

# PURPLE TIGER TIMES



New Scotland Elementary School Newsletter

September 2021

## A note from Principal Lesley Buff ...

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year, students and families! We are excited to see so many familiar faces and thrilled to meet some new ones, too.

This year we have quite a few new NSES staff members that I would like to take a minute to introduce. You met Ms. Rose, our new assistant principal, in our last newsletter. I also would like to welcome Ms. Palella to our first grade team, Ms. Neenos to our fourth grade team, Ms. Levine as our English as a New Language teacher, Mr. McKnight as our phys ed teacher, Ms. Sloves as a literacy teaching assistant (TA), Mrs. Paultre as our math coach, Mrs. Torres as a special education TA, Mr. Maaref as a

special education TA, Mrs. Sullivan as a special education TA, Mrs. Platania as a special education TA and Mrs. Gallagher as a lunch aide.

We also have staff in new positions: Mrs. Fuller is our math interventionist and Mrs. Hotaling is our literacy teacher.

In my last newsletter, I referenced AVID – Advancement Via Individual Determination. This year all our classrooms will focus on teaching organizational skills. Students in grades 3-5 will receive this instruction at the start of the school year, while our younger grades will begin mid-year. Students will learn how to organize their materials, notes and



assignments to enhance their study skills. *(Continued on page 2)*

## Celebrating students

Our talented students deserve recognition for their achievements! This year we will bring back monthly awards ceremonies to recognize students who follow the school behavior expectations (Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful) and who are model AVID students. Although our assemblies will look a little different—they will be in individual classrooms—we will try to include families of students being recognized. Our hope is to be able to invite you into the classroom or at the very least have you be able to attend remotely.

## OUR MAINTENANCE STAFF

### Meet the team!

Each newsletter I like to recognize members of our staff that you may not see every day but that are a vital part of our school community. It is only fitting to recognize our maintenance staff for the September issue – especially with all of the work they do during summer to get our building up and running for the start of the new school year.

Did you know NSES has over 60 classrooms, plus hallways, a huge gymnasium, cafeteria, a nurse's suite and a playground that are cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis? It is a lot of work to keep these areas clean and safe for our approximately 500 students and 100 staff members. Daily cleaning of the building, ensuring heating and cooling

are working properly, carpentry, building repairs, snow removal, painting, and playground checks are just a few of the jobs that our team does on a regular basis. On top of this, they know that building relationships is key to student success. They make time to really get to know our students and can often be seen giving them words of encouragement.



City School District of  
**ALBANY**

## Social-emotional needs a priority

At NSES, we consider a student's social and emotional needs to be just as important as academics, and we will work to assure that all students have the support they need to succeed.

As we dive into educating children, it is extremely important for the adults at school to establish relationships with all of our students, and to recognize and support students' emotions. That is why we will continue with social-emotional lessons in our classrooms. Students will participate in classroom talks and activities around their social-emotional health. Some classes may even have a social worker in class for lessons.

Students will learn to recognize their own emotions, ways to de-escalate a situation when they are having a difficult time and how to help each other, creating a classroom community where students support and lift each other up.

## Student voices, student leaders

Our mission at New Scotland Elementary School is to create a compassionate community of everyday leaders, giving each student a voice and encouraging every student to take control of their education.

Therefore, this year we will be creating a student leadership team. This leadership team will have representatives from each grade and our mission will be to give students a platform to improve the school experience for all students.

We will begin in September by electing a president, vice president and secretary from our fifth grade and we will work to identify an equity issue within our school or community to problem-solve. This leadership team will work with the school Equity Team and administration on equity issues as they arise during the year.

### *Principal's message (continued from page 1)*

Students in all grades will have exposure to AVID through the teaching strategies utilized in our classrooms. AVID strategies are student-centered and students will be empowered to own their learning. AVID students are critical thinkers and goal setters who are organized, determined and self-motivated to learn and succeed. As a school we build these skills in our students so that they are prepared for college and careers when they continue their educational journey beyond New Scotland Elementary School.

Parent support is vitally important to your child's success. As mentioned in my August newsletter, my goal is to increase communication between school and home to

ensure you are well informed about what is happening at school. Our future newsletters will take on a similar format where I will include a section on grade level highlights. This section will keep you informed of some of the things happening at each grade level and how you might support your child at home. As always, we thank you for your continued support.

In closing, I look forward to continuing to meet all of our NSES families and growing our partnership to ensure the success of our students. If you have any questions about any information included in this newsletter or in general, feel free to contact me at (518) 475-6775 or [lbuff@albany.k12.ny.us](mailto:lbuff@albany.k12.ny.us).

Look for  
NSES third-  
grader  
Jackson  
Dolan in  
the school  
district  
calendar!



## WHO'S WHO at New Scotland

**Ms. Buff**, principal  
**Ms. Rose**, assistant principal  
**Mrs. Avery-McDonald**, social worker  
**Mrs. Goetz**, social worker  
**Mrs. Capazzola**, psychologist  
**Mrs. Daley-Choudhri and Mrs. John**, nurses  
**Mrs. Allen**, office manager

Need to reach us? Call (518) 475-6775.