

North Syracuse Central School
District

NorthStar Lights

Issue #16 | March 12, 2021



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

Earlier today, I sent a [letter to families](#) about the District's plans to bring students back for additional days of in-person learning. We are excited to be moving forward with plans and will proceed with a staggered return.

Our survey for K-4 families closed this morning and we are now working on that schedule, planning to bring K-4 students back to five days of instruction on April 12. We will not be surveying the families of students in grades 5-12 but building principals will be sending more information out to their families next week.

As we bring students back for additional in-person instruction, our top priorities will be building a sense of community and ensuring the safety of all. We are committed to helping our students integrate with the classroom and school communities. We have identified some resources for families to assist with [supporting children during the transition](#) and will continue to provide new links in this newsletter.

We understand that change causes anxiety and we will do our best to support our students, teachers and families in [reducing anxiety](#). As always, thank you for supporting the NSCSD!

Sincerely,
Daniel D. Bowles, Superintendent of Schools

NSCSD March 12 Shining Star: Fully Remote Second

Grade Teacher Nicole McCarthy

This week's Shining Star is Nicole McCarthy, a fully remote 2nd Grade teacher with students from four separate elementary schools: Allen Road Elementary School, KWS Bear Road Elementary School, Cicero Elementary School and Roxboro Road Elementary School. While Nicole has been a part of the North Syracuse Central School District for nine years, with this being her sixth at Allen Road Elementary School, she admits that this year has not been typical.

Nicole, along with other teachers in her situation, is challenged with bringing together groups of students from different schools. "It has been challenging having a very large class size as well as students from different buildings but we are trying our best to build a classroom community where the students can have fun and learn," Nicole said.

[Click here to read more about Ms. McCarthy](#)

Many thanks to everyone who submitted nominations for shining stars! We're excited to have received so many entries and are working to put together the stories we have already gotten. We will no longer be accepting nominations for the 2020-2021 school year but will continue this popular feature next school year. Keep checking this newsletter for your nomination!

Lakeshore Elementary Virtual Talent Show



Students at Lakeshore Road Elementary School recently had the chance to showcase their talents virtually. Principal Tina Chmielewski shared links to the finished products saying that the event was a great way to bring together Hybrid and Remote students and celebrate the school community. [Click here to view](#) the entire talent show or [click here for a special highlight reel](#).

Cicero Elementary School Community Helps Out



Cicero Elementary School teacher **Molly Gwynn** is extending her thanks to the school's students and community for a successful campaign to help others. She sent the above photo and said, "Thank you so much to everyone who donated bandaids and playing cards in February and/or took time to have their students make cards to send to Golisano Children's Hospital. We collected 175 boxes of fun bandaids and 190 card games in total and received a thank-you note from the child life staff at the hospital for our donations. A special thank you to **Michele Angeloro** for laminating and cutting out all the cards that the 4th graders made so that they would meet the COVID requirements at the hospital." Molly added the hashtag #otherpeoplematter when posting the collage and thank you message to social media. Great job **Cicero Elementary School!**

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

Spring football season begins for some high school athletes Monday- Monday, March 8, 2021 - [Click here to view the story on LocalSyr.com](#)

Transfer of power: 7 questions with Cicero-North Syracuse girls basketball coach Rob Siechen by Lyndsey Kramer at Syracuse.com - [Click here to read the story on Syracuse.com](#)

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.](#)

Three Simple Words Your Adolescent Wants to Hear

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In these times, parents can find themselves in positions of having fewer “answers” for questions raised by their children. Adolescence--already a time of rapidly-shifting moods and behaviors in normal times—can provide even more challenges for parents to provide stability and reassurance to children—especially when faced with their own adult and parental responsibilities.

Especially when it seems adolescent eye-rolling, sighs, and not-so-subtle criticisms are infinite, parents have a powerful antidote—an by that I refer to the title of this essay: The Three Simple Words Your Adolescent Wants to Hear from You. The words are not, “I love you”—but rather, “tell me more.”

When your child criticizes the hastily assembled distance learning offered by their high school or college—now to be completed at home with a completely different format and style of instruction—ask them to tell you more.

Beyond venting frustration (which is in itself a healthy initial response), ask them to help you understand what they are missing. Don't offer advice, or attempt to "fix" or minimize the problem. Don't use this time to relate problems you're currently facing, or faced at their age. Focus your complete attention on what they are feeling and experiencing.

Meet them where they are—and by that I mean accept what they are saying as reflections of what they feel—not whether the content of their message is right or wrong. In these troubled times, do everything you can to let your teen know (in a way that makes sense for your style of interaction) that they can tell you anything—no topic is off-limits.

"Tell me more." "Help me understand." "I hadn't thought of that before." "Wow, you're right." "What would you do?"

Ideally, your teen should be doing most of the talking, while you, the parent(s), is/are listening closely—but not too intently. Turn off the television, and if you're making dinner, provide meaningful pauses where you establish eye contact and express an engaged interest.

Express respect and grant credibility to the courage your children are taking to tell you about things you might not be comfortable hearing. Don't worry about providing answers right away—and you might not know the answers off the top of your head.

As a parent, or grandparent, you have the unique ability to grant your child the understanding that what they have to say is the most important thing in the world to you right now. Ask your teen to explain (in a non-defensive way) their situation or perspective—and let them show you their truth.

Encouragement from you in the form of "Gosh, I want to think about that," and "You've got a really good understanding," and for tough questions that are posed to you, "I'm so glad you brought that up—where should we start?" can build bridges of open communication.

What will help: adjusted expectations on your part with a celebration of small victories, and a humble patience to realize it can take several tries for that initial opening. Accept criticism with an open mind and heart—a little humor can diffuse an awkward moment. Remind your son or daughter that you're proud of them—and that it takes courage to speak their minds.

Three simple words can speak volumes. "Tell me more."

Casey Skorvc, PhD, JD is a psychologist, attorney, and researcher at NIH and an Associate Professor at the American Military University.

Looking for Athletic News? Subscribe Now!

Did you know that the North Syracuse Central School District's Athletics Department has a weekly email newsletter? If you'd like to subscribe to the newsletter, [click here to fill out the necessary form.](#)

C-NS Star Shop Holding Apparel Sale Open to Public

The Star Shop at Cicero-North Syracuse High School is once again holding a public sale for C-NS merchandise. The order deadline is March 31 with items expected to ship 4 weeks after the store has closed. [Click here to place an order or find out more.](#)

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: **Brianna Zinger**, a third grade teacher at **Allen Road Elementary School** is pictured with her Cohort A students (top row left to right) Finn Fitzgerald, Mason Davidson, Titus Buckley, Miss Zinger, (bottom row left to right) Andrew Conway, Amelia Frisina, Joseph Barbato, and Sean Farmer. Miss Zinger's students celebrated PARP week by dressing up as a character from a book. PARP is a program that asks a partner (parent, grandparent, babysitter, older sibling, cousin, friend, etc.) to read with a child for at least 20 minutes daily, stressing the fact that reading can be fun as well as informative. Allen Road Elementary School fourth grade teacher, **Jill Welsh**, talked about PARP saying, "It is such a great way to get families involved with reading at home. But we couldn't just let the families have all the fun, we as a school community wanted to have fun with the students too. Throughout PARP week there were many chances for fun. For example, there were dress up days, like dress up as a book character day, drop everything and read, and fun ways to read at home to complete a PARP bingo board. We even had a school wide virtual family bingo night to celebrate the end of PARP. Both in person and remote students, teachers, staff, and parents had a great week of celebrating reading!"*

Submit Your Photos Now!

Important Upcoming Dates

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

Quick Links

- [Technical Help Website](#)
- [Family Wellness Website](#)

March 15
Board of Education Meeting

- [Online Calendar](#)

March 17
Half Day for Pre-K through grade 12 students -
Staff Workshops

- [Google Classroom Help](#)

- [Meal Pickup Information](#)

- [NYS COVID-19 Report Card](#)

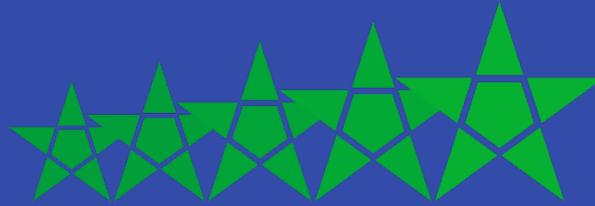
March 19
Second Trimester Report Period Ends for Grade
K-4 students

- [Superintendent's Updates](#)

- [Kindergarten Registration](#)

March 29 - April 2
Spring Recess - No School for Students/Staff

- [Subscribe to NorthStar Lights](#)



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