



North Syracuse Central School
District

NorthStar Lights

Issue #14 | February 26, 2021



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

This last week of February has been an exceptionally busy one with lots of twists and turns. With heavy hearts, we announced the [passing of Erin McDonald, a dedicated member of the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education](#). Erin was devoted to our students and the community and was a true educational advocate. She will be greatly missed.

At this past Monday's Board of Education meeting, we had the opportunity to [present our initial budget](#). As you might imagine, trying to formulate a budget in the midst of such uncertainty is difficult. In order to continue providing quality instruction during the pandemic and beyond, it is imperative that school districts receive sufficient aid from the state and federal government. Earlier this week, we received an advocacy alert from the New York State School Boards Association, asking us to share the following actionable items with our community. Please help us advocate for adequate public education funding by taking a few minutes to complete the following links:

- [Take Action - Federal Stimulus](#)
- [Take Action - State Budget](#)

As infection rates decline and the state health department considers relaxing restrictions around COVID-19, the North Syracuse Central School District (NSCSD) is working to determine the feasibility of adding in-person instructional days for students. Earlier this week we sent a survey to our families and are hoping for input by March 3. [Please click here to learn more.](#)

As always, thank you for your continued partnership in managing the community spread of COVID-19.

Sincerely,
Daniel D. Bowles, Superintendent of Schools

NSCSD February 26 Shining Star: Shannon Knapp and the Instructional Coaches for Technology Integration



This week's Shining Star is **Shannon Knapp**, an Instructional Coach for Technology Integration (Tech Coach) at Gillette Road Middle School, Cicero-North Syracuse High School and the North Syracuse Early Education Program. When she was notified that she had been nominated for recognition, Shannon said, "Any recognition that is directed my way is the result of the incredible team of Instructional Coaches for Technology Integration at NSCSD, and the Tech TA's and Tech Department that keep us up and running."

Together, Shannon and her fellow Tech Coaches, **Chris Manke** (Allen Road, KWS Bear Road, Lakeshore Road, Smith Road and Cicero elementary schools), and **Danielle Barrett** (Roxboro Road elementary and middle schools and North Syracuse Junior High School), provide all NSCSD teachers with the technology resources and critical support necessary to succeed in today's educational environment.

[Click here to read more about Shannon and the Tech Coaches.](#)

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

Celebrating 100 Days of School Pandemic Style



Students and staff at **Smith Road Elementary School** were among the many in the North Syracuse Central School District celebrating 100 Days of School this past week. Smith Road Elementary School Principal Lyndsey Maloney shared pictures saying that students and staff dressed up like they were 100 years old, and celebrated with lots of activities centered around the 100th day! She said, "Although this year has been a bit different, it was nice to celebrate our time together and have some fun."

If you'd like to share pictures of your students celebrating their 100th day of school, [please click here to upload them to our communication office staff.](#)

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.

Visit the Wellness Wednesdays Website

NSCSD Students and Staff in the News

North Syracuse Central School District families respond to possible reduction of social distancing by Amanda Chin - Thursday, February 25th 2021 - [Click here to view the article on CNY Central.](#)

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.](#)

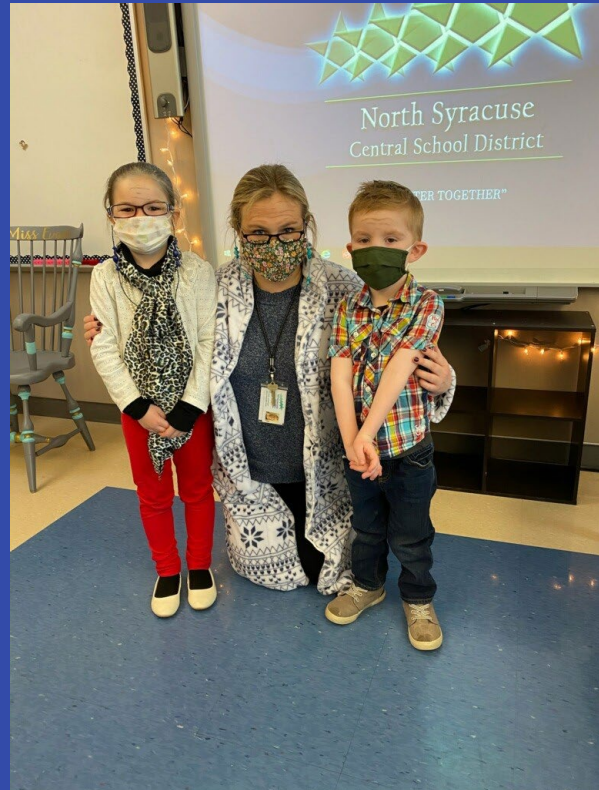
Send Us Your Photos!



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!

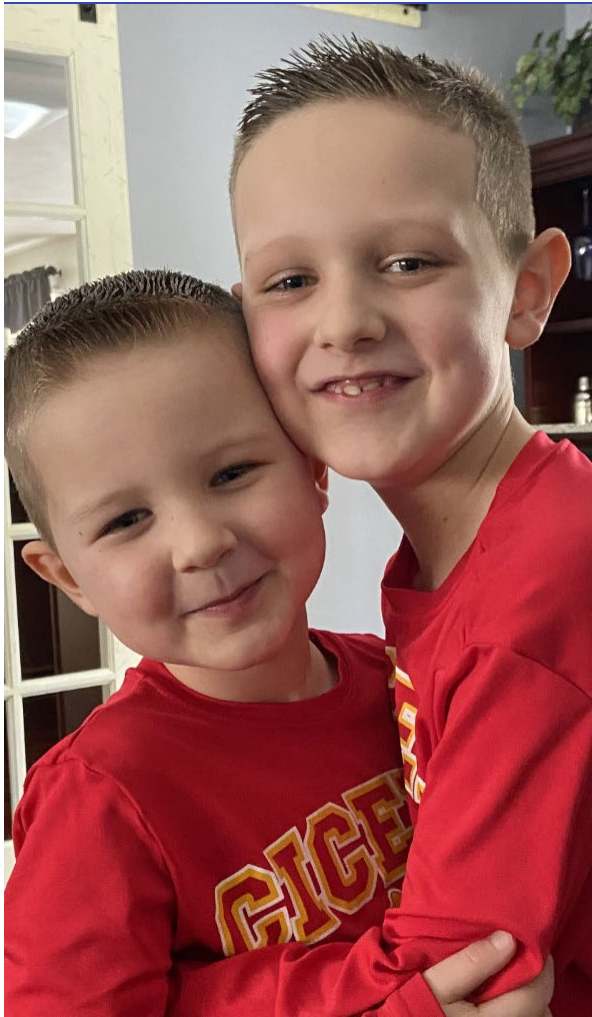
We would love to share your photos of at home school environments. If you're willing to share, please send your high quality images using the link below. We'll be using your photos in this newsletter and other publications throughout the school year. Additionally, high resolution, horizontal photos will be considered for the District website. If you'd like to share pictures, [please click here to upload them to our communication office staff.](#)

*Pictured above and below (top row): **Smith Road Elementary School** pictures celebrating 100 Days of School.*



Pictured below: Students in Madame Scoville's classes at North Syracuse Junior High School were asked over a recent school break to spend time outside and share their snow creations. Madame Scoville had a contest and is pleased to announce the 8th grade winners as Ryan Trainor's giant snowman and Maddisyn Uon's snow bunny. At the 9th grade level, only one submission was received and the winner was declared to be Helaina Morgan (far right picture). Many thanks to all students who participated!





Jennifer Schaus recently shared a picture of her sons, both students at Cicero Elementary School. The boys, Maxwell Schaus (Kindergarten, Mrs. Norris) and Luca Schaus (2nd Grade, Mrs. Figueroa) wanted to share their school spirit!

[Submit Your Photos Now!](#)

Important Upcoming Dates

March 1

Board of Education Meeting

March 5

25-Week Reporting Period for Grade 5-12 students ends

March 12

25-Week Progress Reports Available online for Grade 5-12 students

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.