2019-2020 SCHOOL BUDGET

The planning cycle for the 2019-20 school budget, which began this past December, was bolstered by a small 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. 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. Feel free to reach out to Superintendent Cruikshank with any questions.

The budget vote will be on Tuesday, 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.

PERFECT

We all know that few things are ever perfect. Well, nobody said that to Grace Furnace. This past week our senior Flyer pitcher threw a perfect game against Tupper Lake. Not one of the Lady Lumberjacks ever reached first base! Grace struck out twelve of the fifteen batters she faced and she threw out another who hit a grounder towards our hurler. The team backed her up for the other two outs at first base. Click HERE to see the article from the Courier-Observer. This is an extraordinary occurrence and we’re proud of Grace Furnace. Great job!

NYS SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Athletic Coordinator Nate Plantz has announced that many of our Flyers and teams will be recognized by NYS Public High School Athletic Association as Scholar Athletes. For an individual to achieve this they must have a GPA above 90%. Here are the numbers of scholar athletes per team: Baseball – 8, Softball – 9, Boys Track – 12, Girls Track – 20, Golf – 6.

Mr. Plantz has also announced that ALL of our spring teams attained the Scholar-Athlete Team recognition. Teams can only achieve this if 75% of their roster has above a 90% GPA. Congratulations to our student-athletes!

In addition, we have 4 Athletes of Distinction (seniors with a cumulative GPA over 90): Sydney Levison, Grace Furnace, Alyssia Simons, Jacob Dutch (Golf - SLC athlete). Congratulations. We’re very proud of you.
1ST ANNUAL FLYER FAIR

We’re inviting the public to the 1st Annual Flyer Fair on Tuesday, May 21st from 5:00 – 7:00 in the High School Gymnasium. We’re showcasing student work, skills, and technology!

FINE ARTS

This past week we hosted Evening of the Arts in our high school. Student artwork was displayed throughout the hallways and Library. Then, our select music groups entertained the visitors. It was an excellent evening, enjoyed by all. We have some very talented children; kudos to them. We also appreciate our fine arts teachers – well done on Evening of the Arts.

This was the first of several spring concerts at NNCS. Next will be the Senior High Concert on Tuesday, May 21st, followed by the Memorial Day Parade and the concerts in the Village Green on May 31st. After that our middle and elementary students will begin their performances.

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

Our 8th grade girls attended an event at SUNY Canton this past week. While there they learned about many of the fields of engineering. There were also a lot of hands-on experiences that were provided to our students. Thanks SUNY Canton!

EARTH DAY

This coming week our elementary will be celebrating Earth Week with Thursday, May 23rd being Earth Day. Our students will be celebrating on Earth Day with this year’s theme, Awareness of Extinction of Animals and Plant Species. Our classrooms will be conducting activities around this theme during the week. Earth Day is Every Day!!

THANK YOU NORWOOD AMERICAN LEGION

Recently, the American Legion in Norwood provided $500 for two scholarships. The two $250 scholarships will be given out at graduation. Thank you, Norwood American Legion!
BONKERS FOR BOOKS – STUDENTS HELPING STUDENTS

We were so pleased with the success of our Bonkers for Books events, sponsored by the PTSA. PTSA member Richelle Reid recently sent a letter to Superintendent Cruikshank expressing her gratitude for our high school students. It’s wonderful to see our older children supporting our younger children. Success leads to success!

The following is the letter sent to Mr. Cruikshank:

Dear Mr. Cruikshank,

I am writing on behalf of the PTSA and our Bonkers for Books Program. This year the Varsity Club, Brandi LaDue (work study), and National Honor Society have all played a huge role in our elementary literacy program. I cannot thank Mrs. Rachel Cook, the two clubs, and work study student Brandi LaDue enough for all of their help.

Brandi worked tirelessly putting together our craft ideas, making scavenger hunts, printing items, and making sure a note was back packed home each month.

Varsity Club members attended February through April, and planned all of May’s event. Each month members would help set up, help the kids with crafts, read books, execute games, and help clean up. The work and time they have given back to these kids has not gone unnoticed. These are the interactions that the younger kids will see and aspire towards. They are scholars, athletes, and most of all great role models for our young students.

This last Bonkers was an amazing event to oversee. The National Honor Society purchased new books for every student who attended to take home, promoting literacy. The Varsity Club planned a scavenger hunt that promoted the Flyer themes and they provided green and gold snacks for the students. I got to see elementary and high school students sitting together and interacting in such a positive way. I hope these students know how something that seems so small can become something so much bigger.

Regards,
Richelle Reid

Flyer Pride
Embrace the Power of Working Together
School-Family-Community
HIKING UP AZURE MOUNTAIN

Our middle school Students of the Quarter, from quarters 3 and 4, will have a special excursion in June. In coordination with our high school students from Mr. Yandeau’s Wilderness Studies course, our middle schoolers will be trained on “leaving no trace” as they hike one of our local natural treasures. Our students will be hiking Azure Mountain on June 10th. What fun!

ENVIROTHON

NNCS students participated in the annual Envirothon at Paul Smiths this past week. Our team came in 5th from the SLC schools and have already made plans for next year. Our Envirothon team consists of Hillary Fillios, Storrm McConnell, Connor McGinnis, Samantha McGinnis, and Jacob Skeels.

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.

FLYER ATHLETICS

Make sure to get out to support your favorite athletes and teams. Our Flyers are having a stellar spring…when it’s not raining. For the most up-to-date schedules please visit www.sectionxboces.org or you can follow the link from our website.
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

5/20-23    Earth Week
5/21        High School Concert
            Flyer Fair
            Budget Vote & BOE Election
5/22        Seaway Tech Honor Society Inductions
5/23        Earth Week Assembly
5/24        Snow Day Giveback
5/27        Memorial Day
5/31        Student of the Quarter Assembly
6/2         SLLC School Boards Association Honors Banquet
6/3         President & Vice-President Meet with Superintendent
6/4         Student of the Month
            Middle School Concerts
6/5         National Honor Society Inductions
6/6         Fun Night
6/11        Elementary Concerts
            Board of Education Meeting
6/13        Track & Field Day