#MANDYSTRONG

We are encouraging everyone to wear YELLOW in support of elementary teacher Mandy Boyd on Tuesday, April 30th. Students, faculty, and staff will show their support for Mrs. Boyd as she has a procedure scheduled for that day. We’ll be sending our positive vibes (and pictures) to her as she continues her battle.

Mandy is a first grade teacher at NN and was recently diagnosed with Synovial Sarcoma, a rare form of cancer. We welcome all support for Mandy and her family as she fights this disease.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MADNESS

Chanting and cheering reverberated out of the elementary gymnasium Wednesday morning as students in grades 5-8 took part in the first annual Middle School Madness celebration! The event utilized a pep-rally style format to celebrate being a middle schooler. 5th & 8th grade students joined forces to form Team Green and 6th & 7th grade students banded together to form Team Gold. Students earned points for their respective teams based on school spirit, prior accomplishments, and participation in friendly competitions.

Students in each team were recognized by their year-to-date academic and attendance achievements. Teams competed in games such as; the Pin game, Tug of War, Tic-Tac-Toe relay race, and Hungry, Hungry, Hippo. A few high school students joined the festivities to help coordinate the games, along with leading the cheer challenge that shook the stands with school spirit. A big thank you goes out to Mr. Lint and everyone involved in putting this event together. It was a great day to be part of the middle school!

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to our Board of Education Vice President, Mrs. Lisa Levison. She was recently encouraged to run for the Vice Presidency of the St. Lawrence Counties School Boards Association and was voted into the position. Being a volunteer on a Board is never easy, but having people willing to step up to the challenge is awesome. Congratulations Mrs. Levison.
VISIT FROM ASSEMBLYMAN WALCZYK

The Flyers have made an impression! We were recently approached by newly elected Assemblyman Mark Walczyk to visit our school. It appears that our student achievements and improvements have been noticed and the Assemblyman was interested to see our Flyer Pride for himself.

Being welcomed by our high school choral students, led by Mr. Burnett, was a first for the Assemblyman. Our students sounded simply beautiful and he appreciated the greeting. We then transitioned into a building tour, stopping into many classrooms along the way where he spoke with teachers and students. The excitement was palpable as our representative interacted with each instructional lesson. Thanks to our many teachers for being so welcoming, specifically, Mr. Burnett, Mrs. Trombly, Mrs. Bisciglia, Mrs. Bullard, Mrs. Boyden, and Mrs. LaFleur.

After the tour the Assemblyman was interested in hearing about our initiatives and what he could do to support the fine work of our teachers and students. Thank you Assemblyman Walczyk.

FAFSA TRACKER

In an effort to better prepare our students for college, NYS has created a tool for schools & parents to track the completion rates of the FAFSA forms for our high school seniors. Currently, 56% of Norwood-Norfolk seniors have completed this form, which is a solid rate compared to the rest of the North Country schools. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA is a must for students interested in seeking advanced educational opportunities. The SED uses FAFSA completion rates as a possible percentage of graduates planning to attend college. For any senior planning to attend college, please see Mrs. Bush for FAFSA assistance.

2019-2020 SCHOOL BUDGET

The planning cycle for the 2019-20 school budget, which began this past December, was bolstered by an infusion of state aid. While the Foundation Aid formula is still funding NNCS less that what it’s designed to provide, the additional aid has allowed for us to be responsive to the needs of our taxpayers while maintaining the academic program that we offer. For the past seven years we have kept our local share at a near 0% increase per $1,000 assessed value and we have always complied with the tax cap formula. The 2019-20 budget has a 1.29% tax levy increase with the addition of a mental health counselor to support our students. We are asking approval from the voters to allow the district to maintain our bus replacement schedule, too. Keeping our buses on a seven year replacement cycle provides savings on maintenance costs while maximizing trade in values.

Please be informed. There will be a budget hearing on May 7th at 6:30 in the District Conference Room. Then on May 14th Mr. Cruikshank will present the budget a second time at 6:30 in the District Conference Room. The public is encouraged to attend so that they can make an informed decision. The budget vote will be on May 21st from 12:30pm to 8:30pm.

On May 21st the public will also elect BOE members. There are currently three open seats for three years each and one seat for one year. Incumbents Suzanne Fiacco and Mary Ellen Todd are both seeking reelection.

Flyer Pride
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PRE-KINDERGARTEN & KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration for our primary is taking place now. If you have (or know of) a child who will be four, five, or six years old before December 1st and they are not enrolled in school, then please have their parents call the elementary office.

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.”

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

We recently received notification that all taxpayers should know.

Changes to STAR and Maximum Exemptions for 2019-20

The Department of Taxation and Finance released maximum STAR exemption savings for 2019-20, which are available at: https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/max_index.htm

The 2019-20 Enacted State Budget makes several changes to the STAR program, which went into effect immediately. The changes are intended to encourage home owners to switch from the STAR exemption to the STAR credit. The income limit for the exemption has been lowered to $250,000, compared with a $500,000 limit for the credit. The amount received for the exemption will remain the same each year, while the credit can increase up to two percent annually.

The switch from the exemption to the credit is final. There is no fee for switching from the exemption to the credit. If someone wants to renounce the exemption in order to receive the credit, they have to do so prior to December 31 of the relevant year. If the switch doesn’t affect any rolls that have already been filed, property owners can simply submit a request in writing, signed by all owners, stating they no longer wish to receive the STAR Exemption on their property. For renunciations after taxes are levied, property owners need to complete and submit Form RP-496. The STAR exemption and removal site has more information on the process: https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/star-renunciation.htm

It appears that he state is looking to move people from the STAR Exemption to the STAR Credit. With the Exemption, NYS directly payed the STAR portion of your taxes. With the Credit, you pay your full tax amount and NYS reimburses the taxpayer. They provide an incentive to switch in that the Exemption will never increase but the Credit will increase up to 2% per year.
UPCOMING EVENTS

4/29  President & Vice-President Meet with Superintendent
4/30  Wear YELLOW #MandyStrong
5/2   NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting
5/2-5 Senior Trip
5/3   Student of the Month Assembly
5/6-10 Teacher Appreciation Week
5/7   Board of Education Meeting
5/11  Prom
5/14  An Evening with the Arts
       Budget Hearing
5/16  DIG Meeting
5/18  Blood Drive – Memory of former Principal Joanne Bigwarfe
5/21  High School Concert
       Budget Vote & BOE Election
5/24  Snow Day Giveback
5/27  Memorial Day

Grades 3-8 NYS Exams
   April 30  Grades 4, 5, 6
   May 1    Grades 4, 5, 6
   May 2    Grades 3, 7, 8
   May 3    Grades 3, 7, 8

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