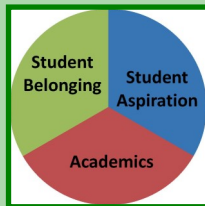




New Milford Public Schools
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New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



New Milford High School
860-350-6647

Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal
Mr. Kevin Best, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Liz Curtis, Asst. Principal
Ms. Linda Scoralick, Asst. Principal



Schaghticoke Middle School
860-354-2204

Dr. Christopher Longo, Principal
Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Sasha Salem, Asst. Principal



Sarah Noble Intermediate School
860-210-4020

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



Hill & Plain Elementary School
860-354-5430

Mr. Eric Williams, Principal
Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Asst. Principal



Northville Elementary School
860-355-3713

Mrs. Gwen Gallagher, Principal
Mrs. Catherine Calabrese, Asst. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 10, Issue 8

February 2020

Valentines for Vets



Each year, third grade students at Sarah Noble Intermediate School, with the help of their teachers, pledge to do a different community project each month.

This year, for the month of February, students in all twelve classrooms made Valentine's Day cards that were sent to

the VA Hospital in New Haven for distribution to Connecticut veterans. Third grade teacher Heather O'Loughlin says, "Some students wrote messages to thank a veteran for their freedom and service to our country, some wrote messages of courage and bravery, while other students took to poetry by creating an acrostic poem with the word 'veteran' or the traditional beginning 'Roses are red'. We all wanted to show veterans our support and let them know we are thinking of them this Valentine's Day."

Projects will continue into the spring. In March, Loaves and Fishes director Lisa Martin is going to come to SNIS and do a short presentation, and then students will decorate lunch bags for Loaves and Fishes patrons, since each person who comes through the line for a hot meal also takes a bagged lunch with them. April is for Animals, as the students host Pennies for Paws – a coin collection and treats donation for the New Milford Animal Shelter. In May, the third graders will be decorating bookmarks for the HPS and NES second graders, as a reminder to all of them to read over the summer.



Math Game Day



Walk by one of our K-5 classrooms, and you may see student groups playing cards or board games. What kind of learning is that?! Children love to play games that are fun and motivating. Our district math coaches and teachers take advantage of that fact with Math Game Day.

Math coach Cortni Muir says, “Playing games grounded in math concepts gives students the chance to explore number concepts that include counting sequences and computation strategies. Other math skills that can be applied while playing games are number combinations, place value, patterns, spatial reasoning, and problem solving. This year I have started to bring Math Game Days to life in classrooms. Our young mathematicians are participating in individual, partner, and group games that are rooted in mathematics and get students excited and talking about math in ways they don’t even realize.”

Games are a fundamental component of the district’s math program Investigations. In every unit students play games and work with partners to get a better understanding of the different math concepts they are learning.

Examples of some games students have been playing in Grades 3 through 5 are *Addition or Multiplication War*, where students create math facts, solve them and compare their answers; *Pentominoes*, figures made of 5 squares; and pattern block puzzles where students apply spatial reasoning skills and even explore the concepts of area and perimeter. Board games being introduced to students include *Blokus*, *Tiny Polka Dot*, *Prime Climb*, *Swish*, and *Proof*. All of these games help build curiosity, strengthen number sense and problem solving. As you can see by the pictures, the games are a hit!



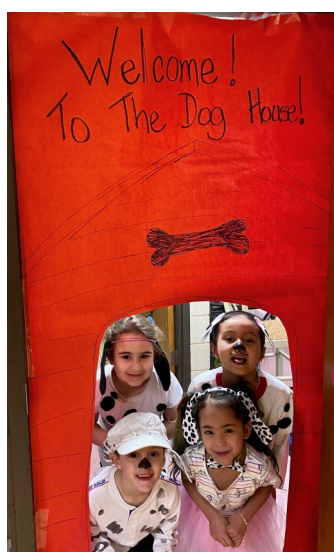
More Fun with Numbers



Northville Elementary School focused on two special numbers this month. Kindergarten staff and students celebrated the 100th day of school with their own versions of what 100 looks like.



And...Mrs. Gray's class of first graders chose another special day to dress up like a famous movie villain and some adorable puppies. Can you guess which number they were celebrating?



Hint: $100 + 1 =$ lots of fun!

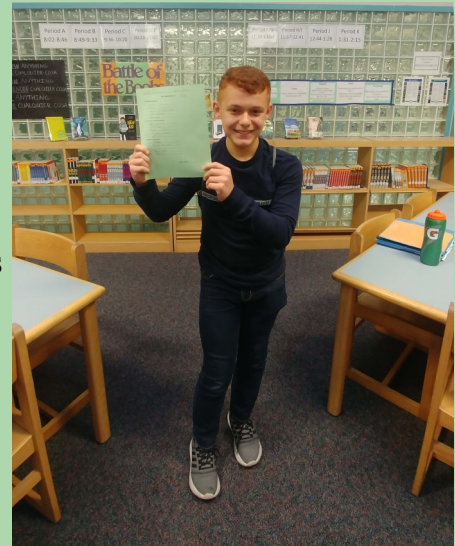
SMS Holds Annual Geography Bee



As part of an annual competition, SMS students participated in the finals of the National Geographic Geography Bee on February 4th.

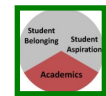
All classes participated in the preliminary rounds before the field was narrowed to ten finalists. Congratulations to this year's champion, headed on to state level competition, seventh grader William Orlando.

Want to try your hand at answering some quiz questions? Take a sample test [here](#).



Green Wave Robotics Team Competes at Weston Competition

The February edition of the NMHS E News Blast reported on the Green Wave Robotics Team as they officially joined the tournament circuit:

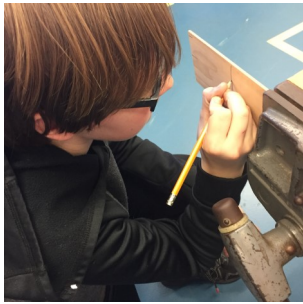


The Green Wave Robotics Team was one of 63 high school teams to compete at the VEX Robotics Competition Tower Takeover event hosted by Weston High School on Saturday, February 1st. While Masuk took first place at the competition, it was a very successful event for the NMHS team in this particular STEM arena. The Green Wave is brand new to the robotics tournament circuit, so having won a match at their first competition is pretty

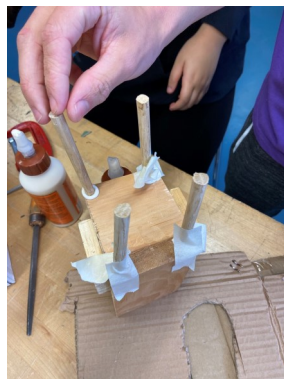
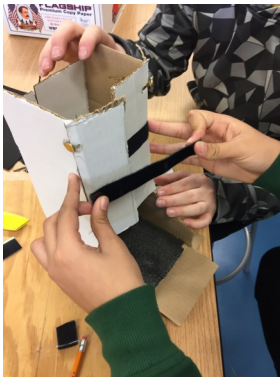
impressive. The tournament was also significant experientially for the rookie team, teaching what to expect at this level of competition in terms of robot design and build, and the importance of factors such as robot agility and durability, as well as the human component of collaboration with team members and alliances.

Like most robotics competitions, the VEX event day began early. Following team check-in, inspection began, and robot operators were required to attend a drivers meeting. Adult advisers to the team are only permitted to interact with the team in the 'pit area', so on the competition field, it's up to high school students to strategize, problem solve, qualify, and successfully complete the competition challenge matches all on their own. Winning teams moved on to alliance selection and elimination rounds. The event closed with an awards ceremony recognizing the tournament champions, but also rewarding teams for attributes such as innovative robot design, outstanding team spirit, and sportsmanship, to name just a few. We look forward to reporting on competitions to come. Go Green Wave!

matrix and must take their concepts and provide details that will be ranked anonymously by another team. This prevents bias in the ranking of concepts and, more importantly, the best designs are found in order to narrow down which concept should be designed further in SketchUp Pro, a computer aided design (CAD) program that allows students to transfer a higher ranked sketch into a 3D blueprint.



“Developing and testing a real prototype is the fourth stage of the design process”, says Mr. de St. Croix, “And one that a considerable amount of students find highly satisfying as they are able to now take their generated concepts from their notebooks, their 3D blueprints from SketchUp Pro, and build a scaled-down model of their furniture.” Throughout the process, teams of students continuously work on presentation slides showing all their work from beginning to end and use iterative (repeatable) steps to improve their product’s performance and their team’s evaluation of their solution before the final presentation of their prototype.



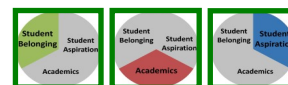
The Sporks Have Spoken!!

Last month’s issue of *Spotlight* reported on the initiative of Ms. Koval’s grade 2 class to pilot the use of sporks in the NES cafeteria. All NES students were invited to give sporks a try at lunch from January 21 through February 14. “Koval’s Pals” also invited selected community and school personnel to visit.

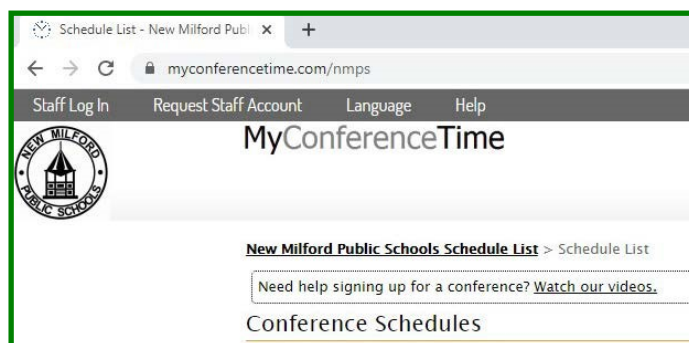
On February 14, Koval's Pals (pictured with Food Services Director Sandra Sullivan) surveyed the student body during lunch waves to see if they LOVED sporks or not. Of the 360 students surveyed, 88% of students voted in favor of keeping sporks with only 12% voting against keeping sporks. When asked why they voted against sporks, students said that the spork made it difficult to eat soup, yogurt, or long pasta. Koval's Pals think a solution could be to have spoons available near the yogurts and to put out spoons on soup days and forks on spaghetti days. Ms. Koval says, “It is the hope of our class that we can help other schools in the district to make this change next because it would be better for the environment, cost less, and be easier for students and staff.”



Parent Teacher Conferences Are March 11 and 12



**Appointments will be made on-line using
the district's conference scheduler tool.**



The tool will be made active for all schools on the district website beginning on Thursday, February 27 and will close on Wednesday, March 4 at 9 AM. This timeline provides teachers with time to review the schedule in advance.

If you have any questions about logging in or scheduling, please call your child's school.

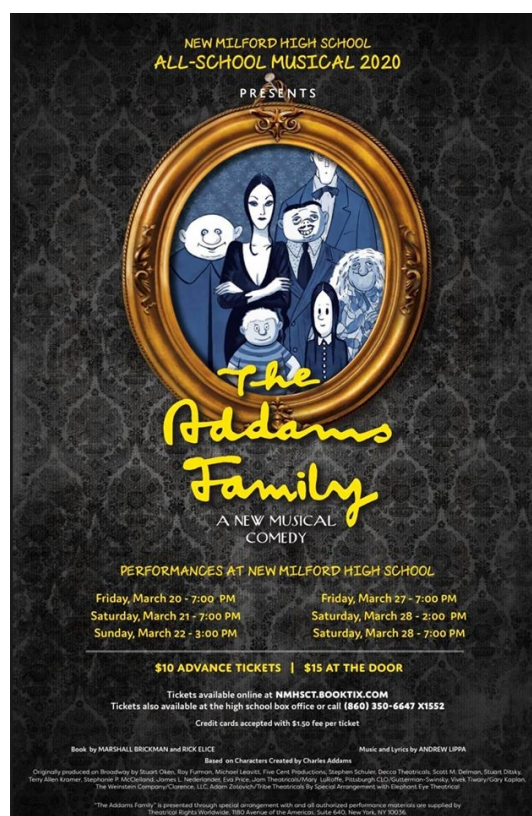
NMHS All-School Musical

Tickets for The Addams Family may be purchased online at <https://nmhsct.booktix.com> or through the Box Office at NMHS. Box Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. (Fridays too beginning in March) and Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the Box Office at 860-350-6647 ext. 1552. All seating is reserved and all tickets purchased in advance* are \$10 each.

*In an effort to reduce large crowds at the Box Office on a show date, please be aware that tickets purchased at the door on the day of the performance will cost \$15 each. Credit cards incur an additional \$1.50 fee per ticket.



Senior citizen passes are available through the Senior Center or by calling the Superintendent's Office at (860) 355-8406.



The on-line form for NMPS staff member "Star" recognition includes a section where the person making the nomination is asked to "describe briefly why you are nominating this staff member". With only six staff members chosen randomly each month, there are more comments that could be shared. Here are just a few to give you a flavor of the many fine qualities of our much appreciated staff:

All of the TLC that this custodian puts into taking care of my classroom shows great dedication to our school district and its children.

This staff member is a nurturing paraprofessional who is calm and good-hearted, maintaining poise and a smile with children of all needs.

A kind warmhearted teacher who proves time and time again to students that there is always someone who cares for them as well as someone who is going to push them to be the best students they can be.



Congratulations to the New Milford Public School "Stars" for the month of February!



Marni Gross



Kathleen Lewis



Joseph Raps



Sasha Salem



Betsy Stewart



Christina Strell

Thanks to **Ingersoll Auto of Danbury** for their donation of the NMPS courtesy car.
Don't forget to visit the district website to [submit your staff nomination](#).

This principal genuinely cares for all staff, students, and families. Encourages parents to volunteer, listens, is honest and leads by example.

This secretary comes to work every day willing to work hard and to go the extra mile.

Coach as a role in school didn't even exist a few years ago but this person's work is so valuable, helping administrators, teachers, and ultimately students.

This teacher connects with students and their families and truly cares about each and every one of them.

Thanks for all you do!



New Milford Public Schools

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Dr. Kerry Parker
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

Mr. Brandon Rush
Technology Director

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan
Food Services Director

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Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Pete Helmus

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mrs. Tammy McInerney

Mrs. Cynthia Nabozny

Mrs. Olga I. Rella

Leap Day!*

(February 29, 2020)

A "Leap" Day is an extra day on February 29 which is added nearly every 4 years to today's Gregorian calendar. It's every four years *except* for years ending with "00" that are not divisible by 400. The year in which Leap Day occurs, is called a Leap Year.

Why the fancy calculation? The earth rotates around the sun once every 365 and about 1/4 days. So, by adding an extra day every four years, we get mighty close to keeping the calendar consistent with the earth's annual trip around the sun. And to be very precise, the earth orbits the sun every 365.242190 days. So, on years ending in "00", (except those not divisible by 400) we skip Leap Year and Leap Day.



Did you know?

There are occasional "Leap Seconds" too which help to correct minor variations. On December 31, 2015, the folks who maintain the official time for the planet added an extra second to the day!

If your birthday is on Leap Day you are considered a "leapling". Just how many of us are celebrating our birthday on Leap Day? Only about one in 1461 people. If you were born on this day, consider yourself very, very special.

Leap Year Folklore:

- In a leap year, the weather always changes on Friday.
- Ages ago, Leap Day was known as Ladies' Day, as it was the one day when women were free to propose to men.

Are Leap Years Bad Luck or Good Luck?

We're not sure, but we do know that...

During leap years: Rome burned (64), George Armstrong Custer fought the Battle of the Little Bighorn (1876), and the Titanic sank (1912).

By the same token, also in leap years: the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, MA (1620), Benjamin Franklin proved that lightning is electricity (1752), and gold was discovered in California (1848).

*Information taken from the websites
[Holiday Insights](#) and [The Old Farmer's Almanac](#)

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.

February 29th