SLOW & STEADY PROGRESS

Buffalo Business First Magazine recently released their 2018 rankings of all upstate schools from 48 counties. These rankings are based on data from 2014-2017 as the most recent 2018 data is not available, yet. The most recent year received the most weight in the formula they used, which included data from fourteen statewide elementary and middle school exams, seven Regents exams, four Common Core exams, and two graduation rates. This means they used 52 statistical indicators (two results per test, 25 tests per year, plus two Regents diploma rates). This equals 208 indicators over a four year period.

I’m glad to report that NNCS has risen in the state rank from 2017 to 2018 by 8.6% and are now ranked at 198 out of all Upstate schools. While we’re ranked 8th with our local North Country districts, we experienced more growth (8.6%) than all but three schools. We’re proud of the work our teachers, assistance, aides, and students are doing.

BOCES CAPITAL PROJECT

On October 9th there will be a vote to determine if St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES can enter into a capital improvement project. The $43.5 million initiative will significantly upgrade their three career and technical facilities in Ogdensburg, Norwood, and Fowler. These buildings, though well maintained, have not seen substantial upgrades since they were built about 50 years ago. The public referendum date is scheduled for October 9, 2018 and voting will be done at each tech center as well as the main BOCES building in Canton. Voting will be from 12:00 to 8:00PM.

Please visit the SLL BOCES site for additional information on this project.

This past year some of the NNCS Board of Education members attended a tour of the Seaway Tech facility. We learned firsthand how cramped they were for space. We also witnessed the needs that this proposed project would address. Finally, we saw the excellent work that their faculty & staff do to prepare our students for career and college. HERE is a recent Courier-Observer article.

With the improvement of these facilities, we hope that even more NNCS students will receive a technical endorsement in their chosen field. This past year 86.7% of our students attained a technical endorsement which means they did more than pass their classes, they met all the benchmarks for the industry standard in their field.

“PINK OUT” FOR BREAST CANCER

On Wednesday, October 10th the Norwood-Norfolk Key Club is sponsoring a “PINK OUT.” October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and we are hoping that everyone in the district will wear pink to show their support. Students will get stickers & pencils. Let’s show our support District wide!!
AGENT OF CHANGE AWARD

Congratulations to teacher aide Susan Barrett. She was recently recognized with the ABC 50 Agent of Change Award. Ms. Barrett is involved in many community events in the North Country, including Joanne’s Gift of Love Foundation of which she is a founding member, in memory of her sister and former NNES Principal Joanne Bigwarfe. Congratulations Ms. Barrett! We’re proud of you.

Click HERE to watch the surprise announcement of this award.

ARE WE GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP?

We would encourage you to take a look at this ARTICLE from CNN. Some of the risky behaviors that teens exhibit may be linked to the amount of sleep they’re getting. In a separate study, it was determined that kids today are getting, on average, 60 minutes less sleep than kids twenty years ago.

FREE MOVIE DAYS

Thanks to the NNCS Key Club, we're able to host FREE movies for kids & families. Movies will be shown at 1:00 in the high school auditorium on these dates: October 13th, November 17th, December 1st, January 12th, February 2nd. Movies are free, but there will be a concession offered with goodies, popcorn, and beverages. Proceeds from concessions goes to different local and Key Club charities. Thank you Key Club!

THE LIFE OF A BUTTERFLY

Mrs. Belt's Living Environment class recently found two monarch caterpillars. The students talked about life cycles and watched as the caterpillars ate and ate. Finally each caterpillar went into a chrysalis. Students then watched the chrysalis change colors and hatch. Unfortunately, they hatched when no one was in the classroom, but students took advantage of a sunny fall day to release the butterflies back into nature.

AESOP'S FABLES

Aesop's famous fables and scripts provide great entertainment for children and kids. The fables, or stories, are all very short so they keep the attention of children. Aesop's fables feature familiar animals loved by all. Fables are short stories which illustrate a particular moral and teach a lesson to children. The theme and characters appeal to children and the stories are often humorous and entertaining for kids of all ages. Fables can also be described as tales or yarns which have a message in their narrative such as a parable might have. Fables can often pass into our culture as myths and legends and used to teach about morals to children and kids.

On October 22nd, our elementary children will enjoy a presentation of Aesop’s Fables. This is made possible through our Arts in Education partnership.
VISION SCREENING

Once again we will be having the Lion's Club coming to conduct vision screenings for Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st Grade. The Norfolk Lions Club has joined with the Potsdam Lions Club which in now call the Racquette River Lion's Club. They will be doing Pre-K and Kindergarten on October 18th and 1st grade on October 23rd. Permission slips will be going home as we get closer to those dates.

Thank you to the Lion’s Club. It’s a wonderful service that you provide.

PROFESSIONALS NEVER STOP LEARNING

This past Friday our faculty engaged in several learning opportunities. Our primary-age teachers attended a workshop on problem-solving with students to make good choices. Our elementary and middle school math and ELA teachers investigated correlations between the NYS Exams and iReady results. May of our teachers and aides attended training in the use of Chromebooks. Our music, PE, technology, and art departments looked at the vertical alignment of their curriculum. Finally, our secondary teachers continued their excellent work with using student writing in their classrooms. All in all, it was a busy afternoon at NNCS. Great learning!

6TH GRADE ARCADE

Our sixth grade students created an amazing cardboard box arcade this week. Promoted by teacher Kim Trombly, our students were creative and imaginative as they hosted an opportunity for their invited guests to come and play with them. It was a wonderful event.

This event was inspired by an extraordinary young man, Caine. HERE is a video and a FOLLOW UP of Caine, it's a most uplifting story.
FACEBOOK
Celebrate our children! Follow our middle school on Facebook page by clicking "Norwood-Norfolk Middle School Moments". Our elementary has also joined with a Facebook page, called “Norwood-Norfolk Elementary School.”

JAZZ DAY
Last week our secondary choral and instrumental students enjoyed Jazz Day, hosted at C-P. This day allowed our students to experience many of the attributes of this genre of music. Thanks to C-P for hosting and the music teachers for encouraging this growth in our students.

UPCOMING EVENTS

10/9  Wellness Committee Meeting
     President & Vice-President Meet with Superintendent
10/9-10  Fire Prevention Presentations – Elementary
10/10  PSAT’s
10/12  Fire Prevention Presentations – grades 5 & 6
     Manufacturing Day
     Whiz Quiz to Watertown
10/15  8th Graders to Seaway Tech
10/16  Board of Education Meeting
10/17  SLLCSBA Dinner/Meeting w/ Regent Ouderkirk
10/18-19  Superintendent at MS Conference
10/19  Grandparents/Special Friends Day
     Senior Bowling Trip
     Drama Club to Syracuse
     Elementary Fun Night
10/22  Aesop’s Fables
10/25  DIG Meeting
10/26  PEP Rally
10/31  Halloween Parade