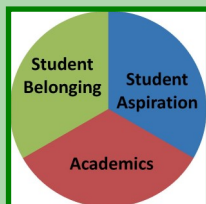




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Mr. Raymond Manka, Principal
 Mr. Kevin Best, Asst. Principal
 Mrs. Liz Curtis, Asst. Principal



Shaghticoke Middle School
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Ms. Linda Scoralick, Interim Principal
 Mr. Michael Boucher, Asst. Principal
 Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, Asst. Principal
 Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal



Sarah Noble Intermediate School
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Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal
 Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Asst. Principal
 Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Asst. Principal



Hill & Plain Elementary School
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 Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Asst. Principal



Northville Elementary School
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 Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, Asst. Principal

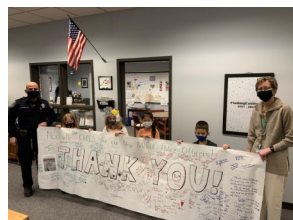
Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 12, Issue 8

February 2022

Sharing Love and Kindness

With Valentine's Day right in the middle, February is the perfect month for our schools to celebrate love and kindness in its many forms, and help the community along the way.



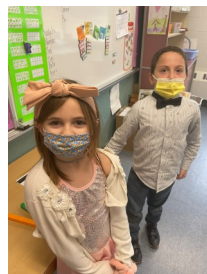
NES students created a poster to thank our New Milford Police department for their commitment to NES and the community. The students also created Valentine cards for the health care heroes at CT Children's Medical Center and for the residents of Chestnut



Grove. NES 2nd grade students participated in the Kids' Heart Challenge for the American Heart Association, something the school has done for over 20 years! As part of the challenge, students learn about heart health and raise funds to protect all hearts – especially other kids.

This year's fundraising goal was \$3,000 and students surpassed it easily. All students (and families) were invited to show kindness through the NES "Marine Care Packages" collection of personal hygiene items, food/snack items and other goodies. Finally, students showed some love to the staff by dropping off a special note in the Valentine mailbox for staff outside the Main Office.

In conjunction with the PTO, HPS students participated in a food drive for Camella's Cupboard on 2-22-22 while dressing up in "Tuxedos, Ties, Tutus and Tiaras".



The HPS PTO also set up a "Kindness Tree" bulletin board where students wrote or drew pictures of kindness on paper hearts that were then put up on the bulletin board.

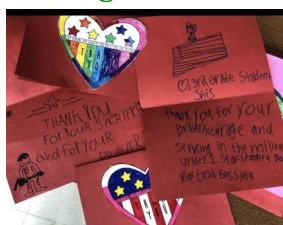
Like their fellow students at NES, SNIS students held their own Jump Rope for Heart Challenge, and exceeded their goal of \$10,000 by a wide margin, having raised more than \$13,000!



SNIS students shared how they could “Spread Kindness and Love” in a visual display. Suggestions included by “playing with people who are alone”, and “helping others – that will turn into a chain reaction”.



Third grade students participated in the annual Valentines for Vets initiative, a truly heart-felt endeavor. Each class learned about the sacrifices our veterans have made for our country and enjoyed designing cards of appreciation, support, and care. Many students were diligent artists ensuring that the pictures they drew and colored represented all parts of our military and the words they chose spread hopes of joy, thankfulness and love. Over 240 valentines were sent to local veterans in West Haven.



SMS Advisory’s focus for February was Kindness Month. Each week highlighted a specific type of kindness. Week 1 focused on showing kindness in diversity, appreciating each other’s uniqueness and embracing commonalities. Week 2’s focus was on kindness in the school community, appreciating the kindness others show throughout the school day. During Week 3 students spread compliment confetti, focusing on the kindness of giving compliments to others, and celebrated Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 17. The final week focused on kindness towards ourselves. Students were reminded that it is important to give the same kindness to themselves that they would give to others, especially during challenging times when their “inner critic” might be judgmental.

NMHS clubs and activities sponsored their own initiatives. The Asia Club sold Valentine candy bags to raise funds for Because 4 Paws. The National Honor Society held a food drive for Camella’s Cupboard, and sold roses to raise money for Senior Scholarships.

Thank you to all students, staff and families who help to spread kindness all year long!



Nominate a NMPS Star of the Month!

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.



More News from Our Schools

Hill and Plain Elementary School

The shortest month of the year was a busy one at Hill and Plain school. We hit our 100th day of school early in February and our students celebrated with fun activities and crafts that focused on the number 100.



Our annual PTO sponsored Read-A-Thon began this month and students have been participating by making sure they read every night. A family reading night was held to help promote the event. Our PTO set up “campfires” around the school and families were invited to join us and listen to stories read by our Hill and Plain staff. Students were also able to complete a scavenger hunt and enjoy some crafts.



Barkley continued to make the rounds, congratulating students who show “I Matter, You Matter, School Matters!” Students took advantage of the little snow we’ve had to work on a snowman during outdoor recess.



The Hill and Plain staff look forward to seeing our parents again at conferences at the beginning of next month.

Northville Elementary School

Our C.A.R.E.S. theme for February is “Citizenship.” We are proud of our staff for practicing kindness and working tirelessly together to ensure that classrooms feel stable, happy, productive, and vibrant. It’s been a busy month! Here are few samples of what’s been going on.



Mrs. Williams' students created boxes with pictures of themselves and awesome adjectives that describe who they are. The lesson involved "loving yourself so that you can love others!" Practicing kindness toward ourselves is important too. Mrs. Leto's second grade class has pen pals at NMHS. On "Half-Way Hawaiian Day,"

they sent them stickers and "postcards" from "Hawaii." Letters like these help us stay connected with our community.



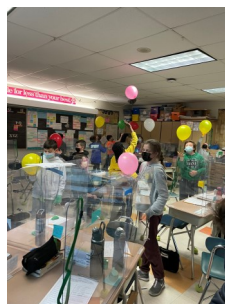
Mrs. Breidster's second grade class wrote an acrostic poem for Mrs. Tarsa for School Counselor Week and Thoughtful Thursday. They read it to her during guidance class in a show of appreciation. In Mrs. Waldman's art class, the PK students worked on their "Year of the Tiger" art projects.



Time marches on, and March is just around the corner. Here's hoping the Groundhog was wrong, and Spring comes early this year!

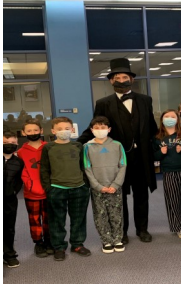
Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Students and staff celebrated 2-22-22 in a variety of ways with tutus, twinning, two minute challenge brain breaks including a 2 minute balloon toss and a TWOsday Tower Challenge: 22 toothpicks, 22 marshmallows, and 22 pieces of pasta!

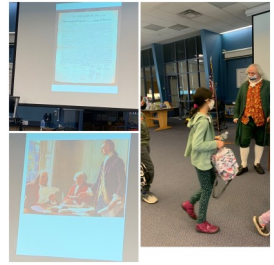


PE classes participated in their own Winter Olympics with several fun exercises.

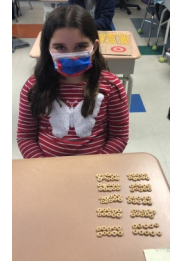




SNIS students welcomed special visitors to school this month, courtesy of the SNIS PTO. Ben Franklin visited with 4th graders and talked about the difference between a discovery and an invention. Fifth graders learned about the life of President Abe Lincoln.



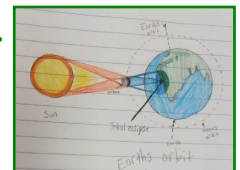
Finally, our PK-2 schools were not the only ones celebrating the 100th day. SNIS students illustrated the number in its many forms.



Schaghticoke Middle School

There has been a lot going on in the Music Department at SMS. On February 2nd students participated in a virtual Winter Orchestra Concert during the school day. On February 10th, SMS students traveled to New Milford High School for String Fest. This is a combined workshop and concert for students at SNIS, SMS, and NMHS. This year, students participated in small group sessions with NMHS peer leaders and larger group sessions with two of the district's band teachers. Congratulations to all of our SMS musicians.

Students in Ms. Gall's Science classes have been incorporating art into their work as they learn about the solar system. Recently students worked on recreating precise models of how the Earth-sun-moon systems work to cause eclipses.



Mrs. Stoughton, in our Science Department, has been working with students on creating blankets for the homeless using information they've learned in class about thermal energy. Science + compassion + community involvement = A win/win outcome!

There's also exciting news from the Drama Club at SMS. The spring production this year will be *The Claw*. Auditions are taking place now. The school community is looking forward to the show!

Finally, there was a lot going on in the month of February with athletics. Boys' and Girls' basketball finished up a great season for both teams, led by Coach Hibbard and Coach Blood. Both teams worked impressively toward a greater understanding of the game, learning strategy and movement on the court. Teamwork was stressed and they did not disappoint. Intramural volleyball for both boys and girls also finished up their season. Volleyball is a favorite and our students thrived under the instruction of Coach Blood and Coach Wall. Again, another opportunity to work as a team brings out the best in student participation. Go Surge!

New Milford High School

Makerspace Now Available at NMHS

The Library Learning Commons has a Makerspace for students to work on school projects, create their own projects or explore their creativity. Students can make posters, 3D models, dioramas, and more. The makerspace is filled with paper, cardboard, fabric, felt, string, beads, markers, pine cones, seashells, wood scraps, foam, tape, glue and so much more! In addition to using supplies, students may also learn how to use the sewing machine, bookbinding machine, or Cricut machine. Students that wish to use the makerspace may sign up on the LLC website to come during a study hall period.



February in the LLC included an Olympic week celebration. The theme of the week was "Go for the Gold!". Students competed in the sphero slalom, participated in the makerspace challenge to create something Olympic related, completed Olympic word searches and browsed through Olympic themed books.

We are the Champions (SWC Version)!

Congratulations to New Milford High School's SWC Championship Teams – Indoor Track, Gymnastics and Wrestling. Go Green Wave!



Tickets are now on sale for CHICAGO: High School Edition!

Purchase your tickets by visiting nmhsct.booktix.com.

NMHS Theatre is proud to present its spring musical production of *CHICAGO: High School Edition*. In roaring twenties Chicago, chorine Roxie Hart murders a faithless lover and convinces her hapless husband, Amos, to take the rap... until he finds out he's been duped and turns on Roxie. Convicted and sent to death row, Roxie and another "Merry Murderess," Velma Kelly, vie for the spotlight and the headlines, ultimately joining forces in search of the "American Dream": fame, fortune, and acquittal.

CHICAGO: High School Edition! Performances are
 Friday, March 18, 2022 at 7pm
 Saturday, March 19, 2022 at 7pm
 Sunday, March 20, 2022 at 3pm
 Friday, March 25, 2022 at 7pm
 Saturday, March 26, 2022 at 2pm and 7pm



Art Students Honored

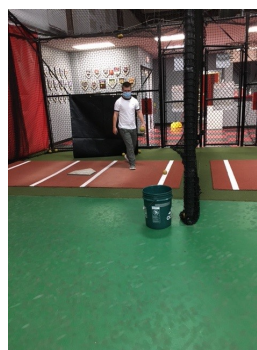
Nine NMHS artists have had ceramics pieces accepted into this year's "Artists on the Rise" student exhibition at the Brookfield Craft Center. Congratulations to Craig Hulse, Beatriz Novas, Nicholas Peburn, Peter Polo, John Pomavilla, Nicole Reiske, Amani Rivera, Brinett Rodriguez and Gisela Sanchez.



Two New Milford High School student works of ceramics art were accepted into the National Juried K-12 art exhibition. NCECA, The National Council on the Education for Ceramic Arts, promotes this K-12 exhibition every year as part of their worldwide celebration of ceramic arts. There were nearly 900 entries to this Exhibition this year, and only about 200 pieces were chosen. Junior Beatriz Novas' wax resist plate and Junior Nicole Reiske's Selfie tile were juried into this prestigious student art show. Congratulations to both!

LHTC Students at Work

The Litchfield Hills Transition Center (LHTC) Program provides transition services to eligible students 18-22 years old. Pictured here are students who attend LHTC participating in various aspects of the program. LHTC helps to prepare students for life in the real world. While attending the program, students learn job skills, independent living skills, social skills, and explore hobbies in order to become contributing members of our community.



2022-23 Kindergarten Registration Is Open

New Milford Public Schools invites parents of 2022-23 incoming kindergarteners to begin the registration process for next school year. Any child who will be 5 years of age on or before December 31, 2022 is eligible for enrollment in Kindergarten. Begin the registration process by going to the district website at www.newmilfordps.org. Under the "Parent" tab click on "student registration". For those families who cannot complete the registration online, we will be holding an in-person registration on Thursday, March 10th from 5pm-7pm. Students who are registered for kindergarten are also invited to join us for our mini-kindergarten experience that we hold in the spring. Once you are registered, we will have your contact information and your child's school will reach out to you with dates, times and specific information regarding the mini-kindergarten experience once the plan for that event is confirmed.



NEW MILFORD YOUTH AGENCY

Join the New Milford Youth Agency, New Milford Police Department, and The Center for Engagement and Education.

Keeping Safe Online

Monday, March 21, 2022, at the Maxx from 6:00-7:30 P.M. for a FREE informative event for parents and teens

Parents will leave with practical information on how to monitor and protect their children and teens online.

FREE informative event for parents & teens

Teens join us for a separate discussion on the impact of your posts and future!

Please register at myyouthagency.com

For more information 860-210-2030

New Milford Youth Agency and Western CT Coalition Presents

New Milford Parent Conversation

Vaping and its Effects on Youth

Discussions on current trends, products available, understanding what vaping is, and the concerns of underage vaping facilitated by MSgt. Sarah Lorenzini, USAF and Jason O'Connor, LMSW

Tuesday, March 22 from 6:00-7:00 P.M. at the Maxx

WESTERN CT COALITION
preventing teen substance use, tobacco, and behavioral health

Register at myyouthagency.com



New Milford Public Schools

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Superintendent

Ms. Holly Hollander

Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Rebecca Adams

Human Resources Director

Mr. Matthew Cunningham

Facilities Director

Mr. Anthony Giovannone

Fiscal Services & Operations
Director

Mrs. Laura Olson

Pupil Personnel &
Special Services Director

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan

Food Services Director

Mr. Jeffrey Turner

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Bake for Family Fun Month*

The Home Baking Association founded Bake for Family Fun Month in 2002 to encourage families to spend more time together, mixing up something delicious throughout the month of February. Try baking up some delicious treats while offering a hidden teaching opportunity from the heart of your home. Baking not only gets the creative juices flowing but also tests out math and reading skills. The most important power of all: following directions!

Here's a few Baking Ideas:

- ◆ Pull out the recipe for your family's favorite decadent treat and divvy up different things for the kids to handle. Someone to get all of the ingredients ready, someone to measure, mix, pour, set the timer. For the one who isn't that into it, make them the taste tester.
- ◆ Not into making something from scratch? No problem! Pick up a package of a "ready-to-bake" item and give that a try.
- ◆ Friday Pizza & Movie Night—try making homemade pizza dough, and everyone gets to make their own personal pan pizza.
- ◆ Whip up some blueberry muffins or waffles for breakfast on a Saturday morning.
- ◆ Try a fruit pizza - always a fun one for kids to get their hands on!

Consider baking for others too. If you wish to give the baking fun month a try this year, ask your family who they would like to bake a treat for. Maybe let each family member pick someone. After all, even more fun than baking is sharing the goodies with somebody else.

*Info courtesy of <https://omaha.momcollective.com/parenting-wisdom/national-bake-for-family-fun-month/>

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.

February 2020