



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, Ass't. Principal
 Ms. Linda Scoralick, 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

Mr. Susan Murray, Principal
 Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Ass't. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 6, Issue 7

January 2016



Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote, Superintendent of Schools, will officially retire on January 31, 2016 after over 35 years of service to the New Milford Public Schools. To mark the occasion, we asked Dr. Paddyfote to share her thoughts about her time in New Milford.

Thank You for the Memories

September 17, 1980 was my first day on the job in New Milford as Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services. That day Mr. Setear, Assistant Superintendent, took me to the schools and introduced me to the principals. From the Central Office on Bridge Street we headed to Main Street School which housed grades K, 1 and East Street School that housed grades 2, 3. After meeting Dr. Burley and chatting briefly, we headed up Route 202 to visit Schaghticoke Middle School (SMS).

I recall the verdant hills beyond Center Cemetery and the green pastures on both sides of Route 202. Back then there were few businesses between the Central Office and Hipp Road. Conn's Dairy, Valley Dodge, the Cider Mill, CL&P, and Rudy's restaurant were the businesses that dominated Route 202.

At SMS, I met Dr. Takacs and Assistant Principal Al Beitman. At that time, Schaghticoke housed grades 6-8 and was seven years young with open classrooms on the second floor. After stopping at SMS, we drove up the front driveway of Northville School (NES) before heading to John Pettibone (JPS). Northville was nearing completion and I remember how impressed I was with the sprawling structure and the long, canopied entrance. At JPS, I met Mrs. Fran Terry, Principal. John Pettibone School housed some of the district's third grade classrooms and all of the district's fourth and fifth grade students at that time.

Next we visited New Milford High School on Sunny Valley Road where I met Dr. Robinson, Principal, Ms. Lillis and Dr. Brokowski, Assistant Principals. As we exited the front door of the high school, I remember seeing the beautiful rolling green hills which I later realized were the lush landscape on Grove Street.

We made our way down Route 7 to Hill and Plain School (HPS). Route 7 was a two lane road with many open spaces and few businesses. Burger King, the Powerhouse, Crazy Vin's, Crosstown IGA and Bradlees were some of the businesses along the way. We turned onto Sullivan Road at Fin & Claw and made our way to HPS. Hill and Plain was a K-3 school and it housed the district's preschool special education classroom, the Community Based Language

Development Program. I met Judy Friedman and Joan Kick who were sharing the leadership role until the new principal, Mr. Atticks, would be taking over. Mr. Atticks and I were both interviewed and hired on the same evening during the summer of 1980.

The Central Office had four administrators back then: Dr. Center, Superintendent; Mr. Setear, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Corbett, Business Manager; and me. The district had approximately 4200 students and 220 students with special needs. New Milford offered three unique programs in 1980: talented and gifted education since 1976, preschool special education since 1977 and elementary guidance since 1951. Beverly Kallgren was the first elementary counselor, and in 1980 until her retirement, she worked at Schaghticoke Middle School.

Northville School opened after winter break in January 1981 as a K-3 school. Students left their "old" school in December with the contents of their desks in brown paper bags and were asked to bring them to their new school after break. The building committee purchased all new furniture for the school. Main Street and East Street Schools closed with the opening of Northville.

The Central Office was located at 57 Bridge Street, the former NM Post Office, and the current location of the Parks and Recreation Department. The interior of the building was vintage post office, one open room complete with a safe outside the Postmaster's office, which was Superintendent Dan Center's office. There was a small office on the second floor and the district's sole social worker, Don Iffland, worked up there. In his office there was a huge opening with a large, dark colored, concave cylinder that allowed the post office supervisor to watch over the employees. The original postal service counter was positioned in front of Mr. Setear's area and occasionally a confused resident would come in and ask his secretary, Mrs. Curtis, or my secretary, Mrs. Elizabeth Heaphy, if they could buy a stamp! It was a no frills Central Office. Each morning staff walked through the back door located on the loading dock to come to work.

In 1982 the Central Office moved from Bridge Street to the former East Street School. Each department was assigned a classroom. Student sinks and counter cubbies were in the back of each room. There wasn't any money in the budget to refurbish the classrooms, so we made the best of our new spaces. Truthfully, we were appreciative that we had a room with a door.

Dr. Center retired in October of 1985 and Dr. Stephen Tracy became Superintendent. He managed to put money in the budget to gradually put walls up in the former classroom spaces. Dr. Tracy brought many new initiatives to the district. During his tenure Dr. Tracy implemented a program budget, recognized exemplary teachers with a crystal apple, developed the district's first strategic plan, provided funding for curriculum coordination through subject matter coordinators grades 6-12, hired a Director of Planning and Evaluation, promoted Glasser's Control Theory and created enterprise programs at New Milford High School. He was credited with bringing a branch of New Milford Savings Bank to New Milford High School. Mr. Setear retired in June 1986 and Mr. Mulvihill joined the Central Office on July 1st as Assistant Superintendent.

New Milford was ripe for growth and development. And grow it did. By 1990 the district was looking at grade reconfiguration and the three elementary schools became K-5 schools. Two elementary schools, Hill and Plain and Northville, added gymnasiums and John Pettibone added a Library Media Center. In addition, the preschool special education program, Excel, expanded to another site at Northville Elementary School. Kimberly Clark was the largest employer in town, Nestle's was doing well and New Milford Hospital was thriving. Strip malls were sprouting up on Routes 7 and 202.

Dr. Tracy left in December of 1993 and Mr. Mulvihill, Assistant Superintendent, became Interim Superintendent until Dr. Franceschini came on board in July 1994. He was Superintendent for one year and his departure was unexpected on July 1, 1995. I remember walking out with him on June 30. I told him to have a nice weekend and I would see him on Monday. He said, "See you Monday". The next morning I received a phone call that he had resigned effective immediately. Mr. Mulvihill was called to duty again until Dr. Daryl Lund stepped in as Interim Superintendent.

In January of 1996 Dr. Ray Avery became the Superintendent of Schools. The district was experiencing lean budgets and the subject matter coordinators were removed from the budget as enrollment was increasing. Dr. Avery worked with the Board to develop education specifications for a new high school. Voters passed a referendum to build a new high school and to renovate the old high school into an intermediate school, grades 4–6. The Larson Farm property was purchased by the Town to construct a "state of the art" high school. Mrs. Joanne Mendillo left the Principalship of New Milford High School to become Assistant Superintendent alongside Mr. Mulvihill in July 1997; Mr. Fiftal, Principal of SMS, was named Principal of New Milford High School. Mrs. Jean Malcolm succeeded Mr. Fiftal as Principal of SMS.

New Milford High School as we know it today opened in September 2000. It was an exciting time for New Milford Public Schools: curricula were on a five year review cycle, additional staff were hired due to increased enrollment and the John J. McCarthy Observatory opened. During the 2000-2001 school year plans were underway to organize and staff Sarah Noble Intermediate School and Mrs. Beverly Regan was named first Principal of the school.

On September 11, 2001 our lives were changed with the events of that day. It is one of those days I will never forget. Concerned parents were calling the schools and Central Office to ask about an early dismissal and what actions we were taking to ensure student safety. As the news unfolded, it was a somber day. All administrators were responsive to parent requests to pick up their children and we realized some of our students had relatives that worked in the twin towers. Staff did a phenomenal job helping students who were upset and distraught. Our lives as citizens and educators changed forever because of the actions of that day. School leaders began to look at open access to public schools more carefully.

Sarah Noble Intermediate School opened following the winter break in January 2002 for students in grades 4,5. It was a very snowy day and school could have been cancelled. New bus routes, some new bus drivers and children learning their new bus positions in the school driveway resulted in late dismissal that first day. The snowy afternoon also contributed to a longer than normal ride home and Central Office and SNIS phones rang continuously while anxious parents waited for their children. Everyone at the Central Office and the school pitched in to answer the phones to reassure parents that buses were running late and their children would arrive home soon. Today we would have issued an automated school message notifying parents of the situation.

After 21 years as Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services and one year as Assistant Superintendent, I became Interim Superintendent on September 1, 2002. That year the budget passed on the fourth vote, which was the first day of school in August. The Board decided to implement a pay-to-participate fee and over Labor Day weekend the administrative team had to develop a fee structure. For the next few years we rode the wave of pay-to-participate. It was removed one budget cycle, reinstituted another cycle and finally removed a few years ago.

After serving as Interim Superintendent for three years I finally accepted a permanent contract. The role of Superintendent is both challenging and rewarding. It is truly a 24-7 responsibility. My years as Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services provided me with good training to assume the responsibilities as Superintendent.

December 14, 2012, was my hardest day as Superintendent of Schools. It was a sunny, chilly December day that became one of the darkest days in CT and the nation. It was extremely difficult to get accurate information on what was unfolding in Newtown and as a precaution I put the schools in soft lockdown. Very limited verifiable information was forthcoming that morning. Social media was abuzz with initial insight, but the full impact of what happened would come later in the day. Sandy Hook was the single defining event which drove home to me the gravity of the phrase in loco parentis or "in place of a parent". Every aspect of working in a school was redefined that day. When it comes to the safety of our students and staff, we must do everything reasonable and possible to protect them from such heinous acts.

As I prepare to leave the position this week, I am proud of the work we accomplished over the last 13.5 years. My tenure in the New Milford school community has brought me professional fulfillment and personal happiness. Throughout my career in this district I have witnessed many changes in personnel, Board members, educational practices and policies but there has always been one constant: members of the school community work hard to do what is best for our children. I have the utmost admiration and respect for members of this school district and community. Collectively, they have demonstrated support for our schools and the services and programs we offer our students. Our staff have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to provide the best education possible to our students. The New Milford Parent Teacher Organization has contributed significantly to help us fulfill the mission of our schools. We have also been extremely fortunate to have town departments support our schools. The work of the Police department, Public Works, Recreation department and Youth Agency has complemented our school district goals and activities.

In recent years we have worked hard to align curricula to standards, differentiate instruction and use data to inform instruction. We implemented full day kindergarten, hired literacy and math coaches to support instructional practices, hired a data coach to help us develop a deeper understanding of how our students are performing and we implemented innovative programs like Project Lead the Way, digital citizenship and STEM enrichment. We continue to provide quality services to our English Language Learners, students with special education needs, and students with Section 504 plans. We support all students in their quest for a first class education. We have updated our financial system, improved our technology infrastructure and upgraded technology hardware in our schools.

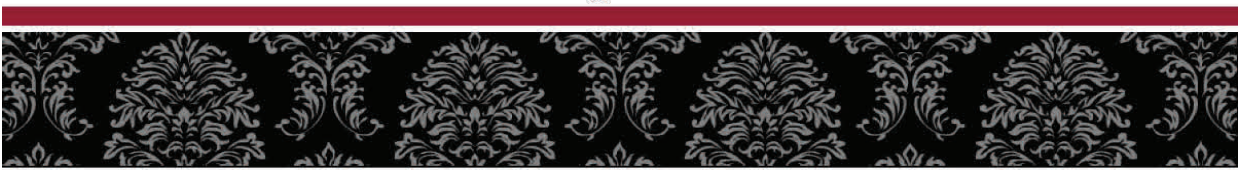
There is always more work that needs to be done. However, I find solace in knowing that our schools are in the hands of many dedicated, professional and competent teachers, pupil personnel support staff, administrators, nurses, secretaries, paraeducators, tutors, custodians, maintainers, food and nutrition staff and contracted employees. They continue to inspire me and reaffirm my belief in public education. I have been extremely fortunate to be one of the many recipients of their dedication, loyalty and competency. It is with these reflections that I will retire from the New Milford Public Schools on January 31, 2016. I appreciate the support of the members of the Board of Education who serve this district with selfless commitment. I will cherish the many interactions I have had with Board members, students, parents, staff and the wonderful people of the New Milford community. Thank you for the fond memories.



Farewell Reception for **Retiring Superintendent** **Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote**

Thursday, January 28th
(snow date January 29th)
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

New Milford High School cafeteria



Please stop by to offer your good wishes!



Superintendent Search Update

The New Milford Board of Education has begun the search for a permanent replacement for Dr. Paddyfote. Deputy Superintendent Joshua Smith will lead the school system as Interim Superintendent of Schools beginning February 1, 2016.

Trumbull-based Cooperative Educational Services (C.E.S.) is conducting the search on behalf of the New Milford Board of Education. As part of the process, C.E.S. invited all New Milford residents, school employees, students, and parents to take part in focus groups on January 13, 2016. The focus groups were designed to gauge the characteristics and expertise desired for a new superintendent. An online survey component was also offered.

Data collected through the survey and focus groups is being used to develop a leadership profile that outlines expectations and desired characteristics for candidates selected to interview for the position. The profile will be presented publicly to the Board of Education at a meeting on February 9, 2016, and upon approval, will be posted online to the district website. C.E.S. has been actively recruiting for the position. The recruitment brochure is available to view [here](#). The Board of Education has set a deadline of Friday, February 12, 2016 for all submissions.

Creating Sound with Homemade Instruments

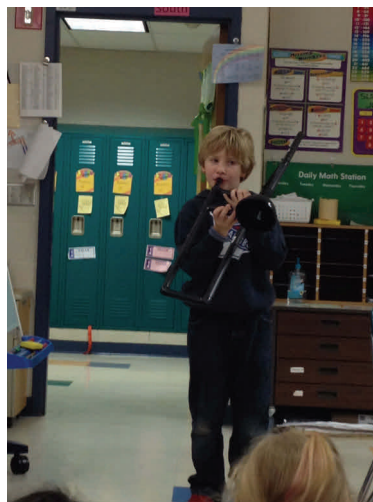
Students in Mrs. Lisa Cosgrove's 4th grade class at SNIS recently completed a unit on sound. As part of the lesson, students experimented with the properties of sound energy to investigate how sound is produced; how sound travels through solids, liquids, gases; how it can be reflected or absorbed by materials; and the difference between pitch and amplitude.

They then applied that knowledge in a fun way, creating their own musical instruments. Mrs. Cosgrove says, "Prior to creating their instruments, students conducted mini-research projects to learn how a specific musical instrument is made and how the instrument produces sound. Each student then selected an instrument to research and created a poster regarding the properties of sound. Students then made their own instrument that created sound in the same fashion as their researched one."

As a final piece to the unit, students presented their instrument to the class, explaining its specific qualities including:

- How the instrument works?
- What parts of the instrument vibrates to produce sound?
- How do you change the pitch? Can you make the pitch higher or lower?
- How can you make your instrument sound louder or softer?
- How many different materials could you use to make your instrument?
- How do you think the different materials would affect its sound?

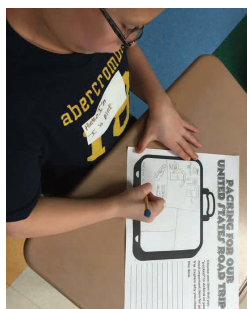
As you can see from the pictures below, students were proud to share their finished results.



Congratulations to NMHS on Continued Accreditation!

Spotlight on New Milford Schools has highlighted many aspects of the New Milford High School [accreditation journey](#) over the last two years plus as high school faculty and administration completed their self-study process. As you may recall, this process was followed by an [onsite visit](#) in May of 2015 by a New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) team of approximately 18 educators from other Connecticut high schools and a review of the self-study documents by the visiting team. As the final piece in this accreditation cycle, the Committee on Public Secondary Schools, at its October 18-19, 2015 meeting, reviewed the decennial evaluation report from the visit and voted to award NMHS continued accreditation. NEASC formally notified the high school of this continued accreditation in a January 2016 letter in which they commended the high school on many of its programs and services, noting, among other things, “the safe, positive, and supportive culture that fosters student responsibility for learning and results in shared ownership, pride, and high expectations for all”. Kudos to all!

SNIS students take a USA Road Trip



Students in Mrs. Stacey Haleks' Grade 4 class at SNIS recently took an imaginary “road trip” across the USA. According to Mrs. Haleks, the students began the year learning about the five themes of geography: location, movement, description of place, people and their environment, and regions. After having a basic understanding of these topics, the students began to do a general study of the United States. In this study, the students learned how diverse our country is. This diversity includes: landforms, bodies of water, climates, natural resources, food, clothes,

language, cultures, customs, and jobs. Mrs. Haleks says “As we explored the different ways we are diverse here in the United States, we looked at how we interact with our environment and how the environment affects our jobs, recreation, clothes, and local available foods. While we celebrated all this diversity, we also acknowledged that we all also have basic needs to survive such as food, water, shelter and clothes along with having rights that allow us to live as we do each day.”

The “road trip” was a culminating activity for students before the class began its close study of the five regions of the United States. Mrs. Haleks says “To get the students excited to learn more about our great country, I had them imagine that we were going to go on a road trip this year to visit each of the five regions. To get ready for this trip, the students had to create a packing list for everything they might need to be comfortable in each region of the United States. They had to pack as if they were leaving New Milford and not coming back until the trip was over.” To pack successfully, the students had to take into account what they would need for navigation, diverse climates, and diverse land. Students included items for clothing, recreation, and basic needs. After packing, the students had to pick one item as their most important item and defend why this was true. *What one item could you not do without if asked?*

Activities Abound at SMS

The New Milford Public Schools' Mission statement ends with a phrase about "offering [students] a wide range of valuable experiences, and inspiring students to pursue their dreams and aspirations". The many activities offered at Schaghticoke Middle School are designed to offer that variety.

Principal Len Tomasello provides a summary of what's been happening at the school this year to enhance the student experience:

Contests and Special Events... SMS students who wish can participate in contests such as the annual VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest and the National Geographic Geography Bee. Our Battle of the Books is always hotly contested and usually comes complete with a big cheering section. There are several special events each year. A standout is the Crane-a-thon project which provides these little symbols of peace to area cancer centers. This year's Crane-a-thon was attended by all Art Club members, (who were trained in advance in crane-folding), and a huge number of other students, around 100, in total. Most teachers participate by allowing their students to make cranes during study halls. One of our math classes is responsible for counting the cranes. Last year's count was 3600. The record gets broken every year. This year's record number was 6643 cranes of many colors. The PTO very kindly provides hot cocoa, marshmallows, and candy canes, providing some extra energy to us all.



Clubs... This fall, with the support of the Board of Education, SMS added several new afterschool club activities for all students including the new 6th graders. Among these clubs that are led by certified teachers, we have Chess, the school newspaper *The Surge Review*, 6th Grade Leo Club, 7th/8th Grade Leo Club, Student Councils, Board Games, and 6th Grade World Language Exploration, where students learn about both Spanish and French. Other clubs include the Yearbook, Mock Trial Club, Drama Club, and Art Club.

Athletics... Student athletes may take part at the intramural and competitive level. Among the offerings at SMS are cross country and track and field, soccer, field hockey, softball, baseball, basketball, volleyball, flag football and ultimate Frisbee.

Musically speaking... Over the past several weeks, our musically-talented students have brought joy to many parents and members of the community. After performing vocal and instrumental holiday concerts at the school, a small group of musicians performed at the Candlewood Valley Rehabilitation Center on a Saturday. This month, the select group of singers called "Voices" (directed by music teacher Diane Taylor) performed at school for their parents.



This group was joined by our Orchestra and Jazz Band (directed by music teacher Darryl Gregory). Still to come this spring will be the annual SMS musical production where students will show off their musical *and* dramatic talents. This year's production: The Lion King Jr.!



6th Grade Mini-Courses... We are about to launch a new series of mini-courses for 6th graders. These course offerings will take the place of some study halls these students currently have on their schedules. Among the offerings are Computer Coding, Home Safety, Life Skills, and a Literacy Experience. Each of these is being taught by one of our regular staff members.

SMS Students Embrace Listening Challenge

In the November 2015 issue of *Spotlight* we mentioned that November was National Family Stories Month. The November 2014 issue featured an article on the national nonprofit organization StoryCorps' National Day of Listening. This year, students in Mrs. Hicks' 7th and 8th grade Literacy classes decided to get into the swing of things by participating in *The Great Thanksgiving Listening Challenge* over the Thanksgiving Break.

Mrs. Hicks tells us "This project, sponsored by StoryCorps, was designed to encourage meaningful conversations among family members and across generations. Using a helpful Interview Preparation Sheet to document their work, students selected an interview partner, planned questions, and conducted interviews over Thanksgiving weekend. They could choose different resources to use to 'record' their interview: a photo of or with the interview subject and a written/taped recording of the interview; a photo with or of the interview subject and an audio recording of the interview; or a video recording of the interview process."

After recording, students were instructed to discuss the interview process with their partners and family to decide what was worthy and appropriate for sharing in school. Students then discussed their experiences in class, talking about what they had learned about the people in their lives, themselves and the interview process.



Mrs. Hicks reports that students enjoyed the task of interviewing family members and found that their family members were very receptive to the challenge as well. We are pleased to share comments from their reflections below.

Gabby interviewed her uncle; he and her aunt recently married. She learned a lot about this new family member. "I was so happy I chose him to interview. He was really happy to talk to me and started asking me all kinds of questions about myself. It gave us a chance to get to know one another and we wouldn't have had that chance if I didn't ask him to do the interview."

Sara said “My mom was so happy I asked to interview her, she was smiling the whole time we were talking.”

Ali said “I’m glad I interviewed my mom, there were many things I didn’t know before. Some of what she told me she asked me not to share because it was too personal. I don’t think she would have told me some of these things if I hadn’t asked to interview her.”

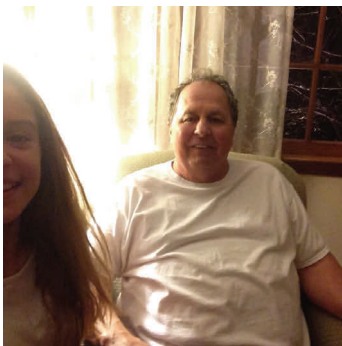
Chase interviewed his great grandfather and was very happy he did. “I’m glad I gave him the time to talk. He talked a lot about my great grandmother and he was so happy to talk about her. He kept going on and on and smiling. He was happy to have someone listen to him. He lost her you know, so he misses her a lot.”

Most students, including Nick, McKenna, and Dylan were surprised and pleased to learn that they are the greatest accomplishment in the lives of their parents. “I know my mom loves me, but she never said that I was the best thing in her life before” said McKenna who also shared “My mom said she learned patience from my dad and that true love does exist.”

Danielle said she was the happiest to learn about her dad’s mother, whom she had only ever seen in one photograph. “I liked learning that she was so kind. My interview with my dad got very emotional. I’m glad I asked him to talk with me.”

Joseph interviewed his sister “because she is my idol.”

When Katie shared her interview with her grandfather in class, her classmates were interested in his having graduated from Juilliard and worked in music and music education for over 30 years. Classmates were also eager to watch Laura's grandmother talk about her childhood in Brazil, hear from three of Tori's grandparents and hear Jennifer's interview with her mother.



Students agreed that the assignment brought them closer to the person they chose to interview and plan to spend more time listening to others from now on.

Click on the following links to learn more about the origination of the assignment and develop a deeper understanding of its purpose.

<https://storycorps.me/about/the-great-thanksgiving-listen/participate/>

<https://storycorps.org/listen/james-kennicott-and-kara-masteller-112015/>

NES Kindness Week

NES students and staff ended 2015 on a high note, celebrating “Kindness Week” in December, in conjunction with the December character trait focus on Compassion. Principal Susan Murray says all grades took part.

In the Excel pre-school classes, Kindness the Elf visited the classroom to look for acts of kindness. He then wrote letters to the children about what he observed. He was tricky to find each day, but the children were so excited to find him and read his letters which made them try all the harder to do acts of kindness.



Each kindergarten student wrote and drew a picture illustrating one act of kindness that could be done at home or school. Ideas included simple gestures like sharing hockey equipment, helping mom, and saying “I’m sorry”. The pictures were then assembled into a “Kindness Quilt” which still hangs in the hallway for everyone to see.

First grade students also discussed acts of kindness and brainstormed ideas about how they could show they were kind. Their kind ideas included simple things like taking turns, not fighting, complimenting others, and saying please and thank you.



Second grade students thought of many ways they could show kindness throughout the school day. Some classes wrote about how to show kindness in the cafeteria, in the hallways, and outside at recess while another class wrote about showing kindness on the bus. Other classes wrote about sharing a particular gift of kindness with specific people in the school building and gave them this gift at the start of the New Year.



What a wonderful way to start 2016!





New Milford Public Schools

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

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

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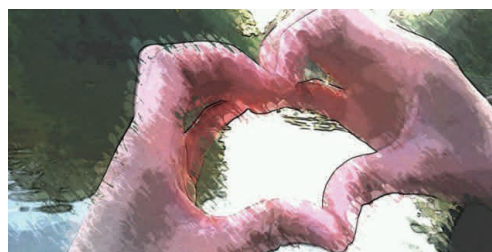
Mr. Robert Coppola

Mr. Dave Littlefield

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mr. J.T. Schemm

Inspire Your Heart With Art Day January 31st



Inspire Your Heart With Art Day sounds straightforward enough. Choose to admire a beautiful masterpiece, go to a special concert, dance, paint, take photographs, create a sculpture, visit a museum or just take a walk and admire the natural beauty around you.

While the origins of this annual "holiday" are unknown, *Inspire Your Heart with Art Day* celebrates art of all shapes, sizes and varieties and the positive effect it has on our lives.

Looking to celebrate beyond the day? Consider these artistic endeavors:

- ♦ Encourage the kids to get messy with you and try a little finger-painting on for size.
- ♦ Sign up for pottery classes and create a one-of-a-kind piece of pottery.
- ♦ Grab a partner and learn some new dance moves.
- ♦ Try your hand at the beautiful art of calligraphy.
- ♦ Finally finish writing or reading that novel.

Whether you admire a brilliant masterpiece, listen to a wonderful concerto or learn a new move on the dance floor, get those creative juices flowing and enjoy!

"Use what talents you possess. The woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best."

~ Henry Van Dyke

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.

January
2008