

SPOTLIGHT

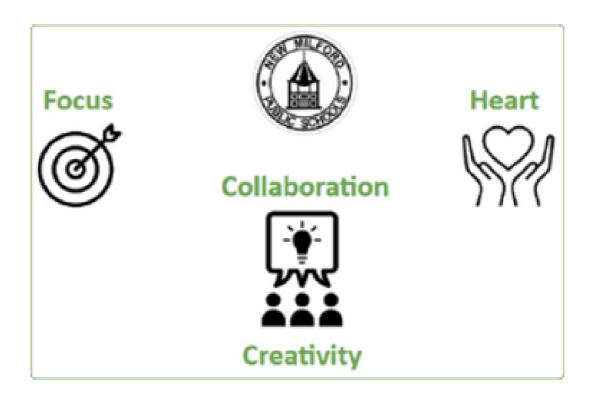
on New Milford Schools

October 2023, Volume 14, Issue 2

Message from Superintendent Dr. Janet Parlato



Hello, New Milford Families, Students, Faculty, and Staff,
I hope that you enjoy the edition of the New Milford Public
Schools Spotlight, which displays so many of the wonderful
activities that we have going on in the school district! We are now
one quarter of the way through the school year, and the days are
going by quickly. Parent-Teacher Conferences are almost here, and
we look forward to welcoming families to school to hear about
their children's achievements and growth. As a district one of our
ongoing projects at this time is to define our Ideas That We Live
By: Focus Heart, Collaboration, and Creativity. We will be sure to
share these definitions with the community when they are
completed.



Important Dates



- November 7th Election Day | Schools Closed | Parent Conferences (snow date 11/14)
- November 10th Schools Closed | Veterans Day
- November 23rd- 24th THANKSGIVING | Schools Closed
- December 14th Early Dismissal | Professional Development

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.

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

25 Sunny Valley Road, Suite A

New Milford, CT 06776 Phone: <u>860-355-8406</u>

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



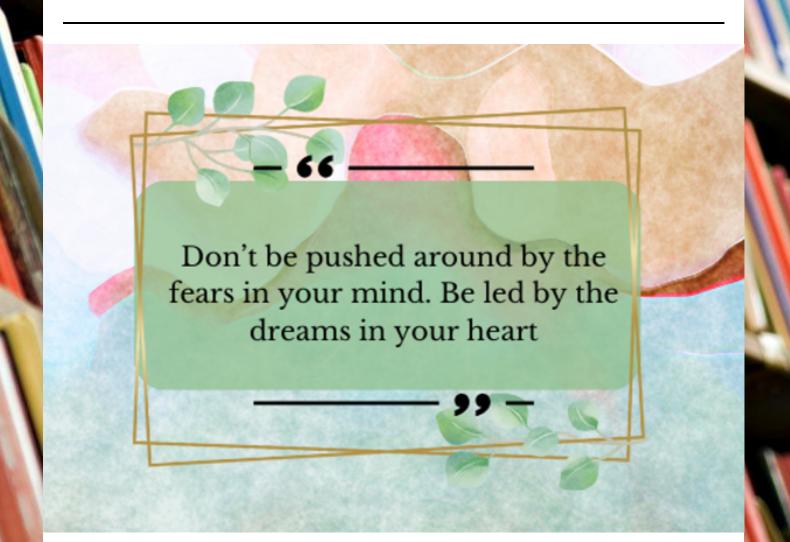
Northville Elementary School

860-355-3713

Mrs. Gwen Gallagher, Principal

Ms. Shannon Surreira, Assistant Principal SMS/NES





NMPS in the News

One of our district's important projects!



New Milford schools spreads kindness with new mini-grant program: 'Positive actions are contagious'

New Milford schools' Kindness in Motion offering mini-grants of up to \$100 to students and staff to create and implement a project that spreads kindness.

☑ newstimes.com

NMHS News

Ideal Student Recognition

Our first Ideal Students were recognized by the Board of Education on October 19th. These students were recognized for representing the district Ideas We Live By: Focus, Heart, Collaboration, and Creativity. Congratulations to NMHS students: Lais, Finlay, Brady, Riley, Charlie, and Rachel (not pictured) for living up to those important ideas through their many contributions in and out of school!



NMHS Student Council hosted fall spirit week from October 10-14. The week began with USA Day, followed by Dress Like Adam Sandler Day, then Barbie Day, and ended with Green and White Day and Toga Day for the Seniors on Friday, October 13th.

The Fall Pep Rally was held on Friday afternoon outdoors at Joe Wiser Stadium. The event began with the singing of the national anthem by the NMHS Chorus followed by a performance from NMHS marching band. Seniors from each fall sports team marched in front of the crowd on the bleachers, and the cheer team and dance team also performed. The pep rally activities included the popular blindfolded musical chairs, potato sack races, and the classic tug-o-war contests between each class. The freshman girls pulled out an upset over the senior girls in their tug-o-war match and the senior boys defeated the junior boys, much to the delight of the crowd.

On Saturday, October 14th over 600 students from grades 9-12 attended the annual homecoming dance from 6-9pm in the NMHS arena. The dance featured a photo booth and refreshments sold by the PTO. The theme of the night was "Starry Night" with the arena and hallways decorated with stars, lights, and balloons. The homecoming dance continues to be the most popular social event of the school year.







Fall Concert

On Thursday, October 19th, the NMHS music department had their first concert of the year featuring their auditioned ensembles: the Advanced Chorus and Wind Ensemble. Conducted by NMHS music directors Ms. Rosen and Mr. Syzdek, the ensembles performed a variety of repertoire ranginging from classical works originally written in 1791 to modern arrangements published as recently as 2022. The fall concert was a great kickoff to the year!



Wave Awards!

Congratulations to the Wave Award recipients!



US Bands Open Class National Championships

Spectacular performance by the NMHS Marching Band and Color Guard at the US Bands Open Class National Championships on November 5th at the Meadowlands in New Jersey! (Check out Dr. Parlato's Instagram for videos)



The Emerging Artist Coloring Book Cover

Students from the 22-23 Emerging Artist Club as well as students in this semester's AP Art & Design and Portfolio classes have designed and created pages for a coloring book sponsored by the Town of New Milford.



Stopping the Lanternfly Invasion!

The lanternfly is an invasive species that has made its way into Connecticut. Mrs. Barboza's Ecology class at the high school worked with New Milford Tree Warden, Mike Boucher, to construct traps designed to catch both the nymphs and adult lanternfly. Traps were then placed around the high school campus and will be monitored by the students. You can help too! If you see a spotted lanternfly, squash it and report it at https://portal.ct.gov/caes









"Success is not final,
Failure is not fatal: It is the
courage to continue that
counts."



- Winston Churchill

Community Building & School Climate

Start with Hello Week

Schaghticoke continues to emphasize kind, responsible, and safe actions. As part of this continued work, students and staff participated in Start with Hello Week from September 18 through 22. Start with Hello week is part of the Sandy Hook Promise.

Each year, thousands of schools throughout the country participate in the Start with Hello program. The goal of the program is to teach students empathy, and empower students to end social isolation through three steps: see someone alone, reach out and help, and start by saying hello.

In addition to daily morning announcements tailored to Start with Hello Week, there was a daily theme. The themes for each day were, Meet-n-Greet Monday, Upstander Tuesday, Wear Green Wednesday, Trusted Adult Thursday, And Moving Forward Friday. During Thursday's activity, students created notes of gratitude to adults who they view as trusted adults at SMS.

SMS Celebrates Unity Day

On Wednesday, October 18th, SMS celebrated Unity Day as part of Bullying Prevention Month. All students and staff were encouraged to wear orange and sign a pledge to help stop bullying. The pledge encourages students to make a commitment to: support others that have been hurt or harmed, treat others with kindness, be more accepting of our differences, and work to include others that may have been left out.

Social-Emotional Learning @ SMS

The SMS community continues to work to foster a sense of community through SEL lessons during FLEX, morning announcements from first period classes, weekly spirit days, and by promoting student discourse, problem solving, and team building across all classes and extracurricular activities. Pictured in this piece are students from Robotics Club working collaboratively to build a robot, students in science class making and sharing observations about nutrient cycles during Science class, students sit in a circle and talk during FLEX/Advisory, Minions and Gru doing the morning announcements, and students from Team 7 Blue take time to plant tulips to beautify the SMS grounds and add to our ecosystem during a unit about cycles in nature.

Additionally, Mrs. Quader and her students recently designed and installed a new bulletin board at SMS. The theme of the bulletin board is "Today is a good day to..." Each of the colorful cards around these words describes a positive behavior/mindset, or shares a way we can all be positive members of the Schaghticoke and greater New Milford communities. Examples include "be brave," "be a leader," "finish something," and "be kind." Thank you so much to Mrs. Quader and her students for helping to bring such positive messages to the halls at SMS!

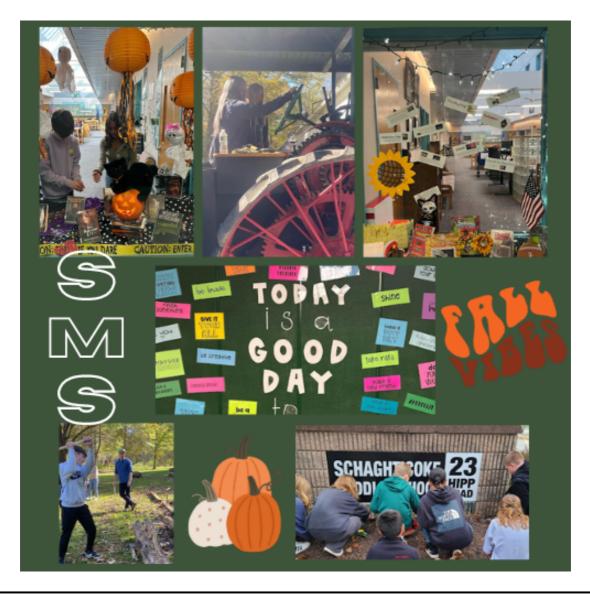
Athletics @ SMS

While it took a while to get the fall sports season underway due to the weather, athletes and coaches at SMS have been hard at work! Student athletes are participating in soccer, cross country, and soccer. Flag football is also getting underway more recently. Through these sports, students are learning the fundamentals of the sport and reinforcing the skills necessary for teamwork, all while having fun with peers and adults.

Students and staff have been working collaboratively to design and install new window displays in the LMC. This month the windows were designed by Jameson & Kaitlyn. One window is dedicated to Halloween and the stories that relate to this spooky holiday. The other window is dedicated to other fall holidays such as Diwali, Thanksgiving, Veterans Day, and Rosh Hashanah. Great job Jameson & Kaitlyn!

8th Grade Field Trip

Students in the 8th grade recently traveled to the Eric Sloane Museum, Kent Furnace, and the Connecticut Antique Machinery Foundation, all located in Kent, Connecticut. This trip helped to enrich 8th grade curricular offerings, while also promoting team building. The Eric Sloane Museum was a chance for students to extend their knowledge of memoirs, which is the first unit in the ELA 8 curriculum, as well as to view first hand some of the early tools that are associated with their student of American History in 8th grade Social Studies. Also tying into the 8th grade Social Studies and Science curricula were Kent Furnace, where students learned about iron mining and smelting in Litchfield County, and the Connecticut Antique Machinery Association where students experienced



SNIS News

PTO Boo Bash Moments

On October 20th, we had our PTO Boo Bash! Students had a wonderful time. Thank you to our terrific PTO for the hard work that made this night happen for all the kids!



Breast Cancer Awareness Month at SNIS

This month we focus on our school-wide service project to raise awareness about Breast Cancer, and to raise money to help our local community. We are asking students to bring in loose change throughout the month. We hope students also learn that small donations across our large community can make a big difference. Literally, as Helen Keller wrote, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

During this month-long campaign, students will:

- participate in one 30 minute lesson featuring a fun information filled video, as well as listen to a read aloud of one of these story books - "Cancer Hates Kisses" by J. Sliwerski, "The Goodbye Cancer Garden" by J. Matthies, or Cancer Party! by Sara Olsher.
- be invited to bring in cash donations (or loose change) to their homeroom.
- add a name to the Cancer Warrior Board to stand in solidarity with those who have or are walking the cancer treatment journey.

On Wednesday, November 15th will be the official "Wear Pink" celebration day, at which time we will announce the total amount of money collected.

NES News

We are sailing through the fall with school in full swing and we are all getting used to new routines!

Cheers to our students who completed their summer reading and math. As a reward for their efforts, they had fun throwing water balloons at Mrs. Gallagher and Mrs. Surreira!

Excel classes planted bulbs in the raised bed outside of Mrs. Basile's room. They are using autumn leaves to practice readiness skills and will move on to Halloween themes. October was a great month to explore all the changes in the environment! The children cut and explored the insides of apples to look at the "star" and the seeds in the middle. They made observations outside about the changing leaves. They also enjoyed a visit from Torty the tortoise. They learned he eats carrots and cucumbers and can live to be over 80 years old!

Fire Safety Day at NES was a great success. Children got to see fire trucks up close and spend time talking to the firefighters who serve our town. Special thanks to Fred Gordon and crew for putting together this wonderful assembly (and the goodie bags) each year.

Students participated in the school-wide Book Character Day Parade on October 31st, which is always a hit with our community of parents, students and staff!

The Kindergarteners enjoyed a trip to March Farm in Bethlehem, CT for a fall themed field trip. They picked pumpkins, and learned about life cycles on a beautiful, crisp October day! They had fun on their first field trip.

Our First graders picked carrots, peppers and tomatillos off the vine in the plant patch and made fresh salsa with all the vegetables. They also made applesauce which is always a yummy fall treat.

The Second graders have also been busy making Salsa with harvested vegetables from the plant patch! Thank you to all the parent volunteers for helping in the classroom for these activities. Students were able to see first hand how food is produced from seed to vegetable. They experienced a valuable lesson in how our food supply can be made into something delicious and how it gets onto the table and into our hungry bellies.

Pilla's Pack performed a skit in the Northville School's October CARES Assembly highlighting the character trait, RESPONSIBILITY! They showed the audience what responsibility looks like and sounds like in the Cafeteria.





As a reward for doing the summer reading and math, students threw water balloons at Mrs.
Gallagher (Nessy) and Mrs. Surreira!



Kindergarteners March Farm Visit



Our Kindergarteners enjoy reading with partners!



The Excel classes had a great visit with Torty the Tortoise.



Fire Safety Day was fun and informative!



Mrs. Pilla and Mrs.
Breidster enjoy Fire
Safety Day with their
classes.



Good luck Mr. Miltimore, King of the Library! We will miss you!



Mr. MacKessy's first graders enjoyed picking vegetables in the plant patch to make delicious salsa!



The second graders made salsa!

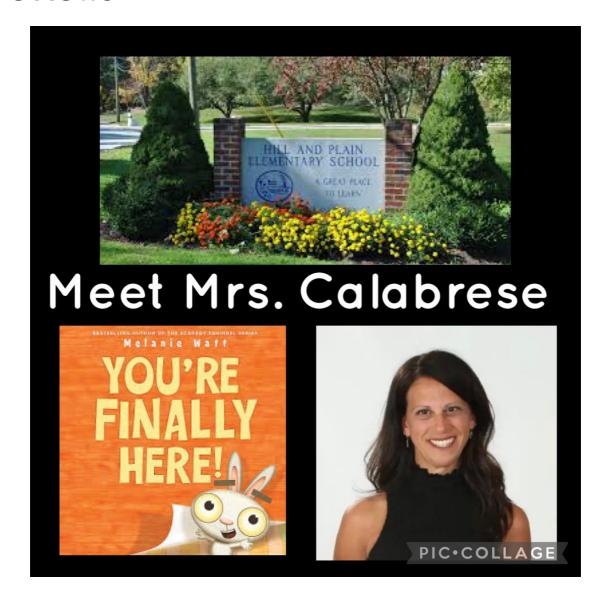


Mrs. Gregory's first graders made apple sauce on Western Day! (Townwide spirit days)



Mrs. Pilla's pack performed a skit about responsibility at the C.A.R.E.S. assembly!

HPS News



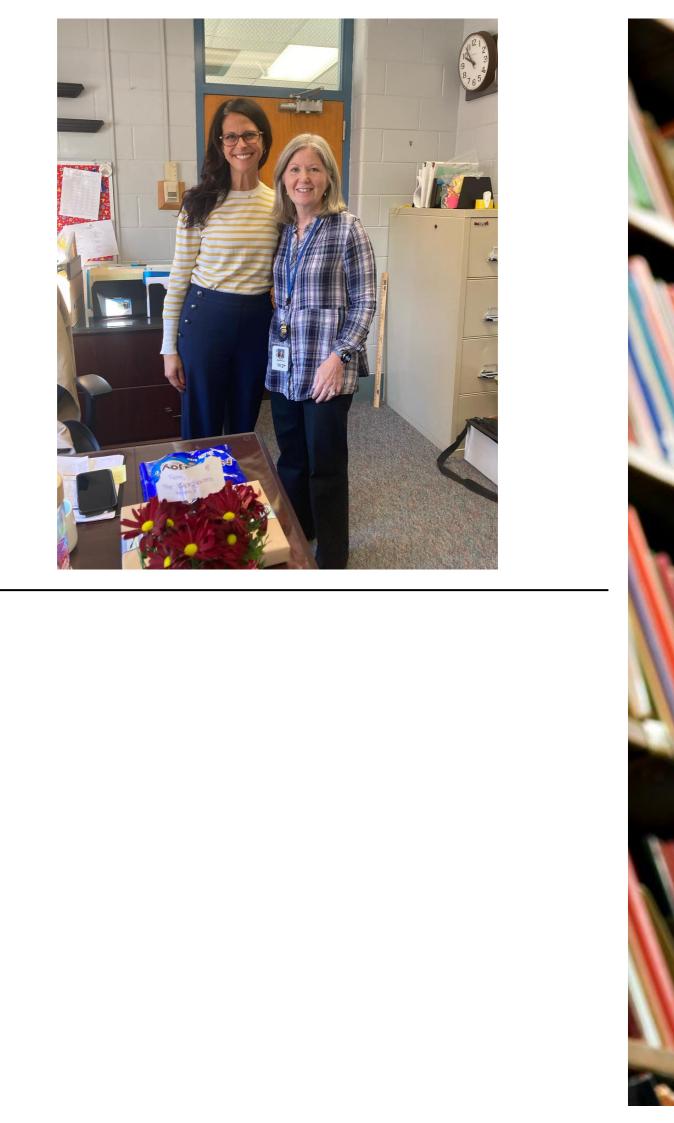


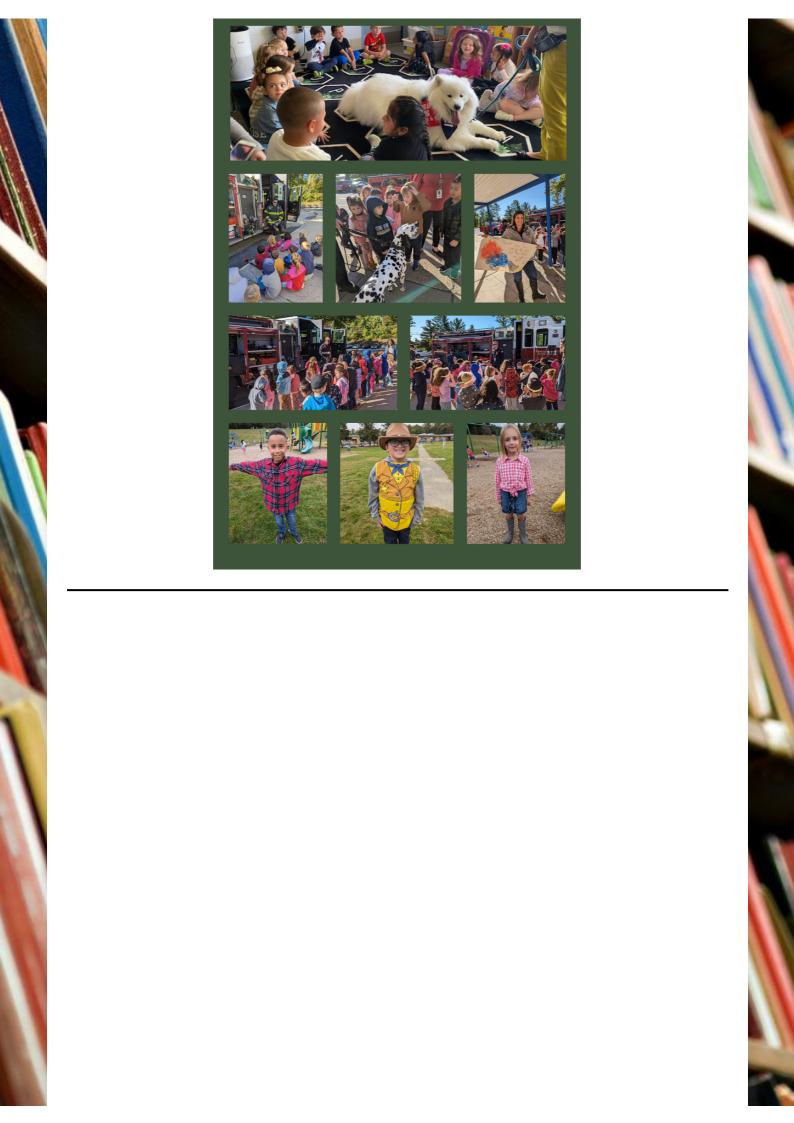
In October, Hill and Plain welcomed our new principal, Mrs.
Calabrese and Yuki, our therapy dog who visits on Fridays. We also said hello to fall with our kindergarteners and first graders having visits from the New Milford Fire Department celebrating fire safety month. The Scholastic book fair was a success allowing students to purchase books supporting high interests around reading. Our pie fundraiser and Boosterthon Fun Run raised funds for school curriculum and activities that support learning. We had perfect weather for the Fun Run while staff and students enjoyed the exercise. We ended the month with our annual Book Character Parade that made stories come alive!

Welcome Principal Mrs. Calabrese!

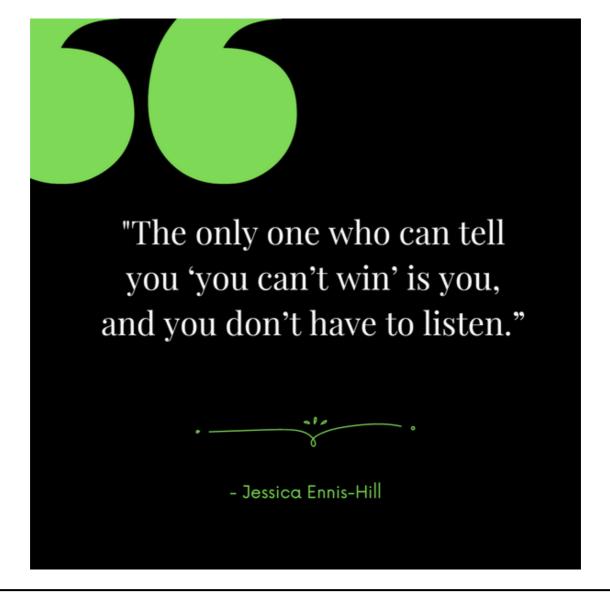
A wonderful first day for Mrs. Calabrese! Here she is at her desk, with Assistant Principal Adakonis, and being met at the door first thing in the morning by Mrs. Gallagher, NES Principal!











Get in the Game

CIAC State Championships!

Congratulations to the 2023 CIAC Class MM Girls Cross Country State Champions! New Milford's top 5 runners earn 1st Team All State: Izzy Green, Kat Taborsak, Mimi Sabatino, Ellie Joudy and Alesia Smalls! WAY TO GO, GREENWAVE GIRLS!



Check out these SWC Champs!

Congratulations to the Cross Country Boys AND Girls SWC Champs! Outstanding! We're so proud of you.



NMHS Unified Athletics

Unified Soccer Athletes in Newtown on October 25th. Great game!



Green Wave is NBC Connecticut's Game of the Week!

NMHS hosts Bunnell NBC Connecticut's Game of the Week!



Week 7 Game of the Week: New Milford vs. Bunnell

Windsor football rallies after death of teammate to shut out Newington. Our Game of the Week takes us to the SWC for New Milford hosting Bunnell. Other games from around the state: Enfield-Berlin, RHAM-South Windsor.

☑ nbcconnecticut.com

NMHS Choir Performs the National Anthem

Beautiful rendition of the National Anthem by the NMHS choir at the HOCO game on Oct. 13th.

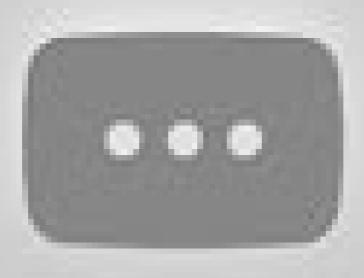
https://youtu.be/GYOY6oNz2IY



HOCO Green Wave vs. Stratford

Green Wave making their entrance against Stratford at the Homecoming Game on Oct. 13th

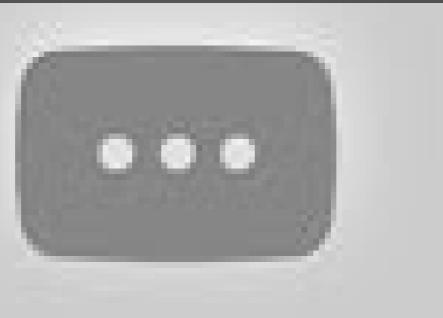
https://youtube.com/shorts/3HOSfexNfF0



SMS Cross Country is on the Move!

Let's Go!

https://youtu.be/1oP66n-I2N8



Food and Nutrition News

The week of October 2nd to the 6th was a very special week for the Food and Nutrition Department as well as our community as it was CT Grown for CT Kids Week! This week we highlighted several new items on the menu including local produce from nearby farms and other products that are manufactured here in Connecticut. Just a few of the items we highlighted were Stani Yogurt from Ansonia, delicata squash from Maple View Farm in Harwinton, apples and pears from Roger's Orchards in Southington, salad greens and radishes from Sweet Ring Farm in Sandy Hook, and basil from our very own Plant Patch here at Northville! This week serves as a reminder of just how important it is to source locally and support the farmers and manufacturers who are working tirelessly to create these amazing products!





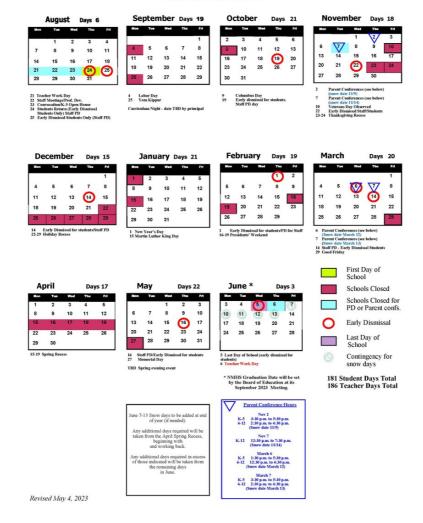






2023-2024 Calendar

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2023-2024 School Calendar

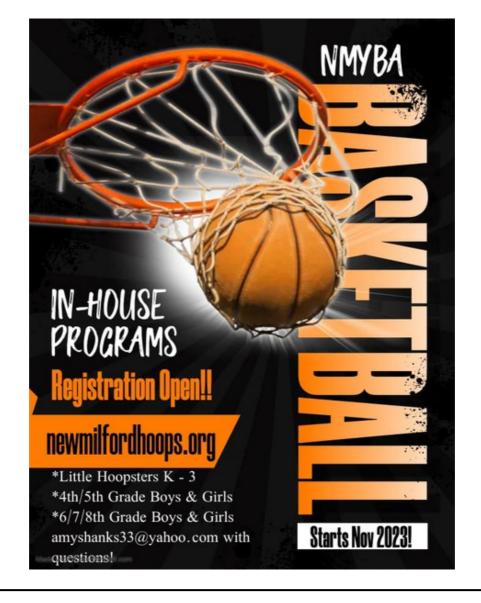


2023-2024 NMPS Calendar.pdf

Download

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Community Corner







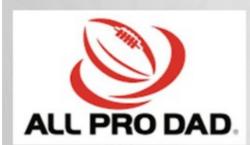
TEENS AND ADULTS: JOIN US FOR A
PRESENTATION BY NANCY
SILBERKLEIT, CO-CEO OF ARCHIE
COMICS PUBLICATIONS. WITH A
BACKGROUND IN EDUCATION, SHE'S
ON A MISSION TO INSPIRE, EMPOWER,
AND PROMOTE LITERACY THROUGH
THE WORLD OF ARCHIE COMICS.

COMICS FOR LITERACY: THE ARCHIE WAY



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH FROM 5:30-7:30
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
REGISTER @ NEWMILFORD.LIBCAL.COM









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 Nov. 13th 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.



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



