, a ceremonial ribbon-cutting at Kalfas; a new logo unveiled by Maple .*

Henry J. Kalfas School is celebrating 60 years and Maple Avenue School 95 years this academic year! Many special observances are taking place at each.

Kalfas opened as Beech Avenue School and was a focus of integration efforts. A recent soiree welcomed back former administrators and staff as well as the daughter of the Late Mr. Kalfas, Andrea Hake.

Maple replaced McKoon Avenue School and has stood sentinel in DeVeaux through the Depression, WWII, the Civil Rights Era, and so much more. Although the Niagara Street School community is older than Maple's, Maple is the oldest physical school in the District.

Like all District schools, both are beloved by their current and former pupils and staff members.

Congratulations to both the historic schools!

Read about them and all other Niagara Falls public schools in School Days, a District publication coming out soon!

## Other notes

Business Cards: If you need them, the vendor is Safeguard and the cost is \$39 and \$7 shipping. You must first obtain permission from your administrator, if needed, and a Purchase Order including your name, title, phone number, e-mail, location name and address. Safeguard will email you a proof to approve. When you get the

cards, sign the bill and forward it through the regular process for payment. You do not need to contact Public Relations.

## Thank you! You're the best!

We live and work in a community with a lot of poverty. The District is proud to provide good jobs with good benefits to hard-working staff. It is even prouder of the generosity shown by that staff toward students and the community at large.

Funds have been collected by individuals and unions for the benefit of residents of Puerto Rico, cancer patients, veterans and the military, students who need food, school supplies, holiday food, or gifts. Every year, significant donations are made and initiatives led by our employees. In every school community, our students and staff also find emotional support when faced with illness, the death of a loved one, or other challenges. That culture of caring is one of the best parts of the NFCSD. Thank you for all you do.

# Quick look: what need to be done?



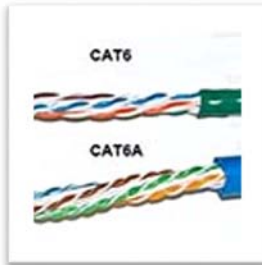
*At left, the bell tower at Maple is a historic and attractive, and the bell is still rung every day. It needs repair.*



*NFHS students, staff, and the whole community get to navigate things like this as they drive around the school. With beautiful fields and constant community use, the parking lot is not going to fix itself.*



*That was quite an extended summer we had! With more summer programming and our goal to enroll more children at younger ages, it is time to add air conditioning to the four elementary schools that currently do not have it. That would ensure all schools except LPS and GPS are fully climate controlled. Why not do the prep schools, too? It's just too expensive. The decision was to address the youngest students, and leave grades seven and eight on the wishlist at this time. We may not have a long hot summer every year, but all our youngest students deserve the same level of comfort.*



*Category 6 wiring would allow all our technology to operate smoothly. This is a necessary and geeky upgrade that would improve our technology lives and keep our considerable investment in all things tech playing nice*

*Below, that NFHS roof is about 20 years old. We've patched it and patched it, but it needs to be properly addressed, as do the roofs at Maple and Cataract.*



*There are a lot of windows at GJ Mann, and they all need to be replaced.*

*At right, 79th Street School remains the only school with no hot kitchen. We all know how many of our students rely on us for nutritious, hot meals. It's time to address this.*



**Learning For All ... Whatever It Takes**