

# SPOTLIGHT

on New Milford Schools

November 2023, Volume 14, Issue 3

### Message from Superintendent Dr. Janet Parlato



Hello, New Milford Families, Students, Faculty, and Staff, In this month's edition of Spotlight, you will see the four district Ideas We Live By: Focus, Heart, Collaboration, and Creativity.

These four ideas serve as anchors for all of our work in the schools and school district. To define each idea, all faculty members brainstormed related concepts, and then we determined trends and patterns among those related ideas. Specifically, the idea of Focus reminds us of the importantance of goals and priorities in what we plan to accomplish; the idea of Heart reminds us to act with care, compassion, and empathy in our daily encounters; the idea of Collaboration means that we develop partnerships to be our best; and the idea of Creativity encourages us to imagine inspiring learning experiences for all of our

students. The four Ideas We Live By guide our ongoing planning for our district's progress. Throughout November's Spotlight, you will see great examples of Focus, Heart, Collaboration, and Creativity in the actions of our students and staff members and in the many contributions from the

broader New Milford community. As always, we thank you for the continued support of our students and our schools.



### **Important Dates**



- December 1st Townwide PTO Spirit Day | Backwards Day
- December 14th Early Dismissal | Professional Development
- December 22 January 1 | Holiday Break
- January 2nd Return to School
- January 5th Townwide PTO Spirit Day | Dress to Impress
- January 15th Martin Luther King, Jr Day | Schools Closed
- June 15th at 10am NMHS Graduation

### **New Milford Public Schools**

#### **Mission Statement**

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 everchanging 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.

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Website: <a href="mailto:https://www.newmilfordps.org/">https://www.newmilfordps.org/</a>

25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A

New Milford, CT 06776

Phone: 860-355-8406

## Follow our socials! Links can be found at the end of the newsletter **!**

### **New Milford High School**

860-350-6647

Mr. Raymond Manka, Principal

Mr. Kevin Best, Assistant Principal

Dr. Megan Dwyer, Assistant Principal

Mr. Anthony Blake, Assistant Principal



### Schaghticoke Middle School

860-354-2204

Ms. Linda Scoralick, Principal

Mr. Michael Boucher, Assistant Principal

Ms. Shannon Surreira, Assistant Principal SMS/NES

Mr. Nicholas Manciero, Interim Assistant Principal



#### **Sarah Noble Intermediate School**

860-210-4020

Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal

Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Assistant Principal



860-354-5430

Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, Principal

Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Assistant Principal



### **Northville Elementary School**

860-355-3713

Mrs. Gwen Gallagher, Principal

Ms. Shannon Surreira, Assistant Principal SMS/NES

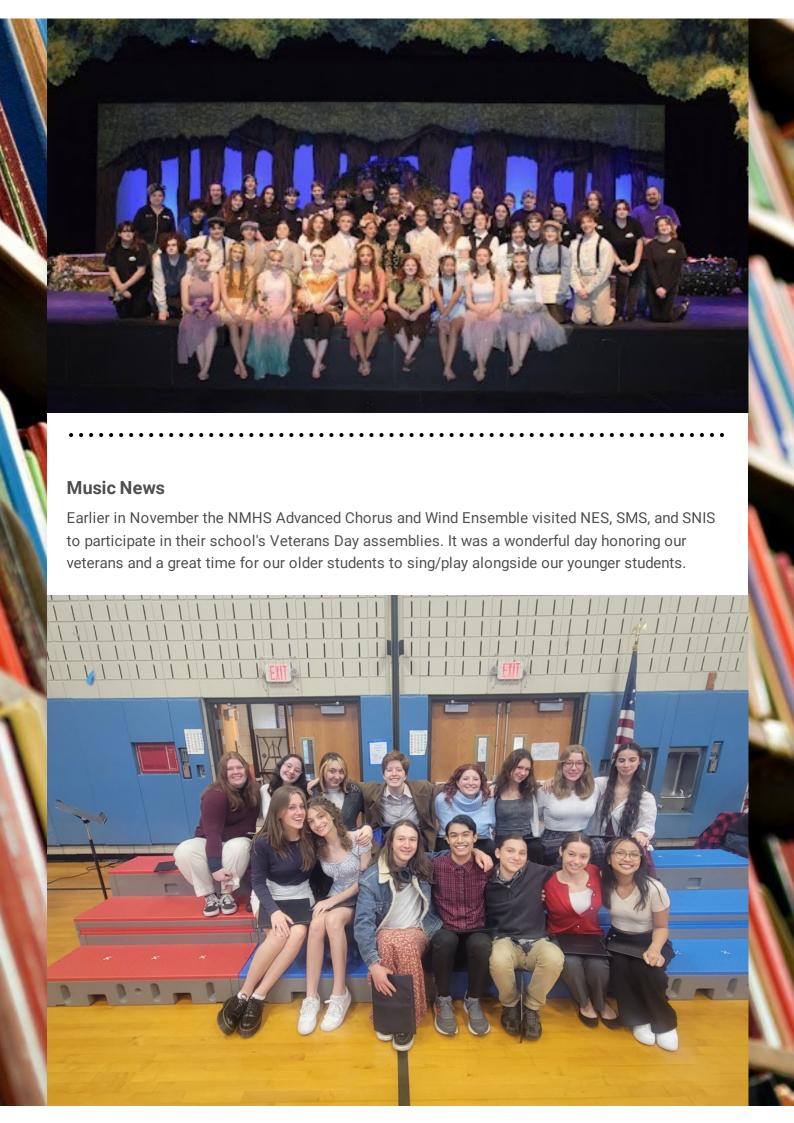


### **NMHS News**

There were some cool things that happened at the High School in November: the successful performance of A Mid Summer Night's Dream, Friendsgiving Feast, the Key Club sponsored a Teacher Appreciation Donuts and Coffee Cart and the Advanced Chorus and Wind Ensemble attended Veteran's Day assemblies at NES, SNIS and SMS and more. Be sure to check out our outstanding athletes on Signing Day in *Get in the Game* section below!

### A Midsummer Night's Dream

The cast and crew of NMHS Theatre's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream had a wonderful time bringing Shakespeare's classic to life. Thank you to everyone who attended; each performance had a fantastic audience! If you would like to see more photos, follow NMHS Theatre on Instagram @nmhstheatrect!







Key Club Sponsors
Teacher Appreciation
with donuts and coffee
cart



Mr. Manka at Friendsgiving



**Friendsgiving** 

Congratulations to Team Waramaug! This group competes in jeopardy-style trivia at different competitions. The team competed at Horace Greeley High School and came in First Place for the B Division!



## HORACE GREELEY HIGH SCHOOL





### **SMS News**

November was a big month at SMS with the Scholastic Book Fair, a program for Veteran's Day, recognition for our awesome *Ideal* students at the BOE meeting, and a visit from Jackson Olson of the Savannah Bananas!



#### **Scholastic Book Fair**

Thanks to the hard work and generosity of the SMS PTO, the fall book fair was a huge success! Each student had the opportunity to visit the book fair with their ELA class. This allowed students the opportunity to pick out books of choice as we encourage students to build a love of reading.



### **Veteran's Day Program**

This year SMS was once again proud to welcome local veterans and our friend from New Milford High School for a program honoring veterans. The program, held on Thursday, November 9th, featured the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance, the NMHS Wind Ensemble playing the United States Armed Forces Medley, a reading about the history of Veteran's Day, and some words of



advice from a local veteran. We are incredibly proud of all of our musicians for their hard work and dedication to their craft. Their performances were amazing and showed just how much hard work went into preparing!

### **Ideal Students Receive Recognition from the Board of Education**

The Board of Education honored Ideal Students from Schaghticoke on November 21st.

Congratulations to Chase, Collin, Janae, Ryann and Gunner for showing focus, heart, collaboration and creativity in your efforts in and out of the classroom!





#### **New Milford's Own Banana!**

On Tuesday, November 21st, students and staff got the chance of a lifetime to engage with Jackson Olson of the Savannah Bananas. Jackson, a New Milford alumn, volunteered his time to speak with students and staff. Jackson told the story of his journey from the baseball diamond at New Milford High School to a Division 1 baseball program. He talked about getting drafted in his junior year, his decision to return to college for his senior year, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on his aspirations to play professional baseball. Finally, Jackson talked about how his social media partnership with Major League Baseball came about, and how this ultimately led to him joining the Savannah Bananas.

Jackson's message was all about believing in yourself, following your dreams, and never giving up. His story is one that resonated with many students, as they considered their own goals and aspirations for the future. After his presentation, Jackson took time to greet students and sign some autographs. Jackson also made a special stop to see students in our ILC program. We are incredibly grateful for the time that Jackson took to share his story. It was a truly memorable experience for all involved!



### **SNIS News**



Pink Day ended our month-long Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Students brought in loose change and we raised over \$1000.00 to donate to Ann's Place in Danbury!





#### Move it!

This past month our PE teachers, Mrs. Brooks and Mr. Mumma have been encouraging students to be as active as possible. They encouraged students and staff to share photos of themselves being active outside of school! SNIS students and staff have been spotted playing sports, kayaking,

hiking, running, swimming, and much more. In addition to sharing in class, pictures were posted on the, 'We like to move it, move it!' bulletin board!



### **Giving Back**

Donating to local families is a staff tradition. Alicia Hanelt organizes our efforts. This year SNIS staff donated Thanksgiving meal items for local families resulting in seven local families receiving Thanksgiving baskets for a Thanksgiving Feast!





### **NES News**

Winter and the holiday season are just around the corner. Here at NES, our students continue to grow, acclimate to school routines, and learn new things every day! Report cards for the first term go home on December 8th.

Mrs. Cherniske is our new art teacher! She has been filling our school with many creative art pieces from all of her classes. Our hallways and bulletin boards are bright, cheerful, imaginative and fun!







Mrs. Cherniske's Art classes are fun and they are filling the school with bright, colorful artwork. Every child is an artist.

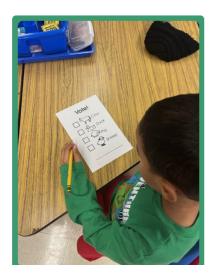
On November 6th, the school community celebrated the 50th day of school with 50's themed attire and lots of fun. The outfits were amazing!







On November 6th, the students celebrated the 50th day of school with a 50's themed dress up.
Mrs. Merrill, our PE teacher, enjoys the spirit of the 50th day celebration!



In early November, NES Students learned about voting and elections as well. Mrs. Bouzakis' class read "Duck for President" by Doreen Cronin, and then held an election for which barnyard animal would be best to govern the farm! Duck won the election by ONE vote and it was an important lesson about why every vote counts!



We collected food for Camilla's Cupboard, as well as the U.S. Marines. A special thank you is in order for our generous school community.

Our Food drives were a success! Thank you for supporting Camilla's Cupboard and the U.S. Marines.



The PTO sponsored the Scholastic Book Fair which is always a hit with teachers and students and families. What's better than a brand new book?

We also enjoyed a visit from the Pratt Center. Students learned about seed dispersal through a presentation and a nature walk.

Mrs. Pilla and Mrs. Breidster's class celebrated Fall by going on a Nature Scavenger Hunt. They had fun collecting acorns and colorful leaves. Afterwards, they investigated their collections back in the classroom.

November's Word of the Month is: **CONTEMPLATE!** Contemplate has two meanings we are teaching the students. First, it means to think deeply. Second, it means to observe something intently for a long period of time. The students learned more about the word and how to use it by reading *"If I Built a Car*," by Chris Van Dusen in their class, as well as listening to the short presentation video from Mrs. Filogomo.

As we step into the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, we will continue to contemplate (and appreciate) our many blessings.



Mrs. Pilla and Mrs.
Breidster's class joined together to have a
Writer's Celebration to celebrate the closing of the Personal Narrative
Writing Unit. They were in groups reading and listening to their small moment stories. They also used a checklist and post-its to share their glows with their friends.



Ms. Diane Swanson taught us all about seed dispersal. We walked around outside to find various seed pods. We learned that seeds are protected by pods. Ms. Diane also helped us understand how seeds are dispersed by "parent plants."



Our bulletin board is front and center with our word of the month, "Contemplate." November was a busy month. It was so great to see many faces during conferences since we love connecting with families. We love any opportunity to help build relationships with all of you. We know a strong home-school connection brings success for our students!



We want to give a warm welcome to Mr. Laedke, our new school counselor, whom we share with Northville Elementary School. We, the staff, and the students are excited to have him on board!

Thanks to Mrs. Sanchez, our other school counselor, who has done it again! She organized HPS's annual school wide food drive to benefit Camella's Cupboard and families in need. Some of our students volunteered to help sort the food on the last day of the drive. We thank you, the families, for all the donations.





How has the 50th day of school come and gone? Time is definitely moving quickly! The whole school enjoyed some 50's music to kick off our morning announcements. Kindergarten held their annual sock-hop to celebrate the day as well.



Principal Calabrese and a friend rocking the 50's look



**HPS Staff on 50s Day** 



**Fifties Fun!** 

Mrs. Orletski, one of our amazing 1st grade teachers organized a memorable Veterans Day assembly that honored Veterans to thank them for their service. Ms. Bollard helped students create a magnificent mural of a bald eagle, while Mrs. Haynes led each grade level in song. In addition, student readers shared what Veterans Day is and why we celebrate, along with the branches of the military. Finally, we thank the generous PTO for hosting a breakfast for the Veterans that are family members of our students. They also provided the patriotic balloon arch that acted as a backdrop.





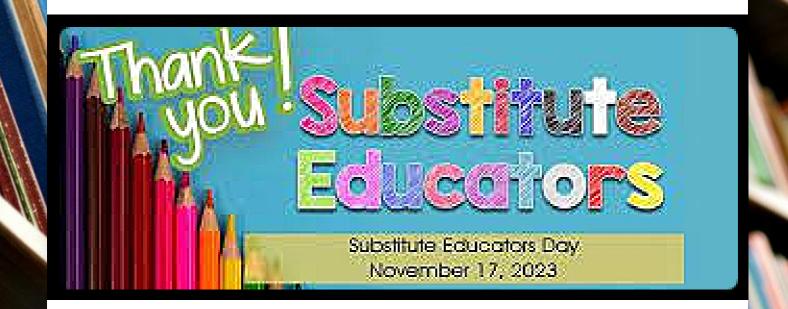








We finished the month strong with celebrating Ms. Ayres, our school psychologist, for and our amazing substitutes that help us each and every day they are here for our students!



### Get in the Game

### **Signing Day**

Congratulations to the following athletes! We're very proud of you.

- Jack Balzi Sacred Heart University | Lacrosse
- Jason Muller Central Connecticut State University | Baseball
- Meghan MacLaren Providence College | Swimming
- Isabel (Izzy) Greene James Madison University | Cross Country and Track and Field
- Madeline (Maddie) Bell Dean College | Volleyball



### **Green Wave Takes the Candlewood Cup**

Green Wave battled hard against New Fairfield at the annual Thanksgiving Day rivalry for the Candlewood Cup. Congratulations to all the coaches and players as NMHS walked off 22-7 victors and ended the season with a 7-3 record! Way to go, Green Wave!



### **New Milford HS 2023-24 Athletic Events Schedule**

https://stats.ciacsports.com/cgi-bin/schedule-2324.cgi?
school=NewMilford&sport=&levels=&combine\_time\_results=1&show\_bus\_info=1&site=&starttoday
=1&today=&startmonth=&startday=&startyear=&endmonth=&endday=&endyear=&type=Game^Scrim
mage^Postseason



### Food and Nutrition News

► Important Update!

#### NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Food and Nutrition Services Department 22 Hipp Road New Milford, Connecticut 06776 (860) 354-3712 - FAX (860) 354-3712



Sandra Sullivan, RD, CD-N Director

November 27, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The following is an important message from the Food and Nutrition Services Department regarding school meals.

Through a recent amendment to a United States Department of Agriculture regulation, BEGINNING DECEMBER 1st, New Milford Public Schools will be offering lunch at NO COST to ALL students K – 12 for the remainder of the 23 - 24 school year. As you are aware, school breakfast has been available at no cost to all students K-12 since the beginning of this school year and will also continue through June 2024.

Please note: students are entitled to one free breakfast and one free lunch daily. Second lunches, a la carte snacks and a la carte beverages are available for a cost. Please be sure to have funds in your students account for these types of purchases.

Additionally, if your student's meal account is presently in the negative, we are asking for your prompt payment to the cafeteria. Although lunch is free for all students beginning on December 1, it is the responsibility of families to pay for any lunch debt accumulated before December 1.

If you have deposited funds in your child's lunch account for this year, those funds will roll over to next year, or they can be used to purchase snacks this year, or you can get a refund by calling the number below.

If you have any questions, please call the Food and Nutrition Services Department at 860-354-3712.

Sincerely,

Sandra Sullivan, RD, CD-N



#### Letter Free Lunch Dec 1\_2023.pdf

Free Lunch Letter Effective December 1, 2023

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take on their day!

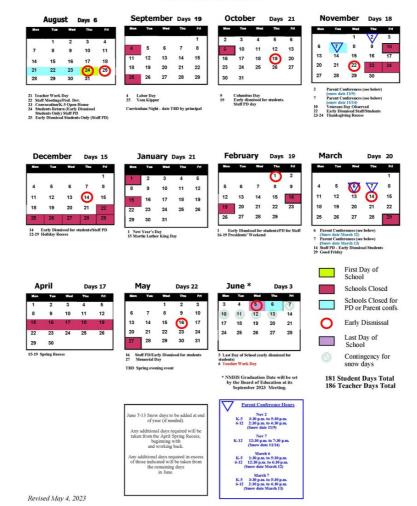
November was a busy month for the Food and Nutrition
Department as we served our traditional Thanksgiving themed
meal which included roasted butternut squash from Maple Bank
Farm in Roxbury! We continued our offering of local produce by
having Cortland apples from Maple Bank Farm available to
students at breakfast and lunch meals as well as offering a kale
salad to students made with locally grown kale!

We would also like to highlight that throughout the 2023-2024 school year, breakfast is free for all students at all schools. There is a variety of nutritious options that are available to students and is encouraged as it will provide them with the energy they need to



2023-2024 Calendar

#### NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2023-2024 School Calendar

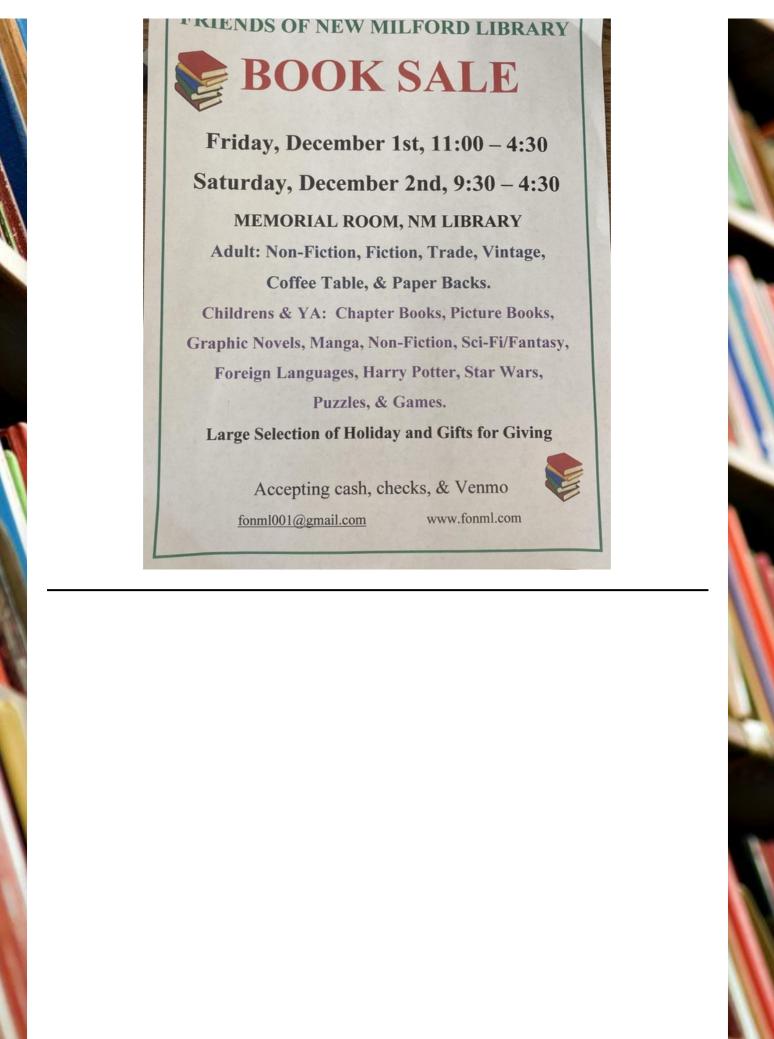


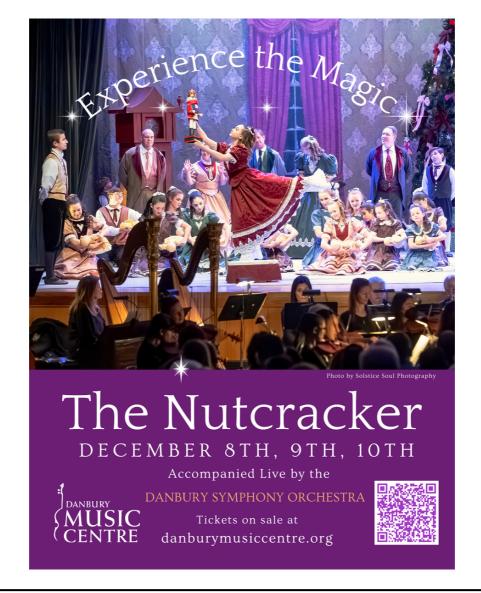
### 2023-2024 NMPS Calendar.pdf

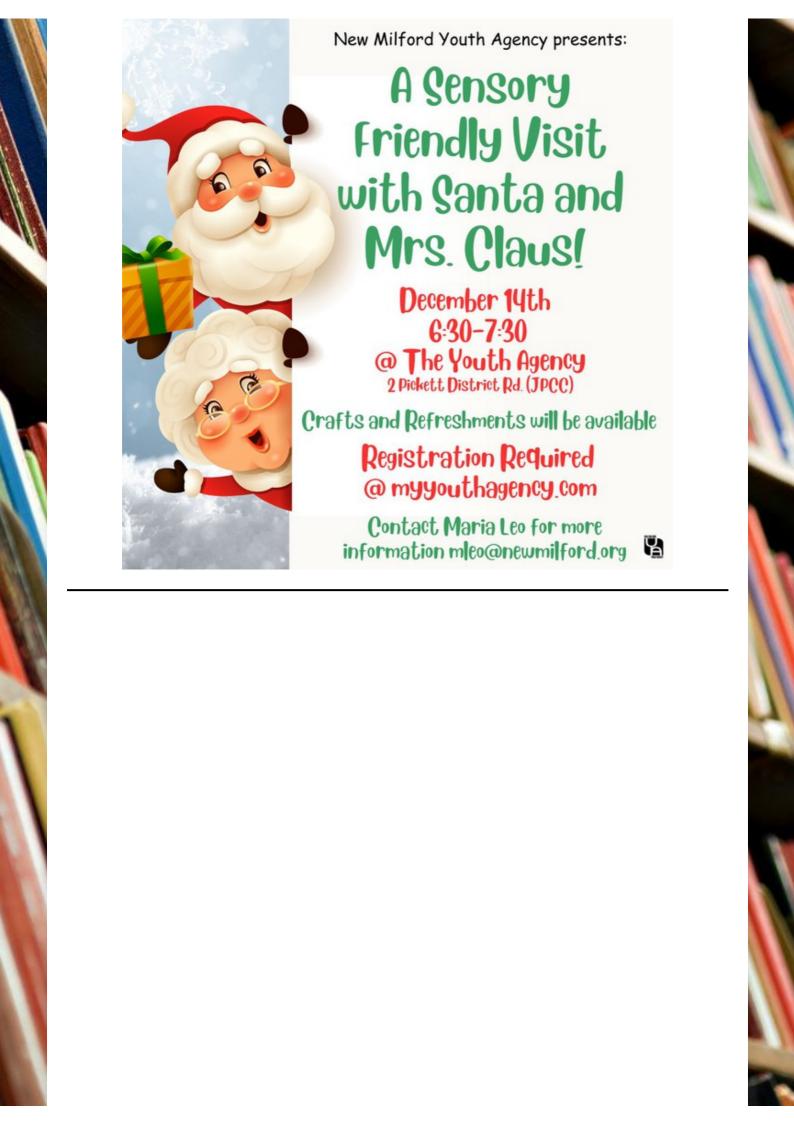
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### **Community Corner**









OFFERING NO-COST
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING SERVICES
TO STUDENTS 3RD - 12TH GRADES



PLEASE CONTACT US TO SCHEDULE AN INTAKE

NEW MILFORD YOUTH AGENCY 2 PICKETT DISTRICT RD NEW MILFORD, CT 06776



SARA WENDROW, LMSW (860) 210-2030 WWW.YOUTHAGENCY.ORG



