

Stella Niagara celebrates 8th grade graduation



Submitted by Stella Niagara Education Park

On Tuesday, June 30, Stella Niagara Education Park proudly held a graduation ceremony for the eighth grade Class of 2020. Following guidelines from New York state, SNEP's 335-foot parking lot was transformed into family carrels decorated with blue and gold balloons and labeled artistically by students armed with sidewalk chalk.

Nicholas Picholas of WKSE "KISS" 98.5-FM and parent of a graduating eighth grader, was kind enough to provide a stage and sound system for the outside ceremony. Sister Margaret Sullivan, principal, and eighth grade teacher Margaret Feuerman presented the diplomas as well as many special awards unique to the Class of 2020.

While the end of the 2020 school year was challenging, the focus of the day was celebrating these students and all they achieved over their years at Stella Niagara. Students were recognized for their

academic achievement as well as their dedication to the safety of their fellow students and the commitment to the school community through participation in functions and events.

Feuerman was proud to acknowledge that all graduates received the Safety Patrol Award, the Community Service Award and the Drama Club Award.

This does not happen every year and is evidence of the graduates' commitment to their school and reflects the quality of their character. Long before COVID-19 and the lockdown, these young people knew that whether on the basketball court, the soccer field, the stage, the classroom or the stop sign, we are all in this together.

On Sunday, prior to the graduation ceremony, the eighth grade students, their families and our faculty had one last Zoom session to view the eighth grade video. This video was a compilation of pictures from Montessori pre-K through eighth grade. Watching

the video over Zoom was a fitting end to our current situation. There was much laughter, tears and joy as everyone watched the video!

In addition to the normal accolades SNEP graduates receive every year at graduation, this year Stella Niagara's middle school teachers crafted special awards personally for each graduate to recognize all of the personality they brought to the school. Here are some of the awards:

Lily Clark was given the MARVEL-ous Award for finding ways to insert the Avengers into all of her assignments.

Andrew David was given the Roberto el Romantico Award for incorporating his role into every Spanish story.

Madeline Heidt was given the Voracious Reader Award for putting Mrs. Trower to work finding Maddy books to read.

Reese Honadle was given the How to Succeed in School Award for her tenacity and dedication to

achieving her goal of consistently making high honors.

Ryann Honadle was given the Teacher Award for helping Mrs. D'Aloise when she was teaching.

Yusuf Huzmeli was given the Lawnmower Award for choreographing all the shenanigans during "Build Me Up Buttercup" in drama 113.

Alicia Lama was given the Comedian and Most Quotable Award for making the teachers laugh and her sarcastic wit.

Emily Mountain was given the Dream Team Award for her devotion to her fellow swimmers and her excellent work in the pool.

Erik Parkes was given the "I need an alarm clock" Award for needing a wake-up call occasionally during distance learning.

Ava Pauly was given the Infection Smile Award for being so joyful all the time.

Sofie Schimmelpenninck van der Oye was given the Age to Age award for all of the love and compassion she's shown to

the Sisters of St. Francis over the years.

Lola Sperry was given the "Let's hide on Mrs. Feuerman" Award for her antics in biology.

Christopher Trapasso was given the Experto en Tecnologia Award for helping Senora Bennett and everyone else with their technology issues.

Following the presentation of diplomas and awards, the Class of 2020 presented a tree to the school, and Sr. Margaret made a special blessing of the tree. The tree is a Cleveland flowering pear tree and will be located just beyond the chapel steps. In closing, Sister Margaret blessed the graduates and their families with the words of St. Francis.

Sister Margaret was happy that, while the end of the school year was not what anyone imagined or expected, the graduation ceremony was one as unique as our graduates and properly celebrated the accomplishments of the Class of 2020.

NCCC announces plans for fall semester



One of NCCC's science labs (C-208) that has been outfitted with Lexan to create a "single-occupancy" work area for each student in the lab. Beginning Wednesday, students returned to campus to take lab classes for the summer.

Niagara County Community College has announced plans for the fall semester, which begins Aug. 31. The college will offer in-person, online and hybrid classes, as well as face-to-face labs that require hands-on instruction such as culinary, CADD, health sciences and other related courses. The announcement was made in conjunction with SUNY approving the "Fall 2020 Reopening Plan for NCCC."

The reopening plan was developed by a campuswide committee comprised of faculty, staff, students and administrators with guidance from community members trained in dealing with health crisis emergencies.

"The reopening of the NCCC Sanborn campus and the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute campus will be a measured and gradual approach to ensure the health and safety of students, faculty

and staff," President William J. Murabito wrote in an email to the campus community. "While we realize the situation may change in the future, we hope that this announcement will provide direction and guidance to all."

Student housing at NCCC will reopen for the fall 2020 semester with reduced occupancy, eliminating shared rooms and making all rooms single-occupancy. Any resident with suspected COVID-19 infection will be quarantined in a suite pending testing and confirmed results, as needed.

NCCC's reopening plan details enhanced measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, including increasing disinfection and cleaning protocols, providing free hand sanitizer stations in every building, and maintaining social distancing guidelines. Masks will be provided to every student,

faculty and staff member upon their return to campus. In accordance with guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and working with the Niagara County Health Department, testing and contact tracing protocols will also be in place for students, faculty and staff members. Every person coming to campus will need to go through a screening process as well as pass through a free-standing infrared temperature screening device that has been purchased to provide maximum distance when screening is being conducted.

Some of the more thorough measures the college has taken to protect the students and staff include installing Lexan barriers in the labs and in the offices to create a physical barrier between students and staff. These barriers have been installed in the college's science labs, the culinary labs and in high-traffic offices on campus.

The NCCC campus is currently open to the public for college business only. Remote services for enrollment and advisement will also continue to be available. Registration is now open for the fall semester. For more information about NCCC's reopening plan or how to enroll, visit www.niagaracc.suny.edu.

During the first week of August, Gov. Andrew Cuomo will make a determination about the resumption of in-person schooling.

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- Outdoor Worship at 9:00am on June 28th, July 5th, and July 12th at the church.
- Online worship can be viewed at MessiahLewiston.org

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