

# NEWFIELD NEWSLETTER



*Newfield Central School District*

*October 2013*

## LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Community Members,

For the first time Newfield Central School District is offering virtual AP courses in Statistics, Art History, and Music Theory, thanks to a grant with TST BOCES. This adds electives to the curriculum and gives our students one more way to access college level courses in high school. Most American students who go on to college have taken at least one AP course. For many of those students, it was a surprise to learn how much more rigorous the college academic experience was as compared to high school. To close the gap in knowledge, work ethic, and expectations between high school and college and to help our students compete with students from other high performing nations, public schools are now beginning to implement the Common Core Standards. These are a thoughtful progression of learning expectations put together by a group of educators from across the United States. Forty-five of the fifty states have adopted them so far. In addition to getting students "college and career ready," using Common Core Standards will help develop consistency in education for students who move from state to state or from district to district.

So if the Common Core Standards are so good, why is there controversy?

Well, first of all, it is change. Education has gotten comfortable in its current path. We know what we're doing. We've done it for generations. We already have lesson plans, adjusted and used successfully for the past twenty years. We've had "standards" and assessments in place for a very long time, so why do we need new ones? And hasn't almost everyone gone to school and thus knows how it should or shouldn't be done based on their own experience? But sometimes what we fail to realize is that the world is not standing still. It is changing faster and faster with each graduating class. And unless we change with it, ahead of it, and prepare students for the world outside of "school," we are not succeeding.

Secondly, it is hard. The Common Core Standards is a rigorous curriculum that will require students to read and analyze complex texts, to solve real-world problems, to make connections between subjects, to think, and to develop listening and speaking skills. Out of concern for the "whole child" and his/her self-esteem, we are sometimes guilty of not expecting students to perform to the best of their abilities because we don't want them to experience failure. We have forgotten how to teach children to learn from their failures. Yet, that is the way the most creative thinkers and inventors in our history were developed. They failed over and over, thought about their failures, made adjustments, tried again, rarely felt sorry for themselves, dealt with the frustration, and never gave up. There is something immensely satisfying about persevering until a challenge is mastered. It helps stretch the limits on what we can accomplish.

Thirdly, it requires us to work together. As we go through these changes, we will need to support each other and stay the course. It's easier to point fingers, complain, lie in wait to catch the inevitable mistakes any new initiative makes, grumble about mandates, or take a passive wait-and-see attitude. But those won't get us to the goal: providing an education that prepares our children to compete and be successful in a rapidly changing world. To do that, we need to work hard, to encourage and support each other, to be open to new ways of doing things that correspond with expectations beyond the classroom, to analyze our own practice and ideals, and to be unwavering in doing what is right for our children. The children of Newfield deserve our best and if we all move in the same direction we can achieve excellence - one step at a time.

Dr. Cheryl Thomas, Superintendent of Schools

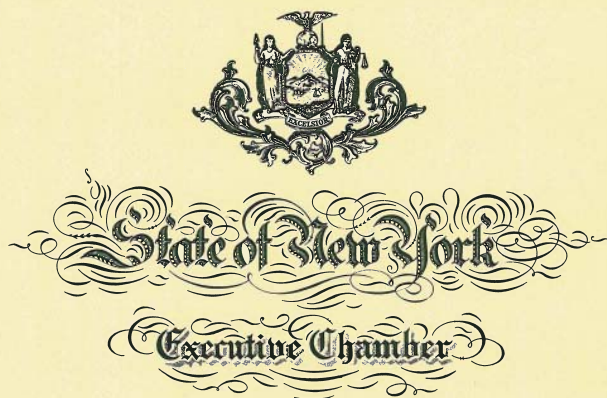


# OCTOBER 2013

## District Events Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
<div>Sep 2013</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	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							<b>1</b> 4:30 AM Mod/V Boys' Soccer v. Tioga  4:30 PM H.S. Gym Dedication and Reception  5:00 PM JV/V VB @ SVE	<b>2</b> 4:30 PM V. Girls' Soccer v. SVE  7:00 PM College Info Night - H.S. Lib.	<b>3</b> 4:30 PM Mod. Football v. Candor  4:30 PM Mod/V Boys' Soccer @ SVE  5:00 PM JV/V VB v. O-M  6:30 PM Board Mtg. - Weaver Conf. Rm.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 8:00 AM JV/V VB @ Dryden  10:00 AM Mod. Boys' Soccer v. Candor  10:00 AM V. Girls' Soccer @ Candor
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<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 5:00 PM JV/V VB v. Watkins	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 4:30 PM Mod. Football @ END  4:30 PM Mod/V Boys' Soccer v. O-M  4:30 PM V. Girls' Soccer @ O-M  5:00 PM JV/V VB @ Waverly  6:30 PM Booster Club Mtg. - Sec. Lib.	<b>10</b> 4:30 PM V. Boys' Soccer @ END	<b>11</b> 4:30 PM Mod. Boys' Soccer @ END  4:30 PM V. Girls' Soccer v. END  <div>NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS-STAFF ONLY</div>	<b>12</b>																																										
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Columbus Day (Observed)  <div>NO SCHOOL</div>	<b>15</b> 4:30 PM Mod. Boys' Soccer @ Newark Valley  5:00 PM JV/V VB v. Newark Valley	<b>16</b> 4:30 PM Mod. Football v. Waverly	<b>17</b> 4:30 PM Mod. Boys' Soccer v. SVE  5:30 PM JV/V VB @ Tioga  6:30 PM Board Mtg. - Weaver Conf. Rm.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>																																										
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## Proclamation

**Whereas**, each year, School Board Recognition Week is observed by the more than 700 school boards in school districts throughout the Empire State; and

**Whereas**, the men and women serving as members of school boards are dedicated to children, learning, and community, and devote many hours of service to elementary and secondary public education as they continually strive for improvement, excellence, and progress in education; and

**Whereas**, the members of New York's local school boards respond to the educational needs of the communities they serve and, in doing so, these leaders help strengthen our state's educational system and improve future prospects for our children; and

**Whereas**, during October 28, 2013 - November 1, 2013, special activities and programs will be held in communities across New York State in observance of School Board Recognition Week and it is fitting to join in acknowledging the commitment and contributions of members of local school boards;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 28, 2013 - November 1, 2013 as

## SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION WEEK

in the Empire State.

**G i v e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this nineteenth day of August in the year two thousand thirteen.



Governor

  
Secretary to the Governor

## "THANK YOU" TO OUR OWN 2013-14 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Sylvia Allinger, President  
Mrs. Paula Miller, Vice President  
Mr. René Borgella                      Mrs. Heather Cooper  
Mr. Daniel Frank                      Mrs. Missy Rynone  
Mr. George Wiltsie

## OUTSTANDING INSTRUCTOR

**Rick Ketcham** received a certificate this summer as an Outstanding Concurrent Enrollment Instructor from Tompkins Cortland Community College. Mr. Ketcham, a technology teacher at Newfield High School, was nominated for this award by school counselor Rick Pawlewicz. His letter states that Mr. Ketcham "has both encouraged and motivated learners to take advantage of educational opportunities they otherwise may not have attempted. When opportunities are limited, Mr. Ketcham helps create them," going "beyond the classroom to make sure that his students have access to genuine, career-based" learning experiences.

Congratulations, Mr. Ketcham! And a big thank you to Mr. Pawlewicz for taking the time to support a colleague!

## Annual Professional Performance Reviews

*In accordance with Section 3012-c of the Education Law, regarding the Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR) of teachers and principals, the District is obligated to release the individual composite effectiveness scores and final ratings of teachers and principals. Parent/legal guardians may request such information for the principal of the school building and teachers to which the student is assigned for the current school year. Only final data will be disclosed. Parents/legal guardians wishing to obtain such data must make a written request to the appointed school official. The identity of parents/legal guardians will be verified and the school official may only communicate the data verbally. Please send all written requests for APPR data to Dr. Cheryl Thomas, Superintendent, 247 Main St., Newfield, NY 14867. Information will be available after October 18.*

## In the Middle...

Here at Newfield Middle School we are proud of the academic achievement of our students. Each quarter we recognize students that have earned an 85-89% on our Honor Roll and those that have earned a 90% or greater on our High Honor Roll. An Honors Assembly is hosted by the Honors Program and each student receives a star pin. Each fall we recognize those students that achieved honor roll status during our last 10 weeks of the prior year. Congratulations!

### Middle School 40 Week High Honor Roll 2012-2013

#### Grade 6

Bello, Jailyn  
Bickham, Kaitlyn  
Birch, Thomas  
Brown, Mackenzie  
Clarey, Lucaya  
Downing, Morgan  
Esposito, Jillian  
Gradel, Taylor  
Hallock, Jasmine  
Hulbert, Chassity  
Hunsinger, Autumn  
Hunter, Stone  
Meeker, Bryan  
Miller, Carson  
Mras, Nicholas  
Pawlewicz, Anthony  
Place, Kayla  
Quinn, Bailey  
Tuckerman, Joseph

#### Grade 7

Borgella, Alexander  
Brown, Jacob  
Castrechino II, Robert  
Edger, Taylor  
Hart, Hunter  
Heroux, Megan  
Howell, Caitlin  
Labarge, Stephen  
Reilly, Francis  
Ruocco, Nolan  
Scott, Savanna  
Watkins, Heather  
Weaver, Morgan

#### Grade 8

Allen, Eric  
Burns, Christina  
Byrd, Mariyah  
Chrisman, Bradley  
Heath, Katherine

Havlik, Hannah  
Henry, Alora  
Hockenberry, Andreana  
Hodge, Shelby  
Keagle, Zachary  
King, Patrick  
McKenna, Devonn  
McKenna, Jordann  
Miller, Andrew  
Myers, Antoinette  
Pierce, Christopher  
Schloup, Mariah  
Schumacher, Kathryn  
VanOstrand, Tyler  
Yaples, Rachel

### Middle School 40 Week Honor Roll 2012-2013

#### Grade 6

Burun, Cole  
Hurd, Drew  
King, Vivian  
Lower, Brianna  
Reed, Kylee  
Sill, Robert  
Watro, Hannah  
Wendt, Shawn  
Wood-Ellis, Gabriel  
Yalanzhi, Steve

#### Grade 7

Brewster, Hannah  
Eldridge, Alexie  
Hill, Simon  
Johnson, Bradley  
McLachlan, Gregory  
Moravec, Gregory  
Olmstead, Camryn  
Pierce, Ashli  
Ponton, Cheyenne  
Wiltsie, Julia

#### Grade 8

Banfield, Patrick  
Cirulli, Michelle  
Hall, Wayne  
Heffron, Erwin  
Jacobs, Jordan  
Johnson, Mathew  
Rynone, Dante  
Tyskewicz, Lauren  
Vanetten, Scott  
Van Wormer, Morgan  
Westberry, Mark  
Wood-Ellis, Abigail



*Please drive carefully,  
watch for pedestrians and  
follow traffic signs in the  
parking lot! Do not park in  
the drop-off lanes.*

## HEALTHY LIVING COMMITTEE

Greetings from the Healthy Living Committee! We are a group comprised of faculty, administrators and parents working to promote school and community wellness. We are excited to build relationships with parents and implement strategies to support greater health and well being for the students in Newfield's elementary, middle and high school.

New state data, reported on August 2nd by the Ithaca Journal, shows that a third of Tompkins County students are either overweight or obese. In Newfield, 46.4% of children at NCS are either overweight or obese. We know we can do better! By coming together as concerned parents, educators and administrators, we will make a positive impact on the health of Newfield's students. Our first efforts concern the elementary students in particular and we're very interested in your feedback on the following ideas:

### **Make celebrations healthy occasions**

- Let's consider having birthday parties once per month for all children with birthdays that month. Offer one treat food and make sure the rest are healthy snack foods. Classrooms could choose to celebrate with non-food activities such as games and crafts.
- Instead of a party, classrooms could organize a special community service project and involve parents in planning the project.
- Parents and school staff could send in ideas for activities, games, crafts and healthy recipes. Ideas could be compiled into a book that staff and parents can use.
- Children could have extra recess time instead of a class party. For birthday celebrations, the birthday child could choose and lead an active game.
- If food is a part of the celebration, involve the students in the planning and preparation of healthy snacks, such as smoothies. This provides a nutrition lesson and supports what they learn in the classroom.

### **Emphasize fruits and vegetables at snack time**

- Students could bring home a list of ideas for healthy, nutrient-dense snacks.
- Parents could work from the classroom snack list to send their children to school with healthy snacks that provide energy for the brain and muscles and provide staying power until the next meal.
- Students could prepare and taste some healthy snack ideas in their classrooms.
- Children can bring their favorite fruits or vegetables from home.

It is our hope that parents will provide feedback so that the wellness strategies we implement in the classrooms are ones we can all support. We greatly appreciate your ideas and feedback. The Healthy Living Committee looks forward to working together with parents as partners in health. Please send your ideas, comments and feedback to [\*\*healthyliving@newfieldschools.org\*\*](mailto:healthyliving@newfieldschools.org).

## SNEAKER DRIVE

Please bring any unwanted new or lightly used sneakers to the elementary school main office to donate to the PE department for our 2nd annual sneaker drive. We could use any youth sizes for grades K through 5th (size 9Y/C all the way through 9 adult).

## LOOKING FOR VETERANS

Do you know a U.S. Veteran who would enjoy a thank you note from a fifth grader? If so, please e-mail the person's name and complete mailing address to fifth grade teacher Jill Green at [\*\*jgreen@newfield-schools.org\*\*](mailto:jgreen@newfield-schools.org). (If you do not have e-mail, you may send the information to Jill Green in c/o Newfield Elementary School, 247 Main St., Newfield, NY 14867.)

## NURSE NOTES

NYS requires that students get physicals in kindergarten, 2nd, 4th, 7th, 10th grades, and for all athletes. Please send a copy of your child's physical to the school nurse.

The following required screening will be starting shortly in the health offices:

Vision: preK, K, 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10th grades

Hearing: preK, K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 10th grades

Scoliosis: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9th grades

Students who have not been evaluated by their doctor will be screened by the school nurses. Parents will be informed of any questionable findings.



## **NEWFIELD HIGH SCHOOL--**

### ***Developing, Monitoring, And Refining Our Shared Vision And Goals For Learning***

This year, my own professional goal is to evoke the power, energy, input, and leadership of students, staff, families, and community in developing, monitoring, and refining our shared vision and goals for learning. I plan to make door-to-door visits, phone calls, and do whatever else I can think of to ensure that our vision and goals become a genuine community effort. I urge you to help shape our vision and goals as we move into the 2013 – 2014 school year.

I know from both experience and research that a school can only make real progress towards reaching its vision and achieving its goals when these are fully shared by all members of the community, and when the structures and processes which drive a school fully support these efforts. For this reason, much of my summer was spent trying to make this happen. We have created a master schedule that meets each of our students' individual needs. The schedule also provides the structural supports necessary to help us increase the effectiveness of our CCR Labs, to deepen our efforts to promote collaboration, and to continue moving us towards full inclusion. Our schedule now provides every department with common planning time and all teachers who collaborate in specific courses with common planning time.

Your feedback, student feedback, and staff reflection at the end of last year indicated that our new CCR Labs were significantly helpful in increasing the number of students who were able to complete all of their work on time. It also became clear that the effectiveness of these new labs could be improved if we addressed the following issues: reducing the number of students who have more than one CCR Lab each day; reducing the number of students in each CCR Lab to less than 20; providing all students with an opportunity to get help in math from a math teacher; and finding a way for all CCR teachers to know the daily work that is assigned for each course. We have tried to address all of these issues with this year's schedule, with a number of new electives that are being offered, and with a few creative opportunities for students to enrich their own education through independent studies and projects. We will continue to make adjustments to this initiative as new issues emerge.

As you may already know, the Board of Education established a new BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy in the spring of last year. The new policy applies to both staff and students. My plan is for us to first begin talking about this policy as a staff in the early fall, so that we can agree on how to implement this policy in ways that promote our vision and meet our goals. We will not be ready to make any changes in our current expectations about electronic devices, however, until our students have accepted the responsibility of working through the details of this new challenge with us. I will be calling on our students to select a representative group of young people to work alongside staff and families in facilitating this process. Together, we will need to identify all of the possible concerns (as well as the exciting possibilities) that any changes might bring and establish a set of protocols and expectations that will address all of these concerns, while maximizing the positive impacts on teaching and learning.

As always, I invite you to stop by and visit, send me an email, or call me on the phone. We are Newfield: Conscious, consistent, and committed to doing what is best for our community.

--Barry Derfel, H.S. Principal

## GET HYPNOTIZED! The Ronny Romm Comedy Hypnosis Show

The Newfield Class of 2015 will, once again, present the Amazing Ronny Romm on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Newfield High School auditorium. If you missed the show last year, you don't want to miss it this year. If you saw the show last year, be prepared for more laughter and entertainment!



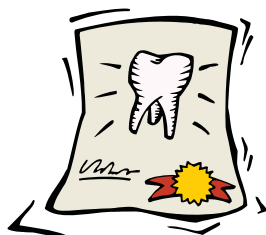
Come and volunteer to be hypnotized or simply watch those you know succumb to Ronny's hypnotic trance. You will be mesmerized by what the human mind can do. If you are not a believer, you will be after this show. The show is family friendly and promises to have you rolling in the aisles in laughter.

PRE-SALE tickets are \$8 for individuals and \$25 for a family of 4. Additional tickets for the family pack are \$5. AT THE DOOR tickets are \$10 and \$30 with additional family tickets \$7.

For more information or to get tickets, contact Jody McCoy-Woods at 546-9955 x 3227 or email at [jmccoy-woods@newfieldschools.org](mailto:jmccoy-woods@newfieldschools.org), or any member of Newfield's Class of 2015.

## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

### High School Absences, Doctor Appointments and Excuses



Many high school parents ask if their child needs a note. The answer is, yes. Please send notes in with your child for absences, late arrival to school, or early release for doctor appointments. All notes need to have a parent/custodian signature on them. Emails are not sufficient.

### End of the Marking Period

The end of the first six-week marking period is Friday, October 18. High school report cards will be mailed home Friday, October 25. Please call the office, 564-9955, extension 3131 if you do not receive it.



### Newfield Project Graduation – Class Of 2014 ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST

Sunday, October 13, 2013 – 8:00 -11:00 a.m.

Moose Club, 367 Elmira Road, Ithaca

Pancakes, French toast, eggs, bacon, ham, sausage, home fries, toast, coffee, orange juice

Benefit: All-Night After-Graduation Celebration

Price: \$6 – Adults, Seniors & ages 5-10; Free – 4 & under



### MILL PARK

*The Newfield High School Band helped out in Mill Park on June 19. They performed various task such as digging up tree roots, spreading mulch and pulling weeds. A big thanks to Lynn Watros and Jean Gerow for coordinating this activity and for supervising us. The park is a beautiful place to relax and enjoy nature!*

Newfield Central School  
247 Main Street  
Newfield, NY 14867

Non Profit Organization  
Bulk Rate  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Spencer N.Y. Permit No. 194

**CARR-RT PRESORT  
RESIDENT/BOXHOLDER  
NEWFIELD, N.Y. 14867**

***Newfield Central School supports the community...***

**HOME DEPOT KICKS OFF FIRE SAFETY WEEK**

Come to Ithaca Home Depot at 410 Elmira Road in Ithaca, where they will be holding several events on October 5th from 10am-2pm. Some of the events will include the Ithaca Fire Department, Bangs Ambulance, New York State Troopers, Ithaca Police Department, and the Tompkins County Sheriffs office. The NYS Gouverneur Masonic Lodge #217 will also be providing FREE Child Safety CD. The CD includes the child's fingerprint, picture and key stats. The ID CDs will be done on a first come, first serve basis.

**FIRST ANNUAL 5K? PREDICTION RUN/WALK**

On Saturday September 7, 2013, twenty-five runners/walkers participated in the First Annual 5K? Prediction Run/Walk sponsored by the Newfield Teachers' Association to benefit The Newfield Good Neighbor Fund.

A prediction run is different than your normal race in that all participants make a prediction prior to the run/walk as to how long it will take them to complete the course. Winners are the participants that are closest to their prediction when they complete the course.

The top 5 closest predictions received prizes donated by local businesses. However, the big winner was the Newfield Good Neighbor Fund as they received \$400 from this event.

**5K? Prediction Run/Walk Winners**

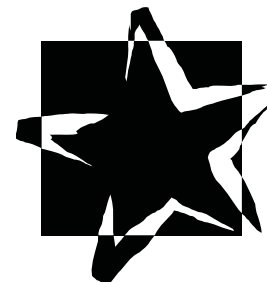
- 1st - Sarah Martin** (5 seconds off prediction)  
**2nd (tie) - Brittney Drew & Nicole Henry** (11 sec. off prediction)  
**4th - Elizabeth TenWolde** (36 seconds off prediction)  
**5th - Micah Miner** (45 seconds off prediction)

**FALL RECREATION NEWS**

The Town of Newfield Recreation Program is now in full swing with the start of Cheerleading and Soccer. Adult activities are ongoing with Men's Basketball and Tai Chi classes. Starting 9/24 is Adult "Shake Your Soul" Yoga Dance. The Ski and Ride Club will be registering on 10/2 at 7:00 pm. Signups for Youth Basketball and Winter Cheerleading will be on 10/21 and 10/22 at 6:30 pm. ***For full descriptions and information on all programs, please check the Recreation website [www.newfieldny.org](http://www.newfieldny.org) (under "for residents"), contact Reid Hoskins at 220-3461, or stop at the Town Hall for a catalog.***

**ONLINE TAX LOOKUP  
SERVICE AVAILABLE**

Newfield Central School has a tax lookup service available on its website. If you want to know whether your tax bill has been paid through your escrow account, or have other questions about your tax bill, you can access this service at [www.newfieldschools.org](http://www.newfieldschools.org) (go to DISTRICT -> BUSINESS OFFICE) or directly from the source at <http://nytaxglance.com/tax/newfieldcsd.php>. If you have any questions, please call or e-mail Joanne James at 564-9955, ext. 4121, or [jjames@newfieldschools.org](mailto:jjames@newfieldschools.org).



**REMINDER –  
REGISTER FOR STAR  
EXEMPTION NOW!**

Homeowners, you need to register for your STAR exemption on next year's school tax bill by December 31, 2013. Go to [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov) to register online or call (518) 457-2026.