



Your Public Schools

Niagara Falls, NY



Empire State Advantage Gold Level Awardee

Community Newsletter

January 2018

Volume 3 Issue 4

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration Features Nathaniel Dett Chorale

In 2009, The Nathaniel Dett Chorale performed at the inauguration of Barack Obama. On January 11, they perform for you.

The group is a Canadian choral group that specializes in Afrocentric music of all styles including classical, spirituals, gospel, jazz, folk and blues. It is named after the Canadian-born Black composer and musician R. Nathaniel Dett. The group has performed in the Maritimes, Quebec, Manitoba, Western Canada, the United States and in France. The Chorale has been supported by the Canada Council for the Arts. The Chorale was founded in 1998 by Brainerd Blyden-Taylor, who continues to be the director of the group.

As well as touring throughout Canada, the Chorale also performed at the Pollyfolia choral festival in France in 2004, and at events honoring world leaders Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Nathaniel Dett (October 11, 1882 – October 2, 1943) was a composer, organist, pianist and music professor. Born in Canada, he spent most of his professional career in the United States. He was a leading black composer, known for his use of African-American folk songs and spirituals as the basis for choral and piano compositions in the 19th century Romantic style of Classical music. He was among the first Black composers during the early years of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP).

Dett performed at Carnegie Hall and at the Boston Symphony Hall as a pianist and choir director. He worked as a church organist in Niagara Falls, Ontario (Canada) from 1898 to 1903.

He graduated from Oberlin College with a Bachelor of Music in 1908, and the Eastman School of Music with a Master of Music degree in 1932. He was honored by Har-

vard University for his article entitled The Emancipation of Negro Music and for a motet, "Don't Be Weary, Traveller". Dett was president of the National Association of Negro Musicians from 1924 to 1926.

Cite: Wikipedia

We are thrilled to welcome the Nathaniel Dett Chorale as singers and the founder, artistic director, and conductor of The Nathaniel Dett Chorale, Brainerd Blyden-Taylor, who will be our guest speaker. He is a Master Teacher and was recently awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from York University in Toronto.

Mr. Blyden-Taylor is also in constant demand as a Clinician, Adjudicator and Lecturer both nationally and internationally, working extensively across Canada and the United States of America, as well as in Cuba and France. He has also been invited to deliver workshops in Japan, Turkey and Israel. In addition Mr. Blyden-Taylor is an active church musician, serving

currently as Music Director of All Saints Kingsway Anglican Church in Toronto.

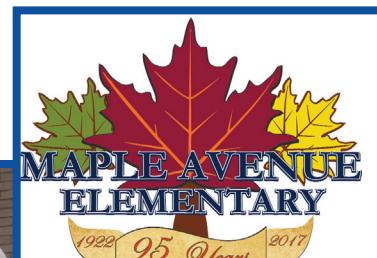
Each year, the Niagara Falls City School District, the National Federation of Just Communities of Western New York, Inc., the Niagara Falls Housing Authority, Family & Children's Service of Niagara, Niagara County Legislator Owen Steed, the Niagara Falls Police Department, Don J. King, Leadership Niagara, and OSC-TV Channel 21 bring the community this celebration of the life and work of Dr. King. Awards are presented to worthy nominees.

What: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration

When: 6 p.m. January 11

Where: Performing Arts Center at NFHS

Cost: FREE



Maple Avenue School: A special meeting

As part of Maple Avenue School's celebration of its 95th year, the most senior former student of the school, 97-year-old Don MacKender, met its current youngest student, Alexander Roscetti Creamer, who turned 4 years-of-age just days before the meeting.

Mr. Mackender recalls the first principal of Maple Avenue School, Sara Woods Johnston, who led the school from its opening in 1922 until her death in 1952.

Mr. Mackender, who also attended Gaskill, graduated from Trott Vocational High School in 1938. He remembers especially well, and especially fondly, Walter Tresselt, who taught Electric Shop at Trott, and who was "both mentor and second father" to him. Mr. Tresselt saw talent in young Mr. MacKender, and provided him extra work and challenges.

Trott ran an Industrial Apprenticeship Program through which students could gain real world experience. MacKender was placed at Dupont.

Upon completion of his time there, he was offered a job, but he had not yet

complete his schooling, and he related the dilemma to Tresselt. When the teacher learned that science work was the only work left to be done to complete the requirements for his diploma, he took the matter up with the principal, who arranged for MacKender to complete all his requirements in one week.

Many years later, Tresselt called in the favor when he persuaded MacKender to teach some electrical at night school.

MacKender worked at Dupont for 44 years- four as an apprentice, 13 as a journeyman, and 27 as a supervisor. He is a veteran of the second world war.

Mr. Roscetti Creamer does not yet have much personal history to relate, but he did have an observation on Mr. MacKender's near century mark.

"That's a lot bigger than 4!"

Mr. MacKender received a small gift from Superintendent Mark Laurrie and visited also with Maple Principal Maria Chille-Zafuto.

From the Superintendent



Mark Laurrie

A very happy and healthy New Year to all our District students, staff, and families. As we begin 2018, I would like to commend our many musical

bands and choruses for the wonderful holiday concerts they performed, as well as the NFHS Theater Arts students for their outstanding performances at the Children's Holiday Fest.

This month, the community will gather at the Performing Arts Center at Niagara Falls High School to celebrate the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and to honor three individuals with awards. Please join us January 11 at 6 p.m. as we join with our co-sponsors to celebrate the life of this important American and reflect together on the work that still needs to be done.

The new year also provides a time to re-focus. Some important things to keep in mind include Regents testing for some high school students. Also, be aware that the 20-week marking period ends for all students on January 25.

I would like to personally invite each parent and guardian, if you have not already done so, to join us at a District-wide Tech Night. These are held at rotating locations throughout the District and provide you with a look at the tools available to you to monitor your child's attendance and progress. You can also learn how to follow us on social media and how you can get free Microsoft Office 365 software to use at home. Get some hands on experience using resources you can use at home with your student to increase their classroom performance. And, you can enter into a drawing to win a Lenovo tablet. We will have activities in the school for your students if you want to bring them along.

We offer these opportunities so that parents and guardians can leverage the tools we make available in order to help them guide their children. If you are not tech savvy, this is especially for you! The next Tech Night will be held at GJ Mann Elementary School from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. See you there!

Around the District

These students are in Paula Spaccone's Universal Pre-Kindergarten class at Hyde Park School. They and their classmates decorated cookies to send to Niagara Hospice. Learning to do good deeds is always in the curriculum!



Throw-back!
At left,
afternoon
kindergarten
at
Cayuga
Drive
School,
1973 -
1974.

Below...
Niagara Street Elementary School's Art Club's first session project featured fabric painting. Students created their own wearable art design on a shirt or bandanna with teacher Corey Bley. Then they carefully created their designs, placed them under the fabric, traced with washable clear glue, and then brushed on fabric dye. The glue was soaked out, and now students are showing off their beautiful fashions! Next session we will be sewing puppets with a new group of students.

At left, Lov'e Caldwell, Mariah Crumpler, Jeremiah Johnson, Samael Marquez. Brooklyn Kelly is frosting cookies.



You never know who you will see ... Now on Facebook LIVE

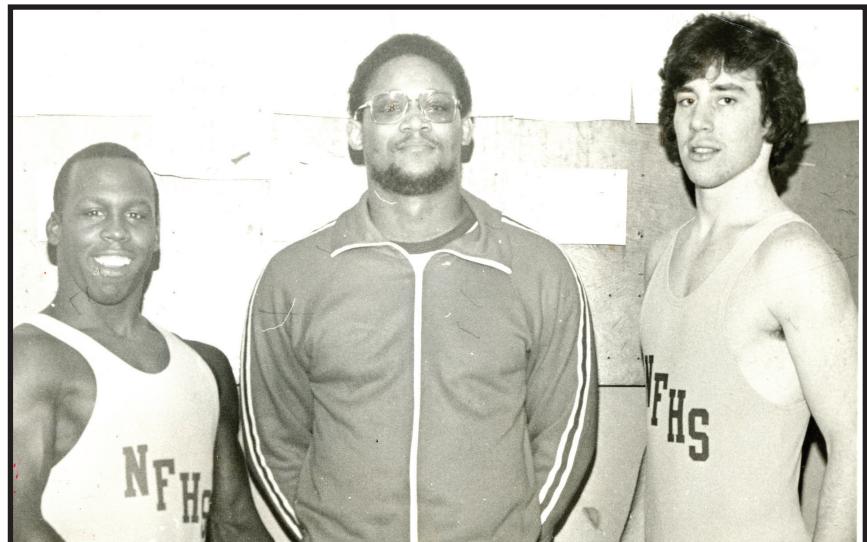


homepage. From school assemblies and high sports to discussions of issues of the day, you never know who you will see on the OSC.

You can also check it out on Facebook LIVE. Search OSC-21 for past posts and current videos.

Brought to you by the Media Production students at Niagara Falls High School and teacher Rich Meranto.

From the Archives



**2017-2018
Board of Education
Learning For All ...
Whatever It Takes
www.nfschools.net**

Nick Vilardo
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.**

Wolverines

Congratulations to the following 2017-2018 Basketball Wolverines!

VARSITY LADIES

Myama Bones, Tykira Cole, Cassidy Frank, Dinah Harris, Stephanie Hudson, Jacelyn Jefferson, Chanlar Lamar, Mia Maye, Amelia Strong, Zhane Strong, Khadisha Thomas, Tyshawna Thomas, Luxury Ubiles, Allize Welch.

GENTLEMEN

Syquan Ralands, Tazaun Rose, Quran Dubois, Marquise Miller, Moran Montgomery, Josiah Harris, Naim Bradley, Taylor Sanders, Joe Palka, Roddy Gayle, Willie Lightfoot.

JUNIOR VARSITY LADIES

Kelsi Amoretti, Ragen Amoretti, Dezarae Davis, Jaquajzah Hudson, Sarah Moreno, Riley Outland, Angela Samuel, Toddjanae Seals, Cameryn Skye, Mikayla Starks, Taionah Stewart, Carmen Timmons.

GENTLEMEN

Kyeron Bradely, Kierre Gotel, D'Andre Handley, Justin Humphrey-Goldsmith, Aaron Kifer, Jaden King, Arthur Miller, Faybion Prather, Aarien Robinson, Dajuan Royster, Caleb Tillman, Jakwan Smith, Malachi Williams



Authors Visit Elementary Schools



Children's authors and illustrators recently visited elementary schools as part of a special project coordinated by Teacher on Special Assignment Cathy Sullivan.

Rachel DiNunzio was also born and raised in Buffalo, NY. "We grew up surrounded by books and knowledge. My mom was careful to always encourage infinite imagination, pretending, learning, and out-of-the-box thinking." Her books include Chameleon Cat and Forsynthia Fits In.

Virginia Kroll was born in Buffalo and attended the State University of New York at Buffalo and Canisius College. She later became a grade five teacher in the Buffalo area. She has written numerous short stories, articles, poems, and books, including I Wanted to Know All about God (Eerdmans, 1994) and Masai and I (Four Winds Press, 1992).

The award winning illustrator and fine artist, E.B. Lewis has illustrated more than 70 books for children, including: New York Times 2016 Best Illustrated Book Award, Kirkus 2016 Best Illustrated

Book Award, and the 2016 Golden Kite Honor Award, Jabari Asim's Preaching to the Chickens; 2009 Orbis Picture Award for Hester Bass' The Secret World of Walter Anderson; 2004 Caldecott Honor Award Winner, Jacqueline Woodson's Coming on Home Soon; and is a five-time Coretta Scott King winner.

The Children's Book Council named James E. Ransome as one of 75 authors and illustrators everyone should know. Currently a member of the Society of Illustrators, Ransome has received both the Coretta Scott King Award for Illustration and the IBBY Honor Award for his book, The Creation.

Students heard presentations and had the chance to ask questions, as they learned how books are made, from idea to hard copy.

Every elementary school was visited by an author.

Clockwise from left, above:
Rachel DiNunzio; James Ransome; students listening at GJ Mann School.



No One Like Grandpa!

Earlier this year at the Halloween parade at 79th Street School, student Amelia Polka couldn't resist stepping out of line to hug Grandpa.



Cornell Cooperative Extension

By Jen Regan, Creating Healthy Schools and Communities

January is the time adults start setting goals for the year, but New Year's resolutions aren't just for adults. Take the time to sit down with your child and ask them what they would like to see happen over the next year. Setting goals is a great way to get children thinking about how decisions can affect their health and well-being. Two topics that are important to general health and performance in school are healthy eating and physical activity. Here are some ideas:

Healthy Eating

Goals for healthy eating should look at alternatives to unhealthy food and encourage children to be experimental in their eating. Here are some examples:

- I will drink more water or milk and save soda or juice for special occasions
- I will try one new food a month
- I will eat more fruit and vegetables as a snack rather than chips or cookies
- I will eat breakfast each morning to fuel up for the day ahead.

For some healthy eating inspiration, a great resource is the US Department of Agriculture's MyPlate, MyWins resource:

Upcycling at Abate Elementary

Brook D'Angelo, Niagara Falls SWEET coordinator, visited schools to share ideas on 'upcycling,' or reusing items instead of recycling or discarding them.

In this case, students saw how to make tote bags from tee shirts and spent some time making bookmarks and ornaments out of emptied cereal or tissue boxes. The main objective is to think differently before discarding an item, and recycling what can be recycled after using an item completely. Students also reviewed what types of items are recyclable in the City, and how to dispose of some items that are not recyclable in Niagara Falls--like those tee shirts, or plastic bags.

Here, students at Abate Elementary and Cataract Elementary schools participate.

A culinary scientific lesson

Ice Cream, Ice Cream! Fourth grade students in Tessa Zaepfel and Diane Amantia's classroom at Kalfas Magnet School worked in groups to create ice cream using rock salt, milk, vanilla flavoring, and ice. The science experiment demonstrated how a liquid can become a solid. The students calculated measurements in fractions to determine the amount of each ingredient for the recipe. They followed the scientific method to form a hypothesis on the experiment. Afterwards, the groups shared their findings and enjoyed ice cream!



NFHS: Junior Achievement

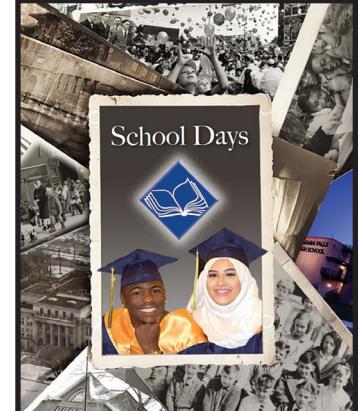
Niagara Falls High School students Amber Lynn Stewart, Hayleigh Oaks, Brennan Littere, Santino Manzare, Brian Hutchinson, Ryan Galbraith, Dominic Rinallo, and Anthony Seymour competed in the Junior Achievement Stock Market challenge at the Buffalo Convention Center. Students traded stocks in a NY Stock Exchange simulation. Participating were 119 schools and 480 students. NFHS placed overall 20 out of the 119.

Teachers: Joe Bellonte, Giulio Colangelo.



"Junior Achievement's Purpose is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. The envisioned future - what we aspire to become. Junior Achievement maintains an active vision, front and center, on how we can have a positive impact on the lives of more students - guided by our core values"

www.juniorachievement.org



Scholar Athletes

Congratulations to the NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete Teams from Niagara Falls High School; to receive team recognition with a certificate, the team's average GPA must be greater than or equal to 90.00. Those teams are: Girls Cross Country, Boys Cross Country, Girls Swim, Girls Volleyball, Girls Tennis, Girls Soccer, Boys Golf.

FOOTBALL:

Bryce Feuz
PJ Young
Michael Cirrito
Kristian Greene
Brandon Stachowski
Jordon Maday

GOLF:

Arthur Jocoy
Cameron Shelton

BOYS SOCCER:

Joe White
Zach Meranto
Jacob Mosholder
Matt Owens
Michael Stevens

GIRLS SOCCER:

Mia Augustino
Riley Outland
Kayla Petri
Fatimah Fakih
Melanie Rott
Joey Baillie
Arianna Welch
Chloe Tonellato
Butera

GIRLS SWIM:

Carly Washcalus
Ellie Camp
Gianna Catanzaro
Julie Dirre
Rosie Lamb
Loralin Keller-Soundara
Kaitlyn Prater
Brenna Freeman
Bennett Nigro
Maggie Bilquin
Gianna Ianniello
Haley Markel
Kara Myrtle

GIRLS TENNIS:
Kaitlyn Paretto
Hayley Tubinis
Joli Cacciatore
Lauren Granieri
Alexandra Showers
Chloe Bartels
Julia Gibas
Havana Bancroft-Billings
Lyndijean Lowry

BOYS VOLLEYBALL:

David Wagner
Skyler Hunt
Nick Marino
Anthony Dean
Tyler Ehde

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL:

Johannah Petrishin
Emaleigh Cooper
Chandler Lamar
Sarah Moreno
Avianna Peterson
Kayleigh McCormick
Isra Anwar
Tyshawna Thomas

CHEERLEADING:

Makaela Molly
Ashley Moulton
Jer'Asia Belton
Nicole Martineau
Alyssa Lynch
Samantha Chick
Daria Harris
Jy'Ahzhannae Taylor

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY:

Molly Chiarella
Felicity Tiberi
Adrienne Chamberlain
Julianna Bouton

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY:

Patrick Singleton
Zen Capton
Matthew Kifer
DeAndre Prum-Miles
Ryan Washcalus
Michael Snowden
Zachariah Rhodes



Flexible Seating



Nancy Scirto's Grade 1 class at Maple Avenue School looks different than other elementary classrooms. That's because she did away with the regulation issue furniture.

She reasoned that, although students have changed over the years, most classrooms haven't. Many young students have a hard time sitting in standard desks for long periods of time, organized into tidy rows, following directions. Children, she decided, thrive with movement. So she did some research.

Working with Instructional Coach Angela Manella, she investigated the concept of flexible seating. The two learned that some educators were seeing real growth by shaking things up.

She transformed her classroom into an entirely flexible environment. There are low

table with mats on the floor for seating. There are high tables with or without chairs. There are chairs like you might take to the park to watch a ball game.

There are different areas of the room and for the traditionalist students, there are traditional desks--an option that is still available, but not required.

Students choose where to sit each day. They take turns. They know they have to stay on task and accomplish their work to retain their seat of choice. If a student does not meet goals, he or she discusses what went wrong, what distracted the student or prevented completion of the work.

The results? Although the data is preliminary, it appears students are growing academically -- in leaps and bounds.



Here are some basic tenets of the classroom game plan:

Students discuss different ways that people learn.

Each seating option was introduced individually over several weeks.

Expectations are clearly defined, and the proper and safe way to use each seating option was discussed.

Students evaluate their choices for effectiveness and are expected to do quality work.

Class meetings are held to evaluate and discuss.

The teachers say the students are taking responsibility for learning and feel empowered. They are learning collabora-



ration and decision-making, and their scores are up---way up-- in reading and math.

Next steps include sharing the model with colleagues and adding more options.

Niagara Street School: Herschell Carousell Museum trip



As part of projects in Corey Bley's Art class, grade two classes at Niagara Street Elementary School took a field trip to the Herschell Carousell Factory Museum in North Tonawanda. Students learned about simple machines, created a moving machine artwork, and, of course, were able to ride a 200-year-old carousel! The students had a wonderful experience learning about history, technology, and art.



Safety Corner: The Invisible Killer

Although the popularity of carbon monoxide (CO) alarms has been growing in recent years, it cannot be assumed that everyone is familiar with the hazards of carbon monoxide poisoning in the home.

Often called the invisible killer, carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel are potential sources of carbon monoxide. Vehicles or generators running in an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide. So can grills.

The dangers of CO exposure depend on a number of variables, including the victim's health and activity level. Infants, pregnant women, and people with physical conditions that limit their body's ability to use oxygen (i.e. emphysema, asthma, heart disease) can be more severely affected by lower concentrations of CO than healthy adults would be.

A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.

In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 80,100 non-fire CO incidents in which carbon monoxide was found, or an average of nine such calls per hour. The number of incidents increased 96 percent from 40,900 incidents reported in 2003. This increase is most likely due to the increased use of CO detectors, which alert people to the presence of CO.

What are the symptoms of CO poisoning?

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (www.cpsc.gov), because CO is odorless, colorless, and otherwise undetectable to the human senses, people may not know that they are being exposed. The initial symptoms of low to moderate CO poisoning are similar to the flu (but without the fever).

They include:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Dizziness

High level CO poisoning results in progressively more severe symptoms, including:

- Mental confusion
- Vomiting
- Loss of muscular coordination
- Loss of consciousness
- Ultimately death

Symptom severity is related to both the CO level and the duration of exposure. For slowly developing residential CO problems, occupants and/or physicians can mistake mild to moderate CO poisoning symptoms for the flu, which sometimes results in tragic deaths.

For rapidly developing, high level CO exposures (e.g., associated with use of generators in residential spaces), victims can rapidly become mentally confused, and can lose muscle control without having first experienced milder

symptoms; they will likely die if not rescued.

PREVENTION

CO DETECTORS

- Install battery-operated or battery back-up CO detectors near every sleeping area in your home.

- Check CO detectors regularly to be sure they are functioning properly.

OIL & GAS FURNACES

- Have your furnace inspected every year.

PORTABLE GENERATORS

- **Never** use a generator inside your home or garage, even if doors and windows are open.
- Only use generators outside, **more than 20 feet away** from your home, doors, and windows.

(Some information retrieved from <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/Carbon-Monoxide-Information-Center/Carbon-Monoxide-Questions-and-Answers-/>)

Elementary STEM Happenings



resides in the school office, where she is visited daily by her creator.

Thimble Electronics and Maple Avenue School – Electronic engineering kits were donated to us from Thimble/National Grid partnership. Grade six students are soldering electrical circuits to create things like flashlights, compasses, and LED cubes and coding them to do different things. Teachers Tom Sauvageau and Ronni McGrath went to Thimble to get trained and brought the information back to students.

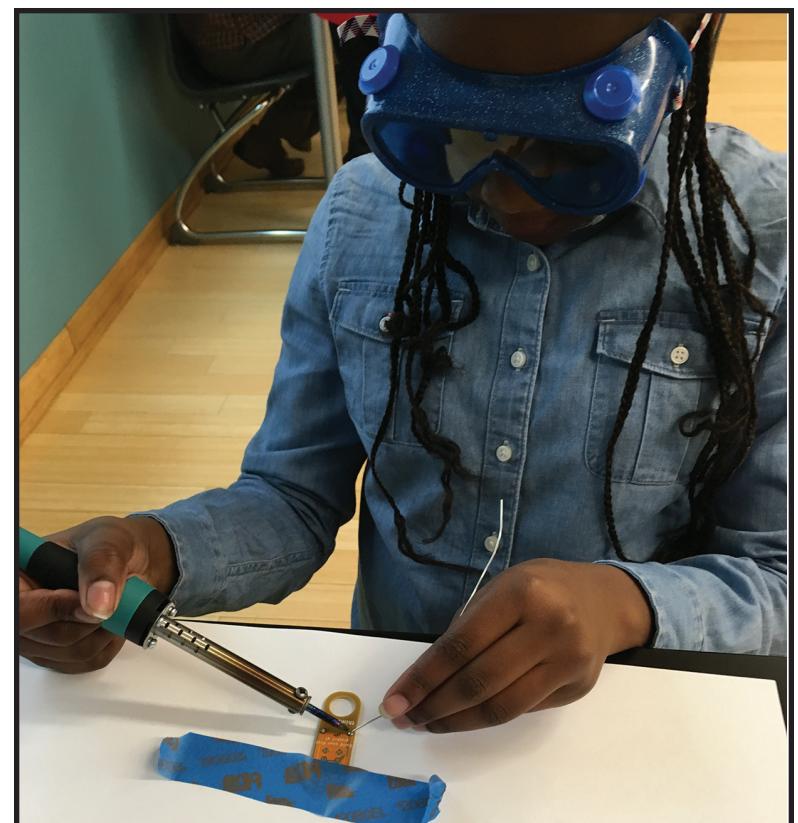
Coding Clubs at Abate and Kalfas schools students will learn to code using online resources from Code.org.

SSEP – Student Spaceflight Experiments Program

Elise Glahe's mission patch was returned to her with flight certification! Elise's patch design went into space last year.

Grade five enrichment students again participated in an annual proposal writing competition sponsored by WNY STEM and almost two dozen others, including National Grid, Praxair, SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Fredonia and Siemens.

Thirteen schools and community centers participated, representing Buffalo,



Lackawanna, Lockport, Niagara Falls, Tonawanda City, Olean and Wellsville.

The Abate students wrote six proposals, and two were selected as semi-finalists. They were titled: Composting with Actinomycetes in Microgravity; Will Kombucha Form Scoby in Microgravity. Teacher: Donna Nadrowski.

Both received honorable mentions. Specific details about that are attached in a separate document. The students are still engaged in their research at this time. They continue to receive support from Niagara University faculty members Dr. Cassandra Marnocha and Dr.

Mark Gallo. We were the only submissions below grade seven!

We now have coding/robotics available to all classes from grades kindergarten to 6. We have Bee Bots in grades k-2, Lego Robotics in grades 3-4 and Sphero robotics in grades 5-6. All of them integrate coding into content.

Pre-K classes now have a STEM cart loaded with STEM resources to share between classes. Many have already begun using them and the students are really enjoying the exploratory STEM play.

With the enrichment opportunities available at schools - many teachers are choosing to facilitate STEM-themed groups. Here are a few examples:

Pictured above, Maple the Dog was created at Maple Avenue School by student Athena Gadacz. The school held the Cardboard Challenge, which provided students a Saturday opportunity to come to the school and focuses on creativity, problem-solving, and engineering activities. Maple the Dog

Looking Ahead

February 8
BOE Review Session
5:30 p.m.

February 19
Presidents Day No
School

February 20
No School

February 22
BOE Regular Meeting
7 p.m.

February 27
District Parent Com-
mittee Meeting

February 27
All Parent Tech Night;
held at Abate School
Prep School Half Day -
Prep Parent Teacher
Conference



Dental woes: At the most recent Storyhour with the Superintendent held at the Earl Brydges Library on Main Street, Mark Laurie had a chance to examine Spike's teeth. Spike claimed to have a cavity; listeners were reminded how important good dental hygiene routines are to maintaining a happy mouth. Later, librarian Michele Timby led everyone in a song.



January 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 <small>Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Celebration 6 p.m. PAC @ NFHS</small>	12	13
14	15 <small>No School</small>	16	17	18 <small>BOE Review Mtg. 5:30 p.m., Meeting Hyde Park PEG 6 p.m. NFHS Parent Mtg. 6:30p.m.</small>	19	20
21	22	23 <small>District Parent Meeting 5:30 p.m.</small>	24	25 <small>BOE Regular 7 p.m. Regular</small>	26	27
28	29	30	31	Regents Week		

Save the Date!

February 27 at Abate School,
ALL District parents are
invited to attend Tech Night!

- Learn how you can get free Microsoft Office 365 software to use at home.
- Learn how to use the Parent Portal to monitor your student's attendance and grades.
- See how to get connected with the District Social Media.
- Get some hands on experience using resources you can use at home with your student to increase their classroom performance.

Enter into a drawing to win a Lenovo tablet.

We will have activities in the school for your students if you want to bring them along.

Join us!