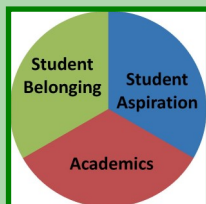




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Mr. Kevin Best, Asst. Principal
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Dr. Megan Dwyer, Asst. Principal



Shaghticoke Middle School
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Ms. Linda Scoralick, Principal
Mr. Michael Boucher, Asst. Principal
Mr. Frank Jawdzik, Asst. Principal
Ms. Shannon Surreira, 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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Mr. Eric Williams, Principal
Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Asst. Principal



Northville Elementary School
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Mrs. Gwen Gallagher, Principal
Ms. Shannon Surreira, Asst. Principal

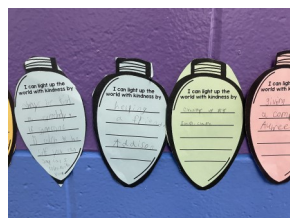
Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 13, Issue 6

December 2022

'Tis the Season!

The December holidays and look ahead to the New Year provide the perfect opportunity for our students and staff to focus on the traits of kindness, compassion and giving. We are pleased to share just a few of the ways you can see them in action in our schools.



During the month of December, HPS guidance classes focused on kindness. In 2nd grade, students lit up the hallway with kindness bulbs, 1st graders made kindness chains and our kindergarten classes read the book "Rainbow Fish" and focused on duplicating kindness. Students worked hard this month showing that kindness matters!

At NES, Mrs. Tarsa, school counselor, implemented her yearly "Warmth from Head to Toe" initiative to help keep the community warm this winter season. NES students and staff collected new gloves, hats and socks for New Milford Social Services from December 5th - 16th. Items were placed on a tree in the office like decorations, and it was lovely to see the contributions from our generous staff and the "Northville Family" at large. In addition, Mrs. Anatolio, NES' school social worker, coordinated a gift collection for students and families. Staff was able to contribute wrapped gifts from "wish lists" created by families in our area.



Ol' Saint Nick will soon be coming to New Milford and with the assistance of the students at SNIS and the Santa Fund, eleven fellow resident children will get just what they wanted! For the 7th year, the fifth grade has partnered with Social Services and Suzan Dahl to raise money to buy and wrap gifts for several children in the community. This year, fifth graders raised \$1,305.65! The SNIS community has been so generous. It's truly a blessing that we have such caring individuals and families that rise up to help those in need.



Many clubs at SMS and NMHS focus on charitable endeavors during December, and throughout the year. One longstanding annual holiday initiative is the Star Project, sponsored by the NMHS French Honor Society. The Star Project seeks to help community families and children in need during the holiday season by collecting donations of books and boots.

Whatever their individual focus may be, our students and staff continually impress us with their kind, compassionate and caring natures. Happy Holidays to all!

Continuing the Spirit of Giving



As you are aware, school breakfast and lunch have been available this school year at no cost for all students K-12 through funding from the State of Connecticut. In this season of giving, the NMPS Food Services Department is thrilled to announce that they will support this initiative and **continue to provide free breakfast and lunch for the remainder of the 22-23 school year for all K-12 students!**

Please note that school meals will return to paid, free and reduced price at the beginning of the 23-24 school year. If you have qualified for Free/Reduced meals in the past or feel you may qualify at the present time, please complete an application.

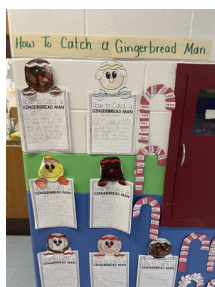
Applications for Free/Reduced price school meals with detailed instructions are available at [MySchoolApps.com](https://www.myschoolapps.com) and paper applications are available at each school. The benefits of approved applications will carry into the 23-24 school year for 30 days. This will give families ample time to submit a new application for the new school year.

News from Our Schools

Hill and Plain Elementary School

A big thank you to our Hill and Plain PTO who sponsored two fun events for students this month. We kicked off the month of December with our semi-annual Book Fair. Students loved finding books about their favorite characters. Students also had the opportunity to visit the PTO Holiday Store to buy holiday gifts for friends and family.

Our first grade and kindergarten classes learned how different countries around the world celebrate the holidays. Each classroom focused on a different country and students visited the different classrooms during the school day to learn more about how that country celebrates the holidays. Also in the spirit of the holidays, kindergarteners (and staff) celebrated “Grinch Day”.



During our STEM classes, students tackled the problem of how to catch the Gingerbread Man who was loose at Hill and Plain. Students had to brainstorm ideas, build and test their designs and think about how to make improvements the next time.



Northville Elementary School

What a wonderful December we've had! Our stellar students have been hard at work all semester. Report cards went home via e-mail and were uploaded to the parent portal on December 16th.

This month has been all about giving and spreading joy! Mrs. Tufts' class brainstormed what people, places, things, food, and hobbies bring us joy. They



created a bulletin board and wrote down their “joyful” ideas. In Mrs. Breidster's class, students worked on Positive Self Talk!

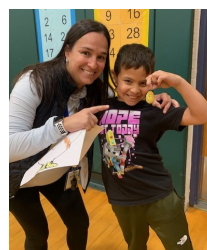


At the December CARES Assembly we talked about Self Compassion. Self Compassion is showing you care for yourself through kind, encouraging words and actions. Positive self talk helps us feel good about ourselves. When we care for ourselves, it's easier to be compassionate towards others, too. Students wrote positive self talk quotes to encourage them through difficult situations.

The PTO organized a Holiday Gift Shoppe for children to purchase small, inexpensive gifts for their families. This was set up in the gym, and students were able to browse and shop with their classmates. It's a fun event each year for students to independently pick out, purchase, and give a gift of their choice to those they hold dear.

On December 22nd, the New Milford High School Chorus joined NES students for a Holiday Sing Along. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the season right before the break.

Sarah Noble Intermediate School



SNIS students raised \$10,447.18 in the month of November for the American Heart Association's Kid's Heart Challenge! Earlier this month, students celebrated in PE class with a variety of jump roping challenges and fun activities. The top ten earners got to silly string Mr. Mumma and Mrs. Brooks in their dragon costumes! Thank you all for your generous donations and support. Job well done by all!!



Here at SNIS we are pleased to offer music enrichment to our students with both Chorale and Instrumental Performing Groups. Under the direction of Ms. Gloria Capone and Mr. Michael Fitzgerald, these students meet before school all year to both learn and practice. In December we are thrilled to let the students' hard work shine during our

Winter Concerts! Click on the links below to hear a sample:

Band: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1600504927201202183>

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1600659316096237571>

Chorus: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1600648781002952704>

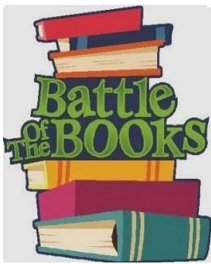
<https://t.co/APva2MY5wa> and <https://t.co/XZnlKXGlwd>



You may have heard your SNIS student mention STEM in conversation at home. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. This year, our K-5 STEM teacher, Mrs. Bonnell, will be working with ALL students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. Mrs. Bonnell focuses on STEM habits of mind, such as critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration through engaging STEM lessons. Most recently, our fifth graders engaged in a three lesson series to explore an authentic problem through the use of biomimicry. Mrs. Johnson, Sarah Noble's 5th grade team leader, tossed out the idea of turning this innovation into a Jr. Shark Tank style competition. Next, came the birth of "Jr. Shark Tank" at Sarah Noble. Each classroom voted on one invention to represent their class. The finalists recorded a presentation which detailed their prototype. The "sharks" (judges) then voted. In December, we celebrated our finalists and top winners. Third place went to the "swimmer shoe" inventors. Second place went to the "chip trapper" inventors. And first place went to the "agua aquifer". Great work by all our students!



Schaghticoke Middle School



The Battle of the Books has begun at SMS! On Wednesday, December 7th, Battle of the Books kicked off with a read-a-thon and pizza party in the LMC at SMS. During this event, which was attended by 27 students, students watched trailers for many of the books that are on the reading list for this year. The titles span different genres such as fiction, non-fiction, and graphic novels. Students also enjoyed reading time and pizza with peers. The Battle of the Books will carry on for the rest of the year with friendly trivia competitions. Many thanks to Mrs. Baerny for all that hard work that has gone into planning this kick-off event and the Battle of the Books overall! A special thank you also goes out to Mrs. Ramdin, Mrs. Swanson, Mrs. Morrison, and Mr. Cotter for their support of the Battle of the Books.



Winter concerts are underway at SMS! Our student musicians have been hard at working learning more about how to play an instrument and/or fine-tuning their singing. On Wednesday, December 14th the band held their first concert. The concert featured three songs played by the 6th grade band and then four songs played by the combined 7th & 8th grade band. Next on Wednesday, December 21st it was time for our chorus students to take the stage. The performances by all groups were wonderful and it is clear that our students have been working very hard! A special shout out to Mrs. Beddows, Mr. Gregory, and Mr. Polhemus for inspiring our student musicians!



New Milford High School

The Green Wave football team qualified for the CIAC State Tournament for the first time in school history. Congratulations to all on a great season!



Congratulations also to the NMHS Field Hockey team that ended the season in 2nd place in the CIAC Class M State Tournament Championships!



For the Fall Instant Decision Week 2022, NMHS had forty-five students apply, with five schools (CCSU, SCSU, WCSU, University of New Haven, & NVCC) participating. Forty-three students were accepted, and two were waitlisted (the universities defer to committee decision once mid-year grades are submitted in February.) So this year's event yielded a 95.5% acceptance rate and lots of bonus cool swag for our NMHS participants!



The Music department was busy all month hosting a Jazz Band, Orchestra, Concert Band, and Wind Ensemble Concert on December 8th and a Chorus Concert on December 15th. In addition Chorus students hosted "Merry Morning Melodies" in front of the NMHS library each week



as students entered school in the morning.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, staff and students participated in an informal door decorating contest (see full slideshow [here](#)) and a SADD sponsored Spirit Week.



District Wide

The district had an Early Release day for students on December 15th so that staff could attend professional development. The sessions included work in the Science of Reading, effectively managing student behavior, deep learning, climate and culture, and making curriculum accessible to all learners.





New Milford Public Schools

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Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote
Interim Superintendent

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

Board of Education

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Mrs. Leslie Sarich
Secretary

Mrs. Tammy McInerney
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Eric Hansell

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mr. Tom O'Brien

Mrs. Olga I. Rella

Mr. Keith A. Swanhall Jr.

Winter Weather!!



The first day of winter in the Northern Hemisphere is marked by the winter solstice, which occurred this year on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at 4:48 P.M. EST.

We New Englanders know snow and ice can be fickle, coming and going, and bringing changes to our regular school schedules.

The quickest way to hear about any needed delays and cancellations is to keep your phone handy, watch your email, text alerts, and follow us on twitter (@nmps_supt). New Milford Public Schools also posts information about schedule changes on the district website and through the local television channels.

Most importantly, please remember to make sure to keep your contact information up to date with your child's school.

To read Dr. Paddyfote's back to school letter about procedures for closing schools due to inclement weather, [click here](#).

An updated calendar is added to the website after each snow day and can be found [here](#).



For you non-snow lovers, this is your annual reminder that Spring arrives Monday, March 20, 2023.

December brings

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.