

North Syracuse Central School
District

NorthStar Lights

Issue #13 | February 12, 2021



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

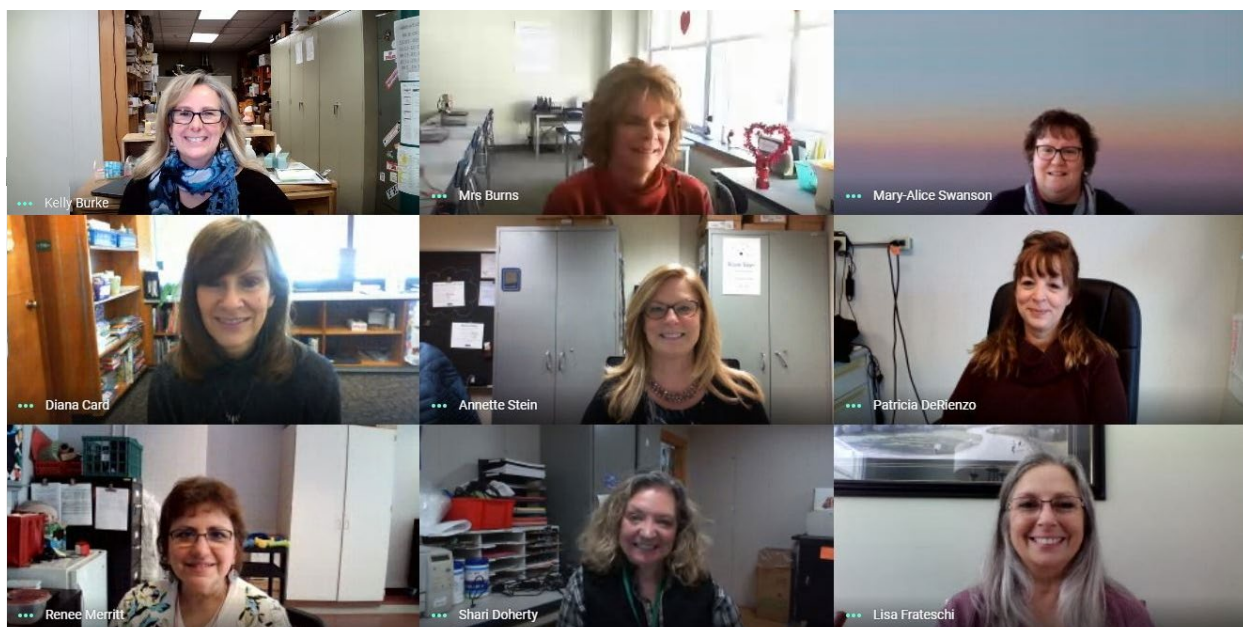
As we head into the mid-winter recess, please remember that we are requesting parents and guardians notify the NSCSD directly when a child tests positive or is quarantined over break. Because school nurses and teachers may not be available during the break, families are asked to report positive cases to Christopher Leahey, Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, by phone (315-218-2124) or email (cleahey@nscsd.org). When school resumes on February 22, 2021 families should report positive cases to their child's school nurse.

Families who plan to travel are encouraged to review the [New York State Travel Guidelines](#). As a reminder, anyone traveling to non-contiguous states, US territories, or CDC level 2 and higher countries, must fulfill testing and quarantine requirements before being allowed to participate in in-person learning and extra-curricular/athletic activities.

As always, thank you for your continued partnership in managing the community spread of COVID-19. I wish you and your family a safe and healthy break. Our newsletter will also take a break for the week. We look forward to connecting with you again the final week of February.

Sincerely,
Daniel D. Bowles, Superintendent of Schools

NSCSD February 12 Shining Stars:



In an educational environment where the majority of students are learning virtually at least part of the time, the ability to connect using technology is critically important. This week the District's team of Technology Teaching Assistants (Tech TAs) is being recognized for their essential role in the education of all NSCSD students.

The Tech TA team of **Lisa Frateschi, Shari Doherty, Renee Merritt, Diana Card, Annette Stein, Bridget Burns, Mary-Alice Swanson, Kelly Burke** and **Patricia DeRienzo** was nominated for recognition by the District's Tech Coaches. In the nomination, the group was referred to as "frontline" workers for all things tech: "Anytime there is an issue, they are the first responders and find solutions that allow education to continue."

[Click here to read more about this great group of shining stars!](#)

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 Students Recognized in CNY Scholastic Art

Awards

For the past 70+ years, high school students from across Central New York have been recognized in the Central New York Scholastic Art Awards. While the process for the 2021 awards has been significantly different, students from Cicero-North Syracuse High School still participated and have been recognized. A virtual exhibit and awards celebration is planned for February but details have not yet been announced.

Several C-NS students have been recognized with Silver and Gold Key awards and some have also received special awards. [Click here to read more.](#)

Lakeshore Road Elementary Students Share the Love



Students at **Lakeshore Road Elementary School** are hoping to make this Valentine's Day special for residents of Bishop Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Syracuse. As a school, the students have been working hard to create positive Valentine messages and cards for the facility's 400 residents. As a part of the Positivity Project and with it being LOVE week at the school, staff and students wanted to do something special to spread the love!

Lakeshore Road Elementary School Principal Tina Chmielewski challenged students to flood the facility with positive messages by creating at least 400 cards and letters by the end of the day on Friday, February 12.

Chmielewski said, "The students are excited to take part and have been working very hard. I'm pleased to say that we have met and exceeded our goal by creating **537** letters, pictures and Valentines. This means every resident will get one, plus the temporary rehabilitation patients, and they will be able to decorate the halls. Jane Sasso our PT works there and will be delivering them this weekend and promises to get some pictures of the residents with their cards, so I can share that with the students and they can see how their kindness made a difference."

[Click here to see more photos online.](#)

C-NS Students Invited to Participate in Virtual Auditions

ANNOUNCING CNS HIGH SCHOOL'S 2021 SPRING MUSICAL

'THIS WILL BE OUR YEAR'

AN ORIGINAL MUSICAL

VIRTUAL AUDITIONS HAPPENING NOW!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISIT CNSMUSICAL.COM

OR INSTAGRAM @CNSMUSICAL

OPEN TO ALL CNS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

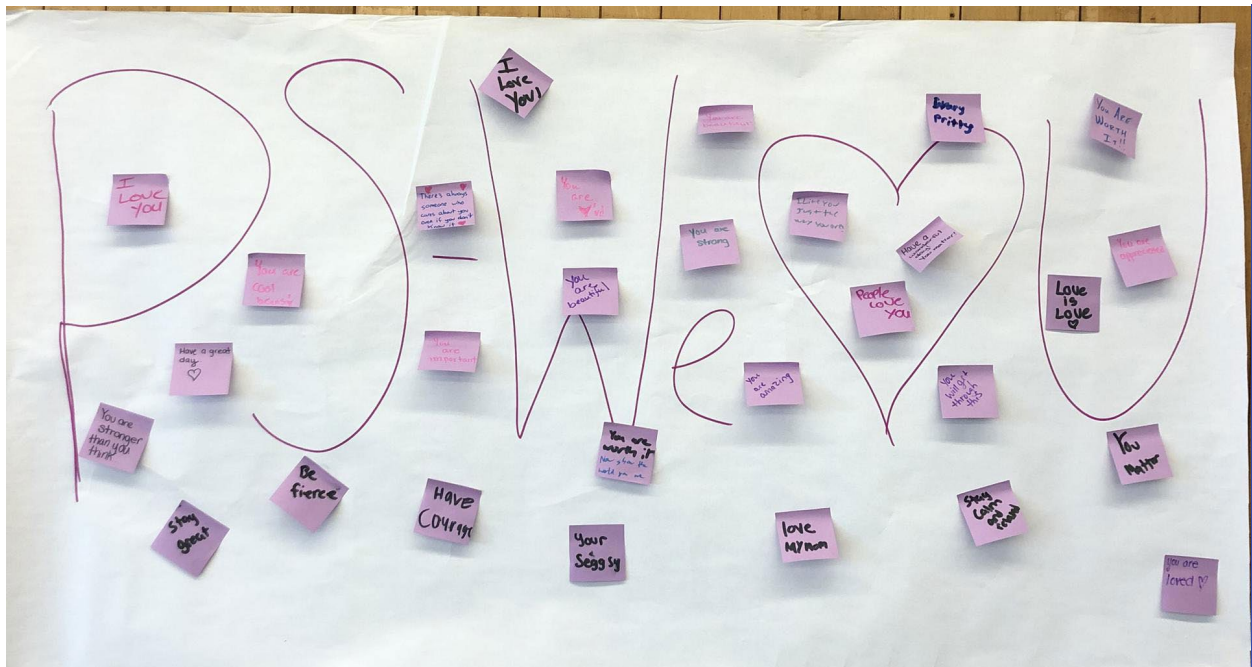
COME BE A PART OF A NEW, UNIQUE EXPERIENCE THIS YEAR!

Virtual auditions are going on now for the high school's musical, 'This Will Be Our Year', an original musical! Visit cnsmusical.com or the Instagram page for more information. Audition videos are due by Tuesday at midnight! Come be a part of a new, unique experience this year! [Click here to view the C-NS Musical website.](#)

Vote for C-NS Marching Band in SAMMYS

The C-NS Northstars Marching Band has advanced to Round 5 in this year's Sammy's (Syracuse Area Music Awards) in the People's Choice Academic Organization category. Please keep voting to help the ground advance. Round 5 voting ends on February 14. [Click here to cast your vote.](#)

NSCSD Goes Purple for Prevention of Suicide



On Friday, February 12 students and staff in the North Syracuse Central School District painted themselves purple in support of P.S. I Love You Day 2021. P.S. I Love You Day was started 11 years ago by Brooke Divalpa in West Islip, New York after losing a classmate and her father to suicide. She chose the color purple to represent suicide awareness and prevention. Wearing purple is a reminder that we, in fact, are not alone. What started 11 years ago in West Islip has now turned into a worldwide day of celebration and recognition. Thank you to all students and staff in the North Syracuse Central School District for participating in P.S. I Love You Day! [Click here to see pictures of the INCREDIBLE participation by students and staff at North Syracuse Junior High School.](#)

Wellness Wednesdays - Hello February Break

Hello February Break! Can you have winter family fun during COVID-19? YOU BET! [Click here to visit the Wellness Wednesday website for some great ideas about winter sports, baking and much more!](#)

When NSCS 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.

[Visit the Wellness Wednesdays Website](#)

NSCSD Students and Staff in the News

Keenan Williams, a 2010 **Cicero-North Syracuse High School** graduate, performs in Super Bowl halftime show with The Weeknd. [Click here to read the article on Syracuse.com.](#)

Cicero Area Student Theater (CAST) has completed their 2021 inaugural video and recently held a live premiere via YouTube. More than 30 students from **Cicero-North Syracuse High School** and **North Syracuse Junior High School** were involved with the group. Enjoy excerpts from the 10-week educational experience including footage of two numbers, 'What I Did For Love' from A Chorus Line and 'Telephone Hour' from Bye Bye Birdie. [Click here to watch the group's 2021 Inaugural Showcase.](#)

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!

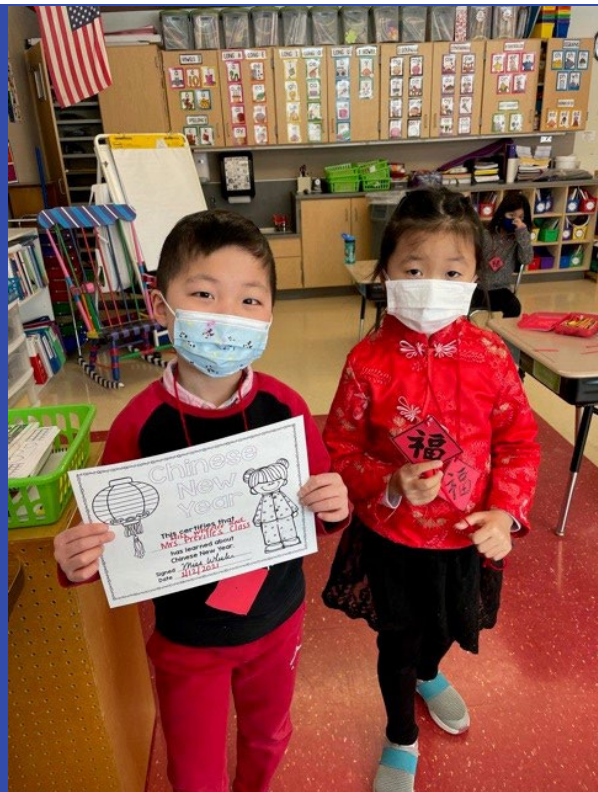
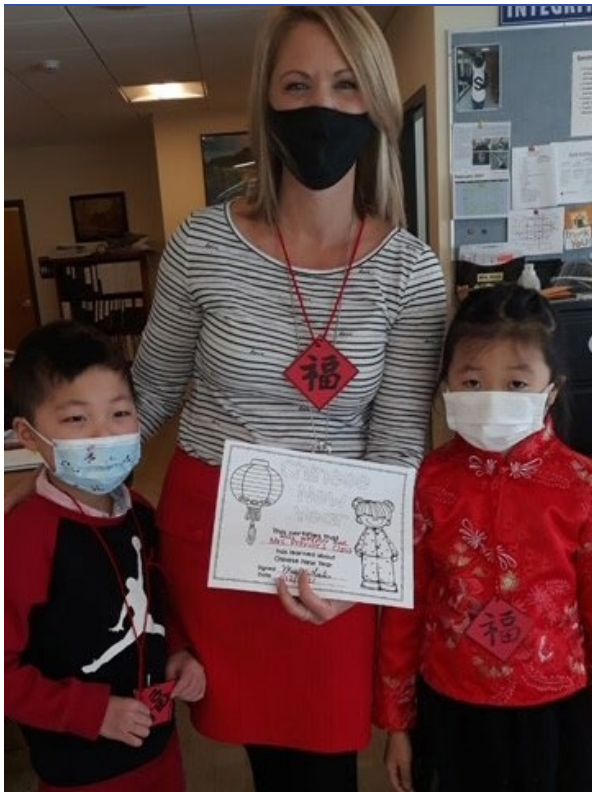


Because this school year has been so different, it has been challenging to get new photos for our District website at www.nscsd.org and other publications. So...we need your help!

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 (top row): **Smith Road Elementary School** Teacher **Danielle Preville** shared photos of **Trina Wheeler**, a teacher with their schools ENL (**English as a New Language**) Program and her students, who came to Ms. Preville's class to teach about the Chinese New Year. Preville said that her students learned about the Year of the Ox as well as their own birth years. She also said, "We made special necklaces and certificates for students to take home. Brian and Silvia then presented Mrs. Maloney with her own necklace to teach her about this special day."*



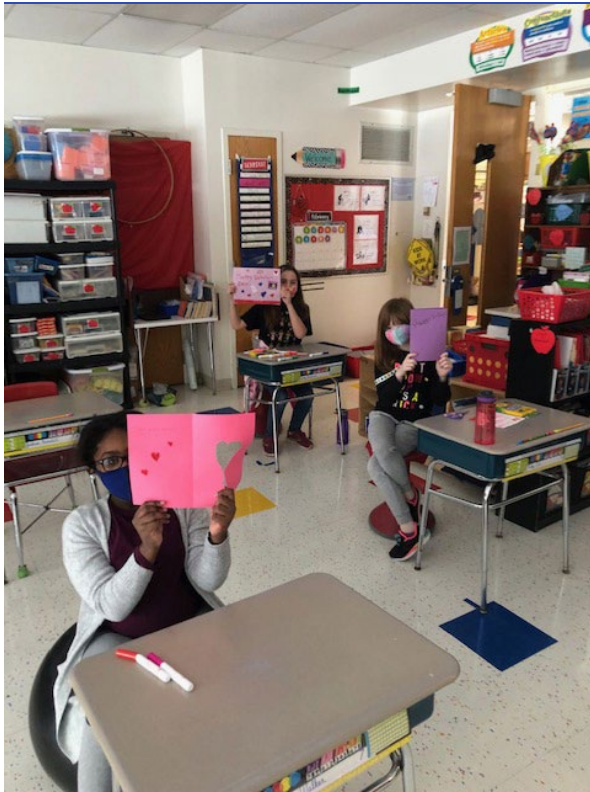


Pictured below: Students in Nicole McCarthy's second grade classroom at **Cicero Elementary School** participated in a Valentine's Day gift exchange. Stacy Peffley, a mom who helped organize the exchange, said, "It was such a fun turnout and I think the kids are really excited to have some resemblance of connection to what was before."



Lakeshore Road Elementary Students Share the Love





Submit Your Photos Now!

Important Upcoming Dates

February 15
President's Day - No School for Students/Staff

February 15-19
Mid-Winter Recess - No School for Students/Staff

February 22
Board of Education Meeting

Quick Links

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





North Syracuse Central School District would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact North Syracuse Central School District directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#)

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.