

# NORTH FORK LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCOTT HARTLEY, SUPERINTENDENT

www.northfork.k12.oh.us

TONYA MICKLEY, TREASURER



## NEWSLETTER



Volume 2, Issue 3

February 2015

### Important Reminders:

- ♦ Feb. 13, 16 - No School
- ♦ Feb. 23 - Board of Education Meeting  
Utica Jr. High
- ♦ Mar. 16 - Board of Education Meeting  
Utica High School
- ♦ Mar. 27 - No School
- ♦ Mar. 30 - April 3  
Spring Break
- ♦ April 11 - Newton PTO 5K Run/Walk  
UHS Track
- ♦ April 20 - Board of Education Meeting  
Newton Elementary
- ♦ May 6 - Kindergarten Screening  
(Newton students)
- ♦ May 7 - Kindergarten Screening (Utica students)

### Inside this issue:

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## *From the Superintendent...*

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*"It was good enough for me."*

How many times have we heard the statement, "It was good enough for me?" In education, change constantly is happening. Let's take a look at the changes in education just since the beginning of the 1980's. "The fastest growing age group for using the internet is 2-5 year olds." (NetDay News, 2005)

It was good enough for me to go without computers – In today's world, computers and technology play major roles in jobs and everyday living. How many people have a computer in their homes? What technology do you use at your place of employment? Can anyone really get through one full day without using some sort of technology? "1,000,000,000,000 web pages were posted." (Did You Know 4.0)

It was good enough for me to get through school with a D or C average. Today, graduates must take and pass State mandated tests before they are eligible to receive their diploma. How would you do taking these tests? Practice tests are on line at the Ohio Department of Education, if you want to see what our students do to get their diploma.

It was good enough for me to walk to school up hill in the snow both ways.... Today, with the fear of child predators, kidnappings, and the multitude of other illegal activities against our children, the school needs to provide safe and secure access to our doors. This means an increase in the number of buses, drivers, maintenance staff, and aides.

It was good enough for me to walk up three flights of stairs to get to my classes. With the Federal and State laws for students with disabilities, schools today are required to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. That means we need the elevators, doors that open with hand-capped buttons, restrooms that are handicapped accessible, and many other requirements.

It was good enough for me not to have air conditioning. I remember starting school after Labor Day and getting out of school at the end of May. Today we start school in the middle of August and most times do not get out until the second week of June. A new law called Jarrod's Law also requires schools to ensure air quality to make sure there is no mold and mildew in the buildings.

It was good enough for me to be able to go in and out of any door the school has. Unfortunately, because of Columbine, Sandy Hook and other school shootings, we must be able to provide safety and security for all of our students. To help keep our students safe, we needed to add electronic door locks, cameras, and security officers within our school buildings.

These are just a few of the reasons schools continue to come back to you for help. I am sure you can think of many more.... Check out "Did you Know 4.0" on your own computers.

*Scott Hartley, Superintendent*

# Congratulations!

Mrs. Jacque Smith and Mrs. Michelle Williams, Utica Junior High seventh grade language arts teachers, won a contest from AKJ BOOKS.

Pictured are some of their students with the “Christmas shrub” they created with the 75 new books they won!



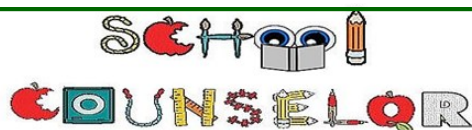
## Newton Elementary PTO 5K Run/Walk

Please consider participating in the **Second Annual Newton Elementary PTO 5K Run/Walk!** This will be on April 11, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. The race will begin and end at the high school track with the UJHS Invitational Track Meet to follow. Awards will be presented to several age groups and kids races will be held throughout the early portion of the track meet. Paid registration to the race will also give you free entry to the track meet!



So, get your running shoes out, make a team, and support our school as we encourage active, healthy lifestyles for our kids, staff, and community!

Please contact LeighAnne Dickson at [lacdickson@gmail.com](mailto:lacdickson@gmail.com) or 740.323.6795 for questions, information. Also, here is the link to the sign up sheet with more details: <http://northfork.k12.oh.us/Newtonelementary/flyer5kSignUp.pdf>



....Mrs. Susan J. Hatch, Elementary Guidance Counselor ([shatch@uhs.laca.org](mailto:shatch@uhs.laca.org))

### Elementary Character Education

Our wonderful Newton and Utica Elementary kindergarten through sixth grade students have been studying what it takes to “Be respectful, Be responsible and Be safe.” Character Education lesson topics that we have studied so far this year are “The School Rules,” “The No Bullying Policy,” “The Hazards of Cyber-Bullying,” “Fire Safety,” “Winter Holidays,” “Internet Search and Online Sources,” “Digital Animation,” “The Seasons” and “Thankfulness for Our School, Our Community, and Our Country.” We extend a huge **THANK YOU** to Librarians Mrs. Stacy Stevens and Mrs. Bonnie Stout for their assistance in presenting the Character Education Lessons.

### Newton and Utica Elementary “Courageous Kids”

Newton and Utica Elementary students are honored to be working with Ms. Sheri Weiner from Hospice of Central Ohio. Ms. Weiner is leading grief counseling sessions for those students who have lost a loved one. Nineteen of our North Fork elementary students have been participating in the “Courageous Kids” program presented at our schools for the past several weeks. In addition, Hospice of Central Ohio is offering a “Courageous Kids Camp” this summer and it is open to North Fork students. More information may be obtained about this program by emailing Ms. Weiner ([sweiner@hospiceofcentralohio.org](mailto:sweiner@hospiceofcentralohio.org)). **Thank you, Ms. Weiner,** for working with us at school!

## Utica Junior High School

Mrs. Stephanie Kimpel, School Counselor  
([skimpel@uhs.laca.org](mailto:skimpel@uhs.laca.org))

### Career Education Leads to Course Changes at Utica Junior High

Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, the junior high will follow new legislative mandates. HB 487 requires middle schools to provide career education, career counseling and further academic advising to prepare students for college and career readiness after high school. Ms. Green and Mrs. Kimpel have been working closely and partnering with C-TEC to comply with new CTE (Career-Technical Education) course requirements. Our current Computer Applications course is being redesigned to allow students into a pathway that could allow them to pursue career interests in Information Technology, Networking, and Troubleshooting just to name a few. Our Industrial Technology course is also being redesigned for pathways into Pre-Engineering careers. We are excited to share with you that next year we will offer a Career Connections course in an effort to expand current career exploration education efforts. We are looking forward to all of these new and upcoming changes!

# PRIDE NEWS

Do you remember the last time a free instructional resource was so new and inventive that you felt you had to share it with everyone? Has it been a while? Well, read on, because the web site I am going to tell you about is the most share-worthy resource I've come across in some time.

It all started the first week of school this year when Mr. Tim Jordan, the famous science teacher at the junior high, told me about a web site called Code.org. I was looking for something new to do with our superior cognitive gifted kiddos and this sounded great! I knew nothing about coding and knew I would be learning right along with the students. The new challenge began!

Code.org is a web site dedicated to engaging students and teachers in the language of coding and computer science. It presents participants

with various roads to absorb information about and the uses of computer science. Role models such as Mark Zuckerberg and NBA pro basketball player Chris Bosh explain the significance of coding and related concepts.

The content is fresh and inviting and includes 20 hour courses for K-8 students, general courses for all ages and fun labs for everyone. The start was signing a pledge for the annual Hour of Code this past December, which all of our junior high Pride students participated in. A series of video clips intended to inspire, kick off the program for any level of commitment. You can still access the site for any age student, so check it out!

Designers of the Code.org web site highlight the growing need for computer expertise. Statistics show the sad path our nation is on: 90 percent of our schools do not or

are unable to teach courses in computer science. The developers of the site believe that there is more to computer science than coding and that students should learn the why of computer science. Learning computer science is useful no matter what field a student eventually goes into and it is the best way to learn the relevance. Computer science is creative and exciting and it can make the world a better place, as students learn that failure is good. Students then learn how to persevere in solving difficult problems and trying different ways to find a solution.

It doesn't matter if you are 8 years old, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, or 80 years old, anyone can learn computer science. Check it out, share with others, and enjoy a new way of looking at technology. I know our Pride kids have enjoyed it!

**Pam Duper (pdupler@uhs.laca.org)**  
Gifted Intervention Specialist

## MONEY TALKS ~ Tonya Mickley, Treasurer

It feels GREAT to have the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) label of "Fiscal Caution" no longer associated with North Fork Schools! It has taken a lot of hard work from the staff and administration here at North Fork to come up with cost savings measures and creative ways to pay for needs of the district, and to get this label removed.

Don't get me wrong, although the label has been removed, we are by no means in the clear. Due to fiscal constraints in the past, there have been a lot of costly projects that have been put on the back burner. Examples of these include replacing the aged-leaking roof over the junior high and the high school gymnasium, reducing the average age of our bus fleet, replacing the high school gymnasium bleachers, bringing the bus garage up to proper codes, and the list goes on.

We are currently working on prioritizing these needs and trying to find ways to creatively fund each of these projects without adding stress to our General Fund budget. We know these expenditures will be spread across several years; however, funding these projects should essentially help reduce the overall maintenance and repair costs of the district in the future.

With the help of our district staff and our great community, I feel confident that we can accomplish many of these projects, and still steer clear of those nasty ODE labels for districts who are struggling financially. My office is up to the challenge, are you?

## Important Information From the Tech Department - Mrs. Kimberley Watson

- ◆ The technology department has been working with the transportation department and LACA to complete the transfer of data to Transfinder, the district's new transportation program.
- ◆ In preparation for the state online testing, the technology department has completed the setup for approximately 250 district computers. Students will use these computers for online testing beginning February 17, 2015.
- ◆ On Thursday, January 29, 2015, the district participated in the state infrastructure testing to check for potential issues that might arise during the administration of state online testing.
- ◆ The junior/senior high library printer has been setup so that high school students can print necessary assignments from their iPads.

### Friendly reminders:

- ◆ If you are interested in doing your own research on the upcoming PARCC (ELA/math) and the AIR (science/social studies) assessments, check out <http://nextgen.nwoca.org/> and see the variety of resources available. This site makes it easy to access information on question types, necessary tech skills, and practice questions.
- ◆ Parents can access their student's grades online through Progress Book. If you do not have an account already created or if you are having trouble accessing your created account, please contact [klwatson@uhs.laca.org](mailto:klwatson@uhs.laca.org) for further assistance.



Brrr it's cold outside!  
Snuggle up with a good  
book!  
Mrs. Mealick's Class  
used milk jugs to build  
their classroom reading  
igloo at Newton.

## **North Fork Maintenance Department - Terry Wohlford, Supervisor**

According to the calendar, winter officially starts December 22 and runs through March 20. That figures out to 89 days of winter, which is a little less than a quarter of the 365 days in the year.

I think that if you talk to maintenance and grounds keepers, this time of year is probably some of the busiest time for them. With the unpredictability of snow and ice in the forecast they have to be prepared to go out four or five hours before the school day starts to get parking lots and sidewalks cleared for the day. The equipment they use in snow removal is some of the hardest to keep maintained due to the harsh nature in which it has to perform.

During the course of winter we try to keep the parking lots and sidewalks as clear as we can but there can always be some slippery spots that might have been missed or may have refrozen, so please be careful and wear appropriate footwear for the conditions. By the time you read this winter should be about half over, so if you like winter as much as I do keep thinking SPRING is just around the corner. (Sorry skiers and snowmobile riders!)

Have a safe rest of the winter.



### **What: North Fork Kindergarten Screening**

Who: Child must be 5 years old on or before August 1, 2015

Where: Utica Church of Christ

When: May 6, 2015 (Newton students) May 7, 2015 (Utica students)

What to do: Please call for an appointment beginning April 20 - May 1, 2015

### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Make sure to say **congratulations** to MacKenzie Bagent, Katelyn Dunn and Adriana Harper who were just awarded free FFA jackets by Roger Smith from the Farm

Credit Service. These three have set their goals high to participate in FFA, assume a leadership role in the future and dedicate their time to help the FFA.



## Time to be aware and prevent! ~ Jenn Wygle, District Nurse

February is not only Heart Disease Awareness Month but is also Children's Dental Health Month. About **600,000 people** die of heart disease in the United States every year. **\*\*That's 1 in every 4 deaths.\*\***(cdc website) You can do your part and help prevent heart disease by doing these easy steps.

- ◆ Eat a healthy diet-- Choosing a healthy meal and snack options can help you avoid heart disease and its complications. Be sure to eat plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- ◆ Maintain a healthy weight-- Being overweight or obese can increase your risk for heart disease. To determine whether your weight is in a healthy range, doctors often calculate a number called the body mass index (BMI). Doctors sometimes also use waist and hip measurements to measure a person's excess body fat.
- ◆ Exercise regularly--Physical activity can help you maintain a healthy weight and lower cholesterol and blood pressure. The Surgeon General recommends adults engage in moderate-intensity exercise for 2 hours and 30 minutes every week.
- ◆ Don't smoke-- Cigarette smoking greatly increases your risk for heart disease. So, if you don't smoke, don't start. If you do smoke, quitting will lower your risk for heart disease. Your doctor can suggest ways to help you quit.
- ◆ Limit alcohol use--Avoid drinking too much alcohol, which causes high blood pressure.

**National Wear Red Day** takes place on February 06, 2015. National Wear Red Day is a day in February when many people wear red to show their support for the awareness of heart disease.

\*\*\*\*\*

Did you know that your teeth were intended to last a lifetime? Here are some fun facts about teeth that you might find interesting.

- ◇ Fun facts about teeth #1- How many teeth does an average person have?  
An average person has 32 teeth. That number includes 4 wisdom teeth. We have 8 incisors, 4 canines, 12 molars and 8 pre-molars.
- ◇ Fun facts about teeth #2- You get 2 sets of teeth in your lifetime.  
The first set is your baby teeth. You will start to lose your baby teeth at around 6-7 years of age. By the time your 21 years old, you will only have permanent teeth.
- ◇ Fun facts about teeth #3- What are teeth made out of?  
Teeth are covered with a hard enamel called a crown. Each tooth is attached to your jaw socket and has blood vessels and nerves.
- ◇ Fun facts about teeth #4- How many people over 65 have all their teeth?  
40% of people over 65 years of age do not have all of their teeth.
- ◇ Fun facts about teeth #5- An average American spends 38.5 days brushing their teeth over a lifetime!

### Kids can take charge of their teeth by taking these steps:

- ◇ Brush at least twice a day, after breakfast and before bedtime.
- ◇ Brush all of your teeth, not just the front ones.
- ◇ Spend at least 2 or 3 minutes each time you brush. (Try playing a CD – have the kids pick out their favorite song to help pass the time.)
- ◇ Use only toothbrushes with soft bristles.
- ◇ Ask your dentist if an antibacterial mouth rinse is right for you.
- ◇ Learn how to floss your teeth.
- ◇ Brush your tongue to help keep your breath fresh.
- ◇ Visit the dentist twice a year.
- ◇ Besides brushing and flossing, you need to be careful about what you eat and drink. Avoid sugar and eat lots of fruits and vegetables. Try to drink water instead of soda.

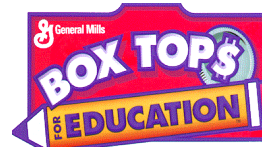
Your teeth are very important in many ways. If you take care of them, they'll help take care of you. Strong, healthy teeth help you chew the right foods to help you grow. They help you speak clearly. It's not just brushing and flossing that keep your teeth healthy — you also need to be careful about what you eat and drink. Remember, the plaque on your teeth is just waiting for that sugar to arrive. Eat lots of fruits and vegetables and drink water instead of soda. And don't forget to smile!

## NEWTON ELEMENTARY NEWS

**Ms. Michele Gorius, Principal**

### **Box Tops**

All Box Tops need to be turned in by **February 13, 2015** for this year's count. Each box top is worth ten cents. Please continue to collect them for next year. **Thank you** to Andi Pound, Michelle Hanger and April Mealick for co-chairing this project.



### **Student Council**

**Thank you** to everyone who participated in our Ugly Sweater Day on December 19! We raised \$79.25. Half of the money was sent to Hospice of Central Ohio for their Lite Up a Life project.

**The last Friday of each month**, student council will sponsor a theme day. Half of the money will be donated to a charity and the other half will go towards a school wide project.

**The upcoming dates, charities and themes are:**

|                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Feb. 27 American Heart Association | <b>WEAR RED</b> |
| Mar. 27 Pennies for Patients       | <b>PJ DAY</b>   |

Licking County Speech Pathologists will visit Newton Elementary on March 6, 2015. State Support Team 11 will be here to discuss trends and changes from the Ohio Department of Education.

## **Utica Elementary - Mr. Randy Nielsen, Principal**

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Looking ahead, Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held at Utica Elementary on Wednesday, February 4 and Wednesday, February 11. If you would like to schedule a conference, please contact your child's teacher.

### **New PARCC and Next Generation Tests**

Students all across Ohio in grades three through high school will be taking their state tests on the computer February through April. Third graders will take pencil-paper tests for OAA. If you would like to help your child practice for the tests at home, you may go to [www.infohio.org](http://www.infohio.org) and search "PARCC Testing" for your child's grade level. There are now two computer labs at our school for practice.

### **"Like" Utica Elementary on Facebook!**

Thanks to Mrs. Robinson, you can follow Utica Elementary on Facebook for news, information and fun!

### **Brrr...Let's Dress for the Weather!**

We all go out for recess unless the temperature or wind chill is below 20 degrees. Thank you for making sure your children wear winter coats, hats, and gloves to school.

\*\*\*\*\*

Congratulations to our Crystal Apple Award winner, Tina Angeletti.

We are currently doing a mini Girl Scout program Wednesday mornings, from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

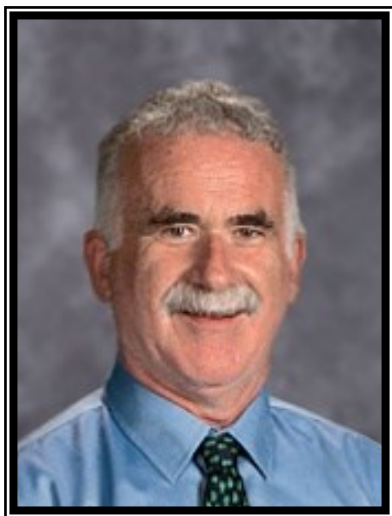
## Utica High School Drama Club Spring Play

The cast for the UHS Spring Play, *Murder for Dummies*, has been announced. Performances will be March 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at the door. The comedy tells the story of Myron, played by Brandon Feyh, a mild-mannered, henpecked husband. His nagging wife, Marge (Kallen Alsdorf) and her critical friends (Julia Barrows, Taylor Osborn and Carolyn Trout) go too far when they threaten to sell off his beloved book collection, so he buys the how-to book, "Murder for Dummies." However, nothing seems to go right in his scheme, and soon he is facing the police.

Other cast members include Korey Worth, Kirsten Cheadle, Emily Murnane, Mary McKinley, Zachery White, Grace Brubaker, Sierra Parrish, Tymon Burghy and Caitlin Myers.



**Congratulations** to Mr. Bernard Snow for twenty-five years of **BOARD OF EDUCATION SERVICE!** At the December 15, 2014 meeting, Mr. Snow was presented his award by Kim Miller-Smith, Central Regional Manager, Ohio School Boards Association.



Each year Coughlin Automotive Group awards one staff member from each Licking County school district with recognition, \$500, a framed certificate, and a reception to honor his/her outstanding effort to "Make-A-Difference" in the lives of students. Students write a brief essay explaining how their chosen teacher has made a positive impact in their life. Utica High School Student Government members then meet and read all essays and select an award recipient.

**Congratulations** to our "You Make a Difference" award winner, **Mr. John Maher!** There were so many great essays that the student government had a tough time choosing a winner; however, one student's essay stood out above the rest. Mr. Maher was nominated by several students, including Bradley Hardesty who wrote the winning essay. Congratulations!

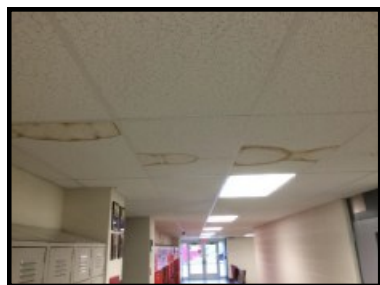
Mrs. Marissa Johnson

UHS Student Government Advisor

### ***Facility Update...***

A roof inspection of the Utica Junior/Senior High building was completed last summer by The Garland Company, Inc. A representative conducted a presentation at the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting. The roof systems are aged and at the end of their service life.

Please go to <http://northfork.k12.oh.us/District/RoofSurveyReport.pdf> to view the complete inspection report.



Leaks in the hallway can be seen here.



Past repair attempts to the roof system can be seen here.



The roof system has aged, dried out and shrunk to such extent that it is literally pulling the edge metal off of the building.