



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



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. Kristine Golden,
Ass't. Principal

Dr. Don Naiman,
Ass't. Principal

Mrs. Anne Bilko
Admin. Intern



Hill & Plain Elementary
Dr. Sandra Nadeau, Principal

Mrs. Anne Bilko,
Assistant Principal



John Pettibone Elementary
Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal

Mrs. Joan Kick, Ass't. Principal



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

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 2, Issue 4

December 2011

Giving Back



Hats and mittens adorn the "Winter Tree" in the main lobby of Sarah Noble Intermediate School. Items on the tree have been donated by SNIS families and will be donated to New Milford Social Services.

community service activities, you can contact the following organizations:

- New Milford Social Services
860-355-6079 x3
- New Milford Animal Welfare
www.aws-shelter.org
860-354-1350
- The Volunteer Center of United Way of Western Connecticut
www.volunteerdanbury.org
203-797-1154
- Literacy Volunteers on the Green
www.lvg-ct.org
860-355-0830
- www.volunteermatch.org
- www.handsonnetwork.org
- www.dosomething.org
- www.greatnonprofits.org

The holiday season is the time most people want to reach out to others and give back to their local community. Although compassion is the New Milford Public Schools character education trait for December, this month's newsletter features several ways NMPS students give back all year long!

If you are looking for ways for your family to participate in more

Or you can start in your own neighborhood by shoveling the sidewalk for an elderly neighbor, offering to pick up something at the store for a friend who is sick, or offering to babysit for a family with small children.

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Boots and Books

N M H S



For the past 11 years, the French Honor Society (FHS) has held its annual Star Project. Although the project has changed over the years, the focus has always been involving members of the high school community (staff and students) to meet needs in the local community.

About seven years ago, the FHS was asked to take over the annual Social Services boot drive. Since FHS was an academic group, they added books to the program, and today, they provide “Boots and Books” to over 80 children annually.

In early November, New Milford Social Services provides a list of children and young adults (ages 1-18) that are in need of new winter boots. FHS students man the “star table” during lunches and ask for volunteers to go out and purchase the needed boots and books. Additionally, many high school staff members collect monetary donations in their classrooms. The names of those who donate are written on paper stars and displayed in the NMHS Library Media Center windows.

After the donations are received, FHS students wrap all the boots and books and deliver them to Social Services so that they can be put with other donations of hats, mittens, toys, etc. to be given out to families in need.

Due to the generosity of New Milford High School students and staff, FHS has been able to meet all the “Boots and Books” needs as well as provide additional gift card donations for use by Social Services – last year over \$1,000 in gift cards to local businesses (Bank Street Theater, Lore’s Lanes, local restaurants, etc.) were given and the group is on track to make another substantial gift card donation this year.

“Delivering those bags is the best feeling in the world,” reports Mrs. Barbara Polley, French Honor Society advisor and NMHS World Language teacher.



Lindsay P. and Tess K. wrap gifts for Social Services during the French Honor Society “Boots and Books” wrapping event.

Paper Cranes

Paper cranes, flying.
Bright paper squares folded tight.
Small wishes for peace.
Haiku by Annie Hintsala



Schaghticoke Middle School students folding various sizes of square paper in various colors created a flock of origami paper cranes – 3,558 in total! Origami literally means “paper folding.” In Japanese culture, the crane is a symbol for long life, prosperity and good health.

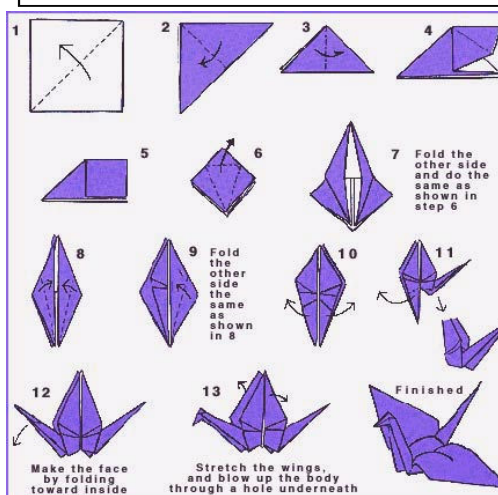
What began as a way to “do something nice for others” during the first holiday season after her parents’ deaths, Schaghticoke art teacher, Ms. Trudy Cox, has created an annual event to spread hope. In its third year, “Create-a-Crane” is embraced by SMS staff and students alike.

“This is what is so great about Schaghticoke, everyone from the staff to the students just want to help,” comments Cox.

The cranes will be donated to New Milford and Danbury Hospital’s cancer care units. The Hospital puts a paper crane on each patient’s dinner tray during the holiday season. The cranes are also used to decorate the tree in the children’s unit.

Schaghticoke Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO) donated hot chocolate and candy canes for the students during the event.

Follow the instructions below to create your own paper crane.



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Sarah Noble Intermediate School

Hill and Plain School

I n t e r m e d i a t e a n d



After being inspired by a project for her religious education class, Sarah Noble Intermediate student, Gabriela E., recruited several friends to help her on a new project—Kids helping Kids!

Gabriela and her friends set out to collect donations—books, toys and cash—to help the Children’s Medical Center in Hartford. The Children’s Medical Center was in desperate need of donations to give to patients both throughout the holiday season and on an on-going basis.

Gabriela and her friends—fellow SNIS students Carolyn G., Lindsey J., Shea T., Bailey W., Kayla F., Alexa E., and Julia V.; SMS students Ashley C. and Ali P.; Roxbury friends Hannah L., Ashley M., and Kayleigh M., and NES little sister Giovanna E.—collected around 200 toys and over \$500 in monetary donations in front of the New Milford Post Office on December 10th!

“It was a good experience doing something for someone else and everyone was so generous,” comments Gabriela’s mom, Daniela.

Students at Hill and Plain School make a difference! The school community has participated in “Make a Difference Day” for the past three years. The day is celebrated nationally on the fourth Saturday in October. Past projects have included:

- Making decorations for local nursing homes and visiting with the residents
- Creating an activity book for children in waiting rooms at area free health clinics and New Milford Hospital
- Collecting food for local food banks and supplies for the local animal shelter
- Writing letters to servicemen and women stationed overseas
- Baking treats for local senior centers and entertaining the seniors when they come to Hill and Plain for a visit
- Raising money for the American Cancer Society by having a mini walk for cancer awareness

“I feel that it’s so important for children at an early age to recognize the needs of people other than themselves. To know that you’ve made a difference in someone’s life—even if it’s something small, makes you happy and can change the lives of others,” states Kathy Mannion, Hill and Plain first grade teacher and “Make a Difference Day” coordinator.

For more information about “Make a Difference Day,” visit www.makeadifferenceday.com



John Pettibone School

Another longstanding tradition at New Milford Public Schools is the John Pettibone School Santa Fund. In its 15th year, the Santa fund has raised approximately \$50,000 throughout its history!

The Santa Fund is a community service project that provides JPS students and their families the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of New Milford children in need. Each year, JPS students and staff “adopt” a specific number of children and pledge to help make their holiday season extra special.

Students are asked to “earn” money from parents and grandparents by doing chores and odd jobs around the house. This allows students the opportunity to personally assist children like themselves who may otherwise not have a gift to open on Christmas morning.

After all monies are donated, JPS “elves” shop for needed items and present them to the student body during the annual “Santa Fund Assembly.” This year, the Santa Fund assembly also unveiled an LMC mural painted by artist and parent, Joel Spector. The mural was funded by JPS PTO.

The 2011 Santa Fund raised \$2,145.54! Each participating child will receive a hat, gloves, socks, underwear, a shirt, pants, fleece, two books, a toy and a puzzle.



Northville Elementary School



I remember the first time I stepped into Northville Elementary School and saw a shopping cart sitting in the main hallway

just outside the office door. “What an odd thing to have in the school hallway,” I remember saying to my kids. However, after coming to understand what the grocery cart was, it made complete sense and didn’t seem out of place at all!

The grocery cart, which has been in the Northville hallway for several years, was donated to the school by the owners of Northville Market when they had children at Northville. The grocery cart is a permanent reminder for students and parents to donate non-perishable food items and toiletries throughout the year for the Department of Social Services food bank.

Retired Northville third grade teacher and current third grade tutor, Dianne Lang, delivers the donated items to Social Services every few weeks.

Additionally, the Northville community also supports New Milford Social Services through:

- Staff “jean” days—staff members donate to wear jeans one Friday per month and the proceeds are donated to Social Services
- The 100th day of school canned food drive
- Sharing the Warmth from Head to Toe—a collection of hats, gloves and socks

C A L E N D A R

New Milford Schools Calendar



December 23-January 2 – **NO SCHOOL – Holiday Recess**



January 3 – **JPS** PTO – 9:00 a.m.

January 5 – **NES** PTO – 9:00 a.m.

January 6 – **SMS** National Geographic Bee School Championship – 8:30 a.m.

January 9 – **SMS** PTO – 9:00 a.m.

HPS PTO – 9:30 a.m.

January 10 - **NES** Read-a-Thon Begins

January 11 – **SNIS** PTO – 9:00 a.m.

January 13 – **SMS** Boys Basketball HOME – 3:45 p.m.

January 16 – **NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

January 17 – **Board of Education** Budget Hearing – SNIS Media Ctr. - 7:00 p.m.

January 18 - **Board of Education** Budget Hearing – SNIS Media Ctr. - 7:00 p.m.

SMS Voices, Jazz, Orchestra Concert—7:00 p.m.

NES PTO – 7:00 p.m.

January 19 – **Coffee and Conversation with the Superintendent**—10:00 a.m. (see below)

NMHS - Drama Club Performance at Senior Center – 1-3 p.m.

January 20 – **JPS** Bingo Family Fun Night – 6:00 p.m.

January 24 – **SMS** Boys Basketball – HOME – 3:45 p.m.

Board of Education Budget Hearing – SNIS Media Ctr. - 7:00 p.m.

January 25 - **Board of Education** Budget Hearing – SNIS Media Ctr. - 7:00 p.m.

January 27 – **NES** Family Movie Night – 6:30-8:30 p.m.

NES Read-a-Thon Ends

January 30 – **H&P** Read-a-Thon Begins

SMS Boys Basketball – HOME – 3:45 p.m.



Coffee and Conversation

Join Superintendent Dr. JeanAnn Paddyfote for coffee and conversation!

January 19—10:00 a.m.

New Milford Railroad Station

11 Railroad Street, New Milford

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



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

Upcoming Home Athletic Events

Date	Sport	Opponent	Time	Date	Sport	Opponent	Time
F, 12/30	V Wrestling	Middletown	11:00 a.m.	S, 1/14	V Boys Hockey	Newtown	2:00 p.m.
T, 1/3	V Boys B-ball	Bunnell	7:00 p.m.	M, 1/16	V Boys Hockey	Wilton	8:15 p.m.
T, 1/3	JV Boys B-ball	Bunnell	5:15 p.m.	T, 1/17	V Girls B-ball	New Fairfield	7:00 p.m.
T, 1/3	FR Boys B-ball	New Fairfield	3:30 p.m.	T, 1/17	JV Girls B-ball	New Fairfield	5:15 p.m.
T, 1/3	V Girls Gym.	Oxford/ Newtown	4:30 p.m.	T, 1/17	FR Girls B-ball	New Fairfield	3:30 p.m.
W, 1/4	V Wrestling	Westbrook/ Old Saybrook	6:00 p.m.	T, 1/17	V Girls Gym.	Lauralton Hall, Weston	6:00 p.m.
F, 1/6	V Girls B-ball	Brookfield	7:00 p.m.	F, 1/20	V Boys B-ball	Bethel	7:00 p.m.
F, 1/6	JV Girls B-ball	Brookfield	5:15 p.m.	F, 1/20	JV Boys B-ball	Bethel	5:15 p.m.
F, 1/6	FR Girls B-ball	Brookfield	3:30 p.m.	F, 1/20	FR Boys B-ball	Bethel	3:30 p.m.
M, 1/9	FR Girls B-ball	Shepaug Valley	3:30 p.m.	S, 1/21	V Wrestling	New Milford Tournament	9:00 a.m.
T, 1/10	V Boys B-ball	Oxford	7:00 p.m.	T, 1/24	V Boys B-ball	Stratford	7:00 p.m.
T, 1/10	JV Boys B-ball	Oxford	5:15 p.m.	T, 1/24	JV Boys B-ball	Stratford	5:15 p.m.
T, 1/10	V Girls Gym.	Trumbull	4:30 p.m.	W, 1/25	V Boys Hockey	Housatonic/ N-western/ Wamogo	7:15 p.m.
W, 1/11	V Wrestling	Weston	6:00 p.m.	F, 1/27	V Girls B-ball	Weston	7:00 p.m.
T, 1/12	V Boys Swim/ Div.	Joel Barlow	7:00 p.m.	F, 1/27	JV Girls B-ball	Weston	5:15 p.m.
F, 1/13	V Girls B-ball	Pomperaug	7:00 p.m.	T, 1/31	V Boys B-ball	Joel Barlow	7:00 p.m.
F, 1/13	JV Girls B-ball	Pomperaug	5:15 p.m.	T, 1/31	JV Boys B-ball	Joel Barlow	5:15 p.m.
F, 1/13	FR Girls B-ball	Pomperaug	3:30 p.m.	T, 1/31	FR Boys B-ball	Joel Barlow	3:30 p.m.



Have a photo or story idea you'd like to see in the newsletter? If so, email items to schoolnews@newmilfordps.org.

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S C H O O L L U N C H




The New Milford Food and Nutrition Services Department is excited to announce that our current Café PrePay service will be replaced with NutriKids computer system. NutriKids will be providing parents a convenient, easy and secure online prepayment service to deposit money into your child's school meal account at any time. This service also provides the ability to view your child's account balance and what your child has purchased. By having money in each child's account prior to entering the cafeteria, we find the lunch lines move along faster so your child has more time to eat and be with friends.

Presently Hill and Plain, Northville and John Pettibone use tickets. The new system will eliminate the need for the current paper tickets that are often lost and allow all schools in the district to use the same prepayment system. We are very excited to offer these new services. However, if you choose not to take advantage of the online prepayment service you may continue to make advance payments via check or cash.

If your child qualifies for free or reduced meal prices, this information is noted in the system and the meal will be processed just as it is for all other students without any special indication to the student.

We are currently preparing to implement this system in our cafeterias in late January 2012. As the date gets closer, the Food and Nutrition Services Department will provide you with additional information!



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

STUDENT ACCOLADES



Sarah Noble Intermediate School held several band and chorus concerts in late December. Performances were played to a full house of parents, grandparents and friends. Photos:

Top—6th grade chorus sings under the direction of Ms. Gloria Capone.

Middle left— Fourth and fifth grade beginner band students play their newly learned instruments. The band was directed by Ms. Allison Lynch.

Middle right—Sixth grader, Emma H., prepares to sing.

Lower left—SNIS Instrument teacher, Mr. Michael Fitzgerald, looks on during the concert. Musical notes seen in the background were created by SNIS art students for the program.



New Milford Public Schools
 50 East Street
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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
 Director, Food Services

Board of Education

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 Daniel Nichols, Vice Chairperson
 Daniele Shook, Secretary
 Lynette Celli Rigdon, Assistant Secretary
 Tom Brant
 David Lawson
 Thomas McSherry
 David Shaffer
 William Wellman

Upcoming Budget Hearings



You are welcome and encouraged to share your thoughts and ideas on the 2012-2013 school budget with the Superintendent and Board of Education at the upcoming budget hearings:

January 17, 18 & 24, 2012 (Snow Date—January 19, 2012)

Budget Adoption

January 25, 2012 (Snow Date—January 26, 2012)

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Sarah Noble Intermediate School Library/Media Center

Please Note: Each speaker will be allowed to speak for up to three minutes. The Board will not permit any expression of personal complaints or defamatory comments about Board of Education personnel and students, nor against any person connected with the New Milford Public School System.



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