

NEWFIELD NEWSLETTER

Newfield Central School District

November 2011



LETTER FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Community,

No Child Left Behind was a federal initiative that mandated all children to be meeting state standards as measured by state examinations by 2014. New York State has "raised the bar" every year which makes it more and more difficult for students to meet the achievement level set for them. Picture it this way: What if when you began 9th grade you only needed a 65 to pass your classes. In 10th grade, it was decided that you needed a 75 to pass. In 11th grade, you needed an 85 to pass, and by 12th grade you would have failed every course in which you did not achieve at least a 99.

In effect, that is what is happening to schools across New York State and what has happened in our elementary school. The number of Schools In Need of Improvement ("SINI Schools") has jumped from 45 last year to 431 this year! In our elementary school, special education students as a group failed to make adequate yearly progress ("AYP") in English/Language Arts for the first time this year. This happened for two reasons: First, because the AYP is a moving target, determined after all results are in throughout the state. The bar is set after the state sees what the raw scores are. Our students' raw scores continue to climb, yet are below what the state ultimately set as "passing". Secondly, the state no longer provides a "safe harbor" for classified students to take into account their developing skills and their learning disabilities. The 35 points previously awarded have been pulled out from underneath them and they are judged as if they were not classified. As a result, our elementary school will now be putting together a School Quality Review (SQR) overseen by BOCES and by the New York State Education Department that will outline how we plan to improve instruction for classified students. This is done by a committee which should include parents and/or community members. **If you are interested in being a part of this process, please contact the elementary principal.**

We continue to receive emerging information on the tax cap and what that means for school districts. The Comptroller's Office has concentrated first on municipalities, but is now reaching out to school districts to help us understand the law. What we are finding out is that 2% doesn't really mean 2%.

First of all, the law sets the tax levy limit as the lesser of 2% or inflation over the preceding calendar year. For this year, that would

(Continued on page 3)

M.S. Drama Department Presents....

Aladdin Jr.

In the faraway city of Agrabah, Princess Jasmine (**Marissa Fargnoli-Peterson**) prepares to choose a husband. Against her wishes, the Sultan (**Zach Keagle**) insists that she pick from among three visiting princes. Their introduction is interrupted by a fleeing bread thief. The poor street urchin Aladdin (**Patrick Banfield**) suddenly finds himself holding the stolen bread and pursued by Guards. Amidst the commotion, Jasmine escapes and meets Aladdin. The two run away together, but are soon caught by Razoul (**Bailey Olmstead**). Aladdin is thrown into a cave as punishment.

The villainous Jafar (**Jeffrey Allen**) and his sidekick parrot Iago (**Zoe TenWolde**) are secretly rewriting the law so that the Princess will have to marry Jafar if she fails to choose a husband in the time allotted. Meanwhile, Aladdin finds a lamp in the cave and rubs it, releasing Genie (**Jeremiah Warnimont**). Genie and his Magic Carpet (**Cole Banfield**) try to help Aladdin escape the cave and win the heart of Princess Jasmine.

Join the Narrators (**Mackenzie Green, Jordan Adams, Rhianna Mosher, Jazmin Malone, Savannah Scott, Sierra Henry**) on a magic carpet ride to "A Whole New World" as they tell the tale of Aladdin on **November 11th and 12th, 7:00pm in the Aiosa Auditorium!**



NOVEMBER 2011

District Events Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
		1	2	3 7:00 PM Board Mtg - Weaver Conf. Rm. EARLY DISMISSAL FOR ELEM. STUDENTS - TEACHER CONF. H.S. Picture Makeup Day	4 7:00 PM -9:00 PM M.S. Halloween Dance - Elem Upper Gym	5																																																																																											
6 Daylight Savings Time Ends 	7	8 Election Day	9 Elem. Picture Retake	10 4:30 PM Mod. Boys' Basketball v. Tioga 4:30 PM Mod. Girls' VB @ Tioga	11 7:00 PM MS Drama "Aladdin Jr" - Aiosa Aud. NO SCHOOL Veterans Day	12 7:00 PM MS Drama "Aladdin Jr" - Aiosa Aud.																																																																																											
13	14 4:30 PM Mod. Boys' Basketball v. Waverly 6:30 PM Booster Club Mtg - H.S. Library Mod. VB @ Waverly	15	16 4:30 PM Mod. Boys BB @ SVE 4:30 PM Mod. Volleyball v SVE	17 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Re d Cross Blood Drive - H.S. Gym 7:00 PM Board Mtg - Weaver Conf. Rm. EARLY DISMISSAL FOR ELEM. STUDENTS - TEACHER CONF.	18 4:30 PM Mod VB @ Newark Valley 4:30 PM Mod. Boys' BB vs. Newark Valley	19																																																																																											
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27	28 4:30 PM Mod. Boys' Basketball v. Waverly 4:30 PM Mod. VB @ Watkins	29 5:30 PM JV/V Boys' Basketball @ Tioga 5:30 PM JV/V Girls' Basketball v. Tioga	30	<div> <div>Oct 2011</div> <table> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div> <div>Dec 2011</div> <table> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table> </div>			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						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
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COMMUNITY BUDGET SURVEY

As we begin putting together a budget for next year, we would greatly appreciate community input. The link to the survey below is on the yellow ticker on our school website. However, if you are unable to access the internet and would like to give us your thoughts, please copy this page with your answers and send it to the District Office.

1. Do you want the district to keep the tax levy increase for 2012-2013 to "the lesser of 2% or inflation over the preceding calendar year" (i.e. stay within the tax cap)? Yes or No

2. If so, which area(s) would you be willing to see reduced or cut (please check all that apply):

- ☐ Increase class sizes (reduces the number of teachers)
- ☐ Decrease the number or types of courses offered at the high school (reduces the number of teachers)
- ☐ Lower temperatures in all buildings to save heating costs
- ☐ Eliminate AC at the middle/high schools
- ☐ Eliminate teaching assistant positions
- ☐ Charge for student parking passes
- ☐ Reduce or eliminate non-mandated courses (reduces the number of teachers) – indicate which ones you would be willing to see go (art, music, technology, business, law, etc.) _____
- ☐ Reduce or eliminate extracurricular sports (reduces coaches, uniforms, busing, officials, etc.)
- ☐ Combine high school/middle school (reduces administration/teachers)
- ☐ Reduce or eliminate field trips
- ☐ Reduce or eliminate professional development for teachers and administrators
- ☐ Postpone or eliminate repairs to the buildings
- ☐ Postpone or eliminate equipment purchases
- ☐ Reduce or eliminate secondary supply purchases
- ☐ Reduce or eliminate elementary supply purchases
- ☐ Not open the pool in the summer
- ☐ Reduce the number of students participating in BOCES occupational education programs
- ☐ Increase the distance students must walk to bus stops (consolidate bus stops) or to school (eliminates some busing)
- ☐ Charge rental fees for community use of facilities
- Other _____

3. If not, what is the highest tax levy increase that you would support? _____

4. Do you have any suggestions for how the district can save money in 2012-2013? _____

(Continued from cover)

have set the levy increase at 1.64%, not 2%. For us in Newfield, that would have meant we could have only increased the tax levy by \$73,800 – not even close to the amount we needed to cover the increase in health insurance costs, retirement costs, charter school costs, or utility costs!

Secondly, there are now "exceptions" built into this law that say the district can first exclude the costs for pension increases greater than 2 percentage points, physical additions to the tax base, certain large legal expenses, the local share of capital expenditures, and any 'unused' levy from a prior year up to 1.5% additional levy before calculating the "tax levy limit" or "tax cap". This will bring the actual limit up over 2% in many cases.

Thirdly, if the vote does not pass and the district is then required to adopt a contingency budget, that district may not increase the tax levy at all and is not allowed to raise the levy to cover the "exempt" items. This would mean huge cuts to our programs.

We are already beginning budget discussions and would welcome your input. There is a survey you can access via the district website or on-line at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/R8HW2FH> or you can fill out the paper copy included in this mailing and return it to the district office. Thank you for your help.

***Dr. Cheryl Thomas
Superintendent of Schools***

CHAIN OF KINDNESS

In response to the message shared at the Rachel's Challenge assembly on September 21st, middle school students have been eager to continue the ideas of compassion and kindness—as demonstrated by the work and enthusiasm of the Friends of Rachel (FOR) Club. The goal of this club is to promote permanent cultural change by seeking to create an atmosphere of kindness. Weekly meetings consist of developing initiatives that the club members commit to implementing. The week of October 10th the group launched a "Chain of Kindness" campaign that involves students acknowledging acts of kindness on slips of paper which are then added to a paper chain—thus creating



a vibrant visual of the power of contributing to a "chain reaction." In the words of Rachel Scott (the inspiration behind Rachel's Challenge), "I have this theory, if one person will go out of their way to show compassion it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go. You may just start a chain reaction." Parents and other members of the community are encouraged to join this "chain reaction" as well! ***If you have interest in recognizing kind acts that can be contributed to our paper chain please contact Jackie Brenon, the middle school guidance counselor, at jbrenon@newfieldschools.org.***

FIRE PREVENTION

Stop, Drop, & Roll. Get Out! Stay Out! Don't touch matches or lighters! Have you practiced your fire escape plan? Do you have a safe meeting place? Know two ways out! Get low and go! Have you tested your smoke alarm? These are some of the lessons that were taught to our nursery school through fifth grade students from our Newfield Fire Company volunteers at this year's Fire Prevention assembly.



Students actively participated in safety activities and learned not to be afraid of the firefighters in their turn out gear. Older students were able to determine possible dangerous places in our homes with the Hazard House. The highlight of the day was to take a tour of a fire engine.

We are so proud and thankful for all of our volunteers! Let's remember to show our appreciation in supporting our local fire company. Special thanks to: **Steve Wright, Ben Emery*, Matt Watros*, Jessi Smith*, Zach Guidi*, Kent Wright*, Torey Poyer*, Dave MacMillian, & Jamie Wright.**

**Past Newfield Students*

H.S. Picture Day – Retakes

The high school will have picture retakes on Thursday, November 3. This service is available for high school students who missed having their picture taken earlier this year. Picture order forms are available in the high school office. Also, seniors who would like to have a school ID need to have their picture taken. The only way to obtain a student ID is through the picture company.

Elementary Student Council

Student Council is off to a GREAT start this year. In September we helped collect over 500 items for the flood victims in Tioga and Oswego. The elementary families really stepped up to the challenge! Thanks to all who donated.

Student Council will have many more activities and events during the year. Stay tuned!

Mrs. Delfino, Advisor



NYS requires that students get physicals in Kindergarten, 2nd, 4th, 7th, 10th grades, & 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.

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS

Looking for a fun way to spread holiday cheer with your loved ones? Newfield community members are once again organizing a village caroling night. This year's event will be held on Saturday, December 10th from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Be sure to mark your calendars and look for more information regarding the caroling night in December's newsletter!



THE OTTER CODE OF CONDUCT AND THE GOLDEN PAW

The Otter Code of Conduct is the elementary school's way of creating a caring and safe environment for our students that focuses on preventing problem behaviors and encouraging good choices. The Otter Code of Conduct instructs that students need to:

- 1) Be Safe
- 2) Be Caring
- 3) Be Respectful
- 4) And Be Here and Be Ready

The Golden Paw is one of the positive interventions awarded each week by their classroom teachers and other special area teachers (physical education teachers, speech pathologist, counselors, math and ELA specialists, art teacher, music teacher) to students who are following the Otter Code of Conduct. Each week one student per grade level is selected randomly and invited to attend a breakfast with the principal, Mrs. Volpicelli. Students who receive the Golden Paw award, but were not chosen to visit with Mrs. Volpicelli, are rewarded for their hard work and attention to the Otter Code of Conduct with a special day that celebrates their achievements. Students are rewarded with outdoor recess, movies and popcorn, and other special treats that focus on their positive behavior in the building.

Each month, we will be posting the names of all the students who are awarded the Golden Paw in the newsletter; our Otter Code Honor Roll if you will. The following students were awarded the Golden Paw during the month of September:

Kindergarten

Ally Place
Cassie Haas
Emily Eastman
Harper Bush
Holly Everhart
Isaiah McMahon
Jenna Bradford
Kayla Sidle
Madison Schrader
Marissa Traver
Paige Morse
Sage Freund
Sawyer Emery
Trevor Christopher
Trevor Everhart

1st Grade

Morgan Adams
Lilly Alley
Kacey Berggren
Meadow Weaver
Juliana Nelson
Renee Bickham
Kassidy Payne
Anthony Schloupt
Madison Stone

2nd Grade

Jessikah Russell
Matthew Catalina
Alyssa Tuckerman
Anna Mace

Kaydence Wood Smith
Zachary White
Cosey Starks
Kiarra Schoenfeldt
Alexis Peabody
Matthew Tibbals
Alex Blakely

3rd Grade

Tatiana Smith
Isabelle Disodoro
Mason Weaver
Sarah VanCamp
Colby Gatch
Brennan Hover
Olivia Schwoeble
Tim DeMann

Molly Brown
Maura Wood-Ellis
Eden Alley
Zoe Keagle
Isaac Bell
Jacob Humble
Max Stansfield
Lauren Gradel

4th Grade

Brandon Reilly
Anthony Kithcart
Ashley Monroe
Ian Adams
Taylor Christopher
Josie Westmiller

Hailey Goldrich
McKenna Belden
Josh Wood
Jeffrey Hein
Brianna Miller

5th Grade

Christina Park
Faith Deets
Morgan Downing
Kylee Reed
Zeke Carl
Bryan Meeker
Justice Testa
Carson Miller
Lucaya Clarey

Jailyn Bello
Kaitlyn Bickham
Gabe Wood-Ellis
Mackenzie Brown

Special Areas

Diamond Sill
Hunter Colburn
Jenna Bradford
Shaylene Hari
Michael Grover
Franklin Jager
Bryan Meeker
Carson Miller
Dalton Park

DISCIPLINE: CONSCIOUS, CONSISTENT, COMMITTED TO WHAT'S BEST FOR OUR COMMUNITY

My approach to discipline is based on my experiences as an educator over the last 27 years, as well as on a book that I read when I first began teaching 6th grade in 1987, called *Judicious Discipline* (Gathercoal, F. Caddo Gap Press, 1987). At the core is my belief that it is both possible and desirable to create a disciplined high school community. My approach is based on the following four concepts: discipline as self-control, shared responsibility, balancing needs and rights, and the idea of time, place, and manner.

Of the many ways to define the term discipline, I define it here as the ongoing effort to control one-self. A marathon runner disciplines himself to run mile after mile, day after day, until he is ready to complete the full 26.2. Similarly, in a disciplined school community, all of the members purposely strive to act in ways that promote safe and healthy learning. Much like the world-class athlete, musician, or actor, for a school to do this well requires conscious, consistent, and committed practice.

Connected to this idea of self-control is the idea that all members of the school share responsibility for creating a disciplined school community. Rather than seeing discipline as any one person's job (i.e. the principal, the teacher, the student, or the family), I see discipline as a school-wide effort to consistently help each other act in ways that are best for our community. This does not mean that I give up my responsibility to ensure that all of our students and staff are safe and learning, or that our teachers give up their responsibility to do the same. It does mean that one of the critical ways we do this is by teaching our students to take responsibility for joining us in this work.

Another assumption of this discipline approach is the idea of balancing our needs and rights. Think of the scales of justice. On one side, there are our school-related needs: teaching, learning, and safety. On the other side are our basic American rights: life, liberty, and happiness. Our students do not give up their rights when they walk through the schoolhouse doors, but the needs of a school do allow us to limit these rights when the ways in which they are being practiced interfere with teaching, learning, and/or safety. For instance, it might make a student quite happy to talk to his lab partner throughout the teacher's entire lecture. However, this would interfere with the ability of the teacher to teach and with ability of the student and her/his classmates to learn. In this case, the scale would tip too far to the side of basic American rights. In another case, however, it could make my job as principal easier if I told students that they were never allowed to talk about anything other than schoolwork. This could help me keep students focused on their schoolwork, but such a rule would tip the scale too far to the side of school needs.

Significantly, the goal of a school where all members of the community share responsibility for discipline is not to keep the scale perfectly in balance. The goal is to teach each other how to recognize when the scale is out of balance and to learn how to effectively communicate with each other in order to put it back into balance. One way we do this is by teaching each other how to advocate for our needs and rights at an appropriate time, in an appropriate place, and in an appropriate manner. We literally must learn how to effectively tell each other when a behavior needs to change, and we must learn how to respond to such feedback graciously and appropriately.

We adults promote a disciplined school community by modeling, by direct instruction, by providing timely and constructive feedback, and by expecting our students capable of this deeply important learning. Our students do this by accepting the responsibility of joining us in this work. In the introduction to the new College and Career Readiness Standards that all schools are beginning to implement, it states that high school students are expected to learn to "appreciate that the twenty-first-century classroom and workplace are settings in which people from often widely divergent cultures and who represent diverse experiences and perspectives must learn and work together" (New York State CCLS for History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects, page 5). By consciously and consistently committing ourselves to creating a disciplined high school, we help our students meet this expectation in ways that are best for our community.

Barry Derfel, H.S. Principal

FALL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Congratulations to the **Varsity Girls' Soccer team** who are IAC small school division winners for the first time in school history! They were undefeated in the division (also a first in school history -- 5 wins and 2 ties), and will play in the Section IV tournament (outcome unknown at press time).

The **Varsity Boys' Soccer team** also finished strong with 8 wins and 6 losses. They participated in the Section IV tournament for the first time in seven years (outcome unknown at press time).

Go Trojans!

Apple for the Teacher



Congratulations to **Barb Talbot** for being selected for an Apple for the Teacher Award. The following is an excerpt from the nomination letter written by Newfield parent Taryn Deets:

"...When we moved to Newfield, the Principal and Special Education Director listened and heard our needs and full-filled them beyond our wildest hopes! NCSD has restored my faith in public schools! If I could recommend every teacher my children have had in this school, I would. Mrs. Talbot stands out for me though, because of the great service she's done for my entire family! When you give a child a tool like reading and writing, show her love, and that you believe in her, you change her life forever. Our family's life has also been changed because she is a much happier child!"

I just want to thank Mrs. Talbot, and NCSD, for all she's done for our family, because of her willingness to teach and love our daughter."

Thank you, Mrs. Deets for recognizing a very special educator!

NEWFIELD BAND MEMBERS RECEIVE HONORS

Nine Newfield students have been selected to play in the Seneca-Tompkins All County Honors Band on November 18 & 19 at Dryden High School. They were chosen based on high NYSSMA scores and teacher recommendation. Congratulations!

Jasmine Miller, flute
Melissa Naylor, trumpet
Alyssa Babcock, alto sax
Lizzy TenWolde, bari sax
Zoe TenWolde, flute

Myranda Hollenbeck, flute
Dante Rynone, oboe
Marissa Fargnoli-Peterson, alto sax
Bailey Olmstead, trombone



Congratulations!

AREA ALL STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Two students will be representing Newfield at the Jr. High Area All State Festival on November 4 & 5 at Ithaca HS. They were chosen from hundreds of applicants from across central NY. It is a great honor to be chosen! **Melissa Naylor** will sing in the treble choir and **Jasmine Miller** will play flute in the concert band. Congratulations!

AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST

Congratulations to our own **Charley Githler**, who won The Ithaca Times' "Best of Ithaca" Readers Poll. He was chosen as "Best Citizen Journalist". Mr. Githler teaches high school Global Studies and Business Law when he is not writing his bi-weekly column.

KUDOS

Jana Leyden not only raised over \$700 at the Cancer Resource Center 5K race on October 15th. She also came in first in her age group in the race! Way to go, Ms. Leyden!

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

NEWFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS



Coming in November, the collaborative school-library **Pennies Project** will culminate in an after-school program for kids in the community. The program will be Paul Merklein drawing Great Big Faces. Paul Merklein draws favorite literary characters like the Cat in the Hat, Harry Potter and people right from the audience. His program combines art, comedy and audience participation. Check out his videos and

tour dates at www.greatbigfaces.com. Come to the library after school on Tuesday, November 15th at 3:30 for a fun program.

Come to the **Election Day Bake Sale** on November 8th! Reward yourself after voting with a special treat. Come early for the best selection of fudge, pies, cookies and cakes.

Don't forget our regularly scheduled programs: **story time** is offered each Wednesday at 3:15, the **genealogy study group** meets the first Saturday of the month and the **First Tuesday Book Club** meets each month. Details can be found on our website: www.newfieldpubliclibrary.org.

I hope you had the chance to visit the library in October to see the award winning **haunted gingerbread houses**. The winners of movie tickets, ice cream coupons and assorted goodies are posted on our website. We had a great award party with costumes, snacks and our locally favorite singer/songwriter Tom Seiling.

Tina Winstead
Library Director

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

In the event that it is necessary to close school because of an emergency such as impassable roads, as many local radio and TV stations as possible will be called. You may also check online at www.cancellations.com.

The district will be implementing Alert Now, a phone contact system, in the event of a closing or emergency.



The decision to close will be made as early as possible. The Day Care and Before/After School Programs will not be open on snow days. Please have plans in place for these situations. Trying to make arrangements at the last minute can be upsetting for everyone.

ANNUAL CITRUS SALE & COOKIE DOUGH

The Newfield High School Music Department will be selling citrus fruit, fresh from Florida, again this year. We will be taking orders through Nov.12th. Customers can select navel oranges, grapefruit, tangelos and combination boxes, plus Washington State apples and pears or fresh pineapple. Premium mixed fruit boxes have citrus, apples and pears and are packed with nuts and candy, which make them perfect for gifts. Fruit will be delivered on or around December 12th.

Not interested in the citrus this year? How about Tasty Batters frozen cookie dough? Many varieties are available, and are ready to bake. Can be a real time-saver in the holiday season!

Please see any band or chorus member to place your order, or call before Nov. 12th, 564-9955 ext. 3129 or email Spowell@newfieldschools.org. Check out our selection on the band website at www.newfieldschools.org