



SPOTLIGHT

on New Milford Schools

February 2024, Volume 14, Issue 5

Message from Superintendent Dr. Janet Parlato



Hello, New Milford Families, Students, Faculty, and Staff, Welcome to the latest edition of the Spotlight on New Milford Schools! We are slowly but surely making our way out of winter and toward a (hopefully) lovely spring. I was fortunate to mark my one year anniversary as superintendent of New Milford Public Schools on February 21, and I thank all of our families, faculty, staff, and community members for all of their support over the past twelve months. We are definitely a school district on the move! Each of our schools and departments works with determination every day to create a productive and welcoming learning environment for our students. We have many exciting events planned for the upcoming months, and we continue to develop long-term plans for the growth of the school district. We

look forward to sharing our progress with you in future editions of the Spotlight as well as on our social media pages. Here's to a wonderful month of March! Thank you again for your continued support of our students and our schools.

Important Dates

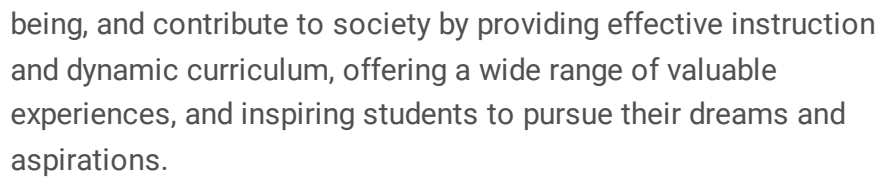
- **March 6th and 7th** - Parent Conferences (*early dismissal on 3/6*)
- **March 14th** - Early Dismissal - PD
- **March 29th** - SCHOOLS CLOSED - Good Friday
- **June 15th** at 10am - NMHS Graduation



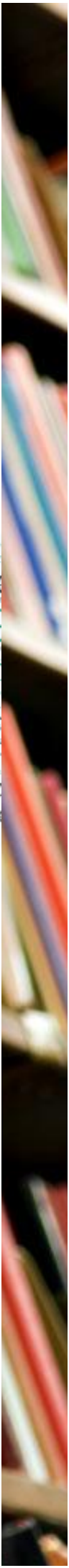
New Milford Public Schools

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 ever-changing world, embrace challenges with vigor, respect and appreciate the worth of every human



Mr. Nicholas Manciero, Interim Assistant Principal



Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Assistant Principal





Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, Principal

Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Assistant Principal



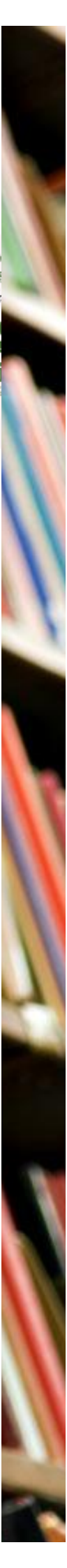


860-355-3713
Mrs. Gwen Gallagher, Principal
Ms. Shannon Surreira, Assistant Principal SMS/NES

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“Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.”

— C.S. Lewis

NMHS News



February: American Heart Month

Mrs. Benson's Allied Health students have been working hard this month learning CPR for the Professional Rescuer. They have learned and demonstrated life-saving skills for breathing and cardiac emergencies for infants, children, and adults. At the end of the month, these students will become American Red Cross-certified Professional Rescuers.

According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is a leading cause of death in the United States for both men and women. Here are action items from the American Heart Association that you can take to prevent heart disease:

- ***Know your risk. Knowing your risk can help you make lifestyle changes.***
- ***Eat a healthy diet. Start making healthy choices that include daily vegetables and less processed foods.***
- ***Be physically active. Move more – it's one of the best ways to stay healthy, prevent disease, & age well.***
- ***Watch your weight. Stay at a healthy weight for you.***
- ***Check your blood pressure & cholesterol. These are two main risk factors that could lead to heart disease.***

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Congratulations Brandon!



Whether you have/had Brandon Zhang in class, or know him through clubs, activities, advisory and/or 3TR, you know he is a quality young man. Besides being kind, funny, and a conscientious human being he is quite accomplished academically! Mr. Zhang is a finalist for the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Association recognition AND he is also a candidate for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program which intends to recognize our Nation's most

distinguished graduating high school seniors!

While we will not know the outcome of this for weeks to come, the recognition and achievement is to be commended! Congratulations Brandon- NMHS is proud of you!!

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French Honor Society

On February 12th, some FHS students (Katelyn B. Carlos T. Chelsey C. Arden S. Abby S. Karan K. Haley P. Elliot B.) shared their love with residents from Chestnut Grove senior center. What a great time we had sharing stories and learning compassion. We all left richer.



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February for Black History Month



These are pictures of quilts my African American/Black/Puerto Rican/Latino Studies class made to highlight African American/Black activists that have fought for equality and freedom for over 200 years. Each student was assigned four different people throughout the semester that they needed to

research and create a quilt patch for. They are displayed in the LLC for the month of **February for Black History Month**.

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Winter Concert Collaboration

On February 22nd, a wonderful evening was had when NMHS Jazz Band, NMHS Chorus and SMS Chorus collaborated to create a beautiful evening of music!



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Down by the Riverside February 2024



Down by the Riverside
arr. Robert T. Gibson

.....

SRO Appreciation Day

Officer Syan, NMHS appreciates all you do!



**Police Cadets pictured
with SRO Syan:
Kassandra Conklin, Jase
Reichin, Connor Rivera,
Kayla Delaney, SRO Syan,
Calley Thierfelder
Kneeling: former cadet
Naomi Post and Howard
Baker**

Absent: Anne Farias and Kayla
Charles

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“Your talent determines what you can do. Your motivation determines how much you’re willing to do. Your attitude determines how well you do it.”

- Lou Holtz

SMS News

Student Leadership Shines!

On February 8th SMS welcomed rising 6th grade students and their families for our annual open house event. The event was designed and hosted by SMS student leaders. Throughout the month of January, student leaders worked with Mr. Boucher to talk about the purpose of the evening, review the structure of past events, and make plans for this year. During this process, SMS student leaders made maps of the building, welcome signs, and brainstormed a list of things they wish they knew as they were entering 6th grade. On the night of our event, roughly 50 student leaders volunteered their time to support the event. Student leaders were in the hallways to give directions as families toured the building, helped Principal Scoralick deliver a presentation on student life at SMS, helped with lock practice, and promoted clubs and activities. Most of all, our student leaders were ambassadors modeling all that SMS stands for. Many thanks to our wonderful and talented student leaders for all of their hard work!





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Team 6 Blue Community Building

Fresh off of our school-wide Spirit Day Competition win in the second quarter, 6 Blue students are showcasing their dedication to school spirit in Quarter 3 with another lead in points! We love to see their participation and we're hopeful they can keep it up. Additionally, 6 Blue continues to acknowledge two students every other week who are consistently kind, hard-working, and respectful

with our Blue Ribbon awards. With the help of Dr. T in the library lately, we've been able to meet together as a team to celebrate these students as a community (seen below). The way the students congratulate and cheer for each other has been amazing to witness. We are so proud of 6 Blue!

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SMS Gives Back!

Early in February, students and families of our Schaghticoke Middle School community participated in a drive for the Animal Welfare Society under the direction of SMS Student Council. Everything from squishy, squeaky dog toys to canned food for cats with liver disease were collected. Since the Animal Welfare Society is an independent, nonprofit, non-destroy organization, they depend on the generosity of the folks in our community. We were very excited to present the dedicated staff at the shelter with a plentiful car load of items the animals need to keep them healthy and comfortable. Thank you to all who participated.

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Team 7 Yellow Refines Debate Skills!

Recently in grade 7 ELA, students learned how to conduct research and how to craft an argument to support a position. As a culminating activity for this unit, students took a position, conducted research, and participated in a debate on the topic of whether or not competitive sports are healthy for kids. It was clear that great care went into the research conducted, as arguments were well thought out, balanced, and factual. Way to go 7th graders!



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Mock Trial

For the last several months a group of students has been working with Ms. Kivela and Mr. Savo after school to learn about the legal system. The group looked at the legal process, the roles different people play in the court system, and various case studies. The group also selected a case to research and conduct a mock trial assuming the various roles that you would find in court. On February 16th court was in session as students from both the prosecution and the defense presented their arguments before a jury of SMS staff and the Assistant Superintendent of Schools. Students were well prepared with strong legal arguments from both sides and Judge Klee ran a tight ship, leading to a hung jury.

Great job everyone!



“Everyone has wings, but not everyone believes they can fly.”

— Jonathon Muncy Storm

SNIS News

Interact with Abe

President Abraham Lincoln joined our 5th graders and shared his perspective of his time and place in history. This experience is wonderful for students as they interact with 'Abe' in several ways. The



students thoroughly enjoyed the experience! These experiences only happen with the generous support of our amazing PTO. Thank you PTO for all you do and provide for our students!

World Language Expo

We hosted a World Language Expo where NMHS world language students came to teach 5th graders about the language and country they are studying.



SnOw fun at recess





“Lessons on kindness are just as important as academic ones.”



NES News



Love is in the air! Here at Northville we choose LOVE every day of the year, not just Valentine's Day. :)



On Feb 1st, staff attended Professional Development. Our Paraprofessional and Teaching staff received valuable information and training to help them steer the craft as Educators.



PD



The Kindergarteners celebrated 100 days of school on Feb 1st. Here is the Kindergarten Team "Rocking the first 100 days!"



The students dressed up as if they were 100 years old - so cute!



In turn, the first graders celebrated 101 Days on February 2nd! Dressed in spots like 101 Dalmations, they had a fun Friday. First Grade teacher, Mr. MacKessy is suited up.

February 2nd was also Groundhog Day and Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow for the first time since 2020! According to the legend it means Spring is just around the corner. We found out the hard way that even groundhogs are wrong sometimes when we tallied another school closing due to snow on 2/13.

February 2nd was Townwide Spirit Day (sports themed). It was fun to see everyone supporting their favorite teams and players!



TOWNWIDE SPIRIT DAY



CAS



Feb. 5-9 was National School Counseling Week which brought public attention to the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems. Our School Counselors make a difference every day at NES and we appreciate them!

February is Black History month! During their Library Media Center classes with Ms. Macchiaverna, students learned about the history, accomplishments and unique contributions of the black community.

Some of the books included:



MAE AMONG THE STARS



HAVE YOU THANKED AN INVENTOR TODAY?



DR. MATT VISITS NES

As well as...

I am My Ancestor's Wildest Dreams by Tanisia Moore


Stacey's Extraordinary Words by Stacey Abrams

Justice Ketanji by Denise Lewis Patrick

Little Leaders Bold Women in Black History by Vashti Harrison

Little Legends Exceptional Men in Black History by Vashti Harrison

February also marked visits from Caceci Family Dentistry to teach our second graders about Dental Hygiene as well as The Lion's Club of New Milford who performed their "Kidsight" initiative which was a free eyesight screening for all students with permission to be tested. A sincere THANK YOU to both parties for offering these services!



“Kids believe what they’re told. So tell them that they’re amazing. Tell them that they’re bright, funny, and a joy to be around. Build them up, don’t break them down.”

— Dope Soul

HPS News

We finished January with our PTO hosting Family Art Night. Mrs. Bollard, our art teacher, led the event while Ms. Hores, Mrs. Haynes, Mrs. Molinaro, Mrs. Morse, Mrs. Sanchez, and Ms. Stratman were there to volunteer and support!



Family Art Night





Fabulous February began with celebrating the 100th day of School! Our creative Kindergarten team dressed up as 100-year-olds. There were many learning activities throughout the school based on the 100th-day theme.



Good News on Groundhog Day !

Along with learning about Groundhog Day, nothing made HPS happier than the Groundhogs, Punxsutawney Phil and Chuckles, NOT seeing their shadows. This means spring is on its way!



Sports Day

Our student body embraces town-wide spirit day and this month's theme was "Sports Fan Day"!





Dr. Parlato and Holly Hollander visited our staff meeting to discuss important work happening across the district. This month's professional development was around reading iReady reports, more in-depth, to help better plan for our students.



25th Annual Celebrations of the Arts

HPS, along with NES, celebrated 2 students from each school at the 25th Annual Celebration of the Arts! Mrs. Bollard, our art teacher, and Mrs. Haynes, our music teacher nominated them. Let's congratulate 2nd graders, Caleb (musician) and Scarlett (artist)! We are so proud!



HPS Wrap Up!

To finish the month, HPS wrapped up the Kids' Heart Challenge where students and staff were excited to learn how to care for their hearts and minds, jump rope, and help kids with special hearts in the process. Dr. Matt and his Hygienist, from Caceci Family Dentistry, visited our 2nd graders to discuss dental hygiene to celebrate National Children's Dental Health Month. Finally, we collected hats, mittens, and socks to practice COMPASSION! The items will be donated to New Milford Social Services.



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“Grit is that ‘extra something’ that separates the most successful people from the rest. It’s the passion, perseverance, and stamina that we must channel in order to stick with our dreams until they become a reality.”

— Travis Bradberry

Get in the Game

Green Wave Dance Team Earns Runner Up in the Class L Jazz Division at States

Congratulations to the Green Wave Dance Team on finishing Runner Up in the Class L Jazz Division at States! The best New Milford has ever done!



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CIAC State Open Wrestling Championships

The CIAC State Open Wrestling Championships Josephina 5th and Ricci 4th. Congratulations to all of our participants!



Green Wave South-West Conference Champions

Girls Basketball SWC Champs for 2nd Year Straight!

The Green Wave ladies did it again! Back to back SWC Champs defeating New Fairfield on February 22nd at Newtown HS 38-35. The CIAC Class L First round is a bye. The second round will take place on February 29th at NMHS at 6:30pm. Come out and support the girls! Go Green Wave!!



[CLICK HERE FOR THE CTINSIDER PIECE ON THE GIRLS BASKETBALL 2ND STRAIGHT SWC WIN](#)



New Milford repeats as SWC girls basketball champions

Ileana Feliz, the New Milford all-time leading scorer, led the Green Wave to a second straight SWC title on Thursday.

ctinsider.com

SWC Girls Basketball All Conference Team

Congratulations to New Milford's Jade Wallace and Ileana Feliz on being named to the SWC Girls Basketball All Conference Team!



ILEANA FELIZ SCORES 1000 POINTS
Green Wave basketball player, Ileana Feliz became the 6th 1,000 point scorer in Green Wave Basketball history and broke the All Time Scoring record for the school! Congrats on the 1,000 pts, the 2nd straight SWC win, SWC MVP



1,000 POINT CLUB
Coach Laporte and Coach Shanks with 1,000 point

and SWC All Team! We're very
proud of you!

SWC CHAMPS
SWC hits different the 2nd
time.

athletes, Ileana Feliz and Jade
Wallace.

Green Wave Girls Basketball Video SWC Game Time CT

Let's go Green Wave! States starts Thursday at 6:30pm at NMHS.
Pop out and support these athletes. Click the link below to watch
this cool video by Game Time CT.



CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE GAME TIME CT INSTAGRAM VIDEO

The Green Wave Wrestling Team won the 2024 SWC Championship!

Congratulations to the Green Wave Wrestling Team!



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Green Wave Gymnastics Team won the 2024 SWC Championship!

What a night for the Green Wave Gymnastics Team! Winning the SWC Championship, Haviland Brown runner up in the All Around, Reegan Williams winning her 3rd straight All Around and Tournament MVP! Congrats, ladies! We are so proud of you.



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Dance Team Finishes 2nd at SWC Championships

Congratulations to the Green Wave Dance Team for finishing 2nd at the SWC Championships in both jazz and Hip Hop! The best NMHS has ever done. Way to go, ladies!



Congratulations SWC 1st Team for Girls Indoor Track!

Amelia Sabatino and Izzy Greene earned 1st team All SWC for winning their events at the SWC Indoor Track Championships.

100th Win for Green Wave Ice Hockey Head Coach

Congratulations to the Green Wave Head Coach Scott Capriglione for reaching his 100th career win!



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Gymnast Regan Williams Scores 1,000th Point!

Regan Williams scored her 1,000th point for the Green Wave Gymnastics Team as a Junior to become a member of an elite group of gymnasts! Congratulations, Reegan!



Jade Wallace News 12 Connecticut Scholar Athlete of the Week

Congratulations to Green Wave basketball senior, Jade Wallace on her continued success on the court, and for not giving up despite her health issues. Since this piece aired, Jade hit 1000 career points, and became the 7th 1,000 point score in Green Wave Basketball History!

[CLICK HERE FOR NEWS 12 CT SCHOLAR OF THE WEEK](#)



- **APPROACHING 1,000 CAREER POINTS**
- **HONORS STUDENT**
- **LITTLE HOOPSTERS VOLUNTEER COACH**

SCH **LAR** **ATHLETE**

JADE WALLACE

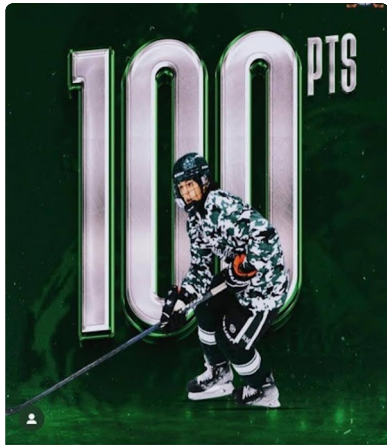
NEW MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Scholar Athlete: Jade Wallace

The senior student is just a few buckets away from 1,000 points for her high school career.

connecticut.news12.com

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Nick Solomon Scored his 100th career point in Ice Hockey for the Green Wave!

Congratulations, Nick! Way to go.

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New Milford HS 2023-24 Athletic Events Schedule

Click [here](#) for the New Milford HS 2023-24 Athletic Events Schedule

Food and Nutrition News



February was a month of fun, love and good food! The Food and Nutrition Department served several festive meals such as pizza bagels in honor of Super Bowl weekend, orange chicken for Chinese New Year, and strawberry shortcake as a sweet treat on Valentine's Day! We are looking forward to featuring a new item, our "baked chicken drummies" that will be on the menu with local roasted beets from Fort Hill Farm here in New Milford!



Happy Birthday



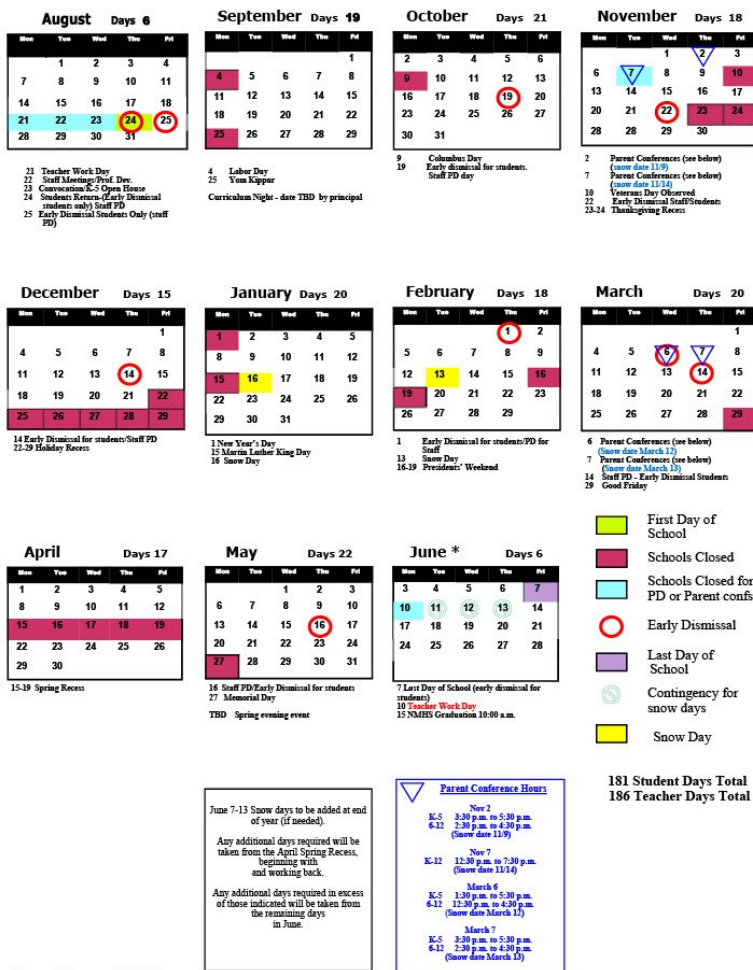
NMPS Administration & CO Staff:

February 21
JEN CHMIELEWSKI



2023-2024 Calendar

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2023-2024 School Calendar




Community Corner

MARCH 9TH, 2024

NEW MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL HOME SHOW
388 DANBURY ROAD, NEW MILFORD

FEATURING:


NEW MILFORD
GUARD



ESCAPE THE NIGHT

18 GROUPS
PERFORMING
2:55 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.

GREEN
HEAT
PERCUSSION



THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL

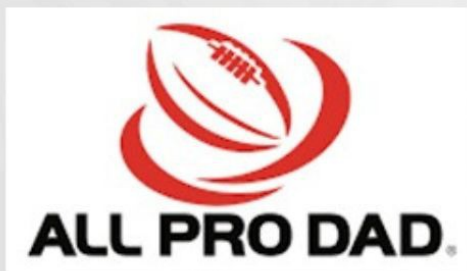
16 GROUPS
PERFORMING
6:55 P.M. - 9:45 P.M.

ADMISSION
COST:

ADULTS: \$15

CHILDREN
UNDER 10: \$8





This meeting is brought to you by the New Milford Youth Agency and
Families Network of Western CT, Inc.

Come enjoy dinner with your child(ren)
and learn all about the All Pro Dads
program.

Participation is **FREE**

All Pro Dad's Day is a monthly gathering of
fathers and their kids with the simple
purpose of growing closer to each other
while enjoying dinner and participating in
meaningful activities.

Monday March 11 6:00-7:00pm

**At the Maxx, 94 Railroad Street
New Milford**

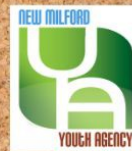
To register use the QR code



For more information contact:
Brian Hembrook @
bhembrook@newmilford.org
or (860) 210-2030

ELIGIBILITY
FAMILY GRANTS
RESPITE CENTERS
TRANSITION SERVICES

**REGISTRATION
REQUIRED @
myyouthagency.com**



Department of Developmental Services 101

PRESENTED BY MARCUS COLLENTINE,
DDS TRANSITION ADVISOR

Childcare provided

**March 18th
6-7:30**

**@ The Maxx
94 Railroad St.**

CONTACT MARIA LEO
MLEO@NEWMILFORDCT.GOV
FOR MORE INFORMATION



IN HONOR OF NEURODIVERSITY
CELEBRATION WEEK

THE NEW MILFORD YOUTH AGENCY PRESENTS:

A Disney Pixar Party!

FREE!



PIZZA!

COME DRESSED AS YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER!!!

MARCH 23RD
4-6 @ THE MAXX
94 RAILROAD ST.

CONTACT MARIA LEO
MLEO@NEWMILFORD.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION

REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT MY4YOUTHAGENCY.COM

UNDERSTANDING CHALLENGING BEHAVIOR

**APRIL 1ST 6-8PM
@ THE MAXX
94 RAILROAD ST.**



**REGISTRATION
REQUIRED
USE QR CODE**

- ✓ **WHAT YOUR CHILD'S BEHAVIOR IS COMMUNICATING**
- ✓ **PRACTICAL TIPS TO PROMOTE YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESS**
- ✓ **PURPOSE OF FUNCTIONAL BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENTS AND POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS**
- ✓ **HOW TO USE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

**NEW MILFORD YOUTH AGENCY IS HOSTING A FREE WORKSHOP
PRESENTED BY THE CONNECTICUT PARENT ADVOCACY CENTER**

CHILDCARE PROVIDED



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MARIA LEO
MLEO@NEWMILFORDCT.GOV**



THE NEW MILFORD YOUTH AGENCY COUNSELING CENTER

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



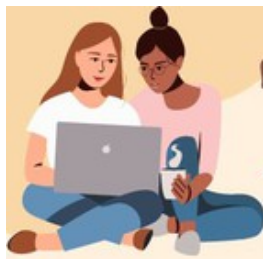
PLEASE CONTACT US TO SCHEDULE AN INTAKE

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



SARA WENDROW, LMSW
(860) 210-2030
www.youthagency.org





NEW MILFORD YOUTH AGENCY'S



BUDDY UP



MENTORING PROGRAM



DESIGNED TO MOTIVATE STUDENTS TO EXCEL BOTH
ACADEMICALLY AND SOCIALLY. HIGH SCHOOLERS WILL BE
BUDDIED UP WITH STUDENTS IN GRADES 3-8 WITH THE GOAL OF
DEVELOPING AND FOSTERING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS.

WEDNESDAYS 3:30-4:30 @ JPCC



CONTACT MARIA LEO
FOR AN APPLICATION
MLEO@NEWMILFORD.ORG
(860) 210-2030



The New Milford Youth Agency cordially invites LGBTQIA Youth + Allies to ...

Pride PROM

a night to remember

Saturday, May 4th, 2024
six o'clock - ten o'clock in the evening

@ The Maxx : 94 Railroad Street, New Milford, CT
8th-12th grades welcome

semi-formal, dinner & dancing
ticket prices \$10.00
registration required @ <https://www.myyouthagency.com>

for more information please contact
Sara Wendrow
swendrow@newmilford.org or 860-210-2030



Superintendent's Office

<https://www.newmilfordps.org/>



Contact

Subscribe