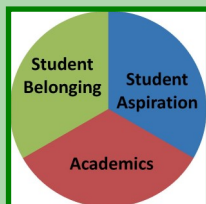




New Milford Public Schools  
50 East Street  
New Milford, CT 06776  
860-355-8406  
[www.newmilfordps.org](http://www.newmilfordps.org)



**New Milford High School**  
860-350-6647

Mr. Raymond Manka, Principal  
Mr. Kevin Best, Asst. Principal  
Mrs. Liz Curtis, Asst. Principal



**Schaghticoke Middle School**  
860-354-2204

Ms. Linda Scoralick, Interim Principal  
Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, Asst. Principal  
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal  
Mrs. Sasha Salem, Asst. Principal



**Sarah Noble Intermediate School**  
860-210-4020

Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal  
Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Asst. Principal  
Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Asst. Principal



**Hill & Plain Elementary School**  
860-354-5430

Mr. Eric Williams, Principal  
Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Asst. Principal



**Northville Elementary School**  
860-355-3713

Mrs. Gwen Gallagher, Principal  
Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, Asst. Principal

# Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 12, Issue 6

December 2021

## Sharing the Spirit of Giving

Our NMPS staff and families were generous in sharing the spirit of giving this month as they participated in several donation drives to benefit local organizations.

Throughout the month, the children of Northville Elementary had an opportunity to help support local families and show just how much they care. During the week of December 13-17, families were asked to consider having their children earn money by helping out and doing “extra” chores at home. The total money earned was sent to the child’s teacher in an envelope labeled CARES \$. Funds raised were used to purchase presents for New Milford families to brighten their holiday. A school assembly celebrated the amount earned and what was purchased, thanks to the students’ hard work. NES also helped to keep the community warm this winter season by collecting new gloves, hats, and socks for New Milford Social Services. HPS staff showed their kindness by donating Christmas gifts that benefited their school community.



SNIS was focused on giving in a variety of ways. Camella's Cupboard, a nonprofit organization in our town whose mission is to provide year round hunger relief to children, seniors, and other vulnerable populations in the greater New Milford community was the recipient of some 3rd grade generosity. This holiday season, Camella's Cupboard hoped to create 175 “Christmas Eve boxes” to gift to New Milford families.



To help with this initiative, all twelve 3rd grade classrooms have been collecting hot chocolate, metal cookie cutters, marshmallows, candy canes, sugar cookie mix, and microwave popcorn to donate to Camella's Cupboard. Two huge carloads of items were delivered!

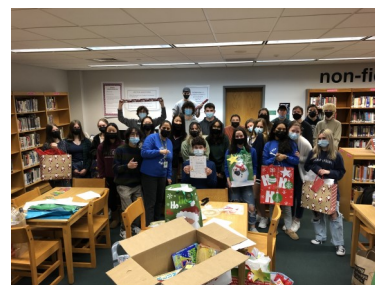
After taking a hiatus in 2020, Sarah Noble’s 4th grade was back in action, ready to raise money for Connecticut Children’s Medical Center by sponsoring the 4th Annual PJ Day to support children at CCMC. The event is always a fun and successful fundraiser!



Sarah Noble's 5th graders focused on the volunteer-run Santa Fund, which for over 40 years has provided gifts and food to area families who might not otherwise be able to provide a holiday celebration. Each 5th grade class adopted a local child and raised money to purchase a toy, a book, mittens/gloves, a winter hat, and a gift card. This year they adopted 12 children and earned a total of over \$1,500.00! Each class was able to wrap their gifts and send them off for a special Christmas morning delivery.



At SMS, the Student Council held a food drive to benefit Camella's Cupboard. Items collected included fruit cups, juice boxes, granola bars, fruit snacks/fruit roll ups, individual oatmeal packets, individual peanut butter cups, small bags of Goldfish crackers, and small boxes of cereal.



At NMHS, the giving was spearheaded by multiple clubs within the school. Camella's Cupboard was the lucky recipient of donations from the Asian Students International Club and the National Honor Society. Social Services was the beneficiary of donations from the Interact Club (toys), French Honor Society (books and boots), and New Milford Athletic Council (hats and mittens). SADD took its mitten collection to Tall Paul's Closet here in New Milford.

We are so appreciative of the generosity of NMPS families and staff as they support community members in need. Best wishes to all for a Happy, Healthy New Year!



Parents and students, please check out the Youth Agency's Podcast series wherever you get your podcasts. The latest podcast discusses the joys of becoming a foster parent and the need for caring adults in the lives of children in our area. You can also listen by visiting their website, [www.youthagency.org](http://www.youthagency.org). For more information about joining the student team or to be a guest on a program, please contact Stacey at [skabasakalian@newmilford.org](mailto:skabasakalian@newmilford.org).

## News from Our Schools

### Northville Elementary School

Winter is settling in. We are gearing up for the end of 2021, and will ring in 2022 with new energy, enthusiasm, and more good vibes! This is the time of year for deep breaths and gentle reminders for all of us to remain rooted in the present. As hectic as things seem in and out of school, we know it's important to savor the moments (big and small) instead of wishing them away.

This month, Ms. Burger's Excel classes talked about Gingerbread. Throughout the month, they used this theme for learning activities such as counting, shape practice, and matching letters. They also listened to some stories and discussed how they are the same and different. They had lots of fun with some art projects to practice their fine motor skills. The children's kitchen area turned into a bakery for some great pretend play!

In Kindergarten, the children enjoyed "Grinch Day" at the beginning of December to kick off the season. They read "Gingerbread Lost in the School" and then went on a Gingerbread Hunt. There was also "Polar Express Day," which is always exciting for our fabulous Kindergartners!



The first graders enjoyed the town wide "ugly sweater" day. Pictured are Mr. MacKessy's first graders having some fun! Second grade finished up their non-fiction reading and writing units. In math they are continuing to learn efficient addition and subtraction strategies.

Ms. Lakoff-Paquette's music classes worked on winter songs, as well as songs for Chanukah, Kwanza and Christmas and they practiced dances from the Nutcracker. In Guidance class, students have been learning with the Choose Love Enrichment Program, which teaches SEL, character education, emotional intelligence, and mindfulness. Choose Love lessons help develop self-management, self-awareness, social skills and responsible decision-making skills. Students have been introduced to the Choose Love formula: Courage + Gratitude + Forgiveness + Compassion in Action = Choosing Love. For December, students learned about Compassion. They explored ways to show caring in action and develop empathy towards others.



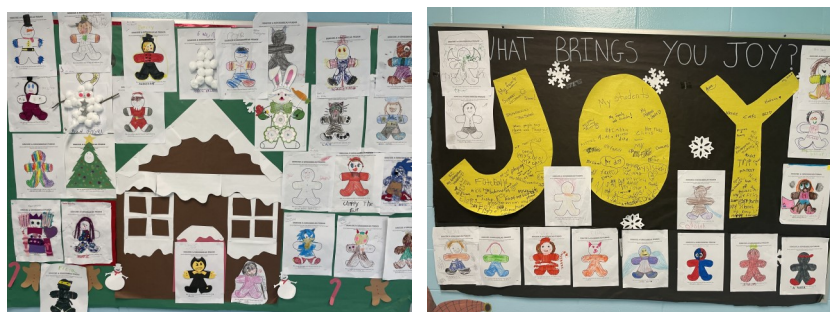
We are counting our many blessings and bundling up for three more months of slushy New England "fun." We send our heartfelt wishes to all students, parents, care-givers, and staff for a warm, wonderful, and safe holiday break!



## Hill and Plain Elementary School

During the month of December, Hill and Plain Elementary has been focused on spreading kindness. Many students have been spotted by Barkley showing that “I matter, you matter and school matters”.

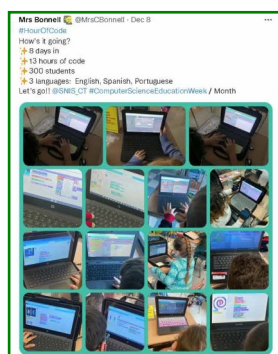
HPS offers a big thank you to the Hill and Plain PTO for organizing and running a successful Holiday Store. Thank you as well to the families that came by and supported the school during this event. The PTO also ran a Gingerbread decorating activity that students had fun with.



Hill and Plain wishes the entire New Milford community Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

## Sarah Noble Intermediate School

If you follow the SNIS Twitter feed, @SNIS\_CT, you'll see lots of tidbits about what's going on daily at the school. Over just the past few weeks, you could see students engaged in an Hour of Code, investigating mold growth as a Science lesson, participating in Math workshops, and celebrating Ugly Sweater Day, just to name a few of the many activities. Remember, all the other schools tweet too!



## Schaghticoke Middle School



During the month of December the school newspaper club published the fall edition of “The Surge Review.” Students contributed articles on the school dress code, school lunches, a review of a local restaurant, and an update on school clubs and activities. Mr. Scott Mason

serves as the advisor for the club and he dedicated a great deal of time to meeting with students and helping them to brainstorm topics for articles, do research, write drafts, and refine their work. Our students did an incredible job! To read the paper, [please click here](#).



Our winter athletics programs are off to a great start with over 80 students participating in our basketball program! Students are practicing hard and are excited to be able to compete this winter. Go Surge!

### New Milford High School

\*Courtesy of the New Milford High School eNews Blast. Check it out at <https://www.smores.com/gzuj8>

### The NMHS School Play Delights Audiences!

After missing two dress rehearsals due to the unexpected roof fire at NMHS, the cast and crew of the NMHS play *She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurers Edition* managed to open on schedule Friday, December 3rd. After working out some logistical issues, cast and crew went on with the show, delighting (and humorously terrifying) audiences with the entertaining story.



**Next up for NMHS Theatre is the spring All-School Musical: Chicago!**



### Instant Decision Week Yields 92% Acceptance Rate for NMHS Seniors

The 2021 NMHS Instant Decision Week for seniors has come to a close, with all applications being processed by Admissions Reps from *five* different schools including Western, Central and Southern Connecticut State Universities, Naugatuck Valley Community College, and the University of Hartford. The event generated on-the-spot acceptances for 92% of those applicants (34 students), with the remaining applicants (3 students) being wait-listed until after midterm. For the admitted students, they won't have to wait any longer to find out whether or not they've been accepted. For the wait-listed students, meeting the rep face-to-face virtually and making that personal connection allows the student to stand out individually as more than just grades on a transcript, or scores in a report when their application goes before the school's Admissions committee after the close of first semester. It also provides the wait-listed student with an opportunity to discuss alternate options for admission to the school, through a different program, as a transfer student, and the like. Congratulations to all the students who participated!

## ***SADD Hosts Holiday Spirit Week***

NMHS Students Against Destructive Decisions, SADD, hosted a Holiday Recess Spirit Week!

Starting Monday, December 20th, students were invited to deck the halls of NMHS by wearing their very best holiday garb.

## ***Athletic Updates***

The Fall sports season at NMHS was not only epic, but historic. Our teams had some impressive accomplishments. Please join us in congratulating the following student-athlete award recipients below!

### **All State & All New England Award Recipients**

**Collin Walsh** - *All State*, Boys Cross Country  
**Claire Daniels** - *All State*, Girls Cross Country  
**Sydney Kelleher** - *All State & All-New England*, Girls Cross Country  
**Mya Morabito** - *All State*, Girls Cross Country  
**Madelaine Sweeney** - *All State & All-New England*, Girls Cross Country  
**Mia Antonucci** - *All State*, Field Hockey  
**Emma Deakin** - *All State*, Field Hockey  
**Sydney Slupatchuk** - *All State*, Girls Volleyball

### **SWC All Conference Award Recipients**

**Ben Daniels** - *1st Team All Conference*, Boys Cross Country  
**Ben Schipul** - *1st Team All Conference*, Boys Cross Country  
**Andrew Taborsak** - *1st Team All Conference*, Boys Cross Country  
**Collin Walsh** - *1st Team All Conference*, Boys Cross Country  
**Caleb Cerra** - *2nd Team All Conference*, Boys Cross Country  
**James Najera** - *2nd Team All Conference*, Boys Cross Country  
**Claire Daniels** - *1st Team All Conference*, Girls Cross Country  
**Isabel Greene** - *1st Team All Conference*, Girls Cross Country  
**Sydney Kelleher** - *1st Team All Conference*, Girls Cross Country  
**Mya Morabito** - *1st Team All Conference*, Girls Cross Country  
**Madelaine Sweeney** - *1st Team All Conference*, Girls Cross Country  
**Elizabeth Rainey** - *2nd Team All Conference*, Girls Cross Country  
**Katherine Taborsak** - *2nd Team All Conference*, Girls Cross Country  
**Mia Antonucci** - *1st Team All Conference*, Field Hockey  
**Emma Deakin** - *1st Team All Conference*, Field Hockey  
**Carly Lynch** - *All Colonial*, Field Hockey  
**Meaghan Sheedy** - *All Colonial*, Field Hockey  
**Charlie Vaughney** - *All Colonial*, Field Hockey  
**Caroline Staller** - *Honorable Mention*, Field Hockey



Continued next page...



### **SWC All Conference Award Recipients**

**Ava Waldman** - *Honorable Mention, Field Hockey*  
**Grace King** - *Honorable Mention, Field Hockey*  
**Kyleigh Stellato** - *Honorable Mention, Field Hockey*  
**Reese Vanek** - *1st Team All Conference, Football*  
**Jeremy Santos** - *2nd Team All Conference, Football*  
**Jayden Alfano** - *2nd Team All Conference, Football*  
**Matthew Schneider** - *Honorable Mention, Football*  
**William Pavlinsky** - *Honorable Mention, Football*  
**Nicolas Coloneri** - *All Colonial, Golf*  
**Christian Mendoza** - *1st Team All Conference, Boys Soccer*  
**Kevin Sari** - *All Colonial, Boys Soccer*  
**Cooper Vengrove** - *All Colonial, Boys Soccer*  
**Nathan Gray** - *Honorable Mention, Boys Soccer*  
**Mya Sheehan** - *All Colonial, Girls Soccer*  
**Anichka Malachi** - *All Colonial, Girls Soccer*  
**Ruby McSherry** - *All Colonial, Girls Soccer*  
**Sarah Falder** - *2nd Team All Conference, Girls Swim (200 Free)*  
**Sydney Slupatchuk** - *1st Team All Conference, Girls Volleyball*  
**Grace Christian** - *All Colonial, Girls Volleyball*  
**Leah Smith** - *All Colonial, Girls Volleyball*  
**Ryan Classey** - *Honorable Mention, Girls Volleyball*

Fall Sports Awards Night was held December 15th in the NMHS Main Gym for all teams. All Winter Sports have been practicing for what is scheduled to be a full winter season with regular season competitions, SWC Tournaments, and CIAC State Tournaments. The schedules for all Winter Sports can be viewed on the high school website under athletics at: [NMHS Athletic Website](#).

### **Update from New Milford Adult Education**

*\*Courtesy of NMAE Fall/Winter newsletter*

Adult Education continues our return to student centered learning and work readiness all the while maintaining Covid protocols. We have slowly reintroduced learning stations within the classrooms for both the High School and ESL students allowing for movement, discussion and independent learning opportunities while in the classroom setting.

Our student advisory formed, began the process of creating their identity, and had its first student event. Students Gianney Arzu and Savannah Yeomans met with Program Director Christy Martin, Guidance Counselor Joe Neff and Secretary Elaine Donahue to put forth the purpose of the committee's mission statement which is as follows:



*The student advisory committee is the student organization that acts as a representative for New Milford Adult Education. Its purpose is to collaborate with teachers, administrators and fellow students to improve student life and provide students with valuable learning experiences. The committee will promote a sense of community within the school, act as a voice for students with the staff and administration, provide community service, celebrate the achievements of our diverse student body and promote leadership skills.*

*Through this, we will serve our school and community by voicing the student body's collective ideas and putting their ideas into action. Leadership is a key component of a successful advisory committee. Participation encourages responsibility, citizenship and leadership.*

These two student representatives will act as a liaison between the student body and the committee with realistic expectations and goals. Some topics covered were how to reach out into the community where there are volunteer opportunities and how to create some social events here at the school for the NMAE students.

On October 27, the first Student Advisory event took place in the form of a Halloween pizza party with "Career Bingo" afterwards, created and led by NMAE English teacher Keli Solomon. Excellent student participation, enthusiasm, food and fellowship made this a fun get-together!



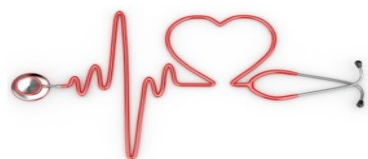
NMAE celebrated its Hall of Fame students for October and November.



The "Hall of Fame" for October and November spotlighted NMAE students of the month. Several key criteria are used by teachers when they choose a student to be placed on the Hall of Fame board. Some of those criteria include students' good work ethic, positive attitude, class participation, grades and good attendance.

In addition, respectful attitude, outstanding behavior, attention to classroom rules, and completing assignments round out the list of things that students are expected to accomplish. Our students are writing, creating, learning, showing up, developing computer skills and creating community!





## Notes from the School Nurses

Thank you for all of your efforts to keep our children well and able to attend school in person as often as possible. Recently, the number of children who have been affected by Covid-19 has risen in the community, and consequently, the number of children in quarantine has risen.

The district recently updated its Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan. You can view the update on the district website [here](#).

If you are planning to travel over the holiday break or take part in a large gathering, please be certain to review the travel recommendations found here: <https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus/travel>.



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HEROES**

**Now Hiring Substitute Teachers and Paraprofessionals  
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- Weekly Pay and Bonus Programs

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Beth Salaris | BSalaris@ESS.com

(EOE)

Substitute teachers and paraprofessionals are valued members of the NMPS community and are critical to helping keep our schools open for student learning.

Apply now at [ESS.com](https://ESS.com)



## Congratulations to New Milford Public Schools "Stars" for December 2021!



### **April Breidster, NES Teacher**

*"April is empathic, caring and absolutely encouraging and engaging with kids. She is quick to respond if I ever have a question or concern as a parent. She is indeed a rare gem, her passion for kids is contagious."*

### **Corinne Palmer, NMHS Teacher**

*"Mrs. Palmer is a very dedicated Social Studies teacher going into her 7th year at NMHS and year 15 as an educator. She loves the content she teaches, her students, and working at NMHS! She works tirelessly for the success of her students."*



### **Jennifer Travers-Hartglass, HPS S&LP**

*"Jennifer worked closely with the district audiologist to provide one of our students the proper apparatus to be able to hear classmates and teacher. On the first day, the student proudly announced with joy on her face that she could hear them. Thank you Jennifer for making this possible."*

Parents, students, and fellow staff members are invited to [complete a short online form](#) to nominate a New Milford Public Schools staff member: whether it be a teacher, guidance counselor, nurse, paraeducator, school psychologist, secretary, social worker, administrator, cafeteria worker, custodian, coach or another support person of your choice. You are welcome to make a nomination at any time and for as many deserving staff members as you wish. From all the forms submitted, honorees will be randomly selected each month for public recognition by the Board of Education at its monthly meeting and they will receive a "star" lapel pin as a small symbol in recognition of their many star qualities.

A digital form titled "Nominate NMPS Staff for Recognition". The form includes a header with a fireworks graphic, a subtitle "Nominate a 'Star' staff member for recognition by the New Milford Board of Education", and fields for "Staff Member Name" and "Short answer text". Below these is a section for "School" with a list of schools and checkboxes: ☐ Hill and Plain Elementary School, ☐ Northville Elementary School, ☐ Sarah Noble Elementary School, ☐ Schaghticoke Middle School, and ☐ New Milford High School.



# New Milford Public Schools SUPERINTENDENT'S 2022-23 PROPOSED BUDGET WORKSHOP



Please join Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo and district administrators via Zoom for a budget focused workshop. The session will be recorded.

## JANUARY 5, 2022

*Focus on...*

**Special Education Out of District Tuition and Transportation  
Enrollment and Staffing**

**5 PM to 7 PM  
SNIS LMC  
and  
Via Zoom**

<https://zoom.us/j/99311302451?pwd=bGIYY3JGbmF5WUt5STBWMnNpbmJNQOT09>

Meeting ID: 993 1130 2451

Passcode: 044600

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,99311302451#,,,,\*044600# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,99311302451#,,,,\*044600# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 993 1130 2451

Passcode: 044600

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/avf6KxYgk>



**New Milford Board of Education Budget Hearings  
Will Be Held in the SNIS LMC on:**

January 18

January 19

January 25

**January 26: Vote on Budget Adoption**





## New Milford Public Schools

50 East Street  
New Milford, CT 06776  
860-355-8406

**Ms. Alisha DiCorpo**  
Superintendent

**Ms. Holly Hollander**  
Assistant Superintendent

**Mr. Matthew Cunningham**  
Facilities Director

**Mrs. Catherine Gabianelli**  
Human Resources Director

**Mr. Anthony Giovannone**  
Fiscal Services & Operations  
Director

**Mrs. Laura Olson**  
Pupil Personnel &  
Special Services Director

**Mrs. Sandra Sullivan**  
Food Services Director

## Board of Education

**Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach**

**Mr. Eric Hansell**

**Mr. Pete Helmus**

**Mr. Brian McCauley**

**Mrs. Tammy McInerney**

**Mr. Tom O'Brien**

**Mrs. Olga I. Rella**

**Ms. Leslie Sarich**

**Mr. Keith A. Swanhall Jr.**



## Happy (Almost!) New Year!

Around the world, cultures welcome the change of the calendar with unique New Year's traditions of their own\*. Here are a few examples:

### Spain

In Spain, it is customary to eat 12 grapes – one at each stroke of the clock at midnight on New Year's Eve. Each grape represents good luck for one month of the coming year.

### Colombia

In hopes of a travel-filled new year, residents of Colombia carry empty suitcases around the block.

### Denmark

Residents of Denmark greet the New Year by throwing old plates and glasses against the doors of family and friends to banish bad spirits. They also stand on chairs and jump off of them together at midnight to "leap" into January in hopes of good luck.

### Finland

In Finland, people predict the coming year by casting molten tin into a container of water, then interpreting the shape the metal takes after hardening. A heart or ring means a wedding, while a ship predicts travel and a pig declares there will be plenty of food.

### Scotland

During Scotland's New Year's Eve celebration of Hogmanay, "first-footing" is practiced across the country. The first person who crosses a threshold of a home in the New Year should carry a gift for luck.

### Philippines

You'll find round shapes all over the Philippines on New Year's Eve as representatives of coins to symbolize prosperity in the coming year. Many families display piles of fruit on their dining tables and some eat exactly 12 round fruits (grapes being the most common) at midnight. Many also wear polka dots for luck.

### Greece

An onion is traditionally hung on the front door of homes on New Year's Eve in Greece as a symbol of rebirth in the New Year. On New Year's Day, parents wake their children by tapping them on the head with the onion.

\*<https://worldstrides.com/blog/2016/12/9-new-years-traditions-cultures-around-world/>

December means

The mission of the New Milford Public Schools, a collaborative partnership of students, educators, family and community, is to prepare each and every student to compete and excel in an ever-changing world, embrace challenges with vigor, respect and appreciate the worth of every human being, and contribute to society by providing effective instruction and dynamic curriculum, offering a wide range of valuable experiences, and inspiring students to pursue their dreams and aspirations.