# SPOTLIGHT

on New Milford Schools

**January 2024, Volume 14, Issue 4**

## Message from Superintendent Dr. Janet Parlato

Hello, New Milford Families, Students, Faculty, and Staff,
It has been a rainy and gray winter so far, and we are lucky to have so many exciting and joyful events taking place across all of our schools in January. You will see these happenings throughout the pages of this month's edition of the Spotlight on New Milford Schools. Please enjoy the stories about and photos of our students in action in every grade level!

The late fall and winter seasons also bring our annual school district budget development presentations and meetings. Our school administrators and central office department directors work hard each year to present requests that meet the needs of our students and our schools while maintaining a stance of fiscal responsibility. Each of the presentations for the 2024-25 school and department budgets can be found at this link. On Thursday, January 25, the Board of Education adopted a budget following all of the school and department presentations. The Board of Education adopted budget presents a 3.87% increase over the 2023-24 district budget. We look forward to explaining to families what is

contained in the Board of Education adopted budget over the upcoming weeks. The Board of Education adopted budget is then presented to the Town Council and Board of Finance for their consideration on February 29. The final step in the budget process is the Town-Wide Referendum in May. As always, please reach out with any questions you might have about the budget or budget process as we move on through the months.

Please enjoy the rest of this month's Spotlight! Thank you for your continued support of our students and our schools.

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# Important Dates

- **February 1st** - Early Dismissal - PD
- **February 2nd** - Town Wide PTO Spirit Day: Sports Fan Day
- **February 8th** - Schaghticoke Middle School Incoming 6th Grade Night (*snow date: 2/15*)
- **February 16th and 19th** - SCHOOLS CLOSED | President's Day Weekend
- **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

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# 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 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.

Email: suptoffice@newmilfordps.org
Website: https://www.newmilfordps.org/
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 ⬇️

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### 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

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### Schaghticoke Middle School

860-354-2204
Ms. Linda Scoralick, Principal
Mr. Michael Boucher, Assistant Principal
Ms. Shannon Surreira, Assistant Principal SMS/NES
Mr. Nicholas Mancjera, Interim Assistant Principal

## Sarah Noble Intermediate School

860-210-4020
Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Assistant Principal

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**Hill & Plain Elementary School**

860-354-5430
Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, Principal
Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Assistant Principal

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**Northville Elementary School**

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

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# NMHS News

## Wave Awards

The NMHS WAVE awards celebrate positive behavior and citizenship displayed by students and staff. Recipients are nominated by their staff and student peers and receive awards once a month in an assembly. Over 75 students were celebrated in December!

Wave Awards 23-24: December

## NHS Food and Necessities Drive

In January the National Honor Society donated 18 boxes of food, cold weather gear, and personal hygiene products to Camella's Cupboard to restock their shelves.

## Music News

The NMHS music department is proud of our students acceptance into the 2024 CMEA Northern Region Festival. Congratulations!

Picture here is Ms. Rosen with some of the chorus participants. These students represented our school in the treble and mixed choirs.

Redox reactions in AP Chemistry Lab

"“To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.”

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

# SMS News

### Middle Level Student Leadership Conference

During the month of January, student leaders from SMS participated in the Middle Level Student Leadership Conference, sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools. Held at Naugatuck Valley Community College, this conference allowed SMS students the opportunity to collaborate with students from other schools in the area. Additionally, students participated in presentations and workshops designed to help them build on some foundational leadership skills. These skills include communication, problem solving, critical thinking, and decision making.

All of the students that attended the conference are part of the club Student Leaders for a Change. The purpose of this club is allow students the opportunity to have a voice as we work collaborative to make positive changes to the climate and culture at Schaghticoke. Additionally, involvement with this group provides students opportunities to develop and refine their leadership skills. The club, which is in it's second year at SMS, is run by Mr. Boucher, Assistant Principal. So far this year, Student Leaders for a Change have partnered with the SMS School Climate Committee to plan and run our Color Wars event in December. They have also been working hard to plan for a successful Open House event for our rising 6th graders. Finally, the group is working to plan additional events and activities for the fall.

## New Milford Public Librarian Visits SMS

SMS welcomed Mr. Ryan Rebstock, Young Adult Services Librarian at the New Milford Public Library, to talk to our 6th graders. During their ELA Reading classes, students visited the SMS Library to meet with Mr. Rebstock. During this meeting students learned the wonderful things the New Milford Public Library has to offer, including various clubs, as well as how to access resources such as books and movies. Finally, students had the opportunity to sign up for a library card, if they did not already have one. Any student that would still like to sign up for a library card can stop by the library at SMS to complete a form.

# SNIS News

## Fire Marshall Contest

This past fall, our 4th and 5th grade students in Mr. Milo's art class, learned about fire prevention and completed fire prevention posters. Our winners were announced on January 19th. We were pleased to have our Fire Marshall, Kevin Reynolds; Assistant Fire Marshal, Ed Pagan, and other fire personnel join us to present prizes to the winners!

Our winners were: in 4th Grade, 1st place to Madyson Colville in Mrs. Matthews' class, and 2nd place to Lucas Laughlin in Mrs. Gee's class. In 5th Grade, 1st place to Leola Emmons in Mrs. Zona's class, and 2nd place to Mark Caverly in Mrs. Lucuk's class. A big congratulations to our winners! We will display all the entries from our 4th and 5th graders over the coming weeks as there were many terrific entries.

"A teacher affects eternity; she can never tell where her influence stops."

- Henry Brooks Adams

# NES News

## Halfway Through the School Year; How Can it Be?

It's January and we are halfway through the school year! We can't believe how fast time is flying by. Winter tends to stretch, but fortunately we have lots going on to keep us busy!

A few winter storms and lots of rain spearheaded the first half of January. The students enjoyed their first real snowfall on January 6th and 7th. They had fun playing in the snow at recess until a warm rain came to wash away most of the snow, only to be followed shortly thereafter by a temperature drop and another icy storm! In other words, winter is definitely here.

Mrs. Pilla and Mrs. Breidster's classes kicked off the Poetry Writing unit with Winter Haikus. They are displayed on bulletin boards for the month of January.

Our new Library Media Specialist, Kristin Macchiaverna, enjoys teaching her classes in her colorful and well organized library!

Mrs. Gallagher has fun playing "Go Fish" with a student.

**Mrs. Gallagher and a friend playing a game of "Go Fish"**

**Winter Haikus**

**Meet our new Library Media Specialist, Kristin Macchiaverna**

## Extravaganza!

Our word of the month is EXTRAVAGANZA which is defined as "an elaborate and spectacular entertainment or production." The children are having fun using this word in their writing prompts and identifying when this word is appropriate and fitting to use as a noun descriptor. "Word Wizards" (aka two students from Mrs. Williams class) help explain the word of the month to everyone at NES on Wednesdays during morning announcements.

On January 19th, the second graders celebrated Halfway Hawaiian Day! They enjoyed a "trip" to Hawaii on a virtual airplane led by former flight attendant Carol Schrodel who is a beloved Paraprofessional here at Northville.

The First Grade Concert is slated for Wednesday, January 31st.

We are anxiously awaiting Punxsutawney Phil's prediction on Groundhog Day, February 2, regarding what to expect for weather the rest of this winter! Did you know 2024 marks the 138th Groundhog Day?

# HPS News

## One Word

Hill and Plain staff kicked off the New Year as they were treated to a “toast” of a variety of breads and muffins along with assorted seltzers. Everyone was asked to reflect on 2023 and their current values and goals and then choose ”One Word” as the word that represents what they want out of the coming year.

As a school community we revisited behavioral expectations and retaught and reminded the students of our school’s CORE VALUES that we recite every morning. These are values that the adults work together to establish, and what the staff and students live by each day. We continue to call families monthly of students who are recognized for a “GOOD NEWS CALL”. In addition, we celebrate our CORE VALUE Citizens, who are students chosen by their teachers and awarded by having lunch with the principals on stage during lunch waves.

This month we administered the 2nd round of the iReady diagnostic assessment to see where our students are growing. As we begin the 2nd half of the school year, we are continuing to focus on our school’s phonemic development and supporting math practices.

2nd grade celebrated being ½ way through the school year with Half-way Hawaiian Day.

🌴 Half-way Hawaiian Day! 🌴

"There will be obstacles.
There will be mistakes.
But with hard work,
there are **NO LIMITS.**"

- Michael Phelps

## Get in the Game

Congratulations to the Green Wave wrestling team for winning the 38th Annual New Milford wrestling tournament!

Congratulations to the Green Wave Dance team for finishing in first place in the jazz division at the Dancin' in the Woods Competition at Woodland regional high school!

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

Click here for the New Milford HS 2023-24 Athletic Events Schedule

NEW MILFORD GREEN WAVE

# Special Education News

In November NES collaborated with LHTC on a service project putting together 22 Marine Care packages. Northville Elementary School held a drive to gather supplies (food items, hygiene supplies, books/magazines, etc.) to fill 22 boxes for 11 Marines deployed to the Ukraine. Additional items were donated from several LHTC families. LHTC students sorted and packaged the supplies, and mailed the boxes.

The packages arrived the week before Christmas. The following is part of the thank you email we received from the Chief Warrant Officer who helped us distribute the packages upon arrival. "I wanted to extend my sincerest thanks to you and your team for coordinating the wonderful care packages the Marines received. The gratitude expressed by the Marines was truly heartwarming. The thoughtful gesture brought much joy to the Marines who were both surprised and delighted upon receiving the care packages."

# Food and Nutrition News

The Food and Nutrition Department jumped into the new year with a fun “Mini Week” themed menu in grades K-5! The festive week features an array of miniature foods including corn dog nuggets, cheese quesadillas, pizza bagels, confetti pancakes, and cheese ravioli. At the Middle and High School a new item called the “Chicken Dipping Sandwich” was served. This item is composed of a whole grain breaded chicken patty, sliced pickles, optional dipping sauce and is offered with a side of oven baked potato wedges. Due to the item’s popularity we are excited to be serving it again next month along with Chinese New Year, Valentine’s, and Game Day specialty meals!

# 2023-2024 Calendar

## NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2023-2024 School Calendar

### August Days 6

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

21 Teacher Work Day
22 Staff Meetings/Prof. Dev.
23 Convocation/K-5 Open House
24 Students Return (Early Dismissal students only) Staff PD
25 Early Dismissal Students Only (staff PD)

### September Days 19

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

4 Labor Day
25 Yom Kippur

Curriculum Night - date TBD by principal

### October Days 21

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 30 | 31 | | | |

9 Columbus Day
19 Early dismissal for students. Staff PD day

### November Days 18

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 28 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

2 Parent Conferences (see below) (snow date 11/9)
7 Parent Conferences (see below) (snow date 11/14)
10 Veterans Day Observed
22 Early Dismissal Staff/Students
23-24 Thanksgiving Recess

### December Days 15

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

14 Early Dismissal for students/Staff PD
22-29 Holiday Recess

### January Days 21

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

1 New Year's Day
15 Martin Luther King Day

### February Days 19

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | |

1 Early Dismissal for students/PD for Staff
16-19 Presidents' Weekend

### March Days 20

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

6 Parent Conferences (see below) (Snow date March 12)
7 Parent Conferences (see below) (Snow date March 13)
14 Staff PD – Early Dismissal Students
29 Good Friday

### April Days 17

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 29 | 30 | | | |

15-19 Spring Recess

### May Days 22

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

16 Staff PD/Early Dismissal for students
27 Memorial Day

TBD Spring evening event

### June * Days 3

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

6 Last Day of School (early dismissal for student)
7 Teacher Work Day
15 NMHS Graduation 10:00 a.m.

*

First Day of School
Schools Closed
Schools Closed for PD or Parent confs.
Early Dismissal
Last Day of School
Contingency for snow days

**181 Student Days Total**
**186 Teacher Days Total**

June 7-13 Snow days to be added at end of year (if needed).

Any additional days required will be taken from the April Spring Recess, beginning with and working back.

Any additional days required in excess of those indicated will be taken from the remaining days in June.

**Parent Conference Hours**

Nov 2
K-5 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
6-12 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(Snow date 11/9)

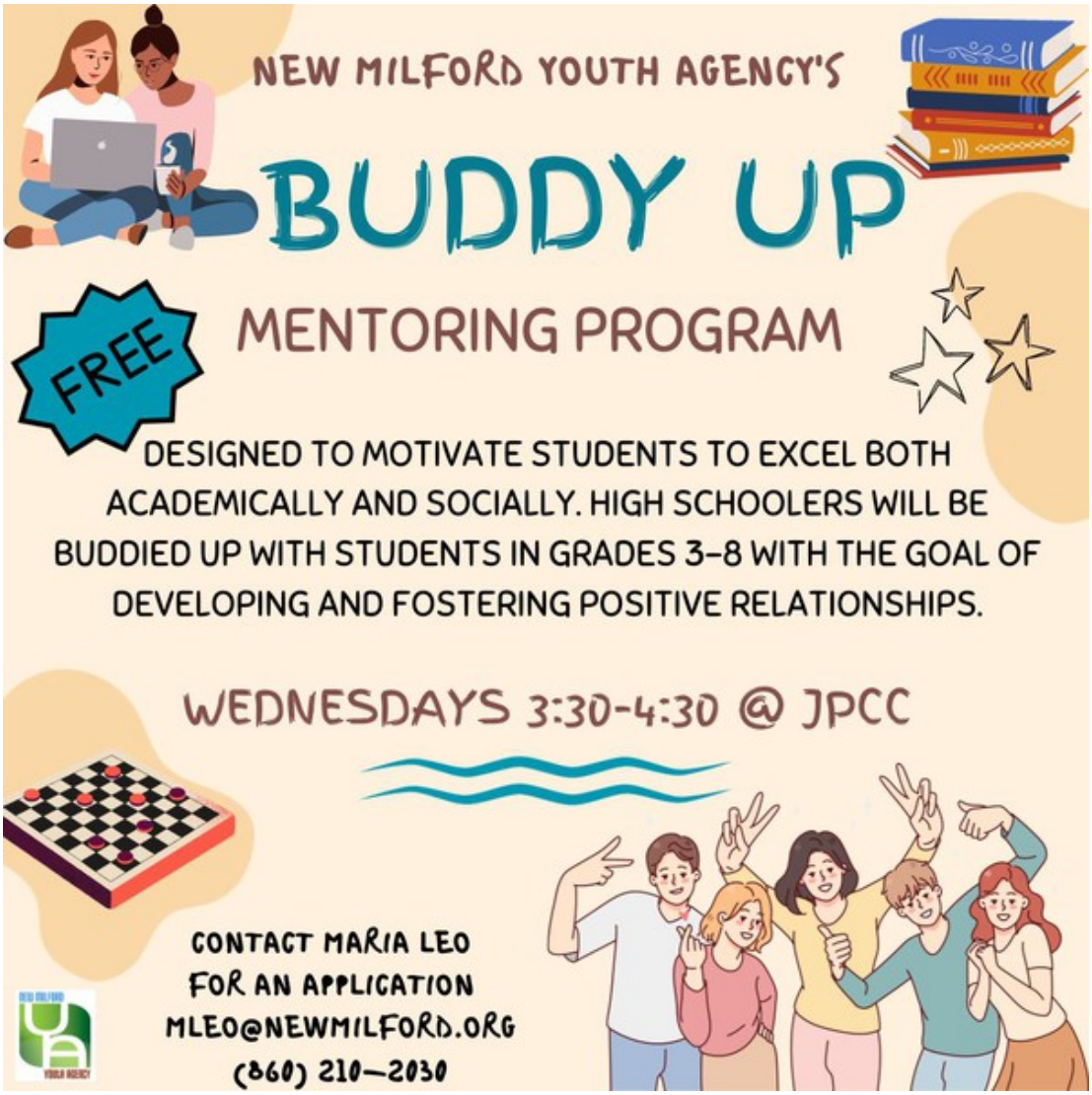
Nov 7
K-12 12:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
(Snow date 11/14)

March 6
K-5 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
6-12 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(Snow date March 12)

March 7
K-5 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
6-12 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(Snow date March 13)

*Revised January 22,2024*

# Community Corner


NEW MILFORD YOUTH AGENCY'S
BUDDY UP
FREE
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

ALL PRO DAD

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 Feb. 12th 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

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

FOR PARENTS& CAREGIVERS

*New Milford Youth Agency presents:*

# S.M.A.R.T.

## SOCIAL MEDIA AND RESPONSIBLE TECHNOLOGY

- **POPULAR APPS, PROGRAMS AND ONLINE TRENDS**
- **CYBERBULLYING, SEXTING AND OTHER DANGERS**
- **SOCIAL NETWORKING AND YOUR FAMILY'S DIGITAL TATTOO**

**WITH TECHNOLOGY CHANGING SO FAST, IT IS VITAL THAT PARENTS ARE AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL DANGERS THEIR FAMILY CAN FACE. COME LEARN SOME STRATEGIES TO HELP EMPOWER CHILDREN TO MAKE THE BEST CHOICES WHEN ONLINE.**

**FEBRUARY 13TH**
**6-7:30**
**@ THE MAXX**
**94 RAILROAD STREET**

FREE!
CATERED BY ITALIA MIA

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
**MYYOUTHAGENCY.COM**
**CONTACT BHEMBROOK@NEWMILFORD.ORG**

INTERNET SAFETY CONCEPTS
Empowering Smart Online Choices
www.InternetSafetyConcepts.com

NEW MILFORD YOUTH AGENCY

Coordinated by the Region 5 Suicide Advisory Board

# WHAT IS POSTVENTION? TRAINING

**Postvention refers to activities that reduce risk and promote healing after a suicide death. It is essential that we prepare for postvention before a suicide happens.**

**By the end of this training session, participants will have**

- Discussed concepts including suicide postvention, survivor of suicide loss, and SPIN
- Used safe messaging guidelines to mitigate risk for contagion
- Shared examples of the four overarching tasks of a SPIN to promote safety within a community experiencing a loss

**Who should join?**

People looking to learn suicide postvention basics and engage with local community response efforts.

**FEBRUARY 14, 2024**
**10:00AM-12:00PM**

**THE MAXX**
94 Railroad Street
New Milford, CT 06776

** Experience with Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) or other suicide prevention training is recommended, but not required, to participate.*
** Complimentary coffee and lunch provided!*

**REGISTER HERE**

WCTC

Village Center for the Arts
A Nonprofit Community Fine Art Center
Your Art Center for 22 Years

# Winter Classes

## Cartooning Class
**Wednesday - 6 week sessions**
**4:00-5:30 PM Ages 9-up**

## Pottery Wheel
**Tuesday - 6 week sessions**
**4:00-5:45 PM Ages 8-up**

## Mini Masters
**Friday - 6 week sessions**
**4:15-5:45 PM Ages 7, 8, & 9**

## Passport to Art
**Thursday - 6 week sessions**
**4:00-5:30 PM Ages 7-up**

## Print Making
**Tuesday - 6 week sessions**
**4:00-5:30 PM Ages 7-up**

## Adv. Pottery Wheel
**Wednesday - 6 week sessions**
**4:00-6:00 PM Ages 9-up**

## Drawing IOI
**Thursday - 6 week sessions**
**4:00-5:30 PM Ages 8-12**

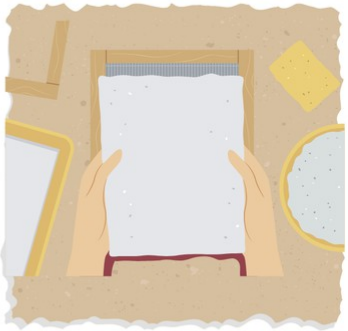
## Creative Writing Jr.
**Friday - 10 week sessions**
**4:00-5:30 PM Ages 8-11**

We have new instructors and they are offering new classes!
We offer Tuition Assistance – find out more on our website.
Please call us with any questions.

villagecenterarts.org 12 Main Street, New Milford,CT (860) 354-4318

# Paper Making

Make your own paper sheets from recycled scraps.



Learn how paper is made and it's environmental impacts.

**February 17th**

**2:30-4:30 PM**

Grades 6-12

PAPER

Registration required

www.newmilford.libcal.com

New Milford Public Library

# 10 Tips to Manage Stress for Teens

*Featuring Dr. Wendy Hurwitz, M.D.*

**Saturday, February 24 11:00-12:00**

Can going through stressful times without stress be a learned skill? Learn from an expert on stress. Dr. Hurwitz is a former medical researcher for ABC and graduate of Yale University School of Medicine.

Pizza and refreshments provided. For grades 6-12. Registration required. Register @ www.newmilford.libcal.com

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Superintendent's Office**

https://www.newmilfordps.org/

Contact

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