KINDNESS ABOUNDS

This year our entire school community embraced a very simple, yet powerful concept: KINDNESS. Each school utilized independent events and activities to reinforce and challenge ourselves to show kindness. We are very proud of our children, teachers, aides, assistants, secretaries, drivers, cleaners, maintenance, cafeteria workers, and administrators.

At the elementary our students were greeted by community members, local college athletes, and school personnel with high-fives and hugs in a kindness tunnel. Students also made paper chins of kind deeds that was displayed for all to see. Many students were also involved in making a kindness quilt. Our students were also challenged to show kindness abroad with the Kind Coins for Liberia, showing that one person’s kindness can affect others, globally.

Our younger middle school students showed kindness by collecting canned food, hygiene items, gas cards, and grocery cards for families that were impacted by the government shutdown. They were excited to "adopt" families in our district that have been impacted directly by the government shut down, and couldn't believe that many individuals had been showing up to work every day without receiving a paycheck. Although the shutdown has temporarily been reversed, students are continuing to collect these items in the event that the shutdown will continue in three weeks.

Many students have also been busy reflecting on some of their favorite experiences in school. They worked to write letters and create videos to some of their past and present teachers to show their gratitude and explain how these experiences have shaped them and their time at Norwood Norfolk Central. Students talked with their teachers about how some of their best experiences and memories have occurred because of our school and the teachers in it.

The high school was also in full kindness-mode this past week. Many smiles were shared when students read individualized comments that others wrote about them in the #URY display.

This week has been busy for sure, but full of gratitude and appreciation. It has been heartwarming to see our students embrace kindness, and reflect and participate in a positive environment. Thanks to all who helped showed kindness this week. Enjoy this video from many of our teachers about their “WHY.” This is a beautiful tribute from our teachers to their students.

Flyer Pride
Embrace the Power of Working Together
School-Family-Community
CROSS-COUNTRY SKI & SNOWSHOE EVENT – FREE TO THE COMMUNITY

Come and enjoy a free Cross-Country Ski and Snowshoe event on Saturday, February 9th from 9am until noon. Families are invited to come and try out our new cross-country skis and snowshoes that we have been able to purchase through a grant opportunity brought to us by the St. Lawrence County Health Initiative. All ages and levels are welcome. We have cross-country skis and snowshoes that you are welcome to borrow or feel free to bring your own and enjoy our trails through the woods. There will be hot chocolate and coffee provided. Please pull around the back of the school and park in the back parking lot. Come anytime and go at your own pace. We will have volunteers to help point you in the right direction. All skill levels are welcome.

Sponsors: St. Lawrence County Health Initiative, Kiwanis Club, Key Club and Varsity Club

ELECTIVE FAIR

This past week students in grades 8-12 participated in the annual Elective Fair. During the Elective Fair, students move from room to room and learn about courses offered in the high school. New York State requires students to earn 22 credit hours in addition to passing required Regents exams in order to be eligible for a diploma. While there are many courses that students are required to take, there is also room for students to have a choice in the 22 credit requirement.

Norwood Norfolk High School has developed a diverse course offering for students to explore their interests. The high school offers AP courses, dual college credit courses, as well as distance learning courses. Students should take a challenging, diverse curriculum to help them discover their interests and prepare them for college and career entrance exams.

GLOBAL SCHOOL PLAY DAY

Once again this year our elementary will participate in the Global School Play Day. On February 6th our children will play! In impetus behind this is to restore unstructured play to a generation of kids. Our High School is also getting into the groove as many of the teachers will be creating opportunities for our kids to play as they learn.

February 4, 2015, was the first annual Global School Play Day for students in schools around the world. In year one, over 65,000 students participated! Over 177,000 students took part in 2016. In 2017, over 283,000 kids celebrated Global School Play Day. In 2018, over 385,000 students from 58 nations participated.

In his TEDx lecture, Peter Gray clearly states the case that today's kids do not grow up playing and this has negatively impacted them in many ways. It's time we return the gift of play to this generation.
PARENT DROP-OFF/PICK-UP

In our continued efforts to ensure the safety of our students we’ve implemented a number of changes that have had noticeable effects. We’ve staggered our buses at the elementary dismissal, allowing for a better traffic flow and limited congestion. We’ve placed stop signs in two locations in the large, front parking lot to minimize the confusion when pulling into our parking lot from Route 56. We’ve painted a “safety line” on the sidewalk to establish a visual barrier for our students, keeping them away from the curb.

Our next area of focus is to re-establish the areas to drop-off and pick-up students. We currently have two areas that have been designated for this purpose:

- In the southern most parking lot (closest to Norwood) there is an area to pull off. This is near the playground and baseball field.
- In front of the HS & District Offices along the curb.

These are pull off areas. If you need to park and get out of your vehicle, then please use the designated parking spaces.

We are asking people not to park near the stop sign at the end of the large gymnasium. This is an access road between parking lots and parking in that area causes a lot of congestion.

Thank you. We appreciate everyone’s cooperation as we keep our children safe.

TORCH

What a special privilege to have the Empire State Games Torch Relay visit our elementary school. Our students were gathered in the gym when one of the relay runners sprinted in. It was a very special moment and many smiles were shared.
LOCKDOWN DRILLS

Before the Holiday break our school conducted our first lockdown drill of four that are mandated by NYS. This was done with local, county and state police agencies on hand to observe. We’ve gathered feedback and will commence with another drill during the week of February 4th. We recognize the impact that these drills have on our students, but we must have our procedures practiced so that our children know what to do in case of an emergency. Thank you for understanding and we apologize if this causes any inconvenience to families.

SPECIAL AWARD AT SCHOLASTIC ART SHOW – GRACE FURNACE

We are so very proud of senior Grace Furnace. We knew that she had received several accolades already for her submissions to the Scholastic Art Competition, including a Gold Key Portfolio. However, we received word this past week that her portfolio, Whimsical Spectrum, received the Light Work Award for Best Photography Portfolio. This recognition is reserved for only the best of the best submissions. Well done, Grace! We’re proud of you.

Here is a picture of Grace with her presented portfolio at the CNY Scholastic Art Show.

You can view Grace’s portfolio with all the recognized Scholastic Art award submissions HERE. I would encourage everyone to take a few moments to look at it. It’s worth the time. We have some very talented students. Congratulations to all award recipients as well as our wonderful art teachers.

GIRLS ICE HOCKEY CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the Flyer student-athletes who compete on the merged hockey team at Potsdam Central. Our Flyers helped them achieve the Section X Championship this past weekend at SUNY Potsdam’s Maxcy Hall. Congratulations!

Also, congratulations to Flyer Coryn Young who was selected for the Sportsmanship Award. We’re proud of you.

FLYER ATHLETICS

Our winter sports teams are really exciting to watch and it’s almost time for playoffs! You can find up-to-date schedules on our website or by visiting www.sectionXboces.com. Let’s get out and support out student-athletes.

Be Loud! Be Proud! Be Supportive!
THE FLU UPDATE

Information from the NYS Department of Health has stated that this past week we saw a 30% increase in the diagnosis of the influenza virus. Other than last season, we have more confirmed cases in NYS at this late January date than in the past number of years.

We remind people that the best barrier is the flu vaccine. Also, regularly washing your hands and covering your mouth/nose when you sneeze prevents the spread. Our cleaners are also spending time cleaning the touchable surfaces in each classroom.

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.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

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