

For Immediate Release: May 21, 2018
Contact: seth.piccirillo@niagarafallsny.gov

Memorial Day Soap Box Derby in Niagara Falls ***Putting STEAM Curriculum in Motion***

The Niagara Falls City School District, the City of Niagara Falls and Niagara Falls Teachers Local 801 are bringing back an old tradition with new flare. Please join us for a Soap Box Derby on Monday, May 28, 2018 at 10 am on Pine Avenue.

What: Memorial Day Soap Box Derby
When: 10 am - Monday, May 28, 2018
11 am - Kickin' It With The Cops Picnic
Where: 1200 Block of Pine Ave. (in front of Niagara Arts and Cultural Center)

The soap box cars have been built, and will be raced by, local Gaskill and Lasalle Preparatory School students as part of a Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) curriculum. *STEAM is designed to motivate* students to take thoughtful risks, engage in experiential learning, persist in problem-solving, embrace collaboration, and work through the creative process. Construction of the vehicles was funded by the school district's 21st Century grant and painting services were donated by Jocoy's Collision Inc.

The Memorial Day Soap Box Derby offers the opportunity for Niagara Falls students to show off their hard work and have some fun in the process. It also serves as another example of the positive results that partnership between the City of Niagara Falls and the Niagara Falls City School District creates. The derby will be organized into two car heats, raced by the student-builders themselves. The Niagara Falls Police Department will host a *Kickin' it with the Cops* Picnic immediately after the races, on the front lawn of the Niagara Arts and Cultural Center. Traffic will be closed on Pine Avenue from Portage Road to 15th Street, and we ask that guests park on side streets.

Mark Laurrie, Superintendent of the Niagara Falls City School District: "This is another example of some of the progressive and inventive ways we are educating our children. With strong partnerships, excellent staff, and interested students, we will continue to think outside the box and offer unique ways to develop our students."

Paul Dyster, Mayor of City of Niagara Falls: "When the city and school district get together, we all win. Our local students and teachers continue to display impressive creativity and ingenuity as partners in community projects. We are proud to be a part of the Memorial Day Soap Box Derby."

Rich Clark, Science Teacher/STEM Coordinator: "The soap box derby allows our students to see an idea move from concept to finish line, while having fun in the process. STEAM allows teachers to move learning out of classroom into our neighborhoods."

Marcus Latham, President, Niagara Falls Local 801: “We are rebooting a familiar tradition with modern educational tools. Niagara Falls teachers are committed to dynamic learning experiences and are looking forward to the derby becoming an annual Niagara Falls tradition.

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