NEWFIELD NEWSLETTER

Newfield Central School District, 247 Main Street, Newfield, NY 14867 ♦ (607) 564-9955

April 2014

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Community:

Our students have worked hard this year to meet the higher level of expectations in the new standards. Beginning this month students in grades 3-8 will be showing us how much they have learned and grown intellectually by taking the state tests again this year. Data from the results of these exams will help guide instruction for each student as s/he progresses to the next level. Once we identify the knowledge and skills that are weaker than the others, we can help them fill those gaps.

It is important to remember as we move into the testing season that these tests are only one measure at our disposal to assess how students are doing. While we are required to administer them and we do use the data to help improve instruction, there are many other ways we assess student progress to give us the "big picture." Because of this, please encourage your child to do his/her best on the assessments, but not to stress over them. Students are constantly assessed at school in many ways – that's a large part of what we do – but no single test defines who they are or what they can do.

The Common Core Learning Standards have been in the news a lot recently with mostly negative comments. It makes me sad to see our students put in the middle of this type of a political power struggle, with much misinformation being put out to try and persuade one side or the other that they are right. We have had positive experiences with the CCLS. Here are only a few of the things I have witnessed with our implementation of the new standards:

- Kindergarten students understanding characters, setting, problem and solution, and making predictions when discussing a story.
- Third graders being able to articulate their thoughts and explain their conclusions after evaluating several sources of information.
- Fifth graders being told to use annotations in the margins of the articles used in their research as part of close and critical reading – and understanding what that meant.
- The level and variety of vocabulary used in everyday conversations as well as in writing assignments at all grade levels is increasing.
- Students are reading more and reading at higher levels.
- Students are thinking about and brainstorming solutions to real-world problems, such as reducing our carbon footprint.

The Common Core Learning Standards have helped us "raise the bar" and students are meeting the challenge. It has been a very positive change for the students in Newfield and I am very proud of them and what they are accomplishing.

Dr. Cheryl Thomas
Superintendent of Schools

Newfield Central School District
2014-15 Calendar

Approved by BOE 3/6/14

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	~~4~~	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	~~1~~	~~2~~	~~3~~	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Students/Staff = 19
Faculty = 21

October

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	~~13~~	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Students/Staff = 21
Faculty = 22

November

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	~~11~~	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	~~26~~	~~27~~	~~28~~	29
30						

Students/Staff = 16
Faculty = 16

December

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	~~24~~	~~25~~	~~26~~	~~27~~
28	~~29~~	~~30~~	~~31~~			

Students/Staff = 17
Faculty = 17

January

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				~~1~~	~~2~~	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	~~19~~	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Students/Staff = 19
Faculty = 19

February

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	~~16~~	~~17~~	~~18~~	~~19~~	~~20~~	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Students/Staff = 15
Faculty = 15

March

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	~~20~~	21
22	23	24	~~25~~	26	27	28
29	~~30~~	~~31~~				

Students/Staff = 20
Faculty = 20

April

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			~~1~~	~~2~~	~~3~~	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	~~24~~	25
26	~~27~~	28	29	30		

Students/Staff = 18
Faculty = 19

May

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	~~22~~	23
24	~~25~~	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Students/Staff = 19
Faculty = 19

June

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	R	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	R	R	R	R	20
21	R	R	R	RD	26	27
28	29	30				

Students/Staff = 18
Faculty = 19

~~V~~ =School Vacation
~~V~~ =Employee Holiday (FT)
SC =Supt.'s Conference Day
R =Regents Exams
RD =Rating Day
=1/2 Day for Students

PAID HOLIDAYS FOR PART TIME SVC EMPLOYEES

October 13, 2014
November 27, 2014
December 25, 2014
January 1, 2015
May 25, 2015

Total Faculty = 187
Total Students and 10 mo. Staff = 182

September 1 - Labor Day
September 2 - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STAFF
September 4 - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
October 13 - Columbus Day
November 11 - Veterans' Day
November 26-28 - Thanksgiving Holiday
December 24 - January 2 - Holiday Recess
January 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 26-29 - Regents Dates
February 16-20 - Winter Break
March 30 - April 3 Spring Break
April 27 - Scoring Day at MS/ES
May 22-25 - Memorial Day Holiday
June 16-24 - Regents Dates
June 25 - Rating Day - Last Day for Teachers
June 26 - Graduation
Parent/Teacher Conferences at ES - Nov 21, Dec 4, Mar 20, Mar 25

BUDGET AND BOARD VACANCIES

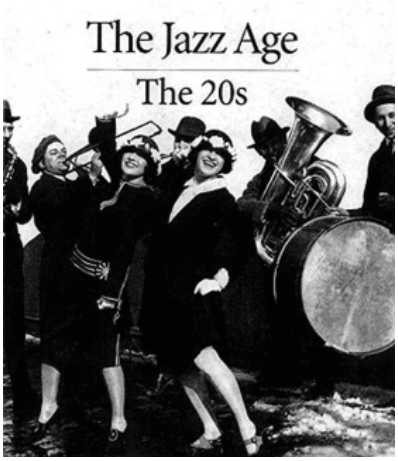
Discussions of the proposed **2014-15 school budget** will continue at Board meetings throughout April. All community members are invited to attend and get involved in the process. April meetings are scheduled for **April 3rd** and **April 23rd**, with the budget hearing on **May 8th**. Additional community meetings may also be scheduled. Check the website for details. The annual budget vote will be held on **May 20th**.

In addition to the budget vote, three positions on the **Board of Education** will be filled by election. Current incumbents are René Borgella, Daniel Frank and Paula Miller. If you are interested in running for one of these seats, please call or pick up a petition in the District Office. This petition is due to the District Clerk by **April 21st** at 5:00 p.m.

If you will be eligible to use an **Absentee Ballot** because of a disability or legitimate absence, you can obtain an application from the District Clerk. Applications must be returned seven days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the vote if the voter is picking up the ballot in person. The ballot must be received in the office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 20th in order to be counted.

Extra Extra Read All About It!

Creating a newspaper focusing on the events and culture of the 1920's presented some challenges and surprises for the Newfield High School English 11 classes taught by Betty Powell. The first hurdle, perhaps not surprisingly, was the lack of experience many students born in the late 1990's have with actual paper newspapers. Many students receive their current events news from online sources and social media newsfeeds.



In order to counteract this, Mrs. Powell brought them up to speed with copies of newspaper articles, including one written for the local paper by the students' American History teacher, Mr. Githler. The students had already researched images and text resources pertaining to their particular subject of interest. Topics such as the Harlem Renaissance, Prohibition, Consumerism and Technology, Flappers, Immigration and Racism are just some of the aspects of 1920's life that students delved into as they began to familiarize themselves with this very dramatic and exciting period of American History.

All this was in preparation for the class reading of *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and collaboration with Mr. Githler to present an interdisciplinary immersion into our past. Much of what has unfolded in our shared American history has a direct impact on where we find ourselves today. This became clearer to the students as they discovered for themselves how the role of technology, social issues and the American Dream have evolved over time and continue to influence our lives every day.

--Debra DeLorenzo

WALKERTHON TO BENEFIT CGNF

The Newfield High School project to eliminate hunger in Newfield coordinates well with the Community Good Neighbor Fund's annual "Walkerthon" that raises money for the community food pantry at the Methodist Church.

Sponsor forms for the fundraiser are available in the school offices, the Newfield Town Hall and the Newfield branch of Tioga State Bank. The walk is scheduled for May 3rd, beginning at 9:00 am at the Masonic Temple on Main Street.

KINDERGARTEN PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

Parents of children turning five years old before December 1, 2014 are invited to an informational meeting on Wednesday, April 2nd at 6:30 pm in the elementary library.

Children currently enrolled in our pre-k program will bring home registration materials that will need to be completed and returned to school by April 2, 2014.

If your child does not attend Pre-K, but will be coming to NCS kindergarten, please call 564-9955, ext. 1145, for a registration packet.

TESTING SCHEDULE FOR GRADES 3-5

Testing for ELA will be April 1-3, 2014. Testing for Math will be April 30-May 2. Grade 4 Science testing will be May 21-June 2. Teachers of the grade levels involved will send home more detailed information.

The following are Tips For Good Test Taking:

- Get a good night's sleep before an exam.
- Have a nourishing breakfast the morning of the exam.
- Don't stress out...just concentrate and do your best.
- Review you answers, but remember that your first choice is usually your best choice. Make changes only if you're sure your original answer is incorrect.

SPECIAL VISITOR-A "REAL" HOCKEY PLAYER!

One of our 6th grade Physical Education classes had a very special visitor on March 5th. Andy Iles, goalie for the Cornell University Men's Hockey team, joined the A day class during our floor hockey unit. After a brief discussion about the importance of academics and being physically fit, we convinced Andy to participate! Throughout the class Andy helped us work on our spatial awareness, non-verbal communication and passing. In addition, Andy rotated to play on all three teams and even scored two goals! It was a fantastic experience for the students and me as we continue to search for ways to make our units/lessons as authentic as possible. It certainly cannot get much more authentic than having a "real" hockey player in class. Thank you to Andy Iles for the visit and the PBIS folks for bringing these positive role models to campus.

Chris Bubble
6th Grade P.E. Teacher

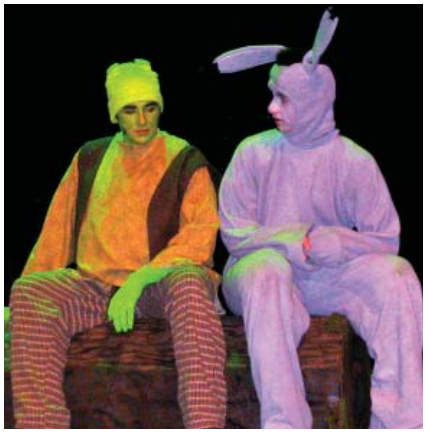
SUMMER PROGRAM FOR 3-5 YEAR OLDS

The Newfield Child Care Program is exploring the possibility of a summer program for 3-5 year olds, contingent on need, available space and staffing. If you or someone you know is interested in a fun filled, nurturing environment for your child this summer, please contact Kittie Hollander at 564-9955, ext. 4103, or at Khollander@newfieldschools.org.

NEWFIELD PTA LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The PTA is looking for volunteers to work at the staff appreciation luncheon and the elementary school literacy night in May. Email newfieldpta@gmail.com if interested

SCENES FROM "*SHREK THE MUSICAL*"



Newfield High School
DOING WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR COMMUNITY

As we move into the spring, I thought it would be helpful to update you about two important ways that we continue to stay focused on our vision of doing what is best for our community. The first has to do with our ongoing efforts to eliminate hunger in Newfield. The second has to do with our commitment to continuously improve our own practice through professional development work.

Community Garden/Youth Farm Project: One of the most exciting ideas that grew out of our free community dinner/community café event last spring had to do with developing more opportunities for people to grow their own food. Some people shared that they did not really know how to successfully grow their own food, while others shared that they did not necessarily have the space or resources necessary to do so. In thinking about these concerns, we decided to create a vegetable garden in our courtyard, to help the coordinators of the Growing Hope Together Garden in front of our school with their effort to transition the running of that garden to adults and students at the high school, and to eventually develop a larger community garden/youth farm that might serve the needs of many in our community.

The courtyard garden will be planted this spring, and it will be run and maintained by students and staff at the High School. The courtyard garden will also be integrated into our Environmental Science course, the Sustainable Living course, and the Food Exploration course. We hope to take what we learn from this process and perhaps develop a more long-term plan for creating a youth-run community garden that would be open to all members of the Newfield Community. Thanks to the Cornell Upward Bound Program for helping us to get a small grant from the Cornell Public Service Center to start this project.

Professional Development for all High School Teachers: Since September, we have been engaged in building-wide professional development that focuses on unit planning and making the curriculum accessible to all learners. This work is grounded in two key principles in the field of education: Understanding by Design and Differentiated Instruction. We are using the text, *Integrating Differentiated Instruction & Understanding by Design* (by Tomlinson & McTighe) to guide us in this work.

This professional development work is designed to help teachers use the principles of Differentiated Instruction & Understanding by Design to integrate the new Common Core Standards into their unit plans in ways that have integrity and that continue to allow the expertise of our educators to guide their practice. At the same time, this work will help teachers continue to deepen their ability to develop unit plans that make the curriculum accessible to all learners. In remaining consistent with our vision, the long-term goal of this work is to:

- Empower teachers to create units and lessons that are relevant to their students' lives.
- Empower students to exhibit pride in their families, heritages and cultures.
- Empower students to take action to improve the quality of their lives and the lives of people in their communities.
- Provide students with multiple options, including digital options, for articulating and communicating what they know and can do.
- Motivate educators to communicate to families the key components of the units they teach, and to invite families to provide input about how to make units and their lessons more relevant to their students' lives.

The "Who Is Newfield?" Event that was mentioned in the last two newsletters will be postponed from this spring to the fall of 2014. This will allow us more time to identify volunteers and to organize the event.

--Barry Derfel, H.S. Principal

NEWS FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE OFFICE

Rick Pawlewicz • 564-9955 ext. 3133 • rpawlewicz@newfieldschools.org

Spring has officially arrived and we are quickly approaching the end of the school year. Seniors are finishing strong and have graduation in sight. Junior College night was a success and students are starting their search process and even looking ahead to take the SAT's/ACT's in May and June (be sure to check registration deadlines). Sophomores and Freshmen have just completed their scheduling requests for next year and are pushing hard to prepare for the end of year Regents Examinations. We are well on our way to finish another successful year, but the Spring can bring many distractions to students. With that said, keep the communication open and stay involved to ensure that we reach our goals!

Our Senior College Acceptances are trickling in with their financial aid package and our students are approaching the FINAL DECISION of where they hope to be next year. I am really proud of their efforts and excited to see how their futures will unfold. Stop outside the High School Office and see the places where our students may be next fall: SUNY Brockport, University at Buffalo, SUNY Canton, Cazenovia College, Cayuga CC, Clarkson University, SUNY Cobleskill, Corning CC, SUNY Cortland, SUNY Delhi, Elmira College, Fingerlakes CC, SUNY Fredonia, Genesee CC, SUNY Geneseo, Hilbert College, Ithaca College, University of Kentucky, LeMoyne College, Mansfield University, Messiah College, Mohawk Valley CC, SUNY Morrisville, Nazareth College, Niagara University, Onondaga CC, SUNY Oswego, Penn State, Potomac State College – West Virginia University, SUNY Potsdam, SUNY Purchase, Russell Sage College, Sage College, St. Bonaventure, St. John's University, St. John Fisher College, St. Michael's College, TC3, University of Montana & Wells College!

April Blast from the Past

Brothers, **Paul Howe** (Class of 1974) and **David Howe** (Class of 1982), recently participated in commencement together as they graduated from Capella University with their Philosophical Doctorate (PhD) in Business and Masters of Business Administration (MBA), respectively.

Both Paul and David started their post-secondary education at TC3. Although they had aspirations of earning four-year degrees and more, they viewed TC3 as a convenient and economical option to start their journey. Paul transferred to RIT where he earned his Bachelor and Master degrees. He then obtained a teaching position in Europe where he worked toward his PhD online through Capella University. David transferred to Ithaca College where he earned his BS and also received his MBA online through Capella.

When asked if they had any advice for current Newfield students, they "recommend researching future careers intensely while in high school to try to decide what may appeal to them."

If you know of a former Newfield graduate interested in sharing their Blast from the Past, contact Rick Pawlewicz at rpawlewicz@newfieldschools.org.

Newfield Central School
247 Main Street
Newfield, NY 14867

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Newfield Schools Support the Community

NEWFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Legos at the Library, April 7, 3-7 pm
The Lego and Duplo table will be open for play and creation from 3 to 7 pm. Stop by to see what new Legos we have this month.

Spring Crafts, April 8, 4-7 pm
Spring has finally sprung so stop by to make Spring themed crafts.

Newfield Public Library Spring Book Sale, April 12, 9 am to 2 pm
Come browse a "new" selection of used adult and children's fiction and non-fiction books. In addition, audio books and DVDs are available in the sale. All items are priced from 25 cents to 1.00. All proceeds from the sale support library services and programs.

Pushing the Limits: Book and Discussion Group, April 22, 6:30 pm
Please join us for a discussion of climate change and survival as introduced in the book, *Arctic Drift* by Clive Cussler. Stop by the library to pick up a copy of the book.

The Newfield Public Library is seeking donations of **gently used children's books**. These books will be enjoyed by the children (grades K-7) in the summer camp's reading room at the school. Donations can be dropped off at the Newfield Public Library.

Tammy Kubinec, Library Director
607/564-3594

REMINDER: ***The drop off lane at both the middle/high school and the elementary school is for "drop and go" purposes only between 7:45 – 8:15 every morning.*** Pull as far forward in the lane as you can in order to allow others to pull in behind you. We should be able to fit at least 5 cars along the drop off lane. This keeps the line moving quickly and safely. Please do not park in the drop off lane or take time to write notes or gather belongings while in the drop off lane. Your child should exit the car quickly on the building side of the car. Thank you for your cooperation and help in keeping everyone safe.

TOWN RECREATION

Spring is nearly here and Town Recreation is ready! Youth programs include tee-ball, coach-pitch, minor's and major's **baseball** as well as prep and senior **softball**. **Track** is back and **volleyball** is set. We may even sneak in some fun **soccer** activities!

Adult programs include **yoga dance**, **tai chi**, open **basketball**, and a newly added **volleyball** night. In addition, we are excited to announce a new offering for ages 15 through adult entitled **"Creativity is Me,"** which is a 12-week class sure to lift your spirit and awaken or re-awaken the creative person within you! No art experience is necessary, just a willingness to try.

Summer is around the corner and **day camp** applications and information may be found at the elementary school office, the Town Hall, or on the website.

For details on any of these programs, please feel free to contact Reid Hoskins, Director, at recreation@newfieldny.org or 220-3461 OR check out the town website at www.newfieldny.org scrolling across to "for residents" and then down to recreation.