



Your Public Schools



Empire State Advantage Gold Level Awardee

April 2018

Community Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 8

Walk Against Child Abuse: April 19 - 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The second annual Walk Against Child Abuse will be held April 19 at the Oasis at Hyde Park. Focus on Families, the District, and the City are sponsoring the event, which was very well-attended last year.

"Last year, we organized the event very quickly," said Focus on Families' Judy Martin "But a lot of people came out, even with only a couple weeks' notice. That told us this issue is one people are passionate about."

The Walk was suggested by Cher Moore, a parent. She has been integral to planning and promoting the Walk.

Anne Marie Tucker, the Executive Director of the Child Advocacy Center at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, is looking forward to the event.

"Niagara County is blessed with professionals who are child protective services workers, law enforcement investigators, prosecutors, victim advocates, therapists and medical personnel who are dedicated to protecting children. They work together at the Child Advocacy

Center to investigate and respond to reports of abuse in a comprehensive and professional manner keeping the safety of children in the forefront."

In 2017, the Child Advocacy Center provided services to over 400 children and families. The Center primarily serves children who are reported as physically or sexually abused, children who are trafficked and children who witness violence.

The Center is utilized to conduct forensic interviews for children in a comfortable, neutral facility and in a manner that reduces the number of times a child is questioned. Children also have access to trauma-focused therapy services. Last year, CAC staff therapists conducted 663 counseling visits. The Center's victim advocates provided over 10,000 case management services. Services are provided at no cost to the family.

In 2017, the Niagara County Department of Social Services investigated over 4,200 reports of child abuse and maltreatment.



Last year, among the groups represented at the walk were Niagara County Department of Social Services, the Niagara County Sheriff's Department, Niagara Falls Teachers, Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, many children and a few dogs!



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 or the Child Advocacy Center of Niagara at 285-0045.

Kalfas School: scientific research students

Learning how matter changes with borax crystals

At Henry J. Kalfas Magnet School, grade two students in Joanne Touchette's and Jennifer Clyde's classes conducted an experiment in which the children used the scientific method of investigation to hypothesize whether heat energy would have an effect on liquid matter. In science, the students have been learning that the condensation formed in clouds is a result of the heating and cooling of the water vapor in the atmosphere. We know that the sun's heat energy causes evaporation and turns water from its liquid state into its gas state as a vapor. The children hypothesized whether adding a heat source to a liquid along with other ingredients will have the opposite effect and turn the liquid into a solid state of matter.

As part of the experiment, the students used a super-saturated solution of boiling water, pipe cleaners, borax crystals and food coloring.

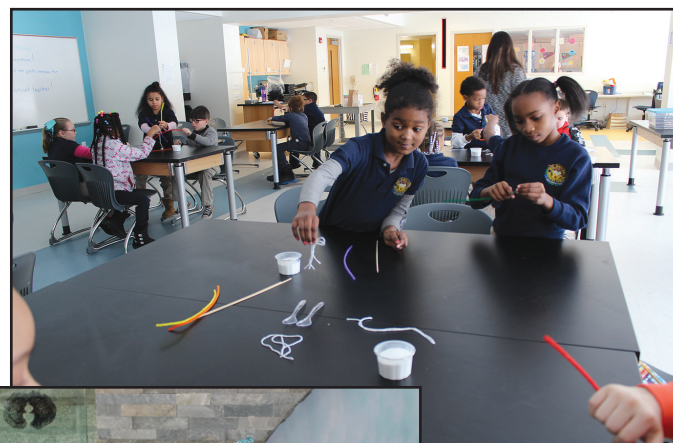
The students formed a hypothesis as to whether the heat energy in the solution would affect the individual pipe cleaner designs they had crafted.

Many students predicted that the hot liquid would cause the borax solution to evaporate and/or decrease in content. Some students even stated the borax would float to the top of their cups while others said the solution would "disappear."

Once the measured borax was added to the boiling water, the children were instructed to mix their ingredients well until the powder borax rested at the bottom of the cup. When this happened, the children dipped their individual pipe cleaner creations into the solution and let it rest overnight.

After a full 24-hour cycle, the students noticed large colorful crystals formed on and around their shaped pipe cleaners. With their crystals in hand, the boys and girls determined that the heat energy from our solution caused a chemical reaction within the borax to form solid crystals.

At the end of the experiment, the students noticed that the heat source had the opposite effect on the liquid solution causing a liquid to turn into a solid as opposed to water vapor.



From the Superintendent



Mark Laurrie
Last year, one of our veteran teachers, Kate Muldoon, approached me on behalf of the Arts Department, requesting permission to host a District-wide Fine Arts Night at Niagara Falls High School. I was happy to give it a try and I am glad I did.

That evening, there were at least 1,000 people in the high school -- perhaps more at one time than I have seen since the opening ceremonies for the high school in 2000. The vibrant atmosphere not only offered students a chance to shine, but brought together many residents to participate as one District in a capstone arts event.

Although Mrs. Muldoon retired, I am pleased to say she is willing to again take on the considerable challenge of scheduling space and time for visual and performing student artists to again hold the Fine Arts Festival, which will take place May 10.

I ask you to save the date and plan to join us that evening to celebrate the creativity and talent of our student

Your Public Schools will invite a different principal each month to offer thoughts in the space below. This month, the principal of Harry F. Abate Elementary School offers thoughts.

“The Essential Third Wheel” by Mrs. Cynthia Jones



Cynthia Jones
“I don’t want to be a third wheel.” This expression is usually used in a negative connotation by a person who is accompanying two other individuals on a journey or to an event. It is a very awkward feeling when you perceive that the other two people have an unspoken connection and you seem to be on the outside looking in. Maybe they just invited you out with them to be polite.... being a third wheel, in this case, is not a comfortable or sought after position.

When you think about that third wheel from another perspective, however, it may turn out to be an invaluable asset. For example, have you ever owned a Big Wheel? I’m referring to a low-riding tricycle for children, usually made of plastic, with a giant wheel in the front and two smaller wheels in the rear for “side-walk-gripping action”.

If you ever owned one of

performers, painters, musicians, poets, ceramicists, graphic artists and more. It is quite a night and I am excited to make it an annual event. It is coming up soon.

In fact, now that Spring Break is behind us, there are about 11 weeks of school left in this academic year. That means students have to really stay on task to finish the year strong. I know it is hard to keep youth focused when warmer weather arrives and an array of activities resume; community athletic teams and summer jobs start to look more appealing than homework and studying.

But summer is still a long way off, and we can’t lose the ground students have gained all year. Please be vigilant as parents about getting students to school on time, asking if they are prepared, and encouraging them to finish the year with the best grades they can achieve.

Soon we will be sharing information about summer programming to help retain that knowledge and provide as many youth as possible with safe, supervised options for summer activities.

In the meantime, let’s all work together to end 2017-2018 in a great place.

these as a child, you know the disappointment you feel when your bike is missing the third wheel and you are no longer able to feel the wind whipping through your hair as you fly down the sidewalk. A third wheel, in this case, is essential.

Educators know the feeling of trying to speed down the sidewalk without that third wheel. Teachers are working to meet the expectations of their administrators, administrators are working to meet the expectations of their superintendents, and superintendents are working to meet the expectations of New York State... but they are all trying to ride down the sidewalk – many times, without that third wheel.

What is that missing, **essential**, third wheel, you ask? Parents and guardians, of course! Very often, parents and guardians express that they feel like a third wheel in that awkward, negative connotation. By that, I mean they are apprehensive about walking into a building or a room of professional educators where they are not familiar with the latest “lingo”, or don’t feel like they have

From the Board



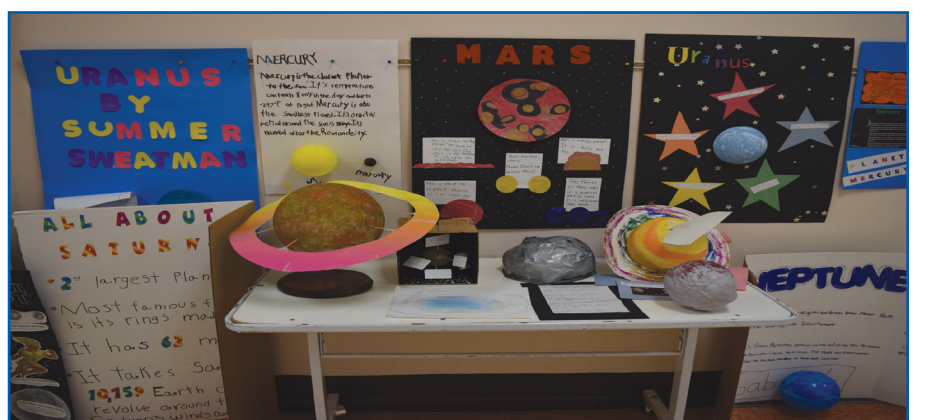
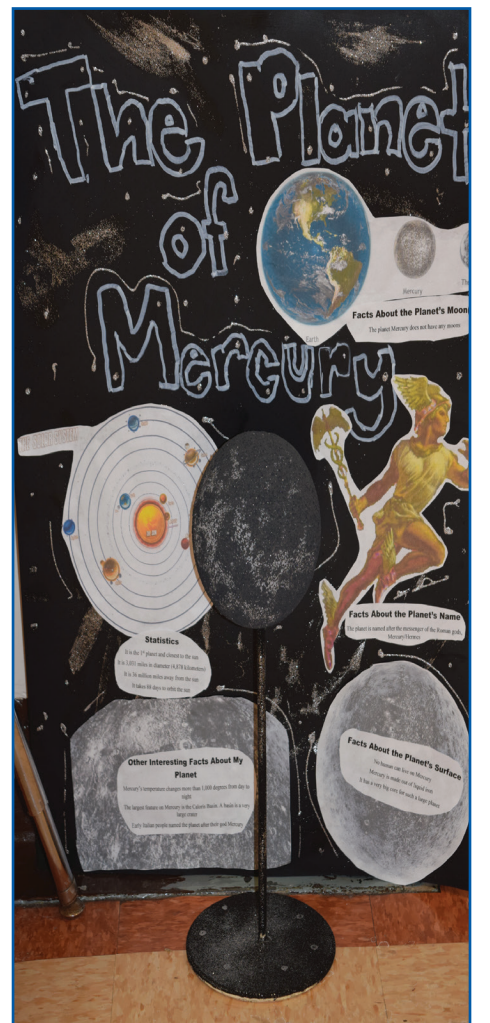
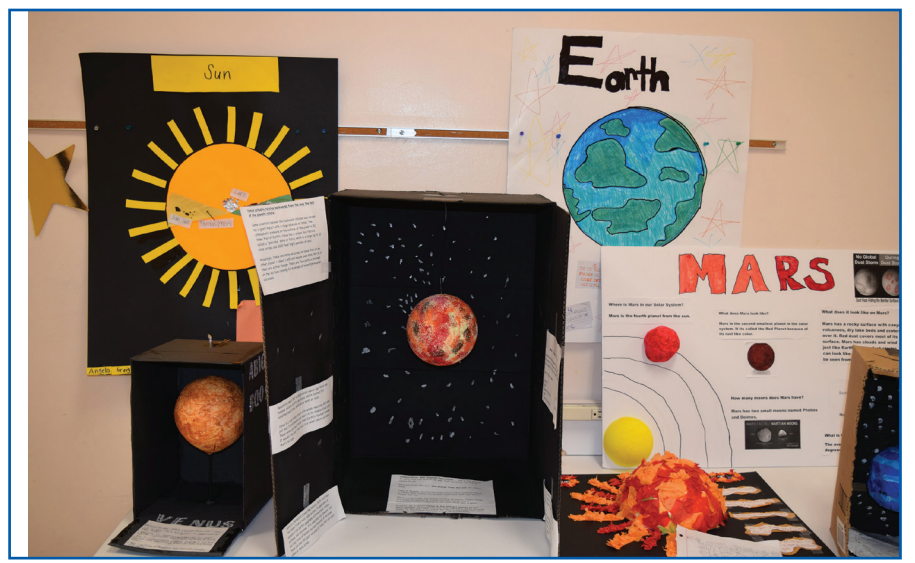
Earl Bass
The last year and a half on the School Board has been a major learning experience. One of the greatest lessons I’ve learned is about ambition and setting realistic goals.

Last year I challenged our students to two contests, and opened them both to all students. While the intent was to spark creativity and engage our students. What I did not take into account is we have nearly 7000 students so there was a potential for 14,000 en

tries. There weren’t 14000, but there were a few hundred, and I was overwhelmed on how to select winners.

I was ambitious and planned poorly, but I am a man of my word, so those contestants will receive their prize with interest. I apologize to the students, teachers, and their families for my mistake.

An example of a realistic goal came from our students, they sought a comprehensive health curriculum. They planned, presented fact based information, worked with the appropriate parties, and were able to achieve their goal. The most important lesson I’ve learned came from our students and I’m proud to say that.



The Solar System brought to you by Maple Avenue School grade two students.

Future City competition provides students with a challenge to make our world a better place



Contributed by Nadezda Mease

Prep school students were using STEM practices to imagine, design and build a city 100 years in the future at La-Salle Prep School.

This year's challenge was to create an Age Friendly City, where senior citizens could feel comfortable and welcomed. The club included the following students: Trent Fournier, Seth Fournier, Conner Kinney Tashya Carter, Ashlynn Rider, and Joyce Devine. They solved the proposed problem by designing medical capsules for removing all defective and aging cells from a body, and the community center, where seniors can be involved in a variety of activities.

The Invention Beach City

Health & Wellness Fair: all are welcome

Last year, the Human Resources Department hosted a Health & Wellness Fair at Niagara Falls High School. Among the vendors who took part were food trucks, massage therapists, chiropractors, insurance representatives, investment professionals, and more.

This year, they are expanding the offerings and presenting the NFCSD Health & Wellness Expo & Family Fun Run. It will take place April 26 at Niagara Falls High School.

was the name for the New York City location 100 years in the future. Students incorporated in their model a bridge, maglev train system, tuber road, flying cars, mini wind turbines, and other futuristic solutions.

In addition, students showed off their model to judges on January 20 during the Regional Future City competition in Kenmore NY. where they presented the researched information as a scientist, an elderly person and a time traveler.

Overall, the Future City club and competition had provided students with an opportunity to experience engineering practices, research, and public speaking while having some fun. This opportunity allows our schools to prepare knowledgeable future citizens, while keeping them engaged in the schoolwork.



The Expo will feature a 1.5 Family Fun Run, music, food trucks, and kids' activities, and many local vendors. Attendees can explore new ways to get healthier, happier, and more involved in the community.

Event information will soon be available on the District website as well as coming home with students.

This is a community event; those interested in being an exhibitor, please contact Alicia Savino @ 286-4227 or asavino@nfschools.net



From the Archives



Above, Cayuga Street School, built in 1909, was located at 706 Cayuga Drive. It was closed in 1976 and sold to a developer for \$14,000. It was later demolished. Below, what we believe to be the original Third Street School, located at 239 Third Street. It was built in 1852. It was replaced by an expanded Third Street School in 1897.



Safety Corner

Summer Safety tips from Health Services - Dr. Silvaroli, Family Nurse Practitioner

BICYCLE SAFETY

- A helmet protects your child from serious injury, and should always be worn. And remember, wearing a helmet at all times helps children develop the helmet habit.
- Your child needs to wear a helmet on every bike ride, no matter how short or how close to home. Many injuries happen in driveways, on sidewalks, and on bike paths, not just on streets. Children learn best by observing you. Set the example: Whenever you ride, put on your helmet.
- When purchasing a helmet, look for a label or sticker that says the helmet meets the CPSC safety standard.
- A helmet should be worn so that it is level on the head and covers the forehead, not tipped forward or backwards. The strap should be securely fastened with about 2 fingers able to fit between chin and strap. The helmet should be snug on the head, but not overly tight. Skin should move

with the helmet when moved side to side. If needed, the helmet's sizing pads can help improve the fit.

- Do not push your child to ride a 2-wheeled bike without training wheels until he or she is ready. Consider your child's coordination and desire to learn to ride. Stick with coaster (foot) brakes until your child is older and more experienced for hand brakes. Consider a balance bike with no pedals for young children to learn riding skills.
- Take your child with you when you shop for the bike, so that he or she can try it out. The value of a properly fitted bike far outweighs the value of surprising your child with a new one. Buy a bike that is the right size, not one your child has to "grow into." Oversized bikes are especially dangerous. Your child should ride on the right, facing the same direction as traffic, and should be taught to obey all stop signs and other traffic control devices. Children should never ride at night.

ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION/BUDGET VOTE

The annual school election/budget vote of the City School District of the City of Niagara Falls will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, to adopt the annual budget and for the election of a Board member.

There are two seat open on the Board of Education. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes cast each will serve a full five (5) year term beginning July 1, 2017.

Board membership is an unpaid position.

Petitions for nominating a candidate for the office of Member of the Board of Education in the City School District of Niagara Falls, New York, are available in the District Clerk's office (9 a.m. - 4 p.m.) at the Central Office Administration Building, 630 - 66th Street, Niagara Falls, New York.

Petitions must be filed with the Clerk of the Board of Education on or before Wednesday, April 25, 2018 by 5 p.m.

The petition must be signed by at least 100 qualified voters of the City of Niagara Falls.

Champions

Willie McDougald won the 132 pound NYS Wrestling Championship in Albany.

"It was a well-deserved championship. His combination of hard work, dedication and humility are traits that not only helped him to win, but have made him a favorite among the coaches in Western New York and a role model for the wrestlers. He has put Niagara Falls High School on the map in the most positive way," said coach Josh Egan.

As a coaching staff Dan Giancola, Don McCoy, and Josh Egan received many phone calls, emails, and text messages from people expressing how impressed they are with Willie, and how he represented all of WNY with class.

"The moments immediately following his win in the finals are something none of us will soon forget," Josh Egan said. "All of Western New York --and most of the state-- came together to root for Willie... to root for Niagara Falls."

Meanwhile, the Pro-Start teams from Orleans/Niagara BOCES held the 14th Annual "Taste of Education" at Salvatore's Italian Gardens. Niagara Career and Technical student Alora Tulip from Niagara Falls High School, took first place in the Iron Chef competition.

She was paired up with Kevin Parrin from the Filling Station Restaurant.

"It was intense! It was really intense," says Alora. "It was fun. I really enjoyed working with the chef. Our secret ingredient that we got at the last minute was duck. I have never worked with duck before. Duck had to be incorporated into all of it. So, we did a soup, salad and an appetizer. We made a parsnip soup with Brussel sprouts, pomegranates and then the duck. Then we seared duck with an asparagus spread and lastly we did roasted carrots with rosemary in duck fat."

After graduation, Alora is going to the Culinary Institute in Niagara Falls and then transferring over to University at Buffalo for Business studies. She hopes to open her own bakery.

Community Champions

Staff as well as community members have been attending training on responding to opioid overdose, given by the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services. The trainings have taken place in District schools; participants received Naloxone (Narcan) kits.

Below, men who have children attending Niagara Street School attended the training as part of a Dads and Donuts event at the school.

Mental, Social, Emotional Health

Students, like any other group of people, come with a variety of experiences and needs. The District addresses these needs in both programmatic and common sense ways, and invites the greater community to join us in supporting our youth.

Here is an overview of what the District offers:

Mental Health First Aide: This eight-hour course provides staff the skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. It will be offered to staff at all grade levels on a Saturday training.

Suicide Various trainings: These focus on dealing with students' feeling or actions of self-harm and injurious behaviors and include a book study (13 Reasons Why), Postvention Training, and a PSA Campaign. The majority of support has been targeted at the Prep and High School Levels due to the content, but they can be delivered at all levels.

Trauma Informed Care Trauma Informed Care focuses primarily Adverse Child Experiences (ACES) and how to address and work with students who have experienced trauma in their lives. Trainings are developed to be offered at all district levels.

Edge Foundation Edge Foundation provides staff with a methodology on coaching students who have executive functioning deficits. The expectation is 20 minute, 1:1 time with a student, and a checking in with them later in the week. It requires 14 hours of training, and leads to Edge Coaching Certificate. It is currently at GPS and there are plans to offer it to select staff at all levels.

BEST Basic Emotional Skills Training (BEST) is a K-5 curriculum focused on the Too Good For Violence Curriculum. It is delivered to all elementary students (K-5), and plans to implement it in Pre-K are in the works.

Gateway Gateway provides mental health supports and treatment (counseling, diagnosis, medication) at four elementary schools and is available for

all students in those schools.

COACHES The COACHES Program is a parenting program from the University at Buffalo. It provides training for parents of students with ADHD (and other qualifying criteria) and takes place in the evening. It has been advertised and offered to all students in grades 2-6 and is delivered in the evening at Cataract and Niagara Street schools.

Consultation The University at Buffalo offers free consultation for staff at Hyde Park and GPS to discuss behavioral concerns and/or management techniques. It is available for all staff at GPS and Hyde Park.

Sources of Strength Sources of Strength is a suicide awareness group/curriculum provided to students at NFHS.

Counseling At the elementary levels, we provide a variety of emotional and mental health programming, including in-school counseling.

Anonymous Student Reporting Every school has a Safe Locker or Bully-free Box, where students can anonymously drop a note expressing what they saw, heard, or suspect that may trouble them. These are places not only to pass information about bullying, but about unsafe behavior or concerns about violence, substance abuse, or anything else. School personnel follows up.

Safety Officers and plans Of course, the District employs safety/resource officers and has detailed safety plans for every school and scenario.

What can you do? If you are a student, parent, scout leader, pastor, neighbor, or anyone who sees in life or on-line something that causes concern about a particular individual, know that you can have a confidential conversation with a dean, a principal, or myself to share those concerns.

If you are a parent or guardian, pay attention to your children on-line – both what they see and what they post. Talk to your children about the importance of speaking up.



Let's Spend a Morning at Niagara Street School



The school on Niagara Street is brightly colored outside and filled with smiles inside. A recent visit by *Your Public Schools* found lots to smile about.

Niagara County Sheriff's Deputy Sean Furry and K-9 Vedder were giving a demonstration in the cafeteria. Much larger in life than his image depicts, Vedder was a popular visitor as Deputy Furry explained his value to law enforcement, how he trained, and that his particular specialty is explos-

Meanwhile in the auditorium, Niagara Falls Police Officers Tom Arist, Pat Clifton and Detective Joe Giaquinto gave a presentation called 'Power of a Friend: The No Bully Zone,' in part using a good old MacGruff the Crime Dog video.

Elsewhere, student Ashlynn Anthony stopped to offer a hug to her friend Richard Dunning, who was manning the security desk at the school.



For Our Daughters



For Our Daughters, Inc., was invited to Niagara Falls High School to talk about wellness and understanding one's history, and to lead a Zumba class. These young women had fun while learning about themselves. For Our Daughters was founded in 2012 after the founder, Mercedes Wilson, was diagnosed with breast cancer, and she realized that she did not know about her own family history. Every school year, the organization reaches out to schools and organizations to teach 11- to 19-year-old young women to take the reins on their health and wellness. For Our Daughters hosts an annual gala, this year on October 27th at Adams Mark. Learn more at www.forourdaughtersinc.org.

Anime and other academic opportunities at NFHS

The Extended Day Program (EDP) at Niagara Falls High School not only offers students a place to be after regular school hours, it also offers focused instructional support in math and English Language Arts, providing specific help for specific areas of need.

Those who participate have the chance to immediately improve their own academic performance, but that's not necessarily going to motivate every student to take part. So there's more.

A look at the EDP offerings shows a diversity of options for students, including clubs and classes in anime, chess, SAT prep, peer mentoring, Scholastic Bowl group, art, and a whole range of academic subjects. There are comic book, fitness, and card clubs; there is college and career prep, problem-solving club, and social media club. Recreational activities include physical conditioning, yoga, and career and technical options, such as music production.

Students also have a voice in activity offerings made available to them.

Parents benefit, too, and are encouraged to attend three Parent Nights available to address their questions and concerns, and provide opportunities to talk about new developments in education that impact their child, such as Common Core.

Social and behavioral support also is provided to students who may need it, through interventions from qualified mental health providers from the district and contracted services providers, for needs not fully met during the regular school day.

Goals of the program include:
Increasing Algebra I Common Core passing rate and overall ELA Common Core passing rate.

Developing within students a sense of personal and social responsibility regarding their work ethic and social behavior within the community, among family, peers and school staff.

Maximizing the positive effects that school policies, parenting skills, teaching skills, administrative supervision and community partnerships have on developing and managing student behavior and learning.

Assisting parents in becoming involved with the school and community in a partnership that enhances their children's education.

Improving student engagement, connectedness, and mental health through increased student support for targeted students with supportive activities.

Extended Learning Program is funded through a five-year, \$1,750,000 grant from the State Education Department.

Cornell Co-operative Extension

Spring into Health with Gardening and Mindfulness
By Jennifer Tynan/ *Creating Healthy Schools and Communities Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County*

April is National Gardening Month and a great time to start some seeds indoors and plan for a garden. Not only does gardening provide the benefits of physical activity and promotion of healthy eating, but also a connection to the natural world. The hands-on aspect of gardening fosters a sense of pride and empowerment, helping children work together as a team and improve their social skills. They can provide a springboard for learning and an opportunity for cross-curricular activities around a common theme. Gardens can teach us to be mindful of our surroundings and our food source.

Last year Creating Healthy Schools supported several garden initiatives throughout the district. At Niagara Street Elementary, we plan to expand the existing garden and are collaborating with a new partner, Grassroots Gardens. They will be holding workshops at the garden with the Niagara Street Garden Club and drop-in workshops throughout the summer.

In addition to expanding this outdoor garden, we are implementing a Tower Garden at both Niagara Street School

and Gaskill Prep. These are indoor state-of-the-art vertical aeroponic growing systems. We plan to use the Tower Garden harvest to encourage healthy choices through taste-testing and healthy cooking classes for students and adults next school year.

Spotlight on Healthy behaviors: This month we are spotlighting mindfulness through yoga and meditation. Once a week Art teacher Corey Bley prepares her students for the day by having them meet at the gym before school and practice relaxation and breathing through guided visualization activities. They begin by breathing in through their noses and out through their mouths, relaxing the muscles in their bodies. Once they are relaxed, they do a guided visualization activity where they make a special wish or say "Om" together. Saying "Om" calms the mind and helps students to be focused and relaxed for the rest of the day.

She also runs an After School Yoga Club and uses simple cards from Yoga4Classrooms to guide students through a series of poses. These help strengthen their muscles and develop balance. They usually close with a meditation and breathing exercise along with a guided visualization activity that provides a tool to manage their emotions. What a great way to start and end the school day!

79th Street School: Bald For Bucks



Calvin Davis and William Brass were among the students and staff at 79th Street School who had their heads shaved to benefit Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Teacher David St. Onge is a big supporter of Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RCPI).

In the past four years, he led participation in Bald For Bucks at 79th Street School, where he worked. The fundraiser benefits RCPI and involves people taking pledges in exchange for shaving their heads.

This year, Mr. St. Onge is on staff at Hyde Park Elementary School, but he returned to 79th Street School to run the annual event.

"It has always been an awesome event and great

experience for the students, families and staff.

"Everyone gets involved. This year we had more than 25 kids shaving their heads, including many girls. Many parents and staff went bald as well.

We've raised over \$3,300 to date and that amount is growing daily."

He also took a large group of the students to Kiss 98.5 to tell the story on air.

One student, Emily McCarthy, raised more than \$2000 on her own.

Class of 2018: Buy an ad for your grad!



“You hold a special place in the heart of a senior at NFHS”

Dear Parents/Guardians/Families/Friends Class of 2018:

As many of you are aware, NFHS has provided our seniors and their guests with a Post Prom Party that includes games, food, prizes, and a variety of fun activities. This drug and alcohol free evening cannot be made possible without the help, hard work, and dedication of caring NFHS administrators, staff, community members, and families of NFHS seniors.

On behalf of the NFHS Class of 2018, I am humbly asking for your help as we prepare for this year’s event which will take place on Friday, June 15th from 10:30 p.m. 2:30 a.m.

You can greatly assist us in one of the following ways:

1. Making a tax-deductible monetary donation directly used to fund this year’s party
2. Donating a gift card (typically \$25) to be used as a prize at this year’s event
3. Purchasing a congratulatory ad (message/photos can be included) in this year’s graduation booklet.....Prices are as follows:
 Full Page \$100
 Half Page Ad \$75
 Quarter Page \$50
 Eighth Page \$25
 Contact Judie Glaser at 286-425 or jglaser@nfschools.net to purchase ads.
 All proceeds from these ads will be used directly towards this year’s party. Please call/email me directly for more information about placing an ad.
4. Volunteering as we prepare for the party- Meetings will be held every Wednesday in April and May at 6 PM in the red/green cafete-

ria at NFHS. All donations can be mailed to the above address to the attention of Post Prom, Mr. Richard Slaiman. Please make checks payable to NFHS Student Council. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions. I sincerely thank you for your kindness and consideration.

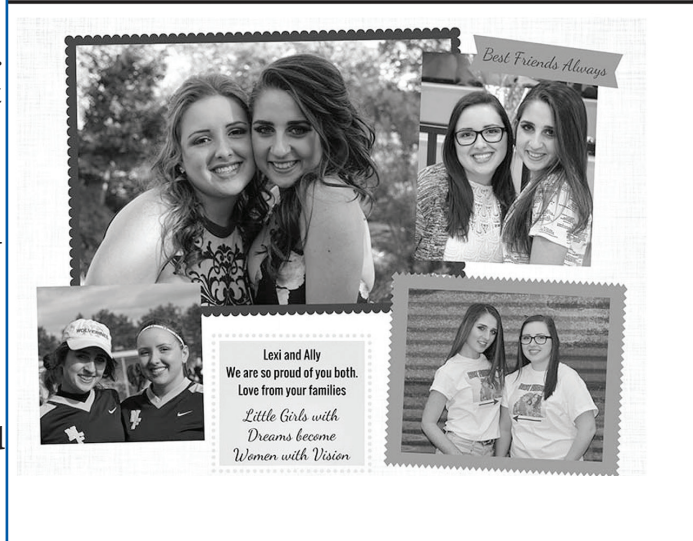
Sincerely,
 Richard Slaiman
 NFHS Teacher
 716-510-5908 (cell)
rslaiman@nfschools.net

Congratulations Jon Orfano!



Good luck at Niagara University!

Love,
 Mom, Dad, Jerri Ann, Mare Mare, and Pop Pop



Above, an example of an ad from last year’s book.

Class of 2018

Gaskill Prep School: Making connections



Rosye Johnson and Jeanette Criminisi with Gaskill Prep School student Ma'layah Howard.

English teacher Kristen Mihalko-Hyland and students started an interactive, in-school and outreach based project three years ago called Operation Beautiful.

In school, members record positive thoughts on sticky notes, which are posted in the school. Other students are free and encouraged to remove the notes and pass along the positive thought by gifting them.

Outside school, the group formed a partnership with the John Duke Senior Center. Students visit regularly to form relationships with senior citizens there; they have been visiting for two years.

At the holidays, they went to the Center to dance with the seniors, and they brought greeting cards -- some of the

in Spanish and made by the Spanish class students.

In February, they participated in a Valentine’s Day craft.

In future, members plan to “adopt a grandparent” at the Center. Plans are also under way to play Bingo and paint Easter eggs.

Said Mrs. Mihalko-Hyland, “It is a privilege to watch these girls grow through this club. They work together and want to give back to the school and our community. Tuesdays they laugh and listen to each other while they work. They have such big hearts.”

This program benefits both groups, providing a breath of fresh air to senior citizens and exposing the youth to the life experience of their older friends.



Jasmine Raymond-Carreras, Adriana Reese and Ariana Rodriguez visit at the Duke Center.



Adriana Reese and Ariana visit with Linda Palmer.



Marie DeFelice and Ny'asia Rafter.

Looking Ahead

May 3
Board of Education Review Meeting 5:30 p.m.

May 10
District-wide Fine Arts Festival at NFHS

May 14
Elementary, Prep No School

May 15
District Budget Vote

May 16
Board of Education Statutory Mtg. 8 p.m. Public Hearing on Safety Plans

May 25
No School for Elementary, Prep Schools.

May 28
No School

Please Note:

Effective 7/1/2018, for the school year 2018-2019, the **New York State Education Law has been amended for health exams and screening.** Health examinations (physicals exams) will now be mandated for all students who are in the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th grades and new entrants including Pre-K or K. Health services will be sending out packets in May/June 2018 for your child's primary care provider (doctor office) to fill out and have them returned to your student's school nurse in September. Reminder, if your child is in 7th-12th grade and is interested in an interscholastic sport, he/she will need an additional sport physical exam provided by our District Nurse Practitioner in order to participate. Please contact your child's school nurse for forms and information. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Nurse Practitioner's office at 286-0788.

Dr. Silvaroli DNP, FNP

See you on-line!

The District as well as several individual schools, sports teams, the OSC-TV21, and programs like the Arts and Extended Day are in cyberspace on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Follow us for real-time updates.

Please note that while important notices are *likely* to be shared on-line (weather-related school closings, for example), you should always check for official District notifications on our website or rely on our telephone broadcast messaging system for correct, timely information.

Nonetheless, we hope you will friend us, like us, and follow us in cyberspace!

The District Facebook account is Niagara Falls City Schools.

The District Twitter handle is @NIAGFALLSCSD.

2017-2018 Board of Education
www.nfschools.net

Nick Vilaro
President
283-3206 (h)

Robert Restaino
Vice-President
285-8185 (h)

Ron Barstys
299-8233 (c)

Earl Bass
471-9775 (c)

Vincent "Jimmy" Cancemi
284-2688 (w)

Kevin Dobbs
282-5152 (h)

Art Jocoy Jr.
283-9329 (h)

Anthony Paretto
283-0372 (h)

Russell Petrozzi
297-8663 (h)

Mark Laurrie
Superintendent
286-4253 (w)
THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME at all Board of Education Meetings.

A p r i l

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Spring Break					
8	9 Classes Resume	10 79th Street PEG Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	11 NYS ELA through 4/13	12 Board of Education Rev. Mtg. 5:30 p.m. HP PEG 6 p.m. NFHS Parent Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	13	14
15	16	17 GPS PEG 6:30 p.m.	18	19	20	21
22	23 Elem., Prep: No School Super. Conf./ Staff Dev.	24 Board of Education Special meeting with BOCES; Central Office Mtg. 5:30 p.m.	25	26 Wellness Fair at NFHS	27	28
29	30					