

PURPLE TIGER TIMES



New Scotland Elementary School Newsletter

Winter 2017-18

A note from Principal Amodeo ...

As we straddle the Thanksgiving and winter holidays, there is much to share with our families. The first quarter marking period has come and gone and while the weather was mostly dry and mild, we're finally beginning to feel Mother Nature's cold side.

We held our annual Winter Concert on Dec. 4 in the Hackett Middle School auditorium to the delight of a packed house. Our choir, orchestra and band performed a variety of numbers that helped to usher in the season. We'll continue to host our Winter and Spring concerts at Hackett as long as they're able to accommodate us. Our fifth-graders move up to Hackett as sixth-graders, and our concerts are a

wonderful opportunity to get them exposed and acclimated to the middle school setting in a casual forum. (Our Spring Concert will be at Hackett on May 7 at 7 p.m. – mark your calendars.)

The NSES community has adapted well to the new pick-up and drop-off routines in front of school. While a bit challenging in the first weeks, everyone seemed to appreciate the safety factor that's added by marking off the zones with the traffic cones. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. A huge thank you to our parent and community volunteers who inform our parents and school community and gently enforce and reinforce safety expectations.

Our second- and third-graders are receiving swimming instruction at the Albany High School pool. For eight weeks, they will receive swimming lessons and water safety instruction and are thoroughly enjoying the opportunity. Normally offered only to second-graders, the learn-to-swim program was unavailable last year due to rebuilding the Albany High pool. The district was very thoughtful in including our current third-graders this year, since they missed out as second-graders last year.

Our Scholastic Book Fair was held the week of Nov. 13 and our annual Harvest Festival was held Nov. 17. Music, fun, food, face painting,
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SAVE THE DATES!

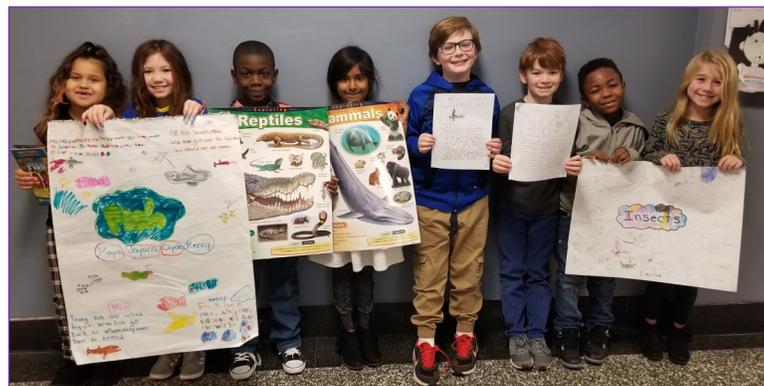
DECEMBER

- 21 Building Leadership Team meeting, 4 p.m.
- 25 Holiday recess, no school
- 1/1 school

JANUARY

- 5 School Spirit Day; wear NSES purple!
- 10 PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no school
- 18 Building Leadership Team meeting, 4 p.m.
- 19 District Spelling Bee at Hackett, 10 a.m.
- 26 Second quarter ends

SEEN AROUND NSES



Second-graders are working hard to learn about classifying animals. We have researched and created posters on the six categories of animals: mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, birds and insects. Our next step is to begin our "all about" books, where we dive deeper into researching one animal.



No pre-performance jitters here! The NSES Winter Concert was held on Dec. 4 at William S. Hackett Middle School. Pictured beforehand, from left to right, are fifth-grader Maia Gallagher, fourth-grader Gabby Deleon and fourth-grader Ava Perez.



Principal's message

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activities and a silent auction were enjoyed by many. The book fair offered an opportunity for children and families to purchase a favorite book, game or souvenir item. The entire evening raised funds for our PTA to help them support the many programs, initiatives and field trips that NSES affords our students.

The School Beautification Committee is working on amending and expanding the green space that surrounds NSES. Benches, raised bed gardens and balance beams are just part of the plan. Site plans have already been drawn up and a schedule for the work will be disseminated shortly. Many volunteer hands will be needed to accomplish our goals. Please consider signing up to commit an hour or two on a spring weekend morning.

TAKE THE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

The City School District of Albany is asking all families to take part in a survey that will help inform the district's school-improvement work.

The Family Engagement Survey is open through Dec. 22. You can find a link at www.albanyschools.org in our From the Superintendent section. From that page, just click on the survey link and enter the password **Albany**.

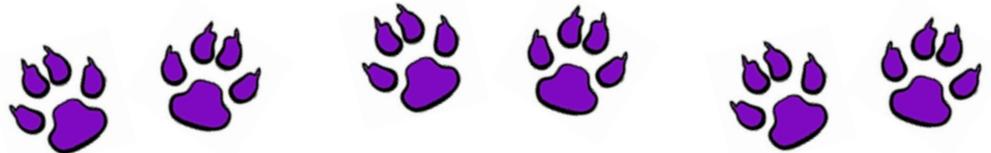
It's easy to complete. The survey has 50 questions rated on a five-part scale, plus three open questions for comments. We ask that there be one survey per household; all responses will remain anonymous.

Students in grades 3-12 also will have

opportunities to complete the survey. This will allow the district to build a comprehensive database important for our planning.

"We appreciate your assistance in completing this important survey," said Superintendent Kaweeda G. Adams. "Parents and guardians are such an important part of what we do, and we are grateful to you for taking the time to respond."

The district also mailed a letter about the survey all district families in November. If there are questions or if you need clarification, please contact our Office of Curriculum and Instruction at (518) 475-6060.

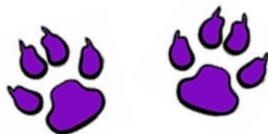


Get the weather bug!

Tune in and follow our local weather conditions and forecasts. Get the Weather Bug app for your smart device.

DID YOU KNOW?

The New Scotland Elementary School mascot is a purple tiger!



OUR SCHOOL DAY at New Scotland Elementary

Building opens: 8:10 a.m.

Breakfast served: 8:25 a.m.

Classes begin: 9:05 a.m.

Students marked tardy: 9:10 a.m.

Pre-K and K dismissal: 3:30 p.m. (Parkwood Street)

Grade 1 dismissal: 3:30 p.m. (front doors)

Grades 2 and 3 dismissal: 3:35 p.m. (front doors)

Grades 4 and 5 dismissal: 3:35 p.m. (Glenwood Street)

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