

North Syracuse Central School
District

NorthStar Lights

Issue #7 | December 18, 2020



Hello North Syracuse Central School District Parents, Guardians, Teachers and Staff!

My apologies for the week's gap in communication through this newsletter, but some unexpected personal issues prevented us from being able to get one out last week. As a result, we will be showcasing two NSCSD Shining Stars this week. I hope you are enjoying reading about some of the many positive things our staff and students have going on. We have received quite a few nominations over the past few weeks and hope this feature is catching on.

In my [letter to families earlier this week](#), I spoke briefly about the challenges we are facing staffing our schools due to COVID-19 related quarantines. We are hopeful that the break, along with vaccinations now being administered, helps slow the speed with which the virus is spreading so that we can start back on a healthy note in January. As you know, we plan to reopen schools and resume our hybrid schedule on January 4, 2021 at the end of the planned holiday recess. As a reminder when we do return, please remember to keep your children home if they're not feeling well and remind them to visit the school nurse if they start feeling ill in school. [Click here if you're not sure what to look for.](#)

Our newsletter will also take a holiday recess and will resume in the new year. I wish you all the best for a safe, happy, healthy and peaceful holiday season.

Sincerely,
Daniel D. Bowles, Superintendent of Schools

NSCSD December 11 & 18 Shining Stars: North Syracuse Junior High School's Tim Krueger and Cicero Elementary School's Ashley Stevens

Our December 11 Shining Star is **Timothy Krueger**, a social studies teacher at **North Syracuse Junior High School**. Tim has been teaching at the junior high for 17 years and has repeatedly been recognized as a positive influence on his students.

Our December 18 Shining Star is **Ashley Stevens**, an English as a New Language Teacher at **Cicero Elementary School**. Ashley is being recognized for her efforts to provide exceptional instruction for her English Language Learners.

[Click here to read more about Tim and Ashley.](#)

Share a Shout Out to a Shining Star!

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to unexpected challenges to both teaching and learning but we know that many of our students and teachers are thriving in this environment. We also know other staff are going above and beyond to keep students and families safe and informed.

We'd love to hear (and share) the inspirational stories you have so we can keep the positive vibes going. If you'd like to recognize a North Syracuse Central School District student, teacher, employee or even a volunteer, please complete a short online form giving us some basic information.

A huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who has already submitted nominations for shining stars! We're excited to have received so many entries and are working to put together the more than a dozen stories we have already gotten. Keep checking this newsletter for your nomination!

["Nominate" a Shining Star](#)

C-NS Snack Pack Program Provides Nourishment and Knowledge



During the 2019-2020 school year a pair of social studies teachers at Cicero-North Syracuse High School, Matt Root and Mark Parrish, approached their school's administration about implementing a backpack food program for students in need at the school. The purpose of the program was twofold – to provide actual service and experience for senior Participation in Government (PIG) students and to serve those in need in the students' own community.

Modeled after a food pantry program he learned about at SUNY Potsdam, Matt "pitched" the concept to administration. "By definition, students taking Participation in Government should be actively engaged. The very intent of the class is to broaden their understanding of government issues so with hunger being such a concern right now, this program fits perfectly into the curriculum," Matt said.

[Click here to read the complete article online.](#)

Lakeshore Road Elementary 3rd Grade Classroom Holds Trees for Troops Fundraiser



Students in Mrs. Osborne's 3rd grade classroom at Lakeshore Road Elementary School recently organized a fundraiser to provide trees to deserving military families this holiday season. The effort raised \$300, allowing 10 trees to be distributed to military families this holiday season.

Mrs. Osborne and her students want to extend A HUGE thank you to all that participated in this fundraiser!

Four CNY School Districts Come Together for Paige's Pajamarama



Redemption was sought and alliances were formed as the North Syracuse and Liverpool school districts renewed their friendly battle to be named top supporter of Paige's Butterfly Run, Inc. and Paige's Pajamarama.

Paige's Pajamarama is a charity event allowing students to wear their pajamas to school when making a donation

to Paige's Butterfly Run, Inc., an organization which supports children with pediatric cancer at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital.

[Click here to read the full article online.](#)

Wellness Wednesdays



When NSCSD school buildings had to close their doors to students and staff in the Spring of 2020, the District started "Wellness Wednesdays" as a way of pulling families together in spite of COVID-19. As the 2020-2021 school year progresses, we need to connect now, more than ever, so we've gotten the "Wellness Wednesdays" band back together. The Wellness Wednesdays website will be our way of sharing resources, information and importantly YOUR thoughts, photos and artwork.

For the week of 12/16, our Wellness Wednesday Committee wanted to send wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season! Our own version of "The 12 Days of Christmas" was created to support your selfcare. [Click here to watch the committee's "12 Days of Wellness" SING ALONG!](#) Check out [Lyrics for The 12 Days of Wellness by clicking here.](#)

Please remember: Holiday time is the perfect time to give and receive. If you are interested in registering for the Christmas Bureau or in holding a food, toy or angel tree drive please click [HERE](#).

[Visit the Wellness Wednesdays Website](#)

Use the SchoolMessenger App to Control the Types of Messages you Receive from the NSCSD

The North Syracuse Central School District uses the [SchoolMessenger notification system](#) for text/email and telephone messages to our families. The SchoolMessenger app is also available for use on mobile devices and can be downloaded through Google Play on in the App Store. [Click here to download the SchoolMessenger mobile app user guide.](#)

If you have a child enrolled at one of our schools, you will automatically receive phone call, email and text alerts pertaining to that school and will receive some district-wide messages. Different messages are sent out in various alert formats. [Click here to learn more about message types used by the NSCSD.](#)

Control the messages you receive!

Parents and staff can sign-up for the [SchoolMessenger App](#) to control the types of messages receive from the district. By signing up the this FREE service, parents and staff can opt into or out of message categories. [Click here to sign-up for the app or log-in on your computer.](#)

Send Us Your Photos!



Because this school year has been so different, it has been challenging to get new photos for our District website at www.nscsd.org and other publications. So...we need your help!

We would love to share your photos of at home school environments. If you're willing to share, please send your high quality images using the link below. We'll be using your photos in this newsletter and other publications throughout the school year. Additionally, high resolution, horizontal photos will be considered for the District website.

Pictured above and below: Dylan and Tyler Peffley are two 2nd grade students learning in a fully remote setting from their own home this year. Instead of heading to Cicero Elementary School each day, they spend them learning from the home classroom their mom, Stacey, has worked hard to create. Because the boys are fully remote, Stacy has made it a priority to help her kids feel connected to their home school and their new classmates. Stacy feels fortunate that her sons' teacher, Nicole McCarthy, also fully remote working from Allen Road Elementary School, shares her priority. She said, "Mrs. McCarthy has worked tirelessly to create as connective an experience as possible including show and tell, along with live lunch dates for kiddos online every Friday. Her efforts have made this a great experience for my kids."

The boys' teacher, Nicole McCarthy, added the following: "I try my best to make our classroom and our meetings feel just like if we were in school and want to make sure they are not missing out on any experiences. It has been challenging having a very large class size as well as students from 3 different buildings but we are trying our best to build a classroom community where the students can have fun and learn."



Pictured below: Students in Mrs. Normanly's 4th Grade classes at Lakeshore Road Elementary School have been learning about the changing earth using the Smithsonian Science Kit along with Mystery Science to show slow and fast changes to the surface of the earth and its landforms. Students had fun doing the hands-on experiments while staying socially distanced.



Submit Your Photos Now!

Important Upcoming Dates

December 21
Board of Education Meeting

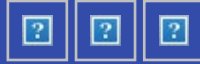
December 23-January 3
Holiday Recess - No School for Students/Staff

January 4
School Resumes
Board of Education Meeting

January 18
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - No School for Students/Staff

Quick Links

- [Technical Help Website](#)
- [Family Wellness Website](#)
- [Online Calendar](#)
- [Google Classroom Help](#)
- [Meal Pickup Information](#)
- [NYS COVID-19 Report Card](#)
- [Superintendent's Updates](#)



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