



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

Spotlight on New Milford Schools



New Milford High School
860-350-6647
Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal
Mrs. Liz Curtis, Ass't. Principal
Ms. Linda Scoraliak, Ass't. Principal
Mr. Eric Williams, Ass't. Principal



Schaghticoke Middle School
860-354-2204
Dr. Len Tomasello, Principal
Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Ass't. Principal
Dr. Christopher Longo, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Ass't. Principal



Sarah Noble Intermediate School
860-210-4020
Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal
Mrs. Emily Gervasio, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Ass't. Principal



Hill & Plain Elementary School
860-354-5430
Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Ass't. Principal



Northville Elementary School
860-355-3713
Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Ass't. Principal

Volume 6, Issue 5

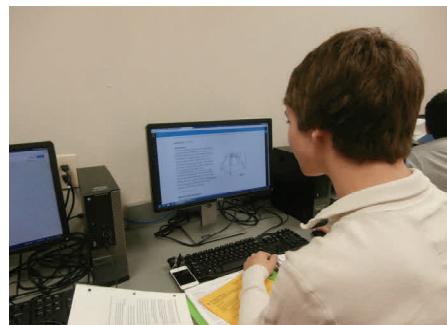
November 2015

Spotlight on PLTW Program Expansion

Project Lead the Way Inc. (PLTW) is a national program designed to increase the quantity and quality of engineers and engineering technologists graduating from our education system. The program offers a hands-on, project-based approach to learning that incorporates science, technology skills, engineering and math. Currently PLTW is offered in 50 states and the District of Columbia.

New Milford High School introduced the PLTW program to its students in September 2012. The program received national certification in 2015. National certification means that students in all PLTW courses will have the potential of earning college credit from more than 60 colleges and universities across the nation including University of New Haven, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Rochester Institute of Technology, to name a few. Many universities also award PLTW students financial scholarships upon entering their engineering programs.

This year, the NMHS program is going stronger than ever with the addition of a fifth course to the program: Engineering Design and Development (EDD). This succession course for PLTW is a senior capstone course which requires the student to apply knowledge from other courses in the program in order to complete a culminating project. Students enrolling in the course must have taken at least two prior PLTW courses. However, the majority of the students enrolling in EDD will have been enrolled in PLTW their entire career at NMHS.

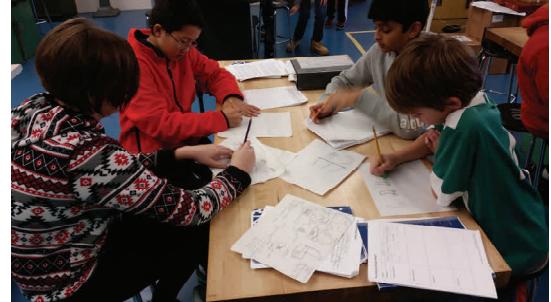


Students taking EDD are required to identify and research a problem and are working in teams to design a working prototype that meets the design criteria. Some examples of current student projects are a self-folding tent, portable bridge, standard transmission shifting trainer, and snowboarding training device. Full professional documentation and an electronic portfolio are required of each student. Students will

present their work to a panel of professionals in May for critique. Many EDD students are also participating in the CT Science and Engineering Fair in Hamden, CT in March 2016.

Science and EDD teacher Mr. Brad Jones says, "Students in EDD learn the complete engineering project process which provides them with a foundation for creating professional engineering projects throughout their college career."

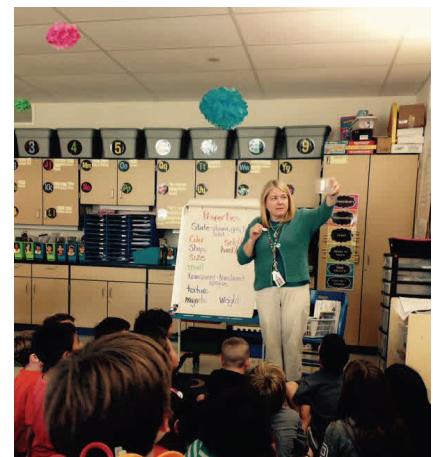
NMHS isn't the only school involved in the PLTW program. Students at Schaghticoke Middle School are also testing the PLTW waters. The SMS program is in its inaugural year and PLTW teacher Ms. Karyn Skinner says, "Seventh and eighth grade students are in the middle of the furniture design lesson in the introductory unit of PLTW's *Gateway Design and Modeling* curriculum. Students are working in teams to finalize their chair or table design for an attempt at creating these designs in Autodesk Inventor Professional. Each student was responsible for brainstorming and sketching out three different table or chair designs. The only criteria given to start the project was that they had to create the furniture in six pieces or less; they had to pick a client to make it for (ex. toddler, student, adult); and they had to name an objective for their design concept.



Before starting this lesson, students got the opportunity to work as individuals on rendering their own 4 knob Lego brick virtually. The rendering was done with Autodesk Inventor Professional, our main 3D modeling software. The learning objectives of this intro were drawing a two-dimensional square, and extruding it to a three-dimensional cube. That cube was then shelled and knobs were added to it. Texture and color topped out the rendering."

SNIS students will also be getting a taste of the program. To start the year, Science enrichment teacher Mrs. Susan Brofford has been working with SNIS students to introduce their science unit on the nature of matter, finish up Planetarium visits for all third grade classes (connecting Science and Social Studies) and get ready for the Hour of Code at SNIS in the first part of December.

Mrs. Brofford says, "The PLTW program at SNIS is gearing up to start in January. The problem based learning modules for enrichment groups will differ by grade."



Fifth graders will explore the unit *Robotics and Automation* including ways that robots are used in today's world and the impact of their use on society and the environment. Students will learn about a variety of robotic components as they build and test mobile robots that may be controlled remotely. The design problem provides an opportunity for students to apply their robotic skills and knowledge to solve a real-world problem related to environmental disaster cleanup.

Fourth graders will explore the unit *Energy: Collisions* with investigations of how mechanisms change energy by transferring direction, speed, type of movement, and force. Students will discover a variety of ways potential energy can be stored and released as kinetic energy. Citing evidence, students will learn to explain the relationship between the speed of an object and the energy of that object. They will also predict the transfer of energy as a result of a collision between two objects. As students solve the problem for this module, they apply their knowledge and skills related to energy transfer in collisions to develop a vehicle restraint system.

Third graders will explore the unit *Stability and Motion: Forces and Interactions*. Students will examine simple machines such as wheel and axles, levers, the inclined plane, and more as they investigate the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces on the motion of an object. Additionally, students will explore magnetic interactions between two objects not in contact with each other through a hands-on project. Finally, students will apply their new knowledge of mechanisms and magnetic interactions as part of a solution to a design problem.

As you can see, the plan going forward is to have students start their exploration of the PLTW program well before they reach their high school years. With that in mind, the future of the program is indeed bright.

Mark your calendars for NMHS' annual All School Musical

This year's production is **Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella**.

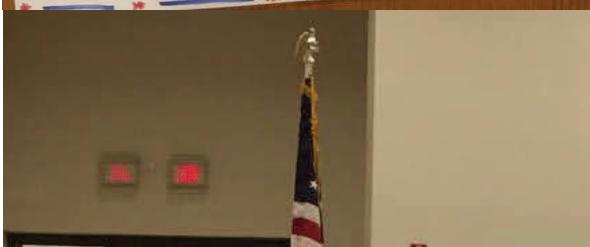
Show dates are:

- Friday, March 18 – 7:00 PM
- Saturday, March 19 – 7:00 PM
- Sunday, March 20 – 3:00 PM
- Friday, April 1 – 7:00 PM
- Saturday, April 2 – 2:00 PM
- Saturday, April 2 – 7:00 PM



Senior citizen passes are available that provide FREE admission to the musical, athletic contests, and other school events. Please call the Central Office at 860-355-8406 for more information.

Honoring Our Veterans



SMS Presents Parent Portal Workshop



Schaghticoke Middle School hosted a Parent Portal Information session on November 12th during the evening. Principal Len Tomasello said “It was the beginning of a great discussion between parents and staff about the use of the Parent Portal, a wonderful tool to help keep track of student progress.” Assistant Principal Chris Longo reviewed for parents how to log-in, view overall class grades, and “dig deeper” to learn more information about individual assignments. The newest feature of Parent Portal, email notification, was also discussed. This feature allows users to have selected information pushed directly from the portal to their email – with a variety of options to customize for each parent’s needs. Parents attending then utilized the LMC computer lab to have their learning personalized, receiving help navigating through Parent Portal on their own accounts. Staff provided guidance to parents on where information could be located, and parents provided staff with feedback about what they hoped to see. It was a wonderful, collaborative effort!

The Parent Portal provides a valuable tool to help improve communication between SMS and home. If you are an SMS parent and have not signed up, or if you have signed up and are experiencing any difficulties, please feel free to contact the school so that they can provide assistance.

SNIS MathMasters Ask “What’s your Favorite Thanksgiving Food?”



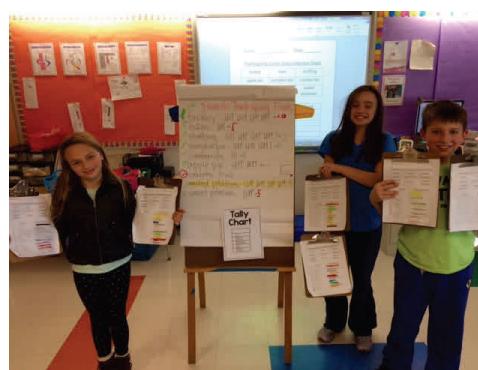
Mrs. Harris’s 3rd grade MathMasters surveyed over 100 SNIS staff and students to ask the question “What’s your favorite Thanksgiving food?” Each person was given a choice of 9 foods to choose from including: turkey, ham, stuffing, apple pie, pumpkin pie, cranberries, mashed potatoes, carrots, and sweet potatoes/yams.

Coming in at 3rd place with 20 votes...TURKEY!

2nd place favorite with 21 votes...STUFFING!

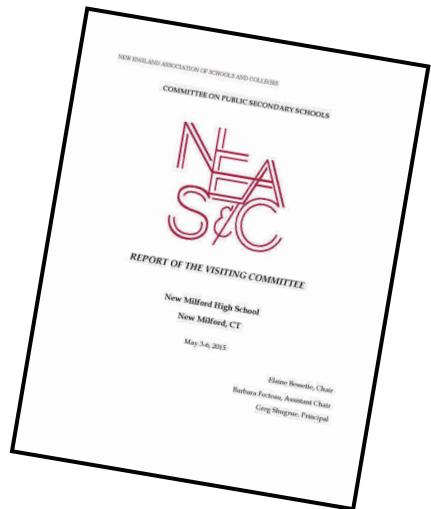
And finally, the #1 favorite food
for Thanksgiving dinner,
with 23 of the votes....
MASHED POTATOES!

Follow Mrs. Harris’s Twitter account:
@MrsHarris_SNIS to see how
students graphed their data.



NMHS Completes NEASC Reaccreditation Study

At the November 10, 2015 Board of Education meeting, NMHS Principal Greg Shugrue and Assistant Principal Linda Scoralick presented a summary of the *Final Report of the NEASC Visiting Committee* regarding their May 2015 visit to New Milford High School. The report is the culmination of a process which began over two years ago designed to determine if NMHS will be granted reaccreditation by NEASC.



Founded in 1885, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) is the nation's oldest accrediting association, serving more than 2,000 public and independent schools, colleges and universities in the six states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Vermont and American/international schools in more than sixty nations worldwide. It currently accredits approximately 634 public secondary schools in the six-state region, of which New Milford High School is one.

The goal of accreditation is to maintain a quality education for the entire student population. Accreditation ensures that through a mutually agreed-upon process there has been a third-party examination and evaluation by peers of the extent to which a school meets the Commission's Standards for Accreditation.

NEASC accreditation signifies that the school has met Commission Standards at an acceptable level and is committed to both maintain those Standards and to improve its educational programs by implementing the recommendations of the visiting committee and the Commission. Continued accreditation is dependent upon a school demonstrating ongoing, reflective progress to improve teaching and learning and the support of teaching and learning.

Every ten years or so, accredited institutions provide evidence to NEASC so that a decision can be made about continued accreditation. NEASC accreditation attests to substantial compliance with established qualitative standards, integrity in statements to the public describing the institution's program, institutional commitment to improvement, and sufficiency of institutional resources.

The ten-year cycle is structured according to:

- Self-study which engages the entire educational community in structured analysis, self-reflection, and planning in response to the standards.
- Peer review which brings discipline and perspective to the process through the observations and judgments of a visiting committee of peers from other schools

and colleges, informed by the self-study and based on the standards.

- Follow-up which is monitored by a commission of elected peers and overseen by professional staff to ensure that planned and prescribed institutional change is accomplished.

Principal Shugrue says “The self-study process is a lengthy one of approximately 12-18 months, culminating in a visit by the NEASC team. For New Milford High School staff, this meant many hours of preparation.” Committees were formed to report and provide evidence regarding the high school’s adherence to NEASC’s seven standards of education:

- Core Values, Beliefs, and Learning Expectations
- Curriculum
- Instruction
- Assessment of and for Student Learning
- School Culture and Leadership
- School Resources for Learning
- Community Resources for Learning

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) visiting committee conducted their on-site continued accreditation visit of New Milford High School from May 3-6, 2015. The committee of 15 educators from Connecticut and Massachusetts was chaired by retired principal Elaine Bessette. Ms. Scoralick says, “Over the course of their four day visit, the committee met with the Board of Education, parents, students, faculty, staff, building principals, and district leaders to collect first-hand information about the inner workings of the school. They visited classes and shadowed students during the day to develop a clear picture of teaching and learning at New Milford High School. The committee compared all the information they collected to the self-study document created by the faculty to develop conclusions about the school’s adherence to NEASC’s seven standards for accreditation.”

In the fall of 2015 a final report from the chair of the visiting committee was received. In this report was a detailed explanation of findings with commendations and recommendations. Mr. Shugrue and Ms. Scoralick, a NEASC Co-chair for the visit, provided a [summary of this report](#) to the Board.

The final report recognized and commended many things the high school, district, and community do well according to the seven standards. In fact, the visiting committee report presented 65 specific commendations. The report also gave 49 recommendations across the seven standards for accreditation.

The accreditation process itself is an ongoing cycle of continuous school improvement. Future school initiatives will be developed based on the needs of our students and NEASC recommendations.



Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote
Superintendent

Mr. Joshua Smith
Deputy Superintendent

Ms. Ellamae Baldelli
Human Resources Director

Mr. Kevin Munrett
Facilities Manager

Mr. Jay Hubelbank
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

Mrs. Angela C. Chastain
Chairperson

Mr. Dave Littlefield
Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
Secretary

Mr. David A. Lawson
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Robert Coppola

Mr. David R. Shaffer

Mrs. Daniele Shook

Mr. John W. Spatola

Mrs. Theresa Volinski

National Family Stories Month



What a great month to gather all of the family stories that have been handed down from generation to generation!

Many of us get together for Thanksgiving and other events over the next few weeks and months. It's the perfect time for grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews to share their memories.

Stories may be goofy, serious or reflective.

They can be of childhood, adolescence, marriage, work, vacations, immigration, holiday celebrations, and much more. Maybe the story is triggered by a family photo or special family recipe. Whatever the case, the important part is the sharing of family history.

There are several websites that offer ideas to get you started, just google "family stories month" or

Visit

<https://www.storyarts.org/classroom/roots/family.html> for lots of great questions to get the conversation going or

Go to

<http://heartsforfamilies.org/blog/blog-8-ways-to-celebrate-family-stories-month.aspx>

to see *8 Ways to Celebrate Family Stories Month* and suggestions on how to make new memories your children can share going forward.

November is