



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



New Milford High School



Schaghticoke



Sarah Noble



Hill & Plain



John Pettibone



Northville

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Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 1, Issue 2

May 2011

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Spotlight on New Milford Schools*. Let's begin with a few New Milford Public Schools Notables:

- Congratulations to the 2011 SMS Battle of the Books winners—Emily T., Sarah D., Samantha C., Amy C., Emily C., and Jane O.
- Javon P., a JPS 3rd grader, won his weight class division in the state wrestling championship.
- Hill and Plain Elementary School invites you to share an experiment at the Town Wide Elementary School Health, Science, and Art Fair on May 24th. For more information email jpsptoscience@gmail.com.



Food & Nutrition Service Update



Registered Dietitian, Sandra Sullivan, is the Food and Nutrition Services Director of the New Milford School Lunch Program. Each month, Sandra creates a healthy school lunch menu for the district that meets the USDA Dietary Guidelines. When viewing the menu, fresh fruits and vegetables can be recognized because they are highlighted in green and/or say the word "fresh." In addition to the healthy nutrition programs in which the New Milford Schools already participate, Sandra recently signed the district up to participate in the Chefs Move to Schools program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This program partners local chefs with school districts to teach young people about good nutrition and making healthy choices. Sandra invited local Chef Anne Gallagher to see our healthy meals and to assist the food service

staff in promoting the Chefs to Move program. When Chef Anne visited New Milford High School, the menu included fresh butternut squash soup and a grilled panini, which accommodated both meat lovers and vegetarians.

On her visit to Schaghticoke Middle School, the staff and Chef Anne whipped up a bean soup that was delicious and perfect on that cold winter day. Most recently Chef Anne demonstrated her knife skills with the food service staff in the district. We look forward to more visits from Chef Anne throughout the rest of the school year.



NMHS

Around the “Block”

“I think it’s a great idea,” states New Milford High School (NMHS) parent Irene Clarke. “I believe it will allow teachers to cover more content and students more time to grasp what was taught.”

Mrs. Clarke is referring to the new “Block Schedule” that NMHS will adopt for the 2011-2012 school year. The current 46 minute/7 academic period scheduling system will be replaced by a 79 minute/4 academic period A/B schedule. Surrounding schools such as Brookfield, Danbury and New Fairfield have all converted to a “Block Schedule” in recent years.

A committee comprised of teachers from every department at NMHS was formed in September of 2009 to research different scheduling options. After many months of school visits and interviewing staff and students, block scheduling was chosen.

Why Change?

The need to change the scheduling method was due to many factors, including, recommendations from the 2004 accreditation visit from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC); the District’s Strategic Plan; and the Connecticut Department of Education’s adopted change to increase graduations credits (beginning with the class of 2018) from 22 to 25.

Benefits?

As NMHS principal Greg Shugrue states, “There is nothing magical about

the new schedule and no schedule can address everyone’s issues or problems. However, there are opportunities not available with the current scheduling method.”

First and foremost, time allotted for passing periods are considerably reduced, thus greatly increasing overall instructional time which is reported to the State annually. Another advantage is the elimination of mid-class lunch breaks. No longer will students go to class for 25 minutes, break for lunch, then return to class for the remaining 25 minutes of instruction. Teachers are excited about the time for expanded discussion, presentation, and comprehensive writing.

Although NMHS students traditionally perform above average on standardized tests (CAPT, SAT and ACT) as

Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

-Albert Einstein

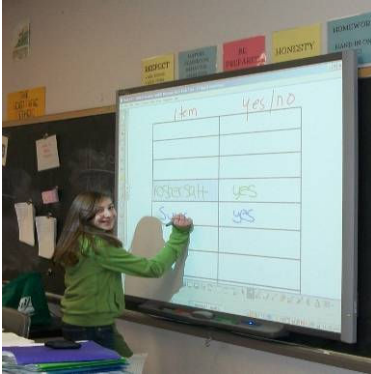
compared to surrounding towns, state-wide and nationally, research supports improved student performance after moving to extended

periods (Canady & Rettig, Shortt & Thayer).

Although the program will be “tweaked” throughout the first year, a positive impact is projected for all students and staff!

To find out more information and see sample schedules, visit the NMHS website or blog at www.newmilfordps.org/nhs.

Tech Ed



I remember thinking how technologically savvy my high school was when it purchased an Apple IIe com-

puter. Of course that was many, many years ago and technology has undergone massive improvements since then. But, I'm still amazed at how quickly technology integrated itself into the educational community. At Schaghticoke Middle School (SMS), technology comes in many forms - computers, SMART Boards, and e-book readers.

School Library Media Specialist, David Bilmes says, "Our students live in a technology driven world. We need to find ways to incorporate that into their education."

Many teachers at SMS have SMART Boards in their classrooms. Science teacher Robin Renner states, "I use a SMART Board every day in my classroom. I frequently embed video clips either from Discovery Education or You Tube in a lesson. I want them (the students) to feel comfortable using technology for school work. My students all know how to use the computer to access the Internet."

Students in the New Milford School district begin working with computers as soon as they enter kindergarten, but as they reach the middle school grades, teachers and staff are preparing them for

high school and ultimately college or the work force—providing them with 21st Century Skills.

"I am trying to teach them to be responsible digital citizens," says Bilmes. "They need to cite anything they get online. They also need to learn how to evaluate the appropriateness of their sources and to learn the advantages and disadvantages of websites."

Technology is changing the face of education—"technology definitely enhances the learning process, but it does not replace the lesson or the instructor. It is another component of how we teach, and when students are engaged using this technology, then they definitely are learning in an exciting way," adds Renner.

Parents can find technology tips and educational links to help students on the SMS website—www.newmilfordps.org/sms.

S

M

S



SMS students use technology in the classroom—A SMART Board (upper left) and a station in the computer lab (above).

A Celebration of Literature SNIS, H&P, JPS & NES

Ask any educator and most parents what the most important thing a student learns in school and most of them will tell you...READING!

So what's the big deal about reading? Reading is essential to function in society. Reading isn't only for pleasure, you need it to obey road signs, fill out a job application and read instructions on everything from medicine bottles to your electronics. Even as we've become technologically savvy, we read more than ever—websites, blogs and emails. You simply can't get away from reading!

During the month of April, Sarah Noble Intermediate School and all three elementary schools had a celebration of literature. Various authors, illustrators, storytellers and poets were brought to each of the schools. They met with all students from kindergarten through sixth grade—telling stories, sharing the writing process and even teaching sign language to the students.

Movement, songs and student involvement were threaded throughout the presentations. Teachers followed up with writing activities such as authoring books, writing poetry and researching other authors on the Internet.

Nancy Nahley, Library Media Specialist at Hill and Plain Elementary School says, "To me these visits have so many benefits. They are truly a celebration of literacy and the enjoyment that reading brings to all of us!"

Reading Specialist Ann Mueller for John Pettibone School echoes Nahley's sentiments and adds, "These visits have helped make the kids really enthusiastic about writing!"

In all four schools, the authors and illustrators are funded, at least partially, through the PTO.

To wrap up the week, Northville Elementary hosted Guest Readers that included school officials, members of the local government and community service representatives.

Northville Literature Committee member Christine Zona sums up the week as, "A real celebration of literature that can be expanded into many different activities and lessons. The students will continue to learn from these visits for the remainder of the school year."

Storyteller Carol Birch shares a story with 4th graders at Sarah Noble Intermediate School.



Authors, Storytellers, and Poets—Oh, My!



Poet Jeff Nathan gets students from John Pettibone involved in his presentation.

Sarah Noble's literature celebration visitors included:

Storyteller Carol Birch
[Website](#)

Author Elise Broach
[Website](#)

Author Nora Raleigh Baskin
[Website](#)

Hill & Plain's visitors:

Author Debbie Dadey
[Website](#)

Poet Jeff Nathan
[Website](#) and [Website](#)

Author Catherine Gibson
[Website](#)

Virtual Visit with Dan Gutman
[Website](#)

John Pettibone's visitors:

Author Debbie Dadey
[Website](#)

Poet Jeff Nathan
[Website](#) and [Website](#)

Author Catherine Gibson
[Website](#)



Northville's visitors:

Author Laurie Krebs
[Website](#)

Author/Illustrator Doug Florian
[Website](#)

Author Geri Rodda
[Website](#)

Author John Himmelman
[Website](#)

Author/Illustrator Doug Florian presents to Northville Elementary students with the help of kindergarten student Morgan H.



Reading Is Reading

Encourage your child to read anything—the morning cereal box, the Sunday comics, the newspaper, a comic book or a magazine. Reading doesn't have to be only from a book. The key is simply to get students to read!

Traveling Through Books, Literally!

In your summer travels consider incorporating your child's favorite book into the trip. Below are just a few examples of locations you can visit that relate to a specific book or author.

Your Hometown



Blueberries for Sal by Robert

McCloskey

Visit a nearby "pick your own" blueberry farm.

Curious George by H.A. Rey

Visit a local park, river, library, etc.

Take a Mouse to the Movies by Laura Numeroff and Felicia Bond

Bank Street Movie Theater

Nearby

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark

Twain

Hartford, CT

Hannibal, MO

Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe

Hartford, CT

Poems by Emily Dickinson

Amherst, MA

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

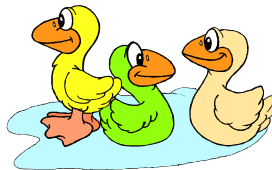
Orchard House, Concord, MA

www.louisamayalcott.org

Make Way for Ducklings by

Robert McCloskey

Boston Commons, Boston, MA



The Pilgrims of Plimoth by

Marcia Sewall

Plymouth, MA

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Amherst, MA

www.picturebookart.org

Our White House

Hyde Park, N.Y. or Washington D.C.

New York

Little Toot by Hardie Gramatky

Pier 16 & 17

Liberty! By Allan Drummond

The Statue of Liberty

Eloise by Kay Thompson & Hilary Knight

The Plaza Hotel—765-5th Ave.

Ground floor Eloise gift shop

Babar Comes to America by

Laurent De Brunhoff

Hilton Hotel—1335 Avenue of the Americas

The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frank-

weiler by E.L. Konigsburg

Metropolitan Museum of Art

The Park Book by Charlotte Zolotow

Central Park or your neighborhood park

Stuart Little by E.B. White

Sailboat Pond in Central Park

The Cricket in Times Square by

George Selden

Times Square



Various Books

The Society of Illustrators in New York, NY

www.societyillustrators.org

A little further away

Little House on the Prairie Series by

Laura Ingalls Wilder

Burr Oak, IA

De Smet, SD

Mansfield, MO

Pepin, WI

Rocky Ridge, Springfield, MO

Walnut Grove, MN

The possibilities are endless!

New Milford Schools Calendar—May 2011

C A L E N D A R

- May 4— **NMHS & SMS Early Dismissal**
- May 5—Friends of Hill & Plain Volunteer Appreciation 2:15 p.m.—H&P
Voices and Jazz Concerts 7:00 p.m.—SMS
- May 6—JPS 3rd Grade visits SNIS 9:30 a.m.
Baseball/Softball at Shepaug 3:45 p.m.—SMS
- May 7—Junior Prom-NMHS
- May 9—Baseball/Softball at Newtown 3:45 p.m.—SMS
Spring Concert/Art Show (Adv. Band & 6th Gr. Chorus) 7:00 p.m.—SNIS
- May 10—Board of Education Meeting 7:30 p.m. Sarah Noble Media Center
- May 11—Advisory Day—NMHS
Elementary & Intermediate—Early Dismissal
Girls Softball Intramurals 2:15 p.m.—SMS
- May 12—*HS Musical, Jr.* Production 2:30 p.m.—SMS
Grade 6 Orientation at SMS
- May 13—Incoming Freshman Parent Coffee 8:30 a.m.—Faculty Lounge, NMHS
HS Musical, Jr. Production 7:00 p.m.—SMS
- May 14—”Junk in the Trunk” 7:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.—NMHS
- May 16—Baseball/Softball HOME 3:45 p.m.—SMS
Spring Concert (Adv. Orchestra and Jazz Band) 7:00 p.m.—SNIS
Freshman/Sophomore Academic Awards-NMHS
- May 17—Policy Committee 6:30 p.m.—East St.
Committee on Learning 7:30 p.m.—East St.
- May 18—**NMHS & SMS Early Dismissal**
Grade 3 Orientation at SNIS
- May 19—Activity Day—NMHS
Baseball/Softball HOME 3:45 p.m.—SMS
- May 20—Senior Prom—NMHS
SNIS Walking Project Family Night 5-7 p.m.—SNIS
- May 23—Baseball/Softball HOME 3:45 p.m.—SMS
Spring Concert (Beg. & Int. Band & Strings and 5th Gr. Chorus) 7:00 p.m.—SNIS
- May 24—Grade 3 Chorus Concert 10:00 a.m.—H&P
Art Show/Science Fair 5:30 p.m.—H&P
Celebration of Excellence 7:30 p.m.—SMS
- May 25—Activity Day—NMHS
Orchestra & Choruses 7:00 p.m.—SMS
Junior/Senior Awards—NMHS
Big Band Bash 7:00 p.m.—SNIS
- May 26—Baseball/Softball HOME 3:30 p.m.—SMS
- May 27—Student Council Twin Day—H&P
SNIS Walking Project Closing Ceremony 9:15 a.m.—SNIS
- May 27-29—Senior Art Show, New Milford Railroad Station—NMHS
- May 30—**Memorial Day—No School**
New Milford Memorial Day Parade –New Milford Green
(NMPS Marching Bands will participate)
- May 31—Baseball/Softball HOME 3:45 p.m.—SMS
Big Band Bash 7-8:15 p.m.—SNIS

Please note :
The Celebration of Excellence
at Schaghticoke Middle
School has been rescheduled
to May 24th at 7:30 p.m.

ATHLETICS

Support your hometown team and have some great family fun—attend a high school athletic event. You will find the schedules for spring sports below.

2011 New Milford High School Spring Sports Schedule

Freshman Baseball

Tue., 5/3	New Fairfield	Away	4:00 p.m.
Fri., 5/6	Masuk	HOME	3:45 p.m.
Fri., 5/13	Kolbe Cath.	HOME	3:45 p.m.
Mon., 5/9	Weston	Away	3:45 p.m.
Wed., 5/11	Pomperaug	HOME	3:45 p.m.

JV Baseball

Tue., 5/3	Immaculate	HOME	3:45 p.m.
Thu., 5/5	Weston	Away	4:15 p.m.
Tue., 5/10	Pomperaug	Away	3:45 p.m.
Thu., 5/12	Bunnell	HOME	4:15 p.m.
Sat., 5/14	Masuk	Away	10:00 a.m.
Thu., 5/19	Newtown	HOME	3:45 p.m.
Sat., 5/21	Bunnell	Away	10:00 a.m.

Varsity Baseball

Mon., 5/2	Weston	HOME	4:15 p.m.
Wed., 5/4	New Fairfield	Away	4:15 p.m.
Fri., 5/6	Joel Barlow	HOME	4:00 p.m.
Mon., 5/9	Pomperaug	HOME	4:00 p.m.
Wed., 5/11	Bunnell	Away	4:15 p.m.
Thu., 5/12	Masuk	HOME	4:15 p.m.
Wed., 5/18	Newtown	Away	6:30 p.m.
Thu., 5/19	Bunnell	HOME	4:15 p.m.

Boys Track

Mon., 5/2	Bethel, Stratford	Away	4:00 p.m.
Mon., 5/9	New Fairfield, Weston	Home	4:00 pm
Mon., 5/16	Masuk, Brookfield, Pomperaug	Away	4:00 p.m.

Girls Track

Tue., 5/3	Lauralton, Stratford, Bethel	Home	4:00 pm
Tue., 5/10	New Fairfield, Weston	Away	4:00 p.m.
Tue., 5/17	Masuk, Brookfield, Pomperaug	Away	4:00 p.m.

JV Boys Lacrosse

Wed., 5/4	Bethel	Away	5:30 p.m.
Fri., 5/6	New Fairfield	Away	5:30 p.m.
Tue., 5/10	Joel Barlow	Home	5:30 p.m.
Thu., 5/12	Weston	Home	4:15 p.m.
Wed., 5/18	Bunnell	Away	5:30 p.m.

Varsity Boys LaCrosse

Wed., 5/4	Bethel	Away	7:00 p.m.
Fri., 5/6	New Fairfield	Away	7:00 p.m.
Tue., 5/10	Joel Barlow	Home	6:00 p.m.
Thu., 5/12	Weston	Home	6:00 p.m.
Mon., 5/16	Fairfield	Home	6:00 p.m.
Wed., 5/18	Bunnell	Away	7:00 p.m.

Boys Tennis

Wed., 5/4	Pomperaug	Home	3:45 p.m.
Fri., 5/6	Brookfield	Home	3:30 p.m.
Mon., 5/9	Bunnell	Away	3:45 p.m.
Wed., 5/11	Stratford	Home	3:45 p.m.
Mon., 5/16	New Fairfield	Home	3:45 p.m.
Wed., 5/18	Masuk	Away	3:45 p.m.
Fri., 5/20	Nonnewaug	Home	3:30 p.m.

Freshman Softball

Mon., 5/2	Naugatuck	Home	3:45 p.m.
Wed., 5/4	Woodland	Away	3:45 p.m.
Sat., 5/7	Holy Cross	Away	10:00 a.m.
Wed., 5/11	Pomperaug	Away	3:45 p.m.
Mon., 5/16	Newtown	Home	3:45 p.m.
Wed., 5/18	Immaculate	Away	3:45 p.m.
Fri., 5/20	Naugatuck	Away	3:45 p.m.
Mon., 5/23	Woodland	Home	3:45 p.m.
Wed., 5/25	Holy Cross	Home	3:45 p.m.

JV Softball

Tue., 5/3	Greenwich	Away	4:30 p.m.
Thu., 5/5	Weston	Away	4:15 p.m.
Tue., 5/10	Pomperaug	Away	3:45 p.m.
Thu., 5/12	Bunnell	Home	4:15 p.m.
Sat., 5/14	Masuk	Away	10:00 a.m.
Tue., 5/17	Lauralton Hall	Away	3:45 p.m.
Thu., 5/19	Newtown	Home	3:45 p.m.
Sat., 5/21	Bunnell	Away	10:00 a.m.

Varsity Softball

Mon., 5/2	Weston	Home	4:15 p.m.
Wed., 5/4	New Fairfield	Away	4:15 p.m.
Fri., 5/6	Joel Barlow	Home	4:15 p.m.
Mon., 5/9	Pomperaug	Home	4:15 p.m.
Wed., 5/11	Bunnell	Away	4:15 p.m.
Thu., 5/12	Masuk	Home	4:15 p.m.
Sat., 5/14	Greenwich	Away	9:30 a.m.
Mon., 5/16	Lauralton Hall	Home	4:15 p.m.
Wed., 5/18	Newtown	Away	7:00 p.m.
Thu., 5/19	Bunnell	Home	4:15 p.m.

Girls JV Lacrosse

Mon., 5/2	Trumbull	Away	4:00 p.m.
Wed., 5/4	Bethel	Home	4:30 p.m.
Thu., 5/5	New Fairfield	Home	4:30 p.m.
Tue., 5/10	Joel Barlow	Away	5:30 p.m.
Thu., 5/12	Weston	Away	4:00 p.m.

Girls Varsity Lacrosse

Mon., 5/2	Trumbull	Away	6:00 p.m.
Wed., 5/4	Bethel	Home	6:00 p.m.
Thu., 5/5	New Fairfield	Home	6:00 p.m.
Tue., 5/10	Joel Barlow	Away	4:00 p.m.
Thu., 5/12	Weston	Away	5:30 p.m.
Tue., 5/17	Fairfield	Away	4:00 p.m.
Wed., 5/18	Bunnell	Home	6:00 p.m.

Girls Tennis

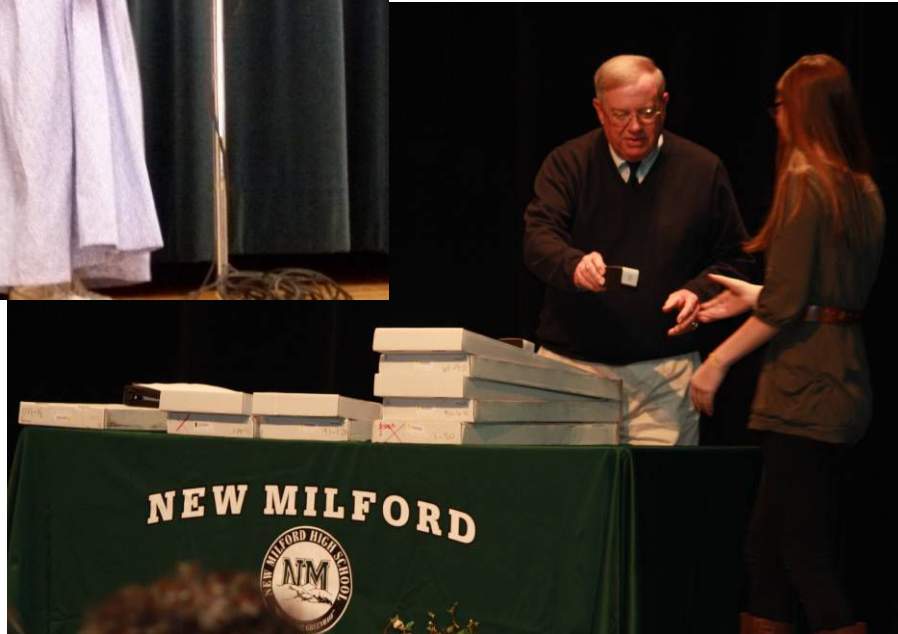
Mon., 5/2	Fairfield	Home	3:45 p.m.
Wed., 5/4	Pomperaug	Away	3:45 p.m.
Mon., 5/9	Bunnell	Home	4:00 p.m.
Wed., 5/11	Stratford	Away	3:45 p.m.
Mon., 5/16	New Fairfield	Away	4:00 p.m.
Wed., 5/18	Bethel	Away	3:45 p.m.
Fri., 5/20	Nonnewaug	Home	3:30 p.m.

CLASSROOM CANDIDS



Right: Olivia H., an NES 3rd grader, talks about her character on Biography Day.

Below: An NMHS student receives her class ring at the Sophomore Ring Ceremony.



Above: Students intently listen to a lesson in the Sarah Noble library.



Left: NMHS orchestra students perform.

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.

New Milford Schools

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New Milford, CT 06776

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Mrs. Susan Murray, Northville Principal

DISTRICT



The Mice of Merwinsville

On April 29th, a large audience was wowed by 45 talented 4th–6th grade students from Sarah Noble Intermediate School who presented The Mice of Merwinsville, an original musical theater production.

Susan Hackel, an SNIS reading specialist, wrote the story with the help of Nanci Zimmerman, an SNIS fifth grade teacher. Orig-

nally written to be a children's book, the manuscript was converted to a script last summer.

The play, based on the history of the Merwinsville Hotel-a historical landmark in New Milford, CT-was about mice who resided in the hotel during a restoration to the hotel in the 1970s.



Actors rehearse The Mice of Merwinsville at Sarah Noble Intermediate School.