



New Milford
Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776



New Milford High School
Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal

Mrs. Elizabeth Curtis,
Ass't. Principal

Mrs. Susan Greene,
Ass't. Principal

Mrs. Donna Luzi,
Ass't. Principal



Schaghticoke Middle School
Mrs. Dana Ford, Principal

Mr. Gerald Robinson,
Ass't. Principal



Sarah Noble School
Dr. Len Tomasello, Principal

Mrs. Anne Bilko,
Admin. Intern

Mrs. Kristine Golden,
Ass't. Principal

Dr. Don Naiman,
Ass't. Principal



Hill & Plain Elementary
Dr. Sandra Nadeau, Principal

Ms. Marcy Sterlis,
Ass't. Principal



John Pettibone Elementary
Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal

Ms. Marcy Sterlis,
Ass't. Principal



Northville Elementary
Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal
Mrs. Joan Kick, Ass't. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 2, Issue 2

October 2011

A Fond Farewell



A familiar face to Hill and Plain students and families retired on September 28th, 2011. Elsie Strobino, the longest employed staff member in Hill and Plain's history, worked in the Hill and Plain cafeteria for 40 1/2 years! September 28th was deemed "Mrs. Strobino Day" and several staff members took her position in the cafeteria to allow Mrs. Strobino the opportunity to visit with the students on her last day. Many students offered hugs and "I'll miss you Miss Elsie" was heard repeated many times.

On "Mrs. Strobino Day," students wore blue (her favorite color) and each donned a paper chef's hat with the letter "E" on the front. Kindergarten students surprised Mrs. Strobino with a song before their lunch wave began.

Mrs. Strobino sent her own 5 children through New Milford Schools and currently has a granddaughter at New Milford High School. Mrs. Strobino is moving to Ohio with her daughter's family where she will pursue her hobbies of sewing, reading and completing crossword puzzles.

Mrs. Strobino said she'll miss seeing the smiles on the kids' faces. She reminisced of the many students and staff at Hill and Plain that have become friends.

One kindergarten student, quite concerned with Mrs. Strobino's departure, asked Hill and Plain Principal Dr. Sandra Nadeau, "Are you the new cooker now?" He needn't worry, Mrs. Strobino trained a replacement during her last few days on the job.

Contents:

A Fond Farewell	1
School News	2-5
New Faces	6-7
Calendar	8
Athletics	9
School Lunch	10
Halloween Treats	11
District News	12

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3TR—Time to Read

What do you remember reading from high school? I vividly remember Fitzgerald’s *“The Great Gatsby.”* I don’t however, remember especially liking the book, but it was an assigned reading, and therefore I read it. For students at New Milford High School, reading is being viewed differently.

In addition to the new block schedule, students at NMHS are participating in another new initiative – 3TR, which stands for Take Time to Read. 3TR is a sustained silent reading period that occurs every other day (B days) for 25 minutes. Students are encouraged to read anything of interest to them – including books, magazines, newspapers, graphic novels, etc. This is refreshing to students since other classes have required reading that are assigned to all students regardless of reading level.

“I enjoy the opportunity to catch up on my recreational reading. For those of us that don’t have a lot of time after school, this gives us the opportunity to read something that interests us,” says NMHS junior Matthew Chastain.

The high school chose to begin this program to increase student engagement in reading and provide students time to develop recreational literacy habits and skills.

“We want students to become lifelong readers, and 3TR allows students to read engaging texts at their independent reading levels. This type of recreational reading helps students build background knowledge. In addition, increasing the amount of time students spend reading can have a positive effect on all academic areas, vocabulary acquisition and test scores,” comments Cheryl Morosko, Literacy Coach, Grades 7-12.

Studies have shown that high school students spend as little as two percent of their school day reading. We are looking to increase the amount of time students spend practicing this important skill.



Image from <http://enlightenedwomen.org>

Students who have traveled the halls of Schaghticoke Middle School the last several years have learned about respect.

“Respect has been the SMS theme for several years,” states Mr. Patrick Smith, 7th grade social studies teacher.

Students learn about three components/types of respect:

- Respect for Self—doing what’s right even when it’s not popular
- Respect for Others—treating people as you would like to be treated, including all individuals in the building, noise levels, etc.
- Respect for School—not just the physical building, but what the school is attempting to teach and promote

Respect is emphasized in all areas of the school and by all staff members. Posters with respect reminders are located in numerous locations throughout the building. There is a team of SMS staff who share ideas with other staff members and academic teams to address behavior issues that arise throughout the year.

Positive Behavior Support (PBS) is another facet to the respect program—focusing on students who are doing the “right thing” most of the time. Mrs. Dana Ford is starting a new program in the upcoming months to focus and reward these positive behaviors.



*poster image from www.mardel.com

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SNIS

If you have a student at Sarah Noble Intermediate School you've probably heard of PBIS. Although it sounds like a texting shortcut, it's actually an acronym for Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS).

When new education mandates were recently handed down, schools were required to add a behavioral component to the curriculum. SNIS chose PBIS as it was not only nationally accredited, it was also being successfully utilized in over 40 schools in Connecticut, including New Milford's own Schaghticoke Middle School.

PBIS is a process for creating safer and more effective schools. The goal is to enhance the capacity of schools to educate children with a research-based, school-wide and classroom behavior support system. So what does that mean for your Sarah Noble student?

PBIS is a three-year commitment. Sarah Noble has completed year one. Staff attended various trainings throughout the year and gathered information on how to create the PBIS framework at SNIS. All school staff, cafeteria staff, custodians, bus drivers and parents (via the PTO) were surveyed and asked if they thought a program like PBIS was needed and what the main behavioral expectations for our school should be. The

top four responses were that students should be respectful, responsible, honest and safe. Everyone, overwhelmingly, felt this program would benefit SNIS.

This year the program has been formally introduced. Staff received training at the beginning of the year and were supplied with lessons to teach the core behavioral expectations. The school has implemented several visual reminders throughout the building of the Noble Pledge – to be respectful, responsible, honest and safe. Behavior expectations have been defined in the cafeteria and an updated O.S.C.A.R. (Outstanding Student Character Award Recognition) program has been established. School staff will continue to work and train with SERC (State Education Resource Center).

Response from SNIS staff has been positive. Students are gaining familiarity with the program and are doing well with it. Each classroom provides the

opportunity for students to recognize one another for keeping different parts of the Noble Pledge. Staff recognition of positive behavior is still done through the OSCAR program.

Parents are an important part of the program as well. They are asked to reinforce the school expectations at home. Parents can visit www.pbis.org or contact SNIS for more information.





Yes, we all think our kids are super, but I'm referring to the reading program that was started last year for kindergarten students at New Milford Public Schools.

Many students and parents were excited to learn that the Superkids reading program had been continued into the first grade for the 2011-2012 school year.

"The Superkids (SK) program was such a success in kindergarten that we decided to continue it into first grade. The data was showing us that

our kindergarten students were performing in the spring better than ever before. We thought that if our students were doing better at the end of kindergarten, continuing the program into first would give them a really solid base" reports Dr. Maureen McLaughlin, NMPS Assistant Superintendent.

Superkids is a reading program designed by the Rowland Reading Foundation for use in kindergarten through second grade. A cast of fictional characters – the Superkids – engage students while teaching reading and writing. Each Superkid has a unique personality and their own songs and stories.

In kindergarten, students learn to recognize all twenty-six uppercase and lowercase letters and associate a single sound for each. First grade students begin work on more complex letter/sound relationships through studying word families, whole word patterns, synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, idioms, and structural analysis of words, including contractions,

compound words, prefixes, and suffixes. By the end of first grade, students will know all forty-four phonemes and be able to read and write all 200 Dolch words. There are currently no plans to continue the program into second grade.

While first grade teachers are adjusting to the new program, the district is providing them access to Superkids consultants from the Rowland Reading Foundation.



We do not want to limit any child's access to text. As we have always done, teachers can send home books from their classroom libraries, from the school's book room, or from texts provided by Superkids after determining the child's reading level. We do this so that books going home are ones that children can read successfully without frustration.

teachers to present letter-sound relationships which are so crucial for beginning readers to learn. The children enjoyed the program in kindergarten last year - the Superkids characters were engaging and fun for them - and we were very pleased with the learning that took place. We're looking forward to seeing the children continue to grow as readers this year in first grade as they meet up again with their Superkids friends in their lessons."

"Rowling Reading Foundation has been very eager to assist our staff by modeling lessons, observing lessons, answering questions and giving us advice," shares Paula Kelleher, John Pettibone Elementary principal.

Northville Elementary Principal, Susan Murray sums up the program, "The Superkids program provides a comprehensive, systematic way for our

E L E M E N T A R Y

NEW FACES

New Milford Public Schools has several new additions to its staff this year. In addition to offering a heartfelt welcome to each new staff member, we would also like to help you get to know the individuals better. The following questions were asked of each staff member and their responses follow.

1. Where did you complete your undergrad and/or graduate degrees?
2. What experience do you bring to the classroom?
3. Why are you looking forward to teaching at New Milford?
4. What did you do on your summer vacation?

New Milford High School

Mrs. MaryAnne Shaffer, Paraeducator



I received my degrees from Becker College, Worcester, MA and Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT.

My experience includes working as a paraprofessional at Brookfield High School's Alternative Program, as well as eight years of volunteering and substitute teaching.

I'm most excited to be working with such a large, professional staff. Everyone has been so welcoming here (and patient, while I've been learning my way around, everyone's names, etc.!).

During the summer I photographed a few weddings, and went cross-country horse-back riding with my eleven-year old daughter. My husband and I took our kids camping at Hammonasset, and we visited family on Lake Mascoma, in Enfield, NH.

Schaghticoke Middle School

Mrs. Dyane Rizzo, Special Education

I completed my degrees from SCSU in 1989 and the University of Phoenix in 2004.

My experience includes teaching special education for 13 years at all different levels.

I am excited to be at NMPS. SMS is the best school that I have taught at so far! The staff is welcoming and helpful! I enjoy teaching 8th grade.

I spent most of my summer with my son's travel baseball team. During our off time we relax by the pool!



Mrs. Rizzo (left) with her daughter.

Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Ms. Jodi Edelstein, Special Education Teacher

I completed my degrees at Pace University, Long Island University, Mercy College and Phoenix University.

Experience I bring to the job includes teaching special education for 23 years in three states, working as a principal/head of school for three and half years as well as serving as an assistant principal for four years.

I'm excited to work at Sarah Noble as everyone is helpful and willing to assist. The children are kind, caring, and considerate. I am hoping to contribute and make a difference.

During the summer I moved to a new home, enjoyed the weather and spent quality time with my beautiful nine year old daughter. I also water-skied as well as worked out and attended Yoga.



Northville Elementary

Mrs. Carolyn McKay, Paraeducator

I completed my undergraduate degree from the University of Hartford and my teaching certification from Western Connecticut State University.



I have been a substitute teacher in the District for five years, including two long term positions at John Pettibone and one at Hill & Plain.

I am excited to teach at New Milford as I grew up in New Milford and graduated from NMHS in 1987. Now, my children are attending the same schools, some times even being lucky enough to have the same teachers I did. I think it says something wonderful about a community when educators spend their entire career in the same school district. I am proud of our schools, our teachers, and our students and am grateful to have been given the opportunity to contribute to the good work being done here, in all of our schools.

During summer vacation my family and I went to Turks & Caicos and went snorkeling for the first time—a little scary, but so much FUN!

WELCOME

C A L E N D A R

New Milford Schools Calendar



October 21—**NES** Coffee with Mrs. Murray—9:30-10:30 a.m.
JPS Hallowfest Family Fun Night 6:00-8:00 p.m.
 October 23-28—**NMHS** Spirit Week
 October 24— **H&P** Snowball Dance/Auction Meeting—9:30 a.m., Room 20
NMHS National Honor Society Induction
 October 25—**SNIS**—Grade 6 Panoramic Photo
 October 26—**NMHS/SMS** Early Dismissal (Professional Development)
NMHS Photo re-takes
 October 27—**NMHS** Concert
 October 28—**NMHS** Pep Rally
H&P Book Character Parade-2:15 p.m.
JPS Halloween Parade 2:30-3:00 p.m.
NES Halloween “Spooktacular” Dance 6:30-8:00 p.m.
 October 29—**NMHS** Homecoming Dance—7:00-10:00 p.m.



November 1—**JPS** PTO Meeting, Room 9:00 a.m.
 November 1-4, 7—**SMS** Early Dismissal—Parent Conferences & PTO Book Fair
 November 2—**NMHS** Sophomore Class Ring Presentation—4:30-6:30 p.m., Lecture Hall
NMHS Financial Aid Night
 November 3—**SMS** Picture Retake Day
SMS Evening Conferences, Book Fair Night and Fundraiser Pick-up
SMS Family Fun Night—“Magic of the Mind” - 6:30-7:30 p.m.—Gym (No Charge)
NES PTO Meeting—9:00 a.m.
 November 7—**H&P** PTO—9:30 a.m., Room 20
 November 8—**No School** (Election Day/Professional Day)
 November 9—**SNIS** PTO—9:00 a.m.
NES Veterans Day Observance
SNIS Family Fun Night
 November 10—**H&P** and **JPS** Veterans Day Observance
H&P Book Fair Kick-off
JPS Book Fair Family Fun Night
 November 11—**No School** (Veteran’s Day)
 November 14—**JPS**— Picture Retake Day
SNIS Veteran’s Day Observance
SMS PTO Coffee with Principal—9:00 a.m.
NMHS Parent/Teacher Conference Web Portal Opens
 November 14-18—**SNIS** Book Fair
JPS Book Fair
H&P Book Fair
 November 15-18—Elementary and Intermediate Early Dismissal—Parent Conferences
 November 16—**H&P** PTO Breakfast—7:30-8:30 a.m.
H&P Picture Retake Day
 November 17—**SNIS** Picture Retake Day
NES Book Fair Family Fun Night—5:30-7:00 p.m.
 November 23—Early Dismissal—Thanksgiving Recess
 November 24-25 —**No School**—Thanksgiving Recess
 November 29—**NMHS** Early Dismissal—Parent Conferences

Fall Sports

Field Hockey - Freshman

Tue., 10/25 Home 4:30 p.m.

Field Hockey - JV

Mon., 10/24 Home 5:15 p.m.

Field Hockey - V

Mon., 10/24 Home 3:45 p.m.

Football - Freshman

Thu., 10/27 Home 4:00 p.m.

Thu., 11/10 Home 3:15 p.m.

Football - JV

Mon., 10/24 Home 4:00 p.m.

Sat., 11/12 Home 10:00 a.m.

Football - V

Fri., 10/28 Home 7:00 p.m.

Fri., 11/4 Home 7:00 p.m.

Thu., 11/24 Home 10:00 a.m.

Boys Soccer - JV

Sat., 10/22 Home 1:00 p.m.

Mon., 10/24 Home 4:00 p.m.

Boys Soccer - V

Mon., 10/24 Home 6:00 p.m.

Girls Soccer - JV

Thu., 10/20 Home 3:45 p.m.

Sat., 10/22 Home 1:00 p.m.

Girls Soccer - V

Thu., 10/20 Home 3:45 p.m.

Girls Volleyball - JV

Mon., 10/24 Home 3:30 p.m.

Wed., 10/26 Home 4:00 p.m.

Girls Volleyball - V

Mon., 10/24 Home 5:00 p.m.

Wed., 10/26 Home 5:15 p.m.

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S c h o o l l u n c h



The New Milford School Lunch Program is off to a healthy start! We are proud to continue to offer many fresh fruits and vegetables that are “**CONNECTICUT GROWN**”. The following CT farms have provided us with seasonal produce of yellow squash, zucchini, corn, peaches and cucumbers.


- Baggott Family Farm, East Windsor, CT
- Deer Crest Farm, Glastonbury, CT
- Gotta’s Farm, Portland, CT
- Blue Hills Orchard, Wallingford, CT
- Rodgers Orchards, Southington, CT

In our continued effort to promote and expand the Farm to School Program and celebrate **National Food Day**, the New Milford Food and Nutrition Services Director and Registered Dietitian, Sandra Sullivan, along with the Connecticut Departments of Agriculture and Administrative Services are hosting a meeting:

Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Initiative

The date is Oct. 24, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at The Maxx in New Milford. Local farmers will learn how their produce can be distributed to CT schools. Parents are welcome to attend.

TO REGISTER: Call Jane Slupecki at 860-713-2588 (leave a voicemail) or email Jane.Slupecki@ct.gov



Don't forget, school lunch menus are available on the District website under Food and Nutrition Services or by clicking [here](#).



Photo from <http://tlc.howstuffworks.com>

Don't get me wrong, I love candy! But, after a recent trip to the dentist with my youngest, I've decided against handing out sweets to trick-or-treaters. If you're like me and looking for some alternatives to candy, I have a few ideas to share with you.

H A L L O W E E N T R E A T S

Non-food options

- Glow Bracelets
- Stickers
- Small pads of paper
- Fancy erasers
- Pencils
- Pencil toppers
- Crayons
- Coins (pennies, nickels, dimes)
- False teeth
- Kazoos or other small musical instruments
- Tiny decks of cards
- Origami paper & instructions
- Bubbles
- Miniature magnifying glass
- Bookmarks

Healthier food options

- Pretzels
- Packets of instant hot chocolate or hot cider mix
- Raisins
- Fruit leathers
- Prepackaged trail mix
- Granola Bars
- Applesauce
- Cheese and Crackers
- String Cheese
- Graham Crackers
- Goldfish Crackers
- Animal Crackers
- Individual Juice Drinks (100% juice)



Candy

If you're of the belief that Halloween is for candy (I get it, I really do), then consider these traditional treats that are lower in fat and sugar:

- Peppermint Patties
- Junior Mints
- Milk Duds
- Reese's
- Dove Milk Chocolate Bar
- 100 Grand Bar



New Milford Public Schools

50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406

Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote
Superintendent

Dr. Maureen E. McLaughlin
Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Ellamae Baldelli
Director, Human Resources

Mr. John Calhoun
Facilities Manager

Mr. Dan DiVito
Director, Technology

Mrs. Adele Johnson
Director, Pupil Personnel and
Special Services

Mr. Gregg Miller
Director, Fiscal Services

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan

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Rodney Weinberg

Coffee and Conversation



Mark your calendar—join
Superintendent
Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote for
coffee and conversation!

January 19

March 27

May 17

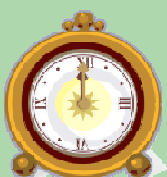
(Times and locations to be announced.)

Ask questions, talk about concerns,
and find out what is happening at
NMPS and public education in
general. Any parent or New
Milford resident is welcome.



Refreshments provided by New Milford PTO.

*Discussion topics will not include personnel, district employees or confidential information.



Correction

All early dismissals for
New Milford High School
and Schaghticoke will be
at 12:00 noon. There will
no longer be 1:00 p.m.
dismissals for these
schools.

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.

DISHHOCK