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 Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Ass't. Principal
 Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Ass't. Principal
 Dr. Christopher Longo, Ass't. Principal
 Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Ass't. Principal



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Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal
 Mrs. Emily Gervasio, Ass't. Principal
 Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Ass't. Principal
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Hill & Plain Elementary School
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Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal
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Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal
 Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Ass't. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

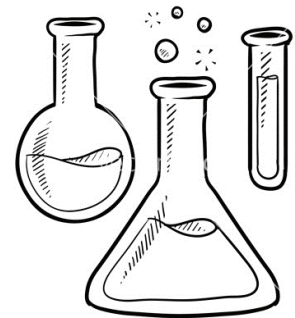
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Spring 2016

Future Scientists Shine at K-2 Science Fair

The annual New Milford Elementary School Science Fair, sponsored by the New Milford PTO, took place on Thursday, March 3rd at SNIS. All students in grades K-2 were invited to participate. Any topic of interest could be explored. Students were encouraged to get together with their mom, dad, brother, sister or friends and classmates and do some research on any subject of interest followed by some kind of experiment to test what they have learned. Results were shared at the fair with great success. Over 40 students shared their knowledge on such topics as:

- ◆ Can I conduct electricity?
- ◆ How to make crystals
- ◆ Wind power
- ◆ Where does frost come from?
- ◆ Walking water
- ◆ How polar bears stay warm
- ◆ Will pop rocks and soda make my stomach explode?
- ◆ Crystal snowflakes
- ◆ Hot air balloons
- ◆ Building a working radio



The event was well attended as families mingled and talked to the amateur scientists. Also on hand were parent volunteers and community organizations who hosted their own science demonstrations for the crowd. All students participating received a certificate and "future scientist" medal for their hard work.

Students in Grades 3-5 will join the fun in May when they host their own Science Fair at the start of the month.

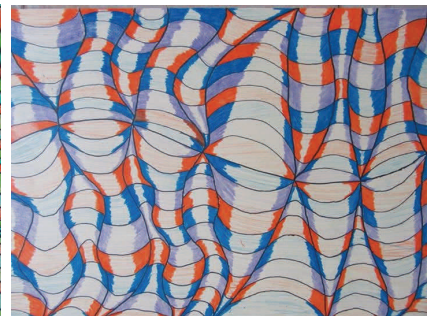
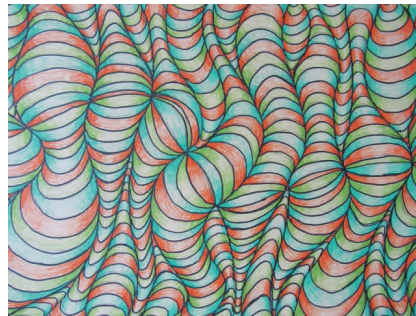
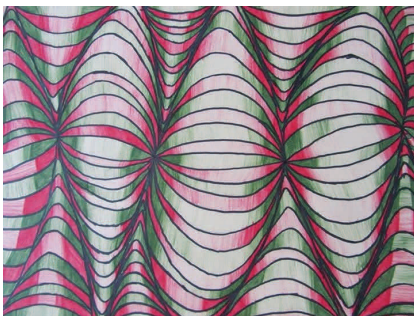
Talented Student Artists Showcased

The talent of New Milford Public Schools student artists is on display this spring in community exhibits here in New Milford and in neighboring Brookfield.

The Silo at Hunt Hill Farm is featuring art work of Schaghticoke Middle School students in its Silo Gallery from March 12 through March 25 in a show entitled “Table to Farm”. NMPS art teacher Sue Waldman, who teaches at both SMS and NES, coordinated the show and says “The 24 colorful, intricate line designs created by the students over several weeks started simply with only dots connected by lines, but over time unique, organic, flowing forms emerged. Although not part of the assignment, it was simply amazing how much we saw elements of the natural world in the art! The influence of our Litchfield county surroundings was uncanny, with subtle nods to rolling hills, rock formations, seasonal shifts and even water life.”



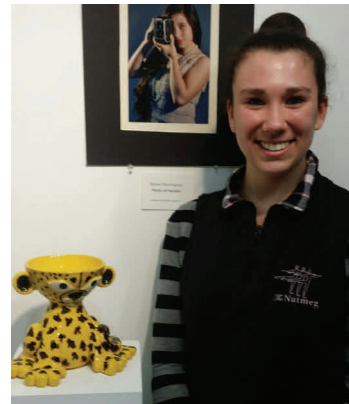
SMS Principal Len Tomasello praises student artists and teacher Sue Waldman



The Silo, with its mission of cultivating love of land, food and the arts, was the “perfect place” to bring this show said Mrs. Waldman who contacted the organization earlier this year in a desire to share her students’ work with the greater public. Marie O’Neill, the co-president of the Hunt Hill Farm Trust board concurred saying “All of us at The Silo applaud the Schaghticoke students for their disciplined and artistic efforts displayed in this nature-inspired show and we’re thrilled to be able to celebrate their talents.”



The Brookfield Craft Center is also celebrating local talent during Youth Art Month with the Center’s Lynn Tendler Bignell Gallery hosting its first annual High School Student Art Show from March 12 through April 2. The exhibit, titled *Artists on the Rise!*, features dozens of students from local high schools displaying their work in a wide-range of media including ceramics, video, painting, photography, and more.



Thirty NMHS students were juried in for selection to the show, the most juried entries of any of the other school districts participating by far! In addition, three NMHS students received special awards from a jury of noted community members, artists, and educators who evaluated all the submissions and finalists in making the awards. Special congratulations go to sophomore Aunalise Anderson (1st place), senior Abigail McNab (2nd place) and senior Courtney Savino (3rd place) all in the sculpture/ceramics category.



NMHS Student Art Work Accepted into National K-12 Student Ceramic Exhibition

A ceramic work of art by New Milford High School sophomore Kristen Kornhaas was accepted by jury into the 2016 National Council for the Education of Ceramic Arts National K-12 Student Ceramic Exhibition which was held March 16-19 in Kansas City.

Teachers in grades kindergarten through twelve across the United States submitted ceramic works by students for jury. This year, 154 pieces were selected from over 1,400 pieces submitted. Kristen is the first student from New Milford to have her work accepted in the K-12 show in nearly four years. Her piece "Plaid Box" is pictured at right.

Congratulations Kristen!



Reducing, Reusing and Recycling

Springtime brings Earth Day (April 22) and with it the reminder to be good shepherds of our environment. NMPS students practice this all year round. All schools have recycling programs and students participate in special programs throughout the year as well.

At SMS, the new Makerspace in the LMC is constantly repurposing articles for new uses. Principal Len Tomasello happily tweeted that SMS students are sewing reusable produce bags to raise money for an environmentally-appropriate water refilling station at SMS, only \$1 per bag! Team 8 Red, in conjunction with Student Council, has been saving water bottles since September. Profits from the collection will be sent to Save the Children at the end of the year.



On March 8th and 9th, all 3rd graders at Sarah Noble Intermediate School participated in the “Trash Talk” program sponsored by the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRA). The Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority is a regional governmental waste management and recycling authority serving eleven municipalities in western Connecticut which includes the town of New Milford. As part of the Authority’s community outreach, HRRA offers a “Trash Talk” to schools and organizations in any of the member towns free of charge. The Trash Talk is a 45 minute program that covers:

- How much trash do we make?
- Where does our trash go?
- What does it mean to reduce our waste, reuse and the importance of recycling?
- What items are recyclable in our region?
- What happens to our recyclables after pickup?



SNIS teacher Lori Cerra says “Tiffany Carlson, the HRRA recycling educator, presented information about reducing, reusing and recycling to all third grade students. She was amazing and a wealth of knowledge. The students really enjoyed her fun and informative presentation.” In an effort to continue the conversation at home, HRRA provided a Wipe Out Waste Guide and workbook, crayons, pencils and stickers to all students. Nearly all the items are made from recycled materials.

We mentioned to Tiffany that she would be featured in our e-newsletter and she was very pleased to hear that no hard copies are generated and said it was easy to understand why the SNIS students were so informed about environmental stewardship since it's modeled right from the top!

NES Plant Patch Receives Grant

With spring almost in full swing, the NES Plant Patch is about to open. Principal Susan Murray tells us that thanks to parent volunteer Claire Runyan, the garden will have a \$2,000 grant to help! Mrs. Murray says “Mrs. Runyan, with my wholehearted support, took the initiative to apply for a grant from Whole Kids Foundation through their school garden grants.” The foundation’s mission is to support schools and inspire families to improve children’s nutrition and wellness.



In applying for the grant, Mrs. Runyan described the goals of the Plant Patch:

Our primary goal is to utilize The Plant Patch as an outdoor experimental classroom that teaches children where food comes from while implementing sound and sustainable planting practices. A second, subtle goal is to shape confident children through a hands-on gardening environment that promotes successes, problem-solving after failures, and the creation of a place of beauty and wonder. We believe confident children make successful individuals who, in turn, are industrious in their communities. A more immediate goal is to experiment with soil amendment, which will make for a more productive gardening site. With this healthy working model, a long term goal is to create a hands-on learning garden at each school in the district so that, no matter which school they attend, children will learn what it means to grow their own food from Pre-K through high school.

Mrs. Runyan says “The immediate plan for use of the \$2000 grant is to purchase quality composter(s) that will be used to create compost for the Patch on an ongoing basis. We are hoping to recruit second grade teachers who are willing to commit to having a small kitchen composter in their classrooms to collect fruit/vegetable scraps from snack. They will then come up to the Patch weekly to dump their small compost pails into the bigger composter, giving students a chance to spin the composter, which helps with decomposition of materials inside.” NES classes are frequent visitors to the Patch and this will provide one more fun and educational lesson.

SNIS is starting its own garden this spring...



Assistant Principal Emily Gervasio says “The SNIS Garden Committee has been working with the community to incorporate gardening into our school. Staff and students at SNIS are really excited to break ground and build some raised beds! Two classes at each grade level have been selected to volunteer to start us off, and we are working to be able to accommodate all interested classes.”

Kindness is Growing at HPS

Previous issues of *Spotlight on New Milford Schools* reported on the successful growth of the SNIS Kindness Tree. Students and staff enthusiastically recognize acts of kindnesses on branches of the tree. Other schools outside of New Milford even sent their own acts of kindness to be added.



We are pleased to report that another tree has taken root in the district, this time at Hill and Plain School. Designed by HPS art teacher Nicole DuVerger, the tree greets visitors inside the main entrance to the school. Guidance counselor Heliott Sanchez, who chairs the HPS Character Education Committee, shared examples of just a few of the kind acts that grace the tree:

I told Mrs. Kelly the truth.
Lilly tied Sabrina's shoes.
I was sad and Jaime made me happy.
Addison defended her friend Olivia.
I helped my mom at home – folded clothes, washed dishes.
Fernando helped me open my backpack.



To go along with the Kindness Tree, HPS is hosting a Spring Food Drive to benefit the New Milford Food Bank.

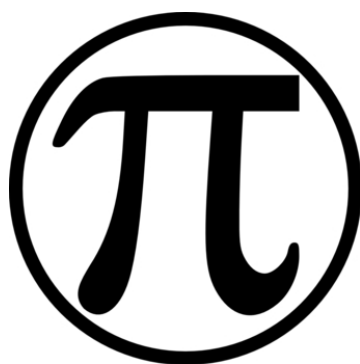
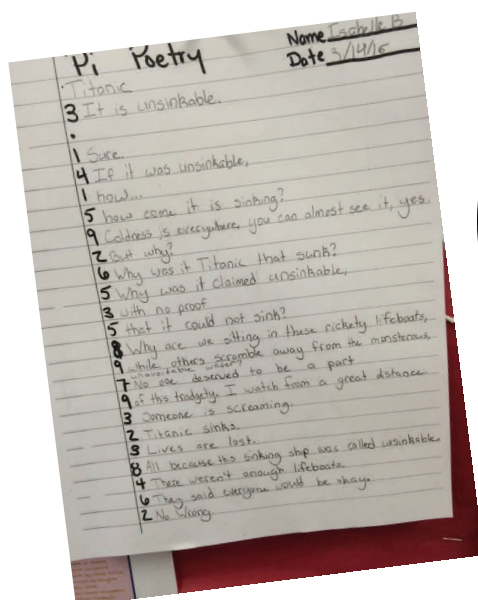
“Pi Day” Fun



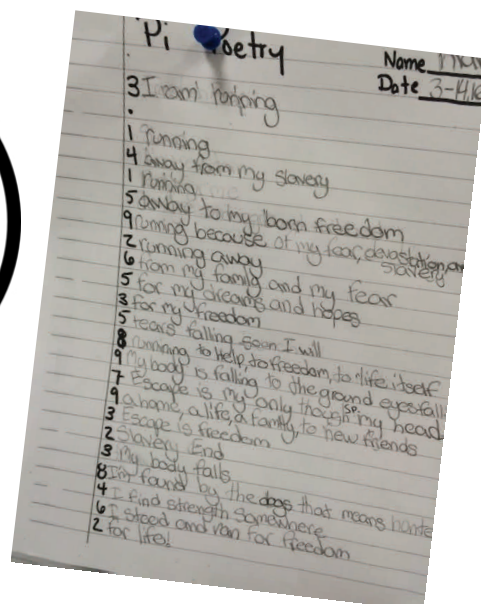
The Math Honor Society held their second annual Pi Day Carnival in celebration of Pi Day (March 14). Society Advisor and NMHS Math teacher Kelly Monroe says “We joined with FBLA’s dodgeball tournament and we had different games (parabola toss, pi-toss, pi-in-the face, wheel of pi, etc.) and prizes for students who participated. The Math Honor Society wanted to bring fun to math and it was also a way for us to raise money for our scholarship fund.”

Several good-natured administrators and teachers volunteered as targets for pi-in-the-face, including Co-Advisor Colleen Peterson and NMHS Assistant Principals Linda Scoralick and Eric Williams.

NMHS students were not the only ones having fun with pi. Students in Ms. Gati-Tisi’s Grade 6 class at SMS wrote Pi Day poems: each line has the number of words as the corresponding digit of pi. The poems were Historical Fiction to complement the class’ current unit of study. Interested in seeing more poems? Check out Ms. Gati-Tisi’s twitter and Instagram pages: @writingheroes.



For more on the
magic of Pi, visit
piday.org





New Milford Public Schools

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Ms. Ellamae Baldelli
Human Resources Director

Mr. Kevin Munrett
Facilities Manager

Mr. Anthony Giovannone
Fiscal Services & Operations
Director

Mrs. Laura Olson
Pupil Personnel & Special Services
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Take a Walk in the Park Day

March 30th

It's the perfect time of year to take a walk in the park and enjoy spring's beginnings. It is an opportunity for exercise and relaxation. Its calming and therapeutic. Taken after a busy work day, it helps clear your mind and re-energize you. Or, take the walk during lunch and you will find the afternoon of work goes by quicker and easier.

Here are some things to look out for on your park walk:

- ◆ The first spring flowers popping up
- ◆ New life – now is the time when animals are coming out of hibernation
- ◆ The first robin or bluebird of the year

New Milford and our surrounding towns have some wonderful parks from which to choose. If you are looking for more ideas of places to go, try the **free** app *Oh, Ranger! ParkFinder* available for download to your mobile device or online at www.ohranger.com

Use the app to find the parks nearest you with the activities you want to do. The app includes thousands of national parks, state parks, national forests, wildlife refuges, and many more public lands. Each location contains information on the available activities, so you can search for the park nearest you with the activities in which you'd like to participate.

Oh, Ranger! ParkFinder makes it easy to find great places for a scenic drive, to discover historic sites, or go camping, and includes directions, important phone numbers, and related websites.

And while you are looking, why not get started on your summer planning too?

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.

Spring
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