

NEWFIELD NEWSLETTER



Newfield Central School District

November 2016

EMBRACE YOUR "INNER ELF"



Elf, Jr. The Musical will be performed on Friday, November 11th and Saturday, November 12th at 7:00pm in the Newfield Central School Aiosa Auditorium. The 60-minute musical, designed for middle-school aged performers, is based on the New Line Cinema Film written by David Berenbaum with music and lyrics by Tony Award nominees Matthew Sklar and Chad Beguelin. The Middle School Drama Club cast contains approximately 40 students.

Elf, Jr. tells the story of Buddy, a young orphan, who mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he is actually a human, until his enormous size and poor toy-making abilities cause him to face the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father and discover his true identity. Faced with the harsh reality that his father is on the naughty list and that his half-brother doesn't even believe in Santa, Buddy is determined to win over his new family and help New York remember the true meaning of Christmas.

The performances of Elf, Jr. are open to the public on Friday, November 11th and Saturday, November 12th at 7:00pm. Doors open at 6:30. Admission is \$5.00.

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear families,

November is one of my favorite months – anticipating the snow as the weather fades from fall into winter, looking forward to time with family during the holidays, and taking the opportunity to reflect on all of the good in my life and in the world and to be thankful for it. It is so easy to get caught up in the woes and stresses of life instead of counting our blessings. Thanksgiving reminds us of all we have to be thankful for: freedom, family, food, clothing, shelter, hope, health, education, friends, and so much more. I encourage you to give others a reason to be thankful for you by what you do and say. I also encourage you to find one thing to be thankful for every day this month and to express your gratitude to others. Let me start that chain by saying how thankful I am for every one of you; for your encouragement, your support, and your cooperation as we try new ways to help your children become happy, healthy, and well educated young people.

With a grateful heart,

Dr. Cheryl Thomas
Superintendent of Schools



RED PAW PROGRAM UPDATE

The Red Paw Program, now in its FOURTH YEAR, is already off to a great start! We have 18 Cornell Men's Hockey players volunteering in elementary classrooms, lunch and recess among various grades. Our students and staff enjoy having them be part of our day-whether it's help with reading, math, writing, playing at recess, or just chatting at lunch, these positive role models are making a difference in the lives of our students!



The hockey players tell us (and others) how much they enjoy their time at Newfield! We are grateful for their continued, outstanding commitment to our school community.

They have awarded three Red Paw Awards so far this year to students who exemplify Otter Code of Conduct behavior in being Safe, Caring, Respectful and Being Ready to work their hardest every day at school. One elementary student from grades K-5 is chosen each week to receive this top award.

Our Red Paw Winners thus far: **Hannah French, Haven Marlette-Obrakta, and Kaleb Berggren.**



-Submitted by Jamie McCaffrey, School Social Worker





PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

It is important that parents take the time to participate in Parent-Teacher Conferences because they are one of the best ways for parents to become involved in their children's education. Some planning prior to the conference can make the session more productive:

- 1) Make a list of questions you would like to discuss with your child's teacher(s).
- 2) Both parents should discuss questions and comments for the conference beforehand, especially if only one parent will be able to attend.
- 3) Be on time to ensure that you have enough time to discuss your questions. If you cannot keep the scheduled appointment, please contact the school.
- 4) Make notes of the teacher's comments for reference. Maintain a file of all your child's important educational records.
- 5) Be sure to mention things about your child that his or her teacher may find useful and that will help the teacher to better understand and teach your child.

TEACHERS OF THE MONTH



The Elementary AimsWeb Plus Team, consisting of **Melissa Addy, Peter Ahart, Jennifer Baker, Sharon Campos, and Paul Ravas** share the Teacher of the Month Award for September 2016. This team took it upon themselves to completely understand the

new AimsWeb Plus process and tool and to be prepared to teach the rest of the faculty how to use the AimsWeb Plus data to improve instruction. They are recognized for their leadership in this area and their willingness to share their expertise and knowledge with others. Thank you!

Congratulations to **Ms. Lori White** for being selected Teacher of the Month for October. Ms. White has done fabulous things with the ELA 8 modules that support student learning, such as creating a graffiti wall of words. She has also become a model co-teacher and continues to lead the way in innovative, collaborative, engaging, and rigorous lesson-planning. Thank you, Ms. White!



HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK

Order your 2016-17 Yearbook Today at a Discount Rate!



Don't let the memories
FADE AWAY



We have an amazing year ahead of us at Newfield High School, and our yearbook will capture all of the big events of the school year. Don't let your student miss out on our yearbook designed by our students, for our students. Yearbooks are on sale at a reduced price through the holiday break (December). The prices will go up after that point. You are welcome to visit our Yearbook web page and order online to ensure you receive a copy at the sale price (<http://www.newfieldschools.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=856>). If you prefer not to order online, please feel free to complete and submit the Newfield order form available on the web page, and send it to Liz Kozlowski with cash or check payable to Newfield High School Yearbook.



CELEBRATE YOUR STUDENT



Nurse Notes

NYS requires that students get physicals in PK, Kindergarten, 2nd, 4th, 7th, 10th grades, as well as all athletes, and anyone who is new to our school.

Please send a copy of your child's physical to the school nurse.

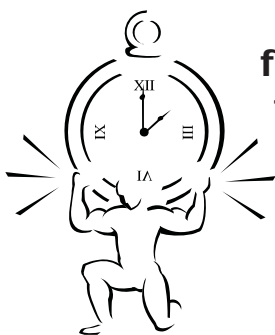
Required screening will be starting shortly in the health offices.

Vision: preK, K, 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10th grades

Hearing: preK, K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 10th grades

Scoliosis: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9th grades

Students who have not been evaluated by their doctor will be screened by the school nurses. Parents will be informed of any questionable findings.



Don't forget to turn the clocks back on Sunday, Nov. 6!

NEWFIELD S.O.S. CLUB GETS AWARD



Newfield High School's Sources of Strength Club received a grant of \$500 at the Ithaca Rotary's Community Grants Program Award Ceremony in October. Our group was one of 7 recipients to receive a grant out of 29 applications.

Savanna Scott, Patrick King and Devon Poludniak, some of our most active Peer Leaders of SOS, were able to attend. They represented Newfield well and we are so proud of the work that they do.



Senior Graduation Cap, Gown, & Announcement Orders

If you have a senior who has yet to order graduation supplies, please contact Jostens, the company who takes our graduation cap, gown, and announcement orders. A Jostens' representative can be contacted at www.nygrad.com or at 315-665-5152.

High School Picture Day – Retakes

The high school will have picture retakes on Thursday, November 10. This service is available for high school students who missed having their picture taken in September. Picture order forms are available with Mrs. Kozlowski.

APPR DATA

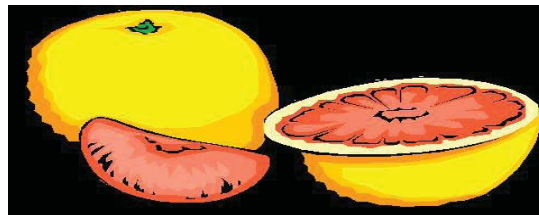
In accordance with Section 3012-d of the Education Law, regarding the Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR) of teachers and principals, the District is obligated to release the individual composite effectiveness scores and final ratings of teachers and principals. Parent/legal guardians may request such information for the principal of the school building and teachers to which the student is assigned for the current school year. Only final data will be disclosed.

Parents/legal guardians wishing to obtain such data must make a written request to the appointed school official. The identity of parents/legal guardians will be verified and the appointed school official may only communicate the data verbally.

Please send all written requests for APPR data to Dr. Cheryl Thomas, Superintendent, 247 Main Street, Newfield, NY 14867.

ANNUAL CITRUS SALE

The Newfield High School Music Department will be selling citrus fruit again this year. We will be taking orders through November 28th. Customers can select California navel oranges, Florida grapefruit, Florida tangelos, Washington State extra fancy apples (including Red Delicious, Braeburn, Granny Smith and Golden Delicious), plus pears and fresh pineapple. Certain combination boxes are available as well. Also available are gourmet cheese, beef sticks and sausage items in combination packs and crocks. Premium mixed fruit boxes have citrus, apples and pears and are packed with nuts and candy, which make them perfect for gifts. All fruit cheese and sausage items will be delivered on or around December 14th.



Please see any band or chorus member to place your order, or call 564-9955, ext. 3129, or email Spowell@newfieldschools.org by November 28th.

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT!**

SMALL CHANGE TO ES PARENT DROP OFF



There is a new, longer drop off area in front of the elementary school for parents who drive their children to school. Children who are dropped off should use the crosswalk closest to the stop sign at the front of the line. From there, they can go right in the doors near the art room/lower gym and on to their classrooms or they can walk up the sidewalk in front of the building and go in the main doors. We are asking that children not walk up the sidewalk between the buses and the cars dropping off children so

that no one accidentally steps off of the curb in front of a car. If you have any questions, you can ask the dedicated, safety-conscious aides who are there to help keep your children safe. Be sure to say thank you to them, too, for being out there every day in the rain, snow, or sunshine!

HIGH SCHOOL CLASS FUNDRAISING EVENTS

The 9th, 10th, and 11th grade classes have the opportunity to work at Lynah Rink for Cornell Men's Hockey games on various Friday nights this season. Dates for the games are: November 18, December 2, January 20 & 27, February 10 & 24. Students and families interested in working should contact advisor Vicki Tibbals (vtibbals@newfieldschools.org or 564-9955 ext. 3207) for more information or to sign up – this is a great chance for students to learn marketable job skills such as customer service and cash register operation, while earning funds for their class account at the same time!

CRUNCH CHALLENGE

Newfield Elementary School participated in the Farm On! Big Apple Crunch at noon on October 20th. Indian Creek Farm donated more than 500 apples to the elementary school so everyone could take a bite out of a New York State apple at the same time to raise awareness about the importance of supporting our local New York farmers, creating better access to fresh fruits and vegetables, and making it more affordable to eat fresh, local food for our health and for the environment.



The CRUNCH CHALLENGE is a state-wide effort to bring awareness to local family farms during apple harvest and inspire us with a PLEDGE TO EAT LOCAL. FarmOn! Foundation hopes to shatter last year's world record of 1 million crunchers calling all New Yorkers to take the Big Apple Crunch Challenge and pledge to eat locally by participating in the Big Apple Crunch on October 20th.

The Big Apple Crunch originated as a way to celebrate National Food Day on October 24th. In the first year of the event, approximately 400,000 New Yorkers bit into locally grown New York State apples at the same time in a universal call to action to raise awareness about supporting local agriculture.

Since its inception, the annual Big Apple Crunch has expanded its reach into the community and



beyond, even breaking a world record in 2015 with 1,000,000 New Yorkers alone participating in the crunch.

BREAKING NEWS! NEW WORLD RECORD SET!!!!

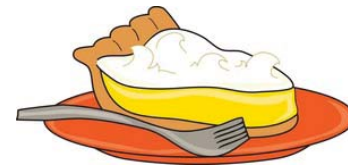
How many people can say they helped break a world record???! We can!! And did!! A HEARTFELT THANK YOU to all of our BIG APPLE CRUNCHERS to RAISE AWARENESS TO EAT LOCAL and SUPPORT THE FAMILY FARM!



PLAN AHEAD FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Do you have December holiday plans with family? Let the Class of 2020 help you save valuable time – we are selling frozen cheesecakes and other desserts from November 14 – 21!

See any member of the 9th grade class or contact advisor Vicki Tibbals (vtibbals@newfieldschools.org or 564-9955 x3207) for more information or to place an order. All items will be available for pickup on or before December 21st.



BIRDSEED WREATHS ARE BACK!

The Class of 2019 will be selling locally-made birdseed wreaths during December. Cost will be \$13.50 each, and they will be available for pickup after December 5th.

Contact advisors Vicki Tibbals (vtibbals@newfieldschools.org) or Rick Pawlewicz (rpawlewicz@newfieldschools.org) to pre-order, or see any member of the 10th grade class during December!



CREATING A POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



Here within our Newfield Schools we understand the need to address the whole student. We understand that in order for students to be successful academically we need to address social, emotional and health needs as well. All employees of the district have a role in creating the learning environment. That being said for this

school year our staff will try and implement the FISH! Philosophy which highlights four simple practices:

Be There: When people need you, they need all of you. Setting aside distractions and judgments to be fully present is a sign of respect. It improves communication and strengthens relationships.

Play: You can be serious about your work without taking yourself so seriously. Play is a mindset more than a specific activity. It allows you to throw yourself with enthusiasm and creativity into whatever you are doing, in a way that is natural, not forced. "Playing" with ideas helps you find solutions to everyday challenges.

Make Their Day: Simple gestures of thoughtfulness, thanks and recognition make people feel appreciated and valued. When you make someone else feel good, you feel good too.

Choose Your Attitude: To actually choose how you respond to life, not just react, you must be intentional. When you get up, decide who you want to "be" today. Moment-to-moment awareness is key. Ask yourself throughout the day, "What is my attitude right now? Is it helping the people who depend on me? Is it helping me to be most effective?"

Staff who serve as examples of the FISH! Philosophy here at Newfield will be given the coveted Newfield FISH! Award!

Greetings to our next Newfield FISH! Award Winner, **Jolie King!** Her "Make Their Day" presence brightens our Elementary School! Jolie is the friendly face you'll meet when you enter the Elementary School. She can often be seen smiling and greeting students as they come into our school. She's been a classroom volunteer and substitute for many years since her oldest (who graduated last year) started Prekindergarten. She's officially served our Newfield School Community for three years first as a teacher's aide and now as the Elementary School Attendance Secretary.



Congratulations Jolie!

BIOLOGY ZOO TRIP

Seventy high school students attended a biology field trip to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse on October 6th. For many of our students, this was their first trip to a zoo! Some of the more popular animal exhibits included the Asian Elephant Experience, the Penguin Coast, and the Primate Park.

Living Environment students completed a three-credit lab during this trip, and BIO 101 students worked on three separate animal behavior activities.

Mrs. Tibbals and students would like to extend the most sincere thanks to the teachers, parents, administration, community, and Board of Education for continued support of such important educational opportunities!



Newfield Central School
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Newfield Central School students are involved in the community...

NEWFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Science Saturday

Saturday, November 5, 10-11:30am

We're doing science at the library! Elementary & Middle School age children are invited to join us for hands-on science activities. This program is supported by a grant from Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Election Day Bake Sale

Tuesday, November 8, 7:30am till gone

NPL is looking for bakers and eaters for our annual Election Day Bake Sale.



Teen Advisory Group

Tuesday, November 15, 3:30-4:30pm & 6-7pm

Are you 12 to 18 years old? Do you like free food? Newfield Public Library is looking for your input on library programming and events for teens. Join us for this planning meeting. We'll talk about your ideas for programs at the library and finish with pizza and soda. Join us for one or both sessions.

Family Story Time

Every Tuesday at 10:30am

Join us every Tuesday morning for stories, songs and fun. There's a different theme each week. This story time is for children ages 0 – 5.

Cooking Matters! Food for Teens

Every Wednesday, 3:30-4:30pm

Free Food! Fun! Friends!

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for this hands on cooking program. Prepare and enjoy delicious recipes, practice cooking skills and then eat what you make.

Tammy Kubinec

Library Director 607/564-3594



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.*** The notice will also be posted on the district's website.

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.

ANNUAL "GO HOME EARLY" DRILL

Go home early drill will be on November 22nd. Students will be dismissed 15 minutes early and ride their regular buses home.