

NEWFIELD NEWSLETTER



Newfield Central School District

January 2014

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Families and Community Members,

I hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing holiday season. We are looking forward to a productive New Year here in Newfield. It is the season of **B**oilers, **B**udget, and **B**usy students!

Our sixteen-year-old boilers have been repaired and are holding for the time being. There are 19 sections on each boiler that are welded together. Leaks occurred in some of the sections and these have been replaced. We will continue to monitor these carefully over the next few months while we put together a referendum for a capital project to replace them. We are interested in "going green" with our heating system as long as it needs to be replaced anyway and are discussing several options. Please check the newsfeed on the district website for information as it becomes available.

January is also the time we begin to talk about the budget for the next school year. Fortunately, the District has made very wise choices, supported by the taxpayers, in putting aside reserves and managing the budget so that we are able to handle unexpected expenses such as the boiler failures this year. We will continue to budget conservatively and follow a multi-year plan that will get us through tough economic times as well as prepare us for unexpected emergencies. We thank you for your support and trust.

The first semester ends this month. Students are busy with mid-terms, preparing for Regents exams, finishing projects, and getting in all their work. I am so impressed with the difference the CCR Labs have made in helping high school students with all of these things. There is no excuse – all students can succeed! In addition to CCR labs at the high school and academic labs at the middle school during the day, all three of the schools have after-school homework help where students have access to teachers and other resources needed to complete assignments.

If you have been wondering about the Common Core Learning Standards, please set aside January 29th to hear from the principals and teachers about what this means for us in Newfield. There will be a presentation with time for questions beginning at 6:00 pm in the elementary library.

Dr. Cheryl Thomas
Superintendent of Schools

Need Help Finding Help? CONTACT 2-1-1 TOMPKINS/CORTLAND!

2-1-1 connects people in need with services designed to address that need by providing a central telephone information service, chat line, and maintaining a data base of community information. Callers are referred to service providers according to their situation. 2-1-1 may follow up with callers, when appropriate, to ensure that contact was made and to offer further assistance if needed.

2-1-1 maintains a comprehensive Directory of Services for Tompkins and Cortland Counties on the Web. 2-1-1 also publishes the "Tompkins County Community Services Guide." Other community information publications of the Human Services Coalition include the "Meeting Space Directory" and the "Foundation Directory."

2-1-1 can provide supportive services for organizations answering basic information calls, pre-screening for program eligibility and gathering survey data. Call for more information. The 2-1-1/Information and Referral Director and Call Center Manager are available for presentations in the community on I&R services and community services in general.

How 2-1-1 Works

2-1-1 works a bit like 9-1-1. Calls to 2-1-1 are routed by the local telephone company to a local or regional calling center. The 2-1-1 center's I&R specialists gather information on the caller's needs, access databases of resources available from private, not-for-profit, and public health and human service agencies, match the callers' needs to available resources, and link or refer them directly to an agency or organization that can help.

Types of Referrals Offered by 2-1-1

- ***Basic Human Needs Resources***
Including food and clothing banks, shelters, and rent and utility assistance.
- ***Physical and Mental Health Resources***
Including health insurance programs, Medicaid and Medicare, maternal health resources, health insurance programs for children, medical information lines, crisis intervention services, support groups, counseling, and drug and alcohol intervention and rehabilitation.
- ***Work Support***
Including financial assistance, job training, transportation assistance, and education programs.
- ***Support for Elderly and the Disabled***
Including adult day care, community meals, respite care, home health care, transportation, and homemaker services.
- ***Children, Youth, and Family Support***
Including child care, after school programs, educational programs for low-income families, family resource centers, summer camps and recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring, and protective services.
- ***Volunteer Opportunities and Donations***
By calling 2-1-1 or using our online community services database, volunteers can obtain information on opportunities available with many different types of health and human services organizations. 2-1-1 Tompkins/Cortland refers many callers wishing to help agencies that receive donations of funds, food, furniture or clothing.

15 Great Reasons to Read Aloud to Babies and Children

1. Children know you love them when you hold them and spend time reading to them.
2. Reading aloud encourages children to discover the joy of books and reading.
3. Books help imagination and curiosity soar as children learn about the world they live in.
4. Children learn new words and stretch their attention span when they listen to you read aloud.
5. Illustrations in children's books foster a lifelong appreciation for beautiful art.
6. Books are a great way of passing along your values.
7. When you read aloud, you create memories that last a lifetime.
8. Every teacher and librarian you ever meet will thank you for reading to your children.
9. Reading time can transform chaos into calm and is a great way to model relaxation.
10. Children who are read to improve in their own reading, writing, speaking, learning, and success in school.
11. Reading aloud is an easy and cost-free way to go on an adventure with your children.
12. Reading is an activity that everyone in the family can enjoy—any time, any place.
13. Before they learn to read themselves, children will think you create magic.
14. Books are great companions and easy entertainment—at the doctor's office, at the beach, in the car, on a plane, in a restaurant...
15. Reading aloud to children can provide a happy start and end to every day.

www.familyreading.org



Elementary students go out for recess when weather permits. Please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor play with boots, hats and mittens for those snowy days!

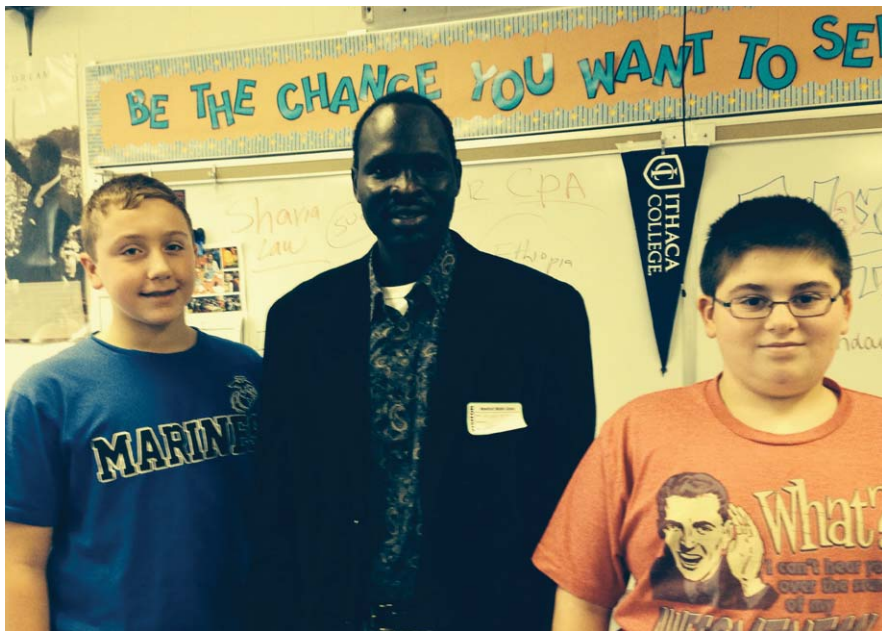
THIRD GRADE READING INCENTIVE: A HUGE SUCCESS!

The third grade students are participating in a fun reading incentive program, which was designed by their teachers, Jon Armstrong, Sue Shults, Phil Linde and Barb Peck. The school year has been divided up into five different incentives, each with a different theme. From September to early November the theme was "Seuss!" to coordinate with the middle school musical, Seussical.

The students are encouraged to read at home each night and then return a sheet every Friday with the total number of minutes they have read for the week. Along the way, small prizes and incentives were given out to the students.

At the culmination of the "Seuss!" theme, the students created their own "Seussical Sundaes" (thank you, PTA for your support). An added treat for the students was a classroom visit by several cast members from the middle school musical (thank you cast members and Mrs. Thayer)!

Currently, the third grade reading incentive is "Adventures With Books." Other themes later this year will be built around the Olympics and Shrek, which will be the high school musical in March. The program has met with great success. Reading at home helps with a students' success rate in school as it builds their fluency, word recognition and develops their vocabulary. Keep reading, third graders!



Guest speaker Ayuen Ajok brings ELA to life for ELA 7 students Drew Hurd and Shawn Wendt.

LOST BOY OF SUDAN: GUEST SPEAKER IN ELA 7

The 7th graders have been working through a New York State ELA module that focuses on reading, writing, listening, and speaking in response to high-quality texts. We completed Module 1 in December, which addresses challenges in survival in South Sudan.

During the unit, I came across an article from the Cornell Daily Sun about Ayuen Ajok—a Lost Boy from Sudan—that directly connected to what we have been studying in ELA. I was able to find Mr. Ajok's contact information, and I invited him to be a guest speaker in our class. He accepted!

On December 2nd, the students were able to listen to his story and ask him questions about his life. They were shocked when Mr. Ajok told them he was friends with the protagonist in the novel we just finished reading.

Having this guest speaker share his experiences with us was an incredible way of bringing life to the text for our 7th graders. Thank you, Mr. Ajok!

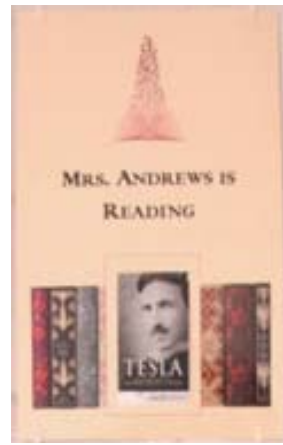
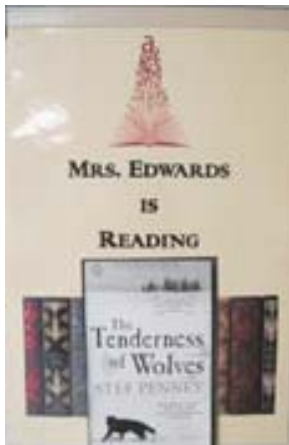
*Liz Atkins, English Language Arts Teacher
Newfield Middle School*

Career Week in the Middle School!

Today's students have more options and more career information than any other generation so far. Our goal at the middle school is to take full advantage of this and jump start student learning as soon as possible! With that being said, Newfield Middle School will once again be celebrating Career Week – February 10-14, 2014! This is a time when the faculty and staff raise awareness about the importance of career education, the need for young people to start planning early, and the community's role in helping them make informed decisions.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in giving a presentation to students on a particular career on February 14th between the hours of 8:00 - 10:30 a.m. please contact the middle school counselor, Jackie Brenon, at (607) 564-9955 extension 2132 or jbrenon@newfieldschools.org by Friday, January 24th. Thank you for investing in our students!





The middle school faculty and staff have been sharing their reading selections. Posters are on display near classrooms, offices and custodial closets that include a picture of the book that is currently being read by teachers, office staff, and other adults in the building. ELA teacher, Betsy Edwards, designed the posters in an effort to generate enthusiasm for reading and to encourage students to read.

PARENT INFO NIGHT on COMMON CORE LEARNING STANDARDS



*January 29, 2013
6:00 p.m.
Elementary Library*

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!

The 8th graders have been investigating motion and force in the many aspects of life. In one lab, students considered the relationship among, rise, run, slope, speed, velocity, and acceleration in the lives of people with disabilities, specifically those confined to a wheelchair. The American Disabilities Act (ADA) has specific guidelines for the community so that accommodations in public facilities are built properly. The students made a model figure in a wheelchair and measured the effects of ramp slopes, mass, and length on velocity (as well as safety of the person in the wheelchair). The noted relationships among force, mass, and acceleration was then used to analyze various specified wheelchair ramps for safety and redesign them to make them safer if needed.

Taking the study of force to the next level, the students studied Newton's laws. Students had the task to create a vehicle with Newton's Third Law in mind, for every action there is a reaction. The design requires that students use a balloon and a straw as part of their creation. Each vehicle must move 1.5 meters without the use of gravity or a power source such as electricity, nor can it be pushed or pulled by hand. Vehicles didn't move, spun in circles, and flipped over, but that didn't dampen the students' excitement as they strived to create a successful moving vehicle!

Stay tuned for studies of energy, our next big project "Can you feel the power" which is a joint collaborative project with the 7th grade Math class "Can you feel the savings."



HIGH SCHOOL REGENTS SCHEDULE

This year during Regents week, there will be no change to the overall school-day schedule or bus runs. ALL students are to attend school as normal. Students will be taking mid-terms, finals, and Regents exams; however the schedule for these exams will be worked out within the regular school day schedule. For the few students planning to retake a Regents exam, please see the following schedule. More information will be distributed to the students taking Regents exams as we get closer to dates.

Mon., Jan. 27	8:00 a.m. Living Envir RCT Global Stud.	12:00 noon English Physics
Tues. Jan. 28	Global History	Trigonometry RCT Math
Wed., Jan. 29	US History Geometry RCT Science	Earth Science Chemistry RCT Reading
Thurs., Jan. 30	Algebra	RCT US History

High School Perfect Attendance *October 21, 2013- December 6, 2013*

Grade 9 Burns, Christina Davis, Natassja Ferris, Mina Hamilton, Alexander Heath, Katherine Keagle, Zachary King, Marissa King, Patrick McKenna, Jordann Poludniak, Devon Russell, Caitlin Schlaupt, Mariah Spencer, Brett Tyskewicz, Lauren Wells, Tyler Wylie, Dylon Yaples, Rachel	Bona, Casandra Disidoro, Todd Festa, Tyler Furman, Reanna Laue, Alexander Mastrantonio, Ryan Millier, Robert Mosher, Derek Olmstead, Bailey	Schreiber-Harris, Alex Scofield, Mikayla Sepos, Jessica Strednak, Alexandra Strednak, Nathaniel Trask, Tyler Tuckerman, Megan Tyskewicz, Ashley
Grade 10 Adams, Jordan Banfield, Cole Bastian, Jacob Bledsoe, Casey	Grade 11 Barrett, Brian Bell, Nicholas Brewster, Hayley Bump, Rachael Carter, Max Dickens, Dawn Everhart, Justin Gerow, Thomas Hulbert, Damion Johnson, Andrea Monahan, Brandon Nye-Smith, Luke Schlaupt, Hannah	Grade 12 Apgar, Steven Crawford, Mariah Ferrara, Angelina Gehring, Kagan Hatch, Emily Hunter, Zachary Kopf, Sam Moore, Brandon Pakkala, Tristan Robbins, Joshua Rose, Brittany Zichettella, Brianna

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

In addition to participating in the annual food drive, members of the Newfield High School National Honor Society have been offering individual service in a variety of ways over the past two months. They have attended town board meetings, babysat children so that busy parents could shop, presented chemistry demonstrations at the Science Center, volunteered at the PTA's Barnes and Noble fundraiser and Open House tables, face-painted children at the First Grade Fall Festival, helped teachers and students in their classrooms across the district, weeded the school garden, helped build a reading stage for the PTA, raised money for charity by running in a variety of 5k fundraisers, prepared food for a free community dinner, supported the backpack program, served food at Thanksgiving church dinners, tutored second grade students, and moved machinery from trails to storage sites at Treman State Park.

All Newfield High School NHS members are held to a high academic standard and participate in either athletics or school clubs... or both! We appreciate their efforts to embody the ideals of Leadership, Service, Scholarship and Character.

--Peter Pfarrer and
Mel Voorheis, Advisors

NEWFIELD HIGH SCHOOL: *Focusing On Academics*

--Barry Derfel, H.S. Principal

As we begin a new year, I want to explain why and how we need to focus more directly on academics. Over the course of the last three and half years, we have built a strong school community centered on mutual respect. As a school community, we have learned how to advocate for our needs in the appropriate time, place, and manner. We have successfully cultivated a sense of shared responsibility for creating a safe, healthy, and effective learning environment. We can now build on this strong foundation by raising the academic standards we expect all of our students to meet. We need to do this because too many of our students are not reaching their full academic potentials. If we are to achieve our vision of "doing what is best for our community," we must be committed to addressing this issue consciously and consistently.

Data from the last three years shows that the overall percentage of total incomplete and/or failing grades has been steadily decreasing, from a high of just over 12% in the winter of 2011 to a low of just over 6% in the early spring of 2013. While this trend is certainly moving in the right direction, the data about overall percentage of total grades in the 85% and above range is not positive. This data shows that in the fall of 2011, 62% of all student grades were an 85% or higher. However, during the 2012 – 2013 school year, only 50% - 55% of all student grades were an 85% or higher.

Determining all of the reasons for this second trend will require ongoing analysis. However, some of the reasons can be explained through the anecdotal and observation data noted by staff. While we are genuinely proud of our students' efforts to learn how to resolve conflicts appropriately and respectfully, we must also be honest in stating that, when it comes to academics, too many of our students are reluctant to revise their work and actively resist efforts to engage them in the kinds of deep thinking, close reading, precise writing, critical-viewing, and evidence-based discussion that leads to genuinely high levels of academic achievement.

Educators at the High School are focusing more directly on academics. All teachers are continuing to deepen their understanding and implementation of the six-shifts in Mathematics and English Language Arts teaching pedagogy at the center of the new Common Core Learning Standards. These shifts can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.engageny.org/sites/default/files/resource/attachments/common-core-shifts.pdf>. Along with this work, teachers are simultaneously becoming more fluent and effective in their questioning techniques, in facilitating engaging discussions, and in using formative assessment to guide instruction. In addition, our teachers are learning (or re-learning) the principles of Differentiated Instruction and Understanding by Design, so that they can "craft powerful curriculum in a standards-dominated era and [ensure] academic success for the full spectrum of learners" (Tomlinson & McTighe, 2006).

However, our teachers cannot do this work on their own. More of our students need to push themselves to meet the evolving methods and expectations of their teachers. More of our students need to dedicate serious mental energy to thinking about what they are being taught, to answering questions or making comments in class that build on the comments of their peers, that extend the discussion in relevant and provocative ways, that are precise, and that challenge their peers to think "beyond the box." More of our students need to dedicate time and energy to completing writing assignments, projects, and presentations that have been planned, revised, edited, and wrestled over.

In order to take Newfield High School to the next level, we need to generate the same degree of academic interest, excitement, and commitment that has gone into creating a safe, healthy, and effective learning environment. Our teachers have risen to the challenge and are working to this end. We now need you, our families and community, to help us motivate our young people to fully apply themselves to serious academic pursuit; to fully apply themselves to significantly higher levels of academic effort and achievement. If we are able to motive the young people in our community, our students and your children, to take responsibility for their own learning in ways that will lead them to reach their full academic potentials, we will continue moving towards our vision. We are Newfield: Conscious, Consistent, Committed to what is best for our Community.

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

NEWFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Does January have you down? Check out activities for all ages at the library...

Lego Build Night, January 6th, 4-7pm

We'll be hosting our first Lego build night at the library featuring Legos and Duplos. We can take pictures of your creations, but the Legos and Duplos will need to stay in the library for more fun Lego build nights. There will be Lego books to check out afterward or during your build. We encourage donations of Legos and Duplos to build to our collection.

Xbox 360 Game Night, January 13th, 3:30-6pm

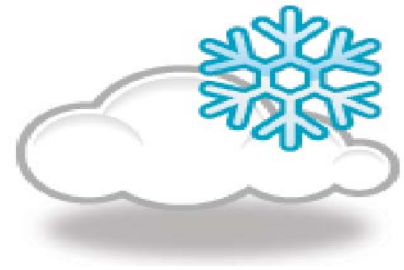
Join us for Xbox 360 game night at the library. Abby, the library assistant, will be bringing some of her games, but please feel free to bring your own too! Please also bring your own controllers as Abby only has two. Refreshments will be served.

Money Saver's Group, January 27th, 6-8pm

Feeling the crunch after the holidays? Looking for some money saving tips for the grocery store, gasoline pump, or when shopping online? Abby, our library assistant, shares tips she's learned over the years to save money. Feel free to bring your own money saving tips to share with the group.

Newfield High School Awarded a SIGN OF SUSTAINABILITY AWARD From Sustainable Tompkins!

The Signs of Sustainability Award was awarded to Newfield High School for creating a community café in Newfield in June of 2013. The event included a free, locally-produced meal and a discussion centered on the theme of "Nourishing our Children, Families and Community." All community members were invited and it was a fantastic way for people to bond over warm food and compelling conversation. More information can be found at this link: <http://barry-derfel-principal.wikispaces.com/Eliminating+Hunger+in+Newfield>



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. ***The district will be using School Messenger, a phone contact system, in the event of a closing or emergency, but calls will not be made before 6:15 a.m.***

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 and will close early in the event of emergency closures. Please have plans in place for these situations. Trying to make arrangements at the last minute can be upsetting for everyone.