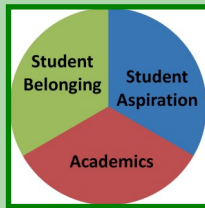




New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



New Milford High School

860-350-6647

Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal
Mrs. Liz Curtis, Asst. Principal
Ms. Linda Scoralick, Asst. Principal
Mr. Eric Williams, Asst. Principal



Schaghticoke Middle School

860-354-2204

Dr. Christopher Longo, Principal
Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Delaney, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal



Sarah Noble Intermediate School

860-210-4020

Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Asst. Principal



Hill & Plain Elementary School

860-354-5430

Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Asst. Principal



Northville Elementary School

860-355-3713

Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 9, Issue 1

July 2018

Summer Reading – Feeding the Mind

*"You can find magic wherever you look.
Sit back and relax, all you need is a book."*

~ Dr. Seuss



Summer is already halfway over, believe it or not, with the first day of school (August 29) just around the corner! Hopefully students have been reading as part of their summer routine. District Data Coach Michael Clyne, who is spearheading the district's summer reading initiative along with Assistant Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo, says "The goal of summer reading is to see all our students enjoying books and avoiding the summer slide. When students consistently read over the summer, they tend to come back to school in September in the same place or further ahead academically. When students do not read as consistently over the summer, they are more likely to regress. Typical summer regression equates to roughly eight weeks of instruction time."

New Milford Public Schools has a website devoted to summer reading called [New Milford Reads: Summer Reading](#). The website offers ideas for summer reading, links to incentive programs, and suggestions for work in math and science too. NMPS teachers are encouraging summer reading as well. Many have been vocal on Twitter, sharing pictures of themselves reading at the lake or beach, or curled up in a chair at home. SNIS teacher Mrs. Carrie Allen (@AllenM4TH) is even hosting a virtual book club. Mrs. Allen describes:

As summer approached this year, we were all tasked with the dilemma of increasing student involvement of summer reading. In the past, I have tried many different approaches to persuade my students to read over the summer. This year I decided to take to technology. I have always used my Twitter account as a means to brag to students and parents about the great things happening in my classroom. I saw this as a great opportunity to continue engaging my students all summer.

I started a summer reading book club for my present and past students, or anyone who chose to join. I launched a book that was my favorite as a 5th grader, as my students were heading to 5th grade, and just released as a major motion picture: [A Wrinkle in Time](#). I knew that this would entice my students to want to participate.

This book club remains mostly online, however there is an intention to have a celebration at the end of the book on the green in New Milford. At this point, I have posted a quick 10 minute video to talk about my thoughts and questions for the first 4 chapters. I am referencing points of character, theme, and author techniques that we discussed in our 4th grade reading lessons this past year.

I continue to post each and every day questions from the book, thoughts, and famous quotes. I have also posted statistics to promote summer reading, math riddles, and book lists for all my followers to enjoy. I also include pictures of my own children enjoying their summer reading, math problems, and every day activities. I hope that with all of this I can inspire the students to make learning a lifelong adventure.

The New Milford Reads website also includes a link to the [Governor's Summer Reading Challenge](#), with this year's theme *Libraries Rock!*. Students can track their reading using a challenge form, either during or after the summer, to log the books they've read. Certificates will be awarded to schools with the highest books-per-student count and highest participation. Winning schools will be recognized in a special ceremony. Wouldn't it be nice if New Milford schools got an invite?

SUMMER PROGRAMS

- Pixar Marathon**
Fri. 6/29, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Vote for your favorite Pixar movies by 6/15, then come to the all day marathon! Titles TBD. Registration required.
- Teen Trivia Night**
Mon. 7/2, 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Answer fun trivia questions & win prizes! Pizza and snacks will be served. Registration required.
- Minecraft Monday**
Mon. 7/9 & 8/13, 6-8 p.m.
Play Minecraft on NMPL's own server! Bring your own laptop, or reserve a loaner by email: mmorin@biblio.org
- Polymer Clay with Goodpoint Studios**
Mon. 7/24 - 5 p.m.
Artist Shianne Goodfield will teach you how to make your own necklace or key-chain out of Polymer clay. Registration required.
- Josh's Chess Extravaganza**
Tue. 7/10 & 7/24, 4 p.m.-5 p.m.
Learn Chess with one of NMPL's Chess Club teams! If you love to play Chess or would like to learn, this is for you! All skill levels welcome. Registration required.
- Tie-Dye Mania**
Wed. 7/11 - 2 p.m. or 4 p.m.
Make a Tie-Dye shirt! (Rain date 7/13) Registration required.
- A Wrinkle in Time**
Thu. 7/12 - 2 p.m.-4 p.m.
Come see a Wrinkle in Time (PG) at this screening for all ages. Registration required.
- Food Explorers**
Mon. 7/16 - 4 p.m.
Play Nutrition Jeopardy, then make delicious no-bake energy balls. Yum! Registration required.
- NMPL Rocks!**
Mon. 7/16 - 6 p.m.
Spread kindness! Paint rocks to hide around New Milford! Registration required.
- Cupcake Wars**
Thu. 7/19 - 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Compete against other teens & tweens to create the best cupcake! Registration required.
- The Art of Henna**
Mon. 7/23 - 4 p.m.
Learn about the ancient art of Henna and receive a (temporary) Henna "tattoo." Registration required.
- Magic the Gathering**
Wed. 7/25 - 4-6 p.m.
Play Magic the Gathering with others! All skill levels welcome. Registration required.
- Crash Test Dummies**
Mon. 7/30 - 6-7:30 p.m.
Fill up a water balloon, and create a crash-resistant container for it. Will your "dummy" survive a drop? Registration required.
- Harry Potter Birthday Party**
Mon. 7/31 - 4 p.m.
Do you love Harry Potter like a Grindylow loves water? Join this party for muggles grade 4+ Registration required.
- Retro Game Tournament**
Mon. 8/6 - 6-8 p.m.
Game on! Play Wii & more at the NMPL. Registration required.
- Monopoly Tournament**
Wed. 8/8 - 3 p.m.-5 p.m.
NMPL's annual Monopoly Tournament- Do you have what it takes to bring home the Silver Scotty? Registration required.

Libraries Rock! SUMMER Weekly PROGRAMS

- Preschool Story and Film Time with Mrs. Thompson. No registration necessary. July 2 - Aug. 6, 6 weeks.
- 4-H Fun with the folks from Uitchfield County Extension Service. July 10 - July 31. K - 5th grades. Registration required. 4 weeks.
- Sleepy Time Stories with Mrs. Ford. July 5 - Aug. 7, 6 weeks.
- Read To Bally (therapy dog) with Sarah and Laurie. July 12 - Aug. 9.

programs starts Monday, June 25 at 10:00 AM.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- Sponsored by the FRIENDS of New Milford Library)
- *MOST of the programs require registration. Space is LIMITED.
- Registration for programs starts Monday, June 25 at 10:00 AM.
- Chris Merenda music (Family).
- Science Adventures The Children's Museum family science program ages 4 up.
- Crafts Drop-in and create something! It's a do your own thing craft morning! Supplies will be available - have fun! Drop in, ages 4 up. No registration necessary.
- A Wrinkle in Time Movie
- Song Sing-a-Long with Edward Leonard ages 3 up.

The New Milford Public Library is working in partnership with NMPS as the focal point for our students' summer reading. The library has developed special programming to entice our students to visit (and pick up a book or two to take home with them). They are following up with incentives to reward readers. Over 350 students had signed up as of July 23rd. It's not too late to join the group. There are many happenings planned for August.

Do We REALLY Want More Questions?

by New Milford Public Library Director Sally Turnow

Being a librarian certainly pegs me as a lover of reading and being able to share that joy is every librarian's dream. The New Milford Public Library (NMPL) has an extensive summer reading program that we hope will instill that love of reading, and is working with the New Milford Public Schools to spread the word. Reading skills offer the possibility of life-long advancement in any chosen field, but even more importantly, reading skills introduce our children to worlds other than their own, create better citizens, and prompt kids to ask questions. Do we really want kids asking us even MORE questions? Yes! The whole point in educating our children at all is to make the world a better place, so we don't want our kids to be satisfied with the status quo. We want them to be curious, to ask why and how, to think about people other than themselves.

NMPL has programs and games for all ages, pre-school all the way through high school (and we do have the NMHS summer reading books all together in the Reference area). The programs cover the animal kingdom, music, movies, Harry Potter, magic, and much more.

We even have something for adults, since we are partners in the Great American Read program sponsored by PBS. Anyone 16 and over can keep a log of what they have read from the list and enter to win a copy of one of the 100 favorite books. They can also enter a writing contest to win a seat on a panel discussion we'll be having in the Fall.

There are raffles for prizes donated by local businesses and the FRIENDS of NMPL for kids of all ages, ranging from a Samsung tablet to an adorable charm bracelet, to tickets to a minor league baseball game! All anyone has to do is read, whether it be a print book, an ebook, or an audio.



The NMPS have a goal of 100% participation in NMPL's summer reading program. Make sure your child helps fulfill that goal – it benefits the child (they win prizes!), it will benefit his or her future, and maybe, because of a book he or she reads this summer, we might have the next George R. Martin, the author of *Game of Thrones*, who read J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* and was changed forever into the writer he became!

The program runs through August 10th. Sign up any time, but the more you read, the more you win (and we're not just talking about prizes!).



New Milford Summer Lunch Program – Feeding the Body

What has 1,000 pieces of bread, 500 slices of cheese, 50 pounds of lunchmeat, an army of volunteers, and the generosity of the New Milford community? It's a week of lunches for the New Milford Summer Lunch Program!

What is the New Milford Summer Lunch Program? It's a program for any New Milford family needing food assistance during the summer months. These families may have received free or reduced lunch during the school year, find it difficult to stretch limited dollars during the summer months, or just need a hand during a difficult time. It doesn't matter to this committed volunteer group! They want to help.



The New Milford Summer Lunch Program provides daily weekday lunch: a sandwich, fruit, salty snack, sweet treat, drink and a little something extra for each child participating. Since July 2nd, registered families have been able to pick up free lunches every weekday from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at NMPS's Lillis administration building, 50 East Street. After the first week of lunch distribution, the generosity of New Milford was so wonderful that the group was able to add a daily breakfast item.

What's for lunch today? A sample menu consists of a turkey, ham, bologna, or peanut butter/jelly sandwich, cherry tomatoes with ranch dip, yogurt, a bag of chips, a bottle of water, and a small pack of gummi bears along with a package of pop-tarts for a morning snack. Every day is something different. Additionally, on Fridays, each child receives a two-day weekend food pack from the CT Food Bank. The program will run all the way until August 29, when students return to school.

During the first half of summer vacation (July 2 - July 27), the New Milford Summer Lunch Program distributed 2,000 lunches and breakfasts, along with over 1,000 weekend food packs, which also go to children at area daycares and camps. This program is 100% volunteer and donation-based; no local, state or federal funds are used. They have had a wonderful turnout of volunteers – everyone from recent grads to families to retirees. Indeed, everyone who has volunteered once has signed up to volunteer again! With over a month of summer still to come, it's not too late to get involved. There are still thousands of lunches to make and pack.



In addition to volunteers and donators, the Summer Lunch Program has a wonderful group of community partners that help with both financial and product donations, as well as additional volunteers and overall support. Community partners include: New Milford Mayor's Office, New Milford Public Schools, New Milford Hospital, MVP-SOS, New Milford Youth Agency, New Milford Social Services, Community Culinary School, New Milford Clergy Association, and Loaves and Fishes who generously donates 25 meals per day. It really does take a village!

The New Milford Summer Lunch Program has a website, www.camellascupboard.com, that details multiple ways you can help this worthwhile program, as a volunteer or through donations. There is even a spot to order items for direct shipment from Amazon.com. Grocery gift cards from local retailers such as Big Y, Stop and Shop, Northville Market and Aldi's are also appreciated since they can be used by volunteers to purchase perishable items like deli meat, bread and cheese.



If you'd like to drop off donations locally, they are accepted at the New Milford Mayor's Office and New Milford Hospital. Financial contributions can be sent to the Mayor's Office, 10 Main St., New Milford, CT 06776. Please indicate your gift is for the Summer Lunch Program.

(Thanks to Shannon Richard and Joan Gibbons for sharing their photos.)



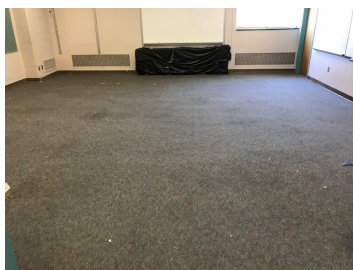
If you are a family, or know of a family,
who could benefit from this program, sign up at
www.camellascupboard.com

Short Summer Keeping Facilities Department Busy

The 2017-18 school year finally ended on June 28th. Teachers will be returning to start the 2018-19 school year on August 24th, with August 29th the first day for students. Seems like summer gets shorter each year, which can be challenging for our hard working Facilities Department staff who have many annual tasks and special projects to complete.

Facilities Director Kevin Munrett says before his department can even start their annual cleaning and general maintenance, they need to clean thousands of square feet for use from summer school classes and community groups. “Once those groups are in and settled, the annual cleaning and disinfecting of all schools starts and continues through the summer. We are also working our way through maintenance work orders and scheduled preventative maintenance.” Several annual contracted services take place during the summer too so as not to disrupt the school day. These include:

- Cleaning all school boilers so they are ready for fall start up
- Pumping and cleaning all septic tanks, grease traps and chemical tanks
- Testing, inspecting and servicing all gym wall doors
- Steam cleaning and tagging the kitchen hoods at all schools
- Testing all emergency lights and repairing or replacing as needed
- Inspecting all smoke, sprinkler and fire equipment
- Testing and tagging all fire extinguishers and replacing as needed



Every summer also brings a list of special projects to be completed and this summer is no different. At HPS, tree removal and brush clearing has taken place on the soccer field. Inside, worn floor tiles have been replaced in some rooms. The big project for HPS will be the replacement of its oil tank, with work beginning in August. NES has a newly painted music room and has paving work taking place outside this month. An Eagle Scout project to turn inner courtyards into outdoor classrooms is also underway. SNIS and SMS are getting some new vinyl flooring. SNIS also has new partitions in the student bathrooms in the third grade wing. NMHS is phasing in security camera upgrades and the PLTW classroom now has additional data ports to accommodate more computers for student work. A new fire alarm panel replaces the one damaged during the May storm. The roof also sustained damage in the storm, and the bidding process has begun for its repair and replacement.

Mr. Munrett says “Our schools never have a quiet day Facilities-wise. I’m proud of the work our staff does every day to make sure everything is ready for the return of students and staff in August. We’re looking forward to welcoming them back.”

Superintendent Joshua Smith Announces Resignation



Superintendent Joshua Smith is leaving New Milford Public Schools this Fall, after two years in the district's top leadership role, to become Superintendent for Region 15, where he attended school as a child.

Mr. Smith's first teaching position was in New Milford at Schaghticoke Middle School. He returned to New Milford in 2012 when he was hired as the Assistant Superintendent of Schools. He was named Interim Superintendent in 2015 when longtime New Milford Superintendent Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote retired, and was formally appointed as Superintendent in April 2016.

In an email to parents, Mr. Smith said he decided to accept the opportunity to begin a new path after much consideration and reflection. Discussing his time in New Milford, Mr. Smith said, "This is a strong community and the decision to leave what we are building was very difficult for me. There are not many places I would have considered moving to, but the chance to return to the community I grew up in and pay forward the education they provided me is one I could not pass up." Mr. Smith went on to say that "I will always speak of New Milford's teachers, administrators, staff and community highly. You are a talented, dedicated group of people who care deeply about children."

Transition Planning

The New Milford Board of Education held a special meeting on July 23rd to form and appoint members to an Ad Hoc Personnel Search Committee for the purpose of screening and interviewing candidates, and making a recommendation for, the position of Interim Superintendent of Schools. The Interim Superintendent will guide New Milford Public Schools while the search begins for a new superintendent.



New Milford Public Schools

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

Mr. Joshua Smith

Superintendent

Ms. Alisha DiCorpo

Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Ellamae Baldelli

Human Resources Director

Mr. Kevin Munrett

Facilities Director

Mr. Anthony Giovannone

Fiscal Services & Operations
Director

Mrs. Laura Olson

Pupil Personnel &
Special Services Director

Ms. Roberta Pratt

Technology Director

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan

Food Services Director

Board of Education

Mr. David A. Lawson
Chairperson

Mrs. Tammy McInerney

Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Angela C. Chastain

Secretary

Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan

Assistant Secretary

Mr. Bill Dahl

Mr. Joseph Failla

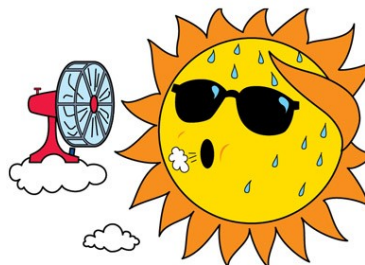
Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mr. J.T. Schemm

The Dog Days of Summer

According to the website *Holiday Insights**, if you are feeling the effects of hot, muggy, sultry, "weather that you can wear", you can be certain that you are in the Dog Days of Summer.



By definition, the Dog Days of Summer are the hottest and steamiest part of the season. This is the period when Sirius, the Dog Star, rises at the same time as the Sun, typically from around July 3 - August 11.

The website suggests some summer time activities to help us keep our cool. They include:

- Taking a dip in the pool.
- Going to the beach.
- Taking the kids to a water park.
- Watching the sultry days go by in a hammock.
- Lazing under a shady tree.
- Quaffing your thirst with a frozen summer drink.
- Going to an evening baseball game.



Whatever you choose, get out and enjoy the hot weather while it is here. After all, the days are already growing shorter, and you know where we will be soon enough.

*Retrieved July 23, 2018 from

<http://holidayinsights.com/other/dogdays.htm>

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.

July
2018