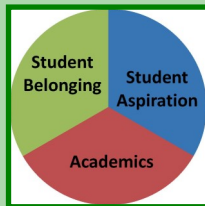




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Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 13, Issue 5

November 2022

Honoring Our Veterans

All NMPS schools held Veterans Day observances around the holiday. NMHS held its program on November 9th and all other schools on November 10th. Veterans were honored in song and speech as each school marked the occasion in its own way. Thank you to the veterans who were able to attend these meaningful programs, and to all our veterans for their service!



News from Our Schools

Hill and Plain Elementary School

At the end of October, Hill and Plain held their annual Book Character Parade. Students and staff had fun dressing up and the weather was perfect for a short outdoor parade.

November was full of fun at Hill and Plain as students were able to take part in two different school wide assemblies. Our first assembly of the month was our Veterans Day Assembly in which we honored the veterans that were part of our school community. Our 2nd graders did an amazing job singing some patriotic songs and many classes were lucky enough to have a veteran visit their class to talk more about their service.



We had a second assembly to celebrate our month-long focus on gratitude. We learned all about gratitude and the many different things we can be grateful for. Our school mascot, Barkley, made an appearance to say hello to students and celebrate examples of gratitude we have seen around the school. We also had a "Gratitude Tree" and students shared what they were grateful for, which was displayed in the main hallway.

During the month of November, we reached our 50th day of school. Our kindergarten classes celebrated by dressing up in their 50's gear and having a Sock Hop dance!



Northville Elementary School



November has been a fun month of learning and practicing our CARES expectations. Our students cooperate, act responsibly, respect, encourage and practice being safe. Our theme for November was honesty. The children practiced being honest in a variety of ways.

We have enjoyed the bright colors of the season, as well as the milder temperatures. We are grateful that our students have been able to spend more time outside during "morning movement" before school.





We honored our Veterans with a Veterans Day assembly in the gym, and a “thank you for your service” bulletin board. Staff were encouraged to write a note of appreciation on the board for our service men and women. NES had 10 veterans from various branches of the military visit Northville. Some veterans included family members of Northville students, making the assembly even more meaningful.

A notable speaker was a female soldier in star spangled high heels that had driven tanks and who said, "You can do anything you set your mind to!!!" to which the students cheered. The students of Northville sang a small concert of patriotic songs in honor of Veteran's Day, including classics such as, *Grand Old Flag*, *America the Beautiful*, and a very personal and enthusiastic rendition of our state song, *Yankee Doodle*, that made all of the Veterans in attendance smile.

In Mrs. Waldman’s art class, teachers and students had some fun making spooky but colorful sugar skull masks.



The Book Character Parade was so much fun! “Frog and Toad Are Friends” aka School Secretaries Kim and Sam, led the children through the school and outside so that parents could watch. Our SSO, Mr. Bill Gaspar, fittingly dressed as Wyatt Earp and Principal Gwen Gallagher was the tree from the book, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*!

This year we incorporated the annual Food Drive with fitness. The students used the items as weights to strengthen their muscles, all while filling our shelves with food. Mrs. Merrill, the PE Teacher, organized the annual Food Drive, and it was a great success!



Sarah Noble Intermediate School

During the month of October, SNIS observed Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Students raised change by doing chores at home and contributed to our pink boot drive! We celebrated the end with a pink day where staff and students wore pink. In all, SNIS raised more than \$1700 to donate. SNIS is also working on the Kid’s Heart Challenge. As of November 9th, over \$6,650 had been raised and students are still going strong!

At SNIS there was plenty to be grateful for this month too! We were very excited to have our Veterans Day celebrations return to ‘in person’ and it was our pleasure, with the help of our PTO, to host many veterans from our New Milford community. SNIS music teachers Gloria Capone, Mike Fitzgerald, and Amanda Anderson teamed up with Dave Syzdek and Rebekka Rosen from NMHS and created an amazing assembly that included combined performances of the bands and choruses,



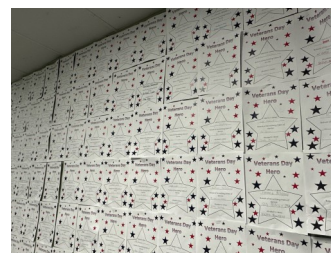
a presentation that highlighted many of our students' family members, and an opportunity to honor the Veterans in attendance. Click [here](#) and [here](#) to hear snippets from the performance. Additionally, veterans visited the classrooms to share their personal stories of service and answer student questions. It was a wonderful day of celebrations and an excellent opportunity for our students to learn about the Veterans' service.



Student enrichment is an important part of all we do. This month, for the first time, all SNIS 5th graders were introduced to the game of chess! Our enrichment teacher, Dan Delia, with the support of Cynthia Bonnell, K-5 STEM teacher, and Scott McKay, 4th Grade teacher, designed lessons, a google classroom filled with resources, and a pamphlet for future reference for all students. Students are doing wonderfully and have been very excited to learn and play!

Schaghticoke Middle School

School spirit is on full display at SMS! Our weekly spirit days continued in the month of November. This month our spirit day themes included wearing red, white, & blue in honor of Veterans Day, flannel day, and wearing purple to raise awareness about Alzheimer's Disease. Weekly spirit days are linked to the SMS Spirit Challenge. Congratulations to Team 6 White for earning the most points in the first marking period!



During the month of November, students and staff at SMS had the opportunity to visit the Scholastic Book Fair. This year there were many exciting titles to choose from. As always, the book fair was a huge success. Thank you to the many PTO volunteers that made the book fair possible!

Also this month, students at SMS had the opportunity to participate in the Lion's Club International Peace Poster Contest. The theme this year was "Lead with Compassion". Congratulations to 6th grade student Catalina who was named the winner of all the posters submitted at SMS!



On Monday, November 7th, our Advisory period at SMS was devoted to acknowledging the service and sacrifice of family and friends that have served in the military. Students and staff had the opportunity to complete a star for any family or friends that have served our country. Stars were hung in the hallways at SMS to honor our heroes!



On Thursday, November 10th, SMS hosted local veterans and some of our friends from New Milford High School for a Veterans Day Program. The program included performances by the NMHS Wind Ensemble and also the Advanced Chorus. In addition, students heard a Veterans Day inspired poem and learned about the history of Veterans Day. To conclude the assembly, local veterans in attendance were introduced and cheered. Everyone at SMS thanks all veterans for their service to our country!

Winter sports offerings are in full gear. Basketball is offered for Unified Sports and at intramural and interscholastic levels for both boys and girls. Girls & Boys Volleyball will also be offered and will start later this winter.

New Milford High School

NMHS was selected as a Michaels Cup Award recipient for the work the New Milford High School Athletic Department did for the 2021-2022 school year in promoting sportsmanship, community service/citizenship, and positive school spirit. This is the 3rd time in school history that New Milford has been the recipient (2016-17 school year, 2018-19 school year). Athletic Director Lipinsky and some members of the NMHS Athletic Council attended the CIAC Sportsmanship Summit where they were presented with the award. Way to go Green Wave!



NMHS Athletics hosted Signing Day for eight students continuing their athletic careers in college on Tuesday, November 15th in the NMHS Main Gym. Congratulations to Jayden Alfano (WCSU Lacrosse), Aidan Ezra (University of Hartford Lacrosse), Rose Kelly (Sacred Heart University Rowing), Grace King (Muhlenberg College Lacrosse), Brayden Olmstead (ECSU Lacrosse), Breanna Robles (Rutgers University Rowing), Keane Stanton (ECSU Lacrosse) and Victoria Wunderlich (Shenandoah University Lacrosse).

Many of our fall athletic teams went deep into playoff competition. Congratulations to all on a great season! Keep track of all the Green Wave Athletics teams by following them on Twitter @GoGreenWaveNM.

Congratulations to the NMHS Marching Band and Color Guard for their 1st place finish in Class 4a as State Champions!!



NMHS National Honor Society (NHS) members are reaching out to support their fellow students' academic needs. They are available to support a classroom or for tutoring in any course. Students can sign up for the LLC during a study hall and look for the many NHS tutors stationed there during every block or can arrange a mutually convenient time.



NMHS Theatre presented its 2022 Fall Play, *Puffs or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic* on November 18th and 19th. Kudos to the cast and crew!



On November 21st, NMHS students participated in the 2022 Green Wave Walk of Honor sponsored by the Gridiron Club and the Town of New Milford. The NMHS band, athletic teams and students in NMHS programs and clubs met on the green and walked to Young's Field where they were recognized and celebrated.

District Wide

Parent/Teacher conferences took place November 8th and 9th. Conferences represent an important opportunity for families and teachers to communicate regarding individual student performance. We were thrilled to see many families take advantage of this opportunity. Over 4500 conferences were held!

The *CT Grown Week* initiative of our own Food Services department was featured in the November newsletter from [Put Local on Your Tray](#). This organization is an offshoot of UConn Extension Service and assists schools with sourcing local products. New Milford is featured under the "Tray Updates" section. It is wonderful recognition of the healthy food options provided to our students!

The New Milford Adult Education program is now a Charter member of the National Adult Education Honor Society! All students are eligible to become members and their entrance is based on a variety of criteria. Some of those requirements include, but are not limited to, work ethic, attendance, academic growth and collaboration. A committee to review all possible candidates will be comprised of both teachers and administrative staff. Program staff are looking forward to highlighting and commending students and the dedication they've shown towards their education.



A Note from Interim Superintendent JeanAnn C. Paddyfote:

As we approach the Thanksgiving break, I want to extend sincere wishes for a relaxing and bountiful holiday. Thanksgiving is a time for us to reflect on all that is good in our lives and to be thankful for our family and friends. Best wishes to you and your family for a joy filled day.



Congratulations to New Milford Public Schools “Stars” for November 2022!



Alicia Hanelt, SNIS Social Worker

“Alicia does amazing work in her Social Worker role but she is always willing to go beyond the expected, help wherever she can, and do anything that serves students well. We are lucky to have her at SNIS each day.”

Nina Money, NMHS Teacher

“Frau Money is how she is addressed by her German students. She consistently offers engaging and creative ways to deliver the German Curriculum to her students. Students bake authentic German pastries, design German greeting cards, play online games to strengthen German vocabulary skills and explore Germany virtually.”



Diane Smith, NES Teacher

“Mrs. Smith is straight forwardly kind, understanding and has insight into children’s feelings. She addresses issues as they come up in an appropriate way. I’m thrilled she is my child’s teacher.”

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.





New Milford Public Schools

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Ms. Holly Hollander
Assistant Superintendent

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
Technology Director

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Mr. Eric Hansell

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mr. Tom O'Brien

Ms. Leslie Sarich

Mr. Keith A. Swanhall Jr.

Family Stories Month

Family Stories Month comes around just in time for the holidays, and family gatherings provide a perfect opportunity to share stories and learn about family history. If you are lucky enough to gather with extended family members over the next few weeks, why not set aside some time to share the stories that are the reflection of your family. Perhaps share some prompts ahead of time to jog memories and/or spark new ideas for sharing.

Here are a few ideas:

- ◆ Ask a grandparent about his or her first job.
- ◆ Name the most uncommon family talent and who in the family has/had it.
- ◆ Play the top song from your parents' high school prom.
- ◆ Name the funniest relative you can remember.
- ◆ Draw a picture of your favorite memory from a Thanksgiving get-together.
- ◆ Name the adult who was the easiest to talk to when you were a child.
- ◆ Talk about your favorite toy as a child.
- ◆ Name a favorite family recipe and who makes it when.

If you have time, record the information in a format that can be shared with future generations. There are many online resources for personalized storybooks and videos. Who knows? Maybe the conversation will start a new tradition, or restart an old one, that will form a part of the stories your children will tell their own children someday.



N O V E M B E R i S

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.