

# PURPLE TIGER TIMES



New Scotland Elementary School Newsletter

December 2022

## A note from Principal Lesley Buff ...

I cannot believe we are entering our Holiday Break and we have already had our first snow fall. This first trimester has certainly flown by and I am happy to report that we have some exciting things to showcase in this newsletter.

Our Student Leadership Team elections are complete, and the team has been meeting regularly to plan their focus for the school year. They are also working very closely with Ms. Rose for our school to distinguish itself as a “No Place For Hate” school. The students devoted a significant amount of time crafting a school mission statement around No Place For Hate that they shared with our student body at our December PBIS Awards Ceremony. Read about our pledge on page 2! We are also recognizing many of our student leaders in our PBIS/

AVID award ceremonies. Please look for all our student award winners listed in this newsletter. It is wonderful that we have so many students following our PBIS and AVID expectations.

NSES has many community partners and we were thrilled to have the Black Child Development Institute visit our first and second grade classes to assist with developing a love for reading. Students were able to meet and read to Sam The Turtle and were also given free books.

I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year and as always, 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).



## MEET THE TEAM

Therapy dog visits have returned to New Scotland Elementary School!

Meet Bowie the labradoodle, the newest member of our school community. He and his person, Mary Ann Cooper, come to school every Wednesday for two hours and rotate among different classes, which works out to a visit with each class about once a month.

Therapy dogs contribute positively to a student’s emotional well-being as well as cognitive development (improved reading skills, enhanced executive functioning skills, stimulating memory and problem solving skills).

Studies show that the very presence of therapy dogs in an educational environment tends to improve the areas of attention, concentration, relaxation and motivation.

# STUDENT LEADERS, STUDENT VOICES

Just in case you haven't met the Student Leadership Team, its officers are Skyler Stephens, president; Declan Stevens, vice-president; and Oliver Shatsoff, secretary. All are fifth graders.

Team members also include Krishaa Puri, fifth grade representative, and fourth grade representatives Sambit Shah, Sam Colman, Irene Peterson-McCann and Lidia Kovaci.

We are so proud of this group of leaders and look forward to the wonderful work they are going to do this year.



## New Scotland is No Place for Hate

Our student leaders and building-wide Equity Committee created a pledge that's unique to New Scotland Elementary School. The pledge is the first activity from our No Place for Hate campaign. NSES has partnered with the Anti-Defamation League to become a school that's designated as a No Place for Hate school. We will be doing activities throughout the year to fight against all forms of bias, hate, and discrimination. For more information, go to: <https://www.noplaceforhate.org>



### The NSES Pledge

At MY school,  
I want everyone to feel accepted, respected, and included,  
Even if they are not like me.  
I promise to treat them with kindness and fairness,  
and I pledge this to thee.  
Working together we can create a safe place to learn  
To be great, let's make our school no place for hate.



## PBIS award winners — Congratulations!

### November

**Prekindergarten:** Zayleeah Earl, Amora Walker, Leander Vamvas, Valentina Burdick • **kindergarten:** Zha'Niyah Banks, Thomas Sfaubach, Salimatou Balde, Kamrin Nicholson, Taylor Caldwell, Jennifer Green, Gabriella Dwobeng, Tyree Lykes • **first grade:** My'Angel Simmons, Mason McLean, Fiona Rielly, Mark McLean, Charlie Kreis, Ariela Duric • **second grade:** Anisa Mim, Di'Karrie Dukes-Bethea, Ada McLoon, Shamere Hamil, Jacob Florek, Lily Marchese • **third grade:** Luis Flores, Jason Morrill, Vivianna Dunselmann, Roxana Richard, Eloise Bryden, Alina Conoscenti, Neria Nimer, Zendaya Wolcott • **fourth grade:** Chance Gardener, Jaiden Webb, Adrian Castillo, Sandhya Chhetri, Natalie Romano, Anna Gee • **fifth grade:** Ebony Green, James Spooner, Janat Abdullah, Alijah Brace, Cecilia Tanski, Lucas Kinney, Alexander Tiburcio

### December

**Prekindergarten:** Rocco D'Addario, Ze'niya Walley, Brynna Fausel, Mia Maipi • **kindergarten:** Mason Mead, Laura Marsh, Londyn Cardona, Asiya Samimi, Maddox Foo, Susan Laccetti, Gabriel Malave-Fuertes • **first grade:** Paulie DeMasi, Mee'Raj Woods, William Carroll, Lyanna Daskalakis, Indra Braun, Alex LeSon • **second grade:** Annalise Matzner, Taryn Hallett, Gabriella Ingemie, Rory Harrington, Clara Rees, Francis Clark Raguindan, Bosco Mang • **third grade:** Jaik Brickel, Aleyzivette Sanchez, Maryam Sami, Grace Little, Yzabelle Valdez, Abigail Delano, Gianna Montalvo • **fourth grade:** Maxwell Solan, Jackson Dolan, Phoebe Carey, Thomas Addeo, Lidia Kovaci, Azari Morris • **fifth grade:** Ivonna JMe Ifenuk, Olu Adefugabi, Ruby Mercier, Emilia Eng, Aden Hotter, Janae Skervin, D'Zhani Norwood

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM EACH GRADE

**Prekindergarten.** This week we will conclude our Celebrations Around the World Unit. Pre-K loved learning about traditions and what they look like in different countries. When we come back from break, we will be diving into a space unit! It's always a blast learning about our solar system!

**Kindergarten.** We are working on counting and writing numbers 0-10 in math. We are also working on expressing our feelings by using the mood meter during our social-emotional learning time. In English language arts, we are working on identifying letters, sounds and sight words. We are talking about seasons, pumpkins, apples and the five senses.

**First grade.** We are learning to add and subtract within 20 while explaining how we got our answers. We are working hard to master sight words, and we have practiced short a,i and o. Students are recognizing and producing rhymes and learning to retell main ideas and key details. We also learned all about pumpkins and bats.

**Second grade.** We are thrilled to be partnering with Five Rivers Environmental Education Center this year, with one visit a month. This month, we learned all about animals and their habitats. In math, we are working on addition and subtraction within 20. Students are learning to read stories and identify the main idea.

**Third grade.** We are very excited to be learning about multiplication in math class. Students have been learning about what an "array" is. This will lead directly into division. In English language arts, we have been learning how to go back into a passage to look for text evidence while answering questions and being able to "prove" our answer.

**Fourth grade.** We are well into our text-based questions and answers through reading various texts and articles. We have been learning a lot about volcanoes in English language arts and science. Please ask your child to share their newfound knowledge with you! In math, we just finished learning and practicing strategies when adding and subtracting multi-digit whole numbers. This week, we are moving into multi-digit multiplication using many different strategies! To prepare for larger multiplication problems, students should be practicing multiplication facts at home.

**Fifth grade.** In math, we have been working our way through place value to the thousandths place. We are also adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing with decimals and whole numbers. In ELA, students are working on answering text-dependent questions using the text to support answers to questions in both short responses and essay writing. We will also be creating our own narrative writing piece in the next couple of weeks. In science, we have been learning about food chains and food webs, and we will be creating our own compost bins with red worms. In social studies, students have been learning about current events and working on writing pieces in response to some news stories.

**Art.** Kindergarten is exploring materials using books as inspiration. First grade is thinking about family traditions and creating holiday meal collages. Second grade is designing inventive houses and making them in clay. Third grade is making photo collages of how and where they most like to express themselves. Fourth grade is exploring using line, shape, and pattern to create visual texture. Fifth grade is using art to express issues that are important to them and making protest art prints.

**General music.** All grades started off the year playing musical games that enforce steady beat and using their singing voice. Kindergarten through second grade students have been learning and reviewing musical concepts such as high/low, loud/soft, and long (ta)/short (titi). Third through fifth graders have been composing rhythmic patterns. All grades played percussion instruments in October, preparing to use different classroom instruments as the year progresses.

**Band/orchestra.** Fourth and fifth grade players worked hard to prepare for their Dec. 21 concert on the stage at Hackett Middle School. The beginner program is ending, and new students will begin selecting instruments soon.





# TRAFFIC SAFETY = YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY

This year we have worked really hard to address the traffic concerns with our morning drop-off, and it saddens me to have to write about adults ignoring safety concerns in a newsletter that is supposed to be celebrating our students and our school. However, it seems we still have quite a few families not helping to keep all of our students safe, choosing to blatantly ignore us and our drop off procedures.

In addition to this, I have witnessed parents arguing with each other in front of their child and others, and I have physically placed myself in front of three different cars to prevent a child from being hit.

Respectfully, please follow our drop off procedures:

- Please pull as far up as you can to drop off your child. Please do not stop directly in front of the school. There are many times I am waving to parents to move up further and they still stop in front of the school. This causes a huge backup not only in our drop-off lane, but down New Scotland Avenue.
- Please do not sit in your car and watch your child walk into school.
- Please make sure your child is ready to exit the car. Do not spend time in the lane getting coats and other materials ready.
- Please do not stand outside your car and give your child a long goodbye or fix their appearance.
- If you are a walker, please use the crosswalk. Stop walking through the drop-off lane. It is roped off for a reason.
- If you want more time with your child in the morning, need more time getting their materials ready, want to see them actually walk into school or have any other reason to prevent you from dropping off and leaving, please park your car on the side street and walk your child in.

The last thing any staff person wants to do is argue with a parent, especially at the start of the day. We try to greet everyone with a smile and even assist students out of the cars. We want everyone to start their day off right. Please help us keep students safe by following our procedures.

## AVID update

During December and into January, students will be learning about goals and how to achieve both short- and long-term goals. Please ask your child what goal they are working toward!

Here are our AVID award-winners. Congratulations to them!

**Prekindergarten:** Eamon Levondosky, Aihem Naser, Joseph Drozd, Alexander Quaye • **kindergarten:** Leyi Huang, Meyer Mandel Samuel McKenna-Callaway, Yakuob Abdullah, Kaiden White, Landyn Clark, Gabriel Malave-Fuertes • **first grade:** Yousof Alharbi, Ella Zhang, Leila Choens, Laila Killikelly, Katana Brown, Roel Naqi • **second grade:** Andrew Leo, Heidi Ochoa Caguana, Leyton Gillen, Octavia Zeno, Kendall Eckert, Jayden Magwood, Rockland Hallow • **third grade:** Eleanor Gierthy, Margaret Ostrander, Neashea Milledge, Klauz Panganiban, Ryhanna Tiburcio, Noah Garcia, Giselle Popa • **fourth grade:** Harrison Sullivan, Jacob Cruz, Hasan Azzawi, Nickita Rucker, Ah'liyah Donovan, Rhys Johnson • **fifth grade:** Robert Flagler, Julia Elise Meren, Yaniel Perez, Yanielly Perez, Elena Levendosky, Amina Rais, Dai'Quan Brown

## Don't forget! No school:

- Friday, Dec. 23-Monday, Jan. 1 (Holiday Recess)
- Monday, Jan. 16 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)



## WHO'S WHO at New Scotland

**Ms. Buff**, principal  
**Ms. Rose**, assistant principal  
**Mrs. Avery-McDonald**, social worker  
**Mrs. Goetz**, social worker  
**Mrs. Capozzola**, psychologist  
**Mrs. Daley-Choudhri and Mrs. John**, nurses  
**Mrs. Allen**, office manager  
**Ms. Vicencio**, typist/attendance clerk

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