Hello Newfields Friends and Neighbors,

It’s hard to believe we are entering the tenth month of the COVID-19 pandemic. All of this has taken quite a toll on us, but it is our resilience and mutual support for each other as a community that will get us through to 2021.

Over the last quarter, our town has tackled several challenges that have been thrown our way. Whether it was our town Celebration Committee and the Police Department coordinating to make sure we had a safe Main Street Trick-or-Treat experience for our children, or our dedicated election officials ensuring a safe and efficient voting day experience at Newfields Elementary School, I have consistently witnessed friends and neighbors in town come together to creatively pull off important events in a safe way to ensure the public health of our community.

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I am hopeful we can continue to work together over the next few months while our focus turns to minimizing the winter spike of cases (which occurs with many respiratory illnesses), as well as coordinating and distributing safe and effective vaccinations against COVID-19.

I will continue to hold virtual health office Q&A sessions, with a different focus each month. I will plan on advertising the details of attending these sessions via social media and town email blast. If you have any suggestions for topics or themes, please contact me at newfieldshealthofficer@gmail.com or by calling Town Hall at 772-5070.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy holiday season,

Bobby Kelly, MD, MPH
Newfields Health Officer

NPD Helpful Hands

The Newfields Police Department has made some changes to their Helpful Hands Program due to COVID. In lieu of collecting and assembling food baskets, they provided gift cards to families for Thanksgiving and will do so for Christmas as well.

They will take a similar approach with their “Santa’s Helper” program, also a part of Helpful Hands. Donated gift cards (Walmart, Target, Amazon, etc.) and cash will be given directly to parents to use to purchase gifts for children this holiday season.

Donations will be accepted during normal business hours at the Newfields Police Station and Town Office, Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Thanks to everyone for your generosity during this time. We are so fortunate to have such great community involvement and assistance and look forward to making the holidays a bit brighter for families.

Town Hall Updates

- Property Taxes are due on Monday December 21, 2020.
- The Town Offices will be closed on Thursday 12/24, Friday 12/25, and Friday 1/1/21
- Tentative Meeting Dates, all at the Town Hall:
  - Town Budget Hearing: January 12, 2021 at 7 pm
  - Deliberative Session: February 2, 2021 at 7 pm
  - Town Election: March 9, 2021, 8am until 7 pm
- January 20-January 29, 2021-Filing period for town offices as follows:
  - Selectmen: 3-year term
  - Library Trustee: 3 year term
  - Trustee of the Trust funds: 3-year term
  - Trustee of the Trust funds: 1-year term
  - Cemetery Trustee: 3-year term
  - School Board Member: 3-year term
  - School Treasurer: 3-year term
  - School Moderator: 2-year term
- To sign up for the Town Hall listserv, which includes a monthly newsletter and periodic important announcements, email Sue McKinnon, the town clerk, at suemckinnon@newfieldsnh.gov.
Dear Newfields Community,

Happy Holidays from Newfields Elementary School! Even though these have been challenging times, I can not begin to express how grateful I am to be part of a community that cares so deeply about its children. The community has pitched in and pulled together in so many ways, from Keith Stanisewski leading us through Newfields with the firetruck during our Halloween car parade to the Country Store’s providing treats the first day back; to the Friends of the Library gifting a book to each child, from the School Board’s leadership in overseeing business to the NPTO’s creating a sense of togetherness. And, finally, a big thank you to the parents who have partnered with us to give our students a great start to a complicated year.

NES began the year remotely and then had the opportunity to return to in-person learning at the beginning of November. The faculty, staff, and students didn’t miss a beat. Students’ energy and enthusiasm was and still is palpable in the classrooms, out at recess, and in the hallways. They have appreciated being able to be with friends and teachers and experience time together. After the first day of being physically back in school, a kindergartener told me that being back in school was “just lovely.” Walking through the building, one can hear students singing morning songs, teachers reading books, and children discussing their work. These are beautiful sounds. But we also have approximately ten percent of our students being taught remotely and consider it a gift that we are able to offer both modes of instruction.

Up to this point, we’ve had no positive COVID cases, and I attribute that to the commitment of the school community to the safety measures put in place to ensure everyone’s safety. The classrooms have been designed for students to be a minimum of six feet apart. Two of the six grade classrooms have two rooms to spread out into. Both virtual and in-person modes of instruction are offered daily, and we’ve had the space and personnel to avoid any hybrid model.

It is in difficult times that true character is shown, and it has been heartwarming to experience such a high level of dedication and commitment. From my first interaction with the Newfields community, I have sensed a generosity of spirit from the Newfields community, and I am grateful to be part of this wonderful school. I wish you the happiest of holidays and look forward to even better days ahead.

Best wishes,

Principal Suzie Griffith

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**A Note from NES Principal Suzie Griffith**

Newfields Garden Club

Volunteers from the garden club decorated several pots around town at the Town Hall, Post Office, Library and Memorial Site with season greens.

A spring educational session on pollinator gardens will be held in April, exact date TBD.

The next garden club meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 15 at 7:00 pm.

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NES PTO

The Newfields Parent Teacher Organization is planning an apparel sale soon, date TBD. Keep your eyes open for the sale to benefit the NES PTO soon!
What an unusual year 2020 has been! It certainly has been a very different year for Libraries throughout the world, and here at home for the Paul Memorial Library.

As we planned for 2020 Cori, Brittney and I were eager for more story hours, we had plans for programs for kids and adults, and we were looking forward to attracting even more residents to our wonderful little library.

As the year began, we held Lego Club for the kids; hosted Yogi, the Golden Retriever, for reading hours with children and parents; the Trustees held their 8th Annual Pancake Breakfast; and actress/presenter Sheryl Faye presented her historical play about suffragette Susan B. Anthony.

While Covid put much of 2020 on hold, we were able to hold our annual Summer Reading Program for kids of all ages and host drive in movies, which were enjoyed by many throughout the summer. And we also managed to pull off our second annual Haunted Library. Did you survive the Haunted Library? Several youngsters enjoyed our annual boo parade as well.

So far this year the library has loaned more than 6,000 items, and managed more than 1,700 in person visits. Our curbside pickup service continues and has been very popular. And we continue to prepare and distribute take-home crafts for the kids (and parents) to work on. In short, while it’s been a very different year, 2020 has had many successes.

We’ve learned a lot this past year and expect that we will be better able to meet the challenges that 2021 may bring.

Please follow the Library on Facebook and check out our website regularly. Call or email us (778-8169 or newpl@comcast.net) for an appointment to come visit us. We’d love to see you. The Library has lots of great new books and DVDs to share with you!

As always, the Library would like to thank the Friends of the Paul Memorial Library for their continued support. Their generosity provides for additional books, all of the our purchased DVD’s, prizes for summer reading and many of the great programs we are able to offer, including the Haunted Library and take-home crafts. A huge thank you also to those volunteers who have helped with events throughout the year. We appreciate the direction and support of the Board of Library Trustees and the Newfields Select Board.

Finally, we thank the citizens of Newfields for their support and encouragement. We look forward to seeing you, your friends and family soon!

Carl Heidenblad
Director, Paul Memorial Library
New on the Shelves

PAUL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Adult Fiction Books
- Leave the World Behind by Rumaan Alam
- The German Girl by Armando Lucas Correa
- Spoiler Alert by Olivia Dade
- The Dollhouse by Fiona Davis
- The Wonder Boy of Whistle Stop by Fannie Flagg
- The Searcher by Tana French
- The Lighthouse Keeper’s Daughter by Hazel Gaynor
- The Book of Lamps and Banners by Elizabeth Hand
- Squeeze Me by Carl Hiaasen
- Magic Lessons by Alice Hoffman
- Invisible Girl by Lisa Jewell
- Love Your Life by Sophie Kinsella
- Searching for Sylvie Lee by Jean Kwok
- In a Holidaze by Christina Lauren
- Goodnight Beautiful by Aimee Molloy
- The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison
- The Book of Two Ways by Jodi Picoult
- Bloody Genius by John Sandford
- The Return by Nicholas Sparks
- Confessions on the 7:45 by Lisa Unger
- The Cold Millions by Jess Walter

Adult Nonfiction Books
- A Building History of Northern New England by James Garvin
- The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History by John Barry
- Flower Painting in Watercolor by Charles Reid
- Black Klansman: Race, Hate and the Undercover Investigation of a Lifetime by Ron Stallworth

Children and Young Adult Books
- Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster by Jonathan Auxier
- Premeditated Myrtle: A Myrtle Hardcastle Mystery by Elizabeth Bunce
- A Crystal of Time by Soman Chainani
- So Far from Home: The Diary of Mary Driscoll, an Irish Mill Girl by Barry Denenberg
- Dozens of Doughnuts by Carrie Finison
- I Can Draw Animals by Ray Gibson
- What Shall I Draw? by Ray Gibson
- Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie: The Oregon Trail Diary of Hattie Campbell by Kristiana Gregory
- The Great Railroad Race: The Diary of Libby West by Kristiana Gregory
- The Winter of Red Snow: The Diary of Abigail Jane Stewart, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania by Kristiana Gregory
- Twins by Varian Johnson
- Dreams in the Golden Country: The Diary of Zipporah Feldman, a Jewish Immigrant Girl by Kathryn Lasky
- A Time of Courage: The Suffragette Diary of Kathleen Bowen by Kathryn Lasky
- Mystery in the Mansion: Pick your path, crack the case by Lauren Magaziner
- The Book with No Pictures by B.J. Novak
- The Old Truck by Jarrett Pumphrey
- Owl - The Way Home by Andy Runton
- Owl - Just a Little Blue by Andy Runton
- Snail Crossing by Corey Tabor
- Robobaby by David Wiesner
- An Elephant and Piggie Biggie! by Mo Willems

DVDs
- Game of Thrones - The Complete Second Season
- The Addams Family, Addams Family Values
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Cell: 603.770.7560
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Newfields, New Hampshire 03856
Ph 603.778.7687  Fax 603.778.2471  www.snhv.net

Mary McCluskey
Resident of Newfields
REALTOR® in NH, ME & MA
Email me for my visual tour of Newfields!

603.498.2339 direct
603.778.6400 office
mmcluskey@thegovegroup.com
70 Portsmouth Ave, Stratham, NH
Huckleberry’s CANDIES
Caren MacAskill, Owner
HuckleberrysCandies.com
Hello@HuckleberrysCandies.com
293 Lafayette Road, Hampton, NH 03842
603-926-5061

Tobey & Merrill
INSURANCE
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DD (603) 601 1001
P (603) 416 7655
F (603) 601 1005
linda@tobeymerrill.com
20 High Street
Hampton, NH 03842
www.tobeymerrill.com

Huckleberry’s CANDIES
Caren MacAskill, Owner
HuckleberrysCandies.com
Hello@HuckleberrysCandies.com
293 Lafayette Road, Hampton, NH 03842
603-926-5061

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F (603) 601 1005
linda@tobeymerrill.com
20 High Street
Hampton, NH 03842
www.tobeymerrill.com

Get Your Message Out
While Supporting the Library
Contact the Friends of Newfields Public Library
friendsofNPL@comcast.net
To: Residents of Newfields
New Hampshire

Support Friends through the Hannaford Giving Bag Program

Friends of the Newfields Public Library has qualified for the Hannaford Giving Bag Program. To donate, purchase a Community Giving Bag at Hannaford which comes with a $1 Giving Tag. Follow the instructions on the tag and choose Friends of the Newfields Public Library. At no additional cost to you, Hannaford will make a donation to Friends.

Join the Friends of the Newfields Public Library

HELP THE PAUL MEMORIAL LIBRARY BE AN ACTIVE, VITAL, AND FUN RESOURCE FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

Your support makes many things possible for Newfields residents, including:

- Special events and activities such as: Trivia Night, Baking Competitions, Family Game Night, Reading-program prizes, election day bake sales, and more.
- Monthly additions to the library’s extensive DVD, book, and magazine collections.
- This newsletter sent to EVERY home and business in town!
- Passes to the: Seacoast Science Center (Rye); and Children’s Museum of NH (Dover). Let us know of any other museums you’d be interested in.
- Resources and tools such as: a new cd/dvd disc-repair machine, telescope, computers and printers.

SIGN UP

☐ Annual Membership $25
☐ Additional Donation $________
☐ Are you interested in volunteering?
☐ Would you like to receive our monthly electronic newsletter via email?

Please make checks payable to: Friends of the Newfields Public Library, and drop off or mail this completed form with payment to: 76 Main Street, Newfields, NH 03856.

CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE ZIP

TELEPHONE (HOME AND/OR CELL)

EMAIL