

Little Lions Celebrate the Holidays

The students at Newaygo Elementary School bundled up as they walked downtown to hang their handmade Christmas ornaments on the tree. The boys and girls in kindergarten through fourth grade made ornaments with bird seed, peanut butter, pretzels, marshmallow, Fruit loops, Cheerios and ice cream cones. These ornaments not only make the tree look beautiful, they also help feed the animals in the winter. The tree was also decorated with beaded candy canes, paper snowflakes, stars made out of sticks, and many other ornaments that helped make the tree look spectacular! Thank you to Beaver Tree Service for hanging the ornaments way up high on the tree. On Friday evening, kids, adults, grandparents, aunts and uncles stood around the Christmas tree in the park waiting for Santa to arrive. As the crowd counted down and the lights came on, the faces of everyone around the tree lit with the Christmas spirit. The boys and girls were so excited to show which ornaments they made. Families enjoyed the celebration as they walked downtown visiting the stores and restaurants, rode in the horse drawn sleighs, sampled food from the food carts, as well as finding Santa Claus so their children could get a picture with him. The streets were busy with families and friends celebrating. Thank you to the Newaygo Chamber members for organizing such an exciting event for our community! Mr. Wittenberger, Mrs. Sipperly, Mrs. Wierenga and Mrs. Schisel's classes visited the tree downtown.



Visit us at
www.newaygo.net!

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Newaygo Middle School: 231.652.1285
Newaygo High School:
231.652.1646

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Learning with an Artistic Mindset

While working on addition and subtraction, our 4th grade boys and girls colored 4 squares according to the answer of the math problem. We then attached the squares together to make two 4th grade friendship quilts. As the second and third grade students walked by the quilts, you could hear them tell their friends which part of the quilt they liked. Savannah Key and Ryker Guthrie are pictured below.



The 4th Grade students enjoyed making a Christmas wreath as one of their gifts to their families. Before we sent the ornaments home, we decorated our hall to show our Christmas Spirit. Proudly standing near the tree are students Miles Wormmeester, Addy Kroll and Dakota Knash.

Remembering Our Veterans



Veteran's Day

By: Mrs. Schaffer (Long-Term Sub)

On November 11th, the Fourth Grade Teachers collaborated together to teach our students the meaning of Veteran's Day. We took the time in our day to ensure that we were able to use some of our literacy and writing blocks to work with our students to help them understand exactly what being a veteran means and why veterans are so important.

The classes worked together to write thank you letters to veterans within our community. Some of these letters are displayed in the fourth grade hallway. They are surrounded by a handmade US flag that the students created. The fourth grade students worked really hard on all of the Veteran's Day lessons that we put together for them. Students were very proud to be able to honor the individuals who have sacrificed so much to be able to serve the United States Military. When we take the display down, I will be taking all the letters that were written to veterans and be delivering them to our local VFW.

The fourth grade students thoroughly enjoyed learning about veterans. Myself, as a veteran, also very much enjoyed being able to tell the kids about my life in the military and why I am so proud to be a veteran. I had promised my class that I would wear my old military uniform to work on that day and so I did, with pride. Most of the fourth graders already knew that I used to be in the military because I have talked about it with them on other teaching jobs in the school that I have had in the past. It was amazing to me how many of them remembered and wanted to honor myself and other veterans that they know. Students showed up to my classroom throughout the day to personally bring me cards or letters that they had made to thank me for my service. They are all displayed in my classroom, and they will stay up until my time on this assignment is completed because I am so humbled by them.

This for me was a great day to be a teacher. Not only to be honored as a teacher, but as a military veteran.



Our Fabulous Fourth Graders



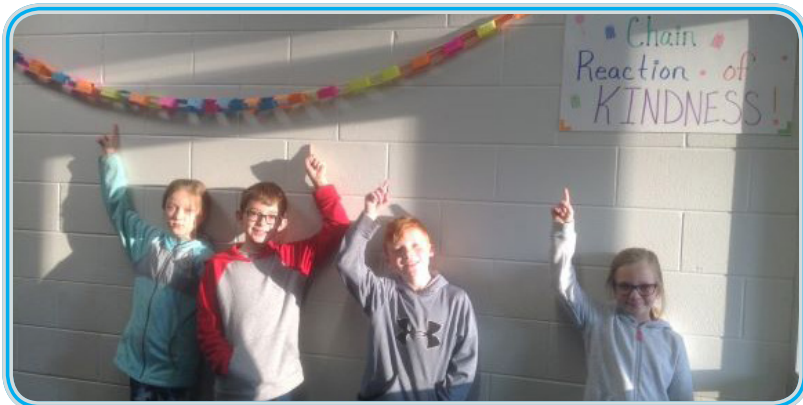
The fourth grade students in Mrs. Schaffer's (long-term sub) class enjoyed a writing lesson on Fall resolutions. The students had to write a paragraph summing up their resolutions and goals for the Fall season. The students set personal goals to be helpful, good, kind, and to have a good day at school everyday. Many of the students were Thankful for their teacher, mom, life, family and friends. Their resolutions included being helpful, kind everyday, and always being thankful. Congratulations Mrs. Schaffer's 4th grade students on knowing how to be a GREAT PERSON!

Pictured Left: Jack Mercer, Kylie Corrigan and Mason D'Lamater



Mrs. Behnke's 4th grade students read the book Shiloh for their Read Aloud. While reading, Mrs. Behnke discussed many vocabulary words with them. The students also talked about the setting, characters, character traits and message in the book. The boys and girls then drew a picture of the main character in the story, Marty. To add to their artwork, the students labeled their pictures with vocabulary words that described Marty. The students used words like courageous, bold, responsible, friendly, kind and gentle.

Pictured Left: Lyric Battaglia, Preston Harris and Cali Campbell

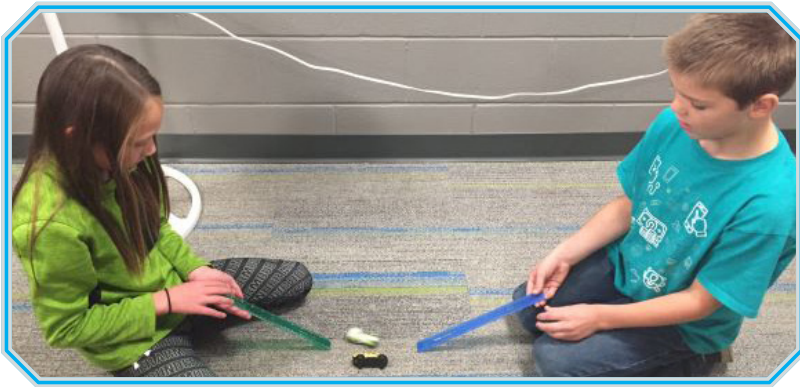


Throughout the school year, all of our 4th grade students, teachers and staff will be writing sentences telling something positive that has happened to them or something positive they have done for someone else. The students will then add their link to the 4th Grade Chain reaction of Kindness. It is important for all of us to be aware of how many nice things we do for others as well as all the kind things other do for us. We are hoping by the end of the school year that our chain will extend all the way down to the Kindergarten hallway, connecting 1st, 2nd, 3rd as well as kindergarten links to our chain to truly make it a Newaygo Elementary Chain Reaction of Kindness. Pictured Left: Kylyn Rust, River Borkowski, Noah Voshel and Aurora Cronk



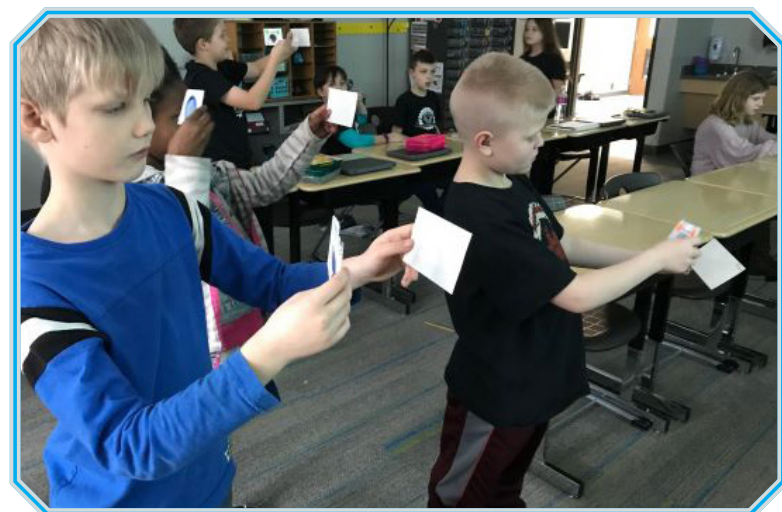
Newaygo Elementary 4th Grade Students are welcomed every morning with a choice of a hug, handshake, high-five or fist bump as they enter the classroom. This is a perfect way to start the day! The greeting allows for the students and teachers to build classroom community. As teachers, we want to find a balance between students using their manners, while allowing them to set their own boundaries as well as using an appropriate greeting. Many students choose all four ways to be greeted by their teachers. Jazlynn Alvarez is choosing a hug from Mrs. Youmans.

Fourth Grade Science



In 4th grade, the students were using toy cars for a science experiment. The students were learning about kinetic energy, the energy that is transferred in the form of movement. Some of our students brought in cars that were different sizes. The boys and girls then worked together in pairs to experiment with items around the room to see what would happen when 2 cars collide. Some of the students made ramps, others made tunnels for their cars to run through, while others just pushed their cars together. It was fun watching the students share their findings with each other as they learned about kinetic energy.

Pictured top: Ella Foster & Ella Foster Pictured Right: Aurora Cronk & Kaylee Hutchinson



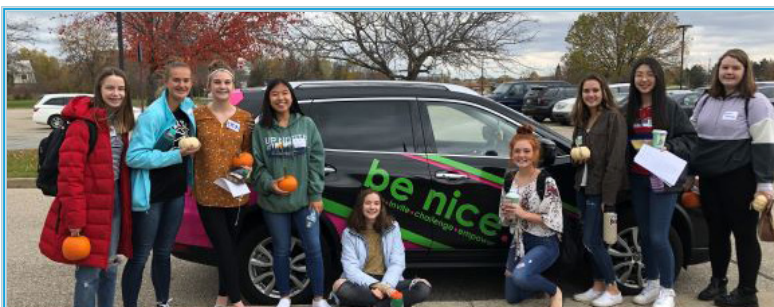
In this Mystery Science activity, 4th grade students discovered the basics of how their eyes work and figured out some of the causes of vision problems. In the activity, students developed a working model of a human eye using a magnifying lens, which acted as the cornea, and an index card, which acted as the retina. As students moved the cornea closer and farther from the retina, the image that the students saw went in and out of focus on the retina. Students discovered that eyeballs that are a little bit too long or a little bit too short, had blurry vision! The distance between the front of the eye and the back of the eye has to be just right to see clearly. Luckily, there are glasses to help correct vision! Pictured: Scott Barton and Gavin Beerman, Mason D'Lamater, and Violet Jenerou



NHS 'be nice'



The Newaygo High School team was started in the 2018-19 school year. Currently, there are 23 members on the team. Team members do a variety of things to help spread mental health awareness: open doors and greet students in the morning, post suicide hotline numbers in the school, place sticky notes on every single locker with positive messages, post positive sticky notes on bathroom mirrors to help improve self-esteem, did a week-long mental health awareness week in October where they encouraged all students to give high-fives or sit by someone new at lunch or do random acts of kindness, add mental health facts and positive quotes to the announcements and many more things! The NHS team will be training some students in the middle school in February so we can get a team started there as well!



These members attended the 2019 'be nice' Symposium. Connelly Hefferan-Nordlund, Grace Painter, Lyda Lathrop, Sofia Briggs, McCaiden Rienstra, Iris Herrera, Emma Mortensen, Yushan Xie, Sam Davis



THANK YOU Randy Dietz for your donation to the Newaygo High School 'be nice' Team! The NHS 'be nice' Team would like to know if there are any other business owners or persons that would be willing to donate to our cause? Please contact Erica Boyd or Laurie Gracik at Newaygo High School (652-1646) if you're willing to donate! Thank you!

In 2011, the Mental Health Foundation launched the 'be nice' initiative in response to the need for mental health awareness. 'be nice' is an Action Plan that helps individuals understand that they can have an effect on how others think, act and feel. 'be nice' is a proactive program designed to spread awareness of the importance of noticing, inviting, challenging and empowering community-wide. Simply 'being nice' is an effective way to promote a safe and civil environment within the school and community. We all have the ability to save a life by simply being nice!

The be nice. Action Plan

Notice

Notice what is good, what is right, changes in someone's behavior.

Invite

Invite yourself to initiate a conversation with someone.

Challenge

Challenge the stigma; communicate important resources.

Empower

Empower yourself with the knowledge that you can have an effect on how someone thinks, acts and feels.

NHS Robotics

Thanks to a number of small donations, an affiliation with Welch Tile, a \$1000 donation from MAGNA, and grants from the State of Michigan, the NHS Robotics team is quickly moving past our fledging beginnings. On January 25th, the NHS Robotics team competed in our first tournament! It was a long and exciting day, filled with learning opportunities and epiphany moments. Justin Boverhof, Megan Grant, Kate Haan, Natalie Luka, and Zoe Wigent courageously entered the Robotics arena as drivers, strategists, engineers, and pit mechanics. Kate and Zoe went 3-3 on the day, finishing 13th out of a field of 24. Justin, Kate, and Zoe formed an alliance and made it to the quarter-finals and were a buzzer-beater score shy of qualifying for the semi-finals! It was a good day to be a Lion!

With community and school support (always looking for more), we've been able to purchase needed equipment and created a robotics lab with workspaces for the construction and programming of our robots. At the end of the day, NHS is now offering a hands-on program that allows our students to design, build, and program complicated machines.

Our robots range from Lego EV3s, VEX competition bots, and a limited AI, machine learning capable Misty II robot that was acquired through a Go-Fund-Me page and a grant from Great Lakes Energy. With access to these output devices (robots) more and more students are seeing the value in acquiring STEAM skills...skills that lay the foundation for possible careers in a growing, stable field of employment.

Again, thank you to our many donors, MAGNA, and Great Lakes Energy for supporting NHS Robotics!



NHS Student Council Blood Drives



Mrs. Lathrop, Iris Herrera, Olivia Lacy, Alera Welch, Alexis Feutz, Hudson Harkness and Lyda Lathrop

Newaygo High School has held two blood drives since the beginning of school year through Versiti, formerly known as Michigan Blood. Both of these blood drives were a huge success, surpassing their goal each time. In November, they were able to collect 43 pints of blood and in January collected 39! This is great work by an amazing student-led Blood Drive committee, with Alera Welch as the Student Coordinator. The committee is pictured below with their advisor, Ms. Lathrop.

The blood drives are very successful because of high school students willing to donate. In two blood drives, an astonishing number of 77 Newaygo High School students donated, many donated both times while some were first time donors. They've also grown in the numbers of community members coming in to donate and are hoping for even more community involvement in the future.

Thanks to the kind donations and support from local businesses, Wendy's and McDonald's, they were able to show students their gratitude with a little gift and even served student donors breakfast the morning of donation.

This year's blood drive efforts aren't over yet though as they are seeking even more community involvement to schedule an appointment to donate. Newaygo High School will be hosting their final blood drive of the school year on April 22, 2020. Please contact Mrs. Lathrop tlathrop@newaygo.net to schedule your appointment.

Strive for a Safer Drive (S4SD)

The Strive for a Safer Drive (S4SD) team is excited to promote safe driving in the Lion community! Throughout the winter and spring, they will be presenting information and statistics about driving and giving out various prizes for participating community members. The first display will be a pre-survey during lunch where they will be handing out bracelets for anyone who completes the survey. At the end of the year, they will be holding a post-survey as well.



On Tuesday, February 25, The S4SD team will be presenting during the half-times of the boys and girls' varsity home basketball games versus the Grant Tigers. At this event, the team will share driving statistics and safety tips during their presentation and will give away prizes! In addition to presenting at the basketball games, the S4SD team will hold a poster contest among the advisory classes within the high school, and the winning class will receive ice cream and a chance to participate in a driving simulator provided by the Michigan State Police. Furthermore, at Lion Pride Night, there will be a parent and student survey available. Anyone who completes the survey will be entered into a drawing for a gift card! The S4SD team hopes to educate the community for the improvement of road safety! They encourage you to drive safely and show your Lion Pride! Pictured: Trevir Kral, Olivia Lacy, Dylan Heminger, Sophia Frisbie and Officer Rood

Top Spellers Shine in NMS Spelling Bee

On Tuesday, January 21, Newaygo Middle School held their grade level spelling bees to determine who would advance to the Regional Bee at the NCRESA in Fremont on February 25. About 15 students from each grade level, competed to see who would take the top two spots in each grade. After some tough grade-level competition, the first place spellers in each grade faced off to determine our first and second place winners school-wide. Top overall honors went to 8th grader, Angela Nakvos Clubb. Second place overall went to 5th grader, Levi Kraska. These two will represent NMS at the Regional Bee on February 25th in Fremont.



1st place: Angela Nakvos Clubb,
8th grade
2nd place/runner up: Levi Kraska,
5th grade



5th grade spelling bee winners:
First place: Levi Kraska
Second place: Dalton Seidletz



Sixth grade spelling bee winners (right to left): First place: Luella Hilden
Second place: Johnny Bischoff



7th grade spelling bee winners:
First place: Henry Wood
Second place: Blake Kerr



8th grade
spelling bee winners
(left to right):

First place: Angela
Nakvos Clubb

Second place: Natalie
Richardson

NHS Citizens and Students of the Month



October Citizens of the Month
Wyatt Mortensen and Lyda Lathrop



October Students of the Month
Maysen Wakerley and Samantha Toth



November Citizens of the Month
Kielee McDaniel, Michael Murray and
Makenna Young



November Students of the Month
Jaylee Long and Sofia Briggs



December Citizens of the Month
Iris Herrera, Remington Wells, Lexi Wells
and Ashley Wittenberger



December Students of the Month
Lauryn Vanetten, Glenn Toth and
Nicholas Rodriguez

Project Citizen News

The Project Citizen 5th Grade students honored Veterans by creating patriotic posters and learning about their family members who are Veterans or currently serving in the military. The cards and posters were sent to the residence of the Grand Rapids Veterans Facility and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Students also shared photos and information about their family members who are serving in the military or Veterans. These photos are on display in the Newaygo Middle School as a Wall of Honor.



NHS National Honor Society



Senior Members

New Inductees: Anna Brummel, Taylor Davis, Alexis Feutz, Oliver Geroux, Brianna Grugett, Hudson Harkness, Ariana Hunt, Rachel Karrip, Olivia Lacy, Jennafer LaVette, Jaylee Long, Kendall Mathis, Wyatt Mortensen, Jackson Nelson, Emily Oldham, Emma Reyburn, Matthew Richardson, Lillian Ruehmeier, Madison Salacina, Forest Saur-Parker, Haleigh Schmitt, Ashton Stephens, Alyssa Watkins, Yushan Xie and Makenna Young

NMS National Jr. Honor Society



1st Year Members 7th Grade

Siena Avendano, Spencer Bastion, Gracie Bazzett, Chloe Bush, Alyssa Boone, Maddie Couch, Blake Larsen, Karla Nelson, Lane Nelson, Morgan Pope, Ethan Reyburn, Leah Ruehmeier, Parker Wade, Johan Walker, Henry Wood, Hunter Yearsovich

1st Year Members 8th Grade

Remington Areny, Natalie Richardson, Jadon Ryman, Jarryn Schmitt, Brianna Wakerly, Isabella Welch

2nd Year Members 8th Grade

Aubri Blenman, Lauren Bull, Elaine Chen, Gavin Culver, Madison Christensen, Lillyann Cook, Olivia DeJohn, Jaxon duChemin, Madelyn Garbrecht, Sophia Hathaway, Mia Janke, Elsha Jibson, Sydnee Kirk, Josiah Long, Mathew Miedema, Maria Riddering

Spring Break
April 3-April 10

Toys for Tots

The National Jr. Honor Society and Project Citizen 5th grade students recently collected over 300 toys for the Toys for Tots WZZM Channel 13 Spirit Challenge. The students with adviser, Mrs. Harkness, delivered the toys to True North for the Children's Christmas Event. While at True North, both NJHS and Project Citizen members helped sort, itemize and display toys for Newaygo County families to shop for Christmas. This program helps over 2,000 families in Newaygo County.



K-2nd Grade

STEAM ACTIVITIES

The kindergarten through 2nd grade technology classes were able to participate in some fun STEAM activities prior to break. STEAM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. It includes hands-on, exploratory activities that require problem solving, imagination, and creativity.

Newaygo County RESA and the Muskegon ISD have formed a technology partnership that is proving to be very beneficial! Every other month, Newaygo and Muskegon County technology teachers get together for professional development, and it also includes access to a large lending library housed at the Muskegon ISD.

In the photos, students were given a timed task to build the tallest tower they could when given 20 Magnatiles pieces. Seeing the differences in problem solving and risk taking among the age groups was very enlightening. There were squeals of frustration and excitement, moments jumping up and down in anticipation, and best of all, the facial expressions on their little faces!



Anna Ream (pictured above) is a kindergarten student in Ms. Simmons' Room



The Spirit of Christmas

On Monday, December 16, the third and fourth graders performed 'The Spirit of Christmas' in the Middle School Gym, directed by Ms. Shelly Horton, K-5 Music Teacher. The students sang, kazooed, and used a variety of props to display the joy and peace of this Christmas season. What a delight to watch their faces and hear their excitement as they helped us all ring in the holiday season.



Fourth Graders feel chilly during "Bundle Up"



Fourth Grade Students sing "Bundle Up"



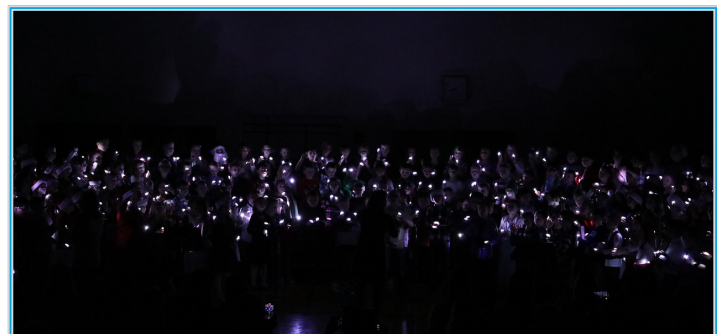
Fourth Graders play a kazoo during "A Christmas Medley"



Third graders strike a pose during "Blitzen's Boogie"



Third graders perform a Plate Cracker routine to "Trepak" from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker



The third and fourth graders performed "A Song of Peace" using sign language and finger flashlights.

NHS Chess Team



Freshman, Olivia Sinkler



Junior, Forest
Saur-Parker



Junior, Ryan Anderson



Junior, Jacob Youmans



Senior, Jesse Chase
(Pictured Right)

Junior Justin Moore and Senior
Tanasin Thunyakaset are also
members of Chess Team

Spring P-T Conferences and Lion Pride Night

March 16 : Parent-Teacher Conferences - Grades K - 4
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

March 17: Grades 5 -8 Lion Pride Night 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
and P-T Conferences 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

March 17: Grades 9-12 P-T Conferences 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
and Lion Pride Night 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

March 19: Parent Teacher Conferences - Grades K-12
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.



Employment Opportunities at NPS

Bus Drivers and Substitute Bus Drivers
Contact Chris Cronk at 231.652.1112

Substitute Aides - Special Education & General Education
Contact the respective Building Principal or Assistant Principal

Substitute Food Service Employees
Contact Mary Anne Charette at 231.652.9286

Substitute (Guest) Teachers
Contact www.EDUStaff.org or call 877.974.6338

Please go to the district website for more information
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SCHOOLS**