



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 3

June 2011

Did you realize we have less than 20 days of school left? Where did the year go? Mark your calendar for August 29, 2011—the first day of the 2011/2012 school year (see the complete calendar on page 9).

New Milford Public Schools wishes everyone a safe and happy summer! We look forward to seeing you in late August.



## All Day Kindergarten

After the passing of the town and school budgets by New Milford residents in early May, the Superintendent's proposal for all day kindergarten was unanimously voted into a reality at the May 10th Board of Education meeting. This action sets off a chain of events with a fast approaching deadline—teachers to be hired, supplies to be acquired, schedule modifications to be made, and students to prepare.

Both new and veteran incoming kindergarten parents as well as New Milford kindergarten teachers are excited about all day kindergarten for the fall.

"I'm so happy that we are going to full day kindergarten," says JPS teacher Jennifer Andrea. "From my perspective, the children truly benefit from the extra time spent in school. We will be able to cover lessons in greater depth and attend

more to students who are struggling or are in need of supplemental work. The pace of the day will be less rushed as well. Full day kindergarten is a good thing!"

Northville kindergarten teacher and assistant principal Joan Kick agrees. "I'm excited about the all day kindergarten for our children in New Milford. Presently, we have been implementing the Rowland Reading Program, Superkids, in our kindergartens throughout the district. Although this program was designed for full day, it has been culled to provide instruction for half day kindergartners. Having students for a full day will afford teachers the time to take full advantage of all that the program has to offer. This in turn will raise the level of performance with greater understanding for all children. What a gift!"

Parents are excited as well.

Current kindergarten parent, Jen Hallacker, believes all day kindergarten is a great idea! "This will allow more learning to be done. I think they're pressed for time and they don't get to everything. They definitely need more time."

Melanie Riedl, whose youngest child will be a kindergartner in the fall, compares an all day class to the half day kindergarten class her other children were enrolled in. "I think the all day kindergarten will allow teachers more time to enhance concepts and ideas with creative activities. The additional time a full day program provides can let the teachers actually teach more! My children that had half day kindergarten all had great experiences, but I think the time restraints limited what they could have potentially gained from the program. My daughter can't wait to start in the fall, and she is more than ready for the all day setting.

# NMHS

"It's never too early to start thinking about college."

Erin Moriarty  
School Counselor

## Parents Guide to Naviance

Naviance! Sound like a new designer perfume? It's actually a web-based resource that supports course, career, and college planning at New Milford High School. Naviance provides information and assistance to students, parents, and counselors. The Naviance "Family Connection" can be accessed through the academic support tab on the NMHS webpage—

[www.newmilfordps.org/nhs](http://www.newmilfordps.org/nhs).

Naviance provides information about colleges and universities—allowing students

and/or parents to execute searches for colleges that

match criteria important to students.

When a college is found, there is a direct link

and/or contact information from that college available. Student can also track test scores including PSAT, SAT, and ACT; compare colleges; track which colleges they've applied to and what information is still needed; explore careers; construct a resume; and store documents such as recommendation letters from NMHS staff.

During the course of a student's high school career, they will work in Naviance for a variety of activities.

In their freshman year they will complete a "Do What You Are" Personality and Career survey. As a sophomore they can find career choice ideas through a career interest profiler.

Moving into their junior year, students will use Naviance's College Search Tools to look for college fairs, campus visits, and dates of college rep visits to the Career Center. Additionally, they will create a resume with Naviance's resume builder tool. As a senior, Naviance can track college applications, store recommendation letters, forward

transcripts to colleges and keep in contact with counselors.

To access Naviance:

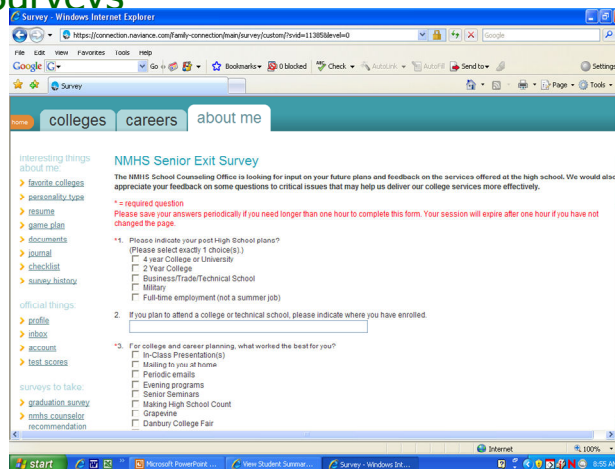
1. Sign in with your personal account code (each student receives one and parent

codes will be emailed in the fall). If it's your first visit, enter the code in the New User box and then follow the instructions. If you or your students has already set-up an account, sign in using the Returning User box.

2. Once you've signed in, you can navigate through the site by clicking the tabs at the top.

3. If you run into any problems, contact your student's school counselor.

### Surveys



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# Simply Smiles

Last February, SMS language students learned about the Simply Smiles Organization. Students from Shepaug Valley High School, who had traveled to Mexico last summer with the organization, told students about their experiences volunteering in remote areas of Mexico. After the presentation, the SMS language department decided to adopt Simply Smiles as a service project.

The Simply Smiles Organization built a school in a very impoverished part of Mexico and when volunteers return this summer, they'll take with them basic school supplies (pencils, pens, notebooks, rulers, markers, etc.) collected by SMS language students.

This organization was chosen in hopes that students would feel proud that

their small donation, joined with those of other students, will have a meaningful impact on the future of needy students in Mexico.

"A part of language learning is centered around the students of other cultures. We hope that this project helps our students realize that we are all global citizens and that we should share a concern for the well-being of people in other parts of the world who are less fortunate than ourselves," comments Susan Partelow, SMS language teacher.

For more information about Simply Smiles, visit [www.simplysmiles.org](http://www.simplysmiles.org).

S  
M  
S

SMS 7th grade French students hold up school supplies they are donating to the Simply Smiles organization.





**SNIS**

# Change of Leadership

As Sarah Noble Intermediate School (SNIS) prepares for the departure of current Principal Les Weintraub, it is also preparing for the arrival of new interim principal Len Tomasello. Tomasello, a New Milford resident, was unanimously approved by the Board of Education Tuesday evening.

Tomasello will replace Weintraub who has been SNIS principal since 2008 and will be relocating.

Mr. Tomasello has 46 years of teaching and administrative experience. He has seven grandchildren and is married to Irene, a retired fifth grade teacher.

Tomasello will be charged with assessing the current set-up of Sarah Noble to determine the best course of action regarding how to organize it –what grades it should house, scheduling methods, etc.

Outgoing Principal Les Weintraub will be relocating after he leaves Sarah Noble in June.



Dr. Tomasello's experience includes:

Sacred Heart University  
Supervisor of the Graduate Practicum Program and the Administrative Internship Program

Beecher Road School, Woodbridge  
Interim Elementary Principal

Gainfield Elementary School, Southbury  
Interim Elementary Principal

Hurlburt Elementary School, Weston  
Principal

West School, New Canaan  
Elementary Principal

New Canaan Public Schools  
Interim Superintendent

University School at Nova University  
Director

## Watch Your Inbox



A "meet the new principal" coffee will be scheduled for all interested parties in the very near future. Watch your email for details.

# Science Fair

Volcanoes, potato clocks, and solar systems—just a few of the 110 science exhibits on display at the “Health Science and Art Fair” hosted by Hill and Plain Elementary School on May 24th.

Students from all three elementary schools in New Milford participated in what is hoped to become an annual event. Volunteers from all three schools coordinated the event.

In addition to a creation by the Sprocket Squad, a bottle cap man, Kool-aid tie dye, an introduction to the scientific method and many other exhibits, the Fair hosted information booths that included NMPS School Lunch program, The Pratt Center, the VNA’s tick-mobile, New Milford Police Department, and New Milford Library’s Young Adult Council.

“The Science Fair is an end of the year culmination of Science Cart activities,” reports Janet Taub, the science cart coordinator at Hill and Plain.

Students can choose to create a project at home and enter it into the fair. Each student takes home a silver scientist medal for his/her efforts. Many students enter a project based on an activity that was featured on the science cart. Even one Hill & Plain 2nd grade class entered a project—now that’s teamwork!

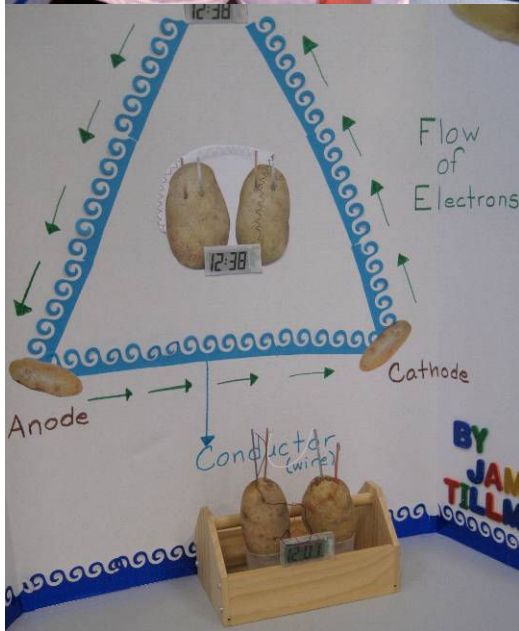
In addition to the science and health fair, an art show was also held. “It’s a great fit,” says H&P PTO Co-President Kibby Ginn, “The night is about featuring the students’ creativity.”

The Art Show isn’t just pretty pictures. “We have a scavenger hunt throughout the art show,” reports Ginn. “It’s interactive and the children find clues like an upside picture, or they’re asked find how many projects contain rainbows.”

Northville science cart volunteer Julie Learson sums up the event, “The goal is to get kids thinking like scientists and to tap into their natural love to explore, question, and test things out. We emphasize that it’s not about being ‘right’ every time, but that even ‘mistakes’ can present learning opportunities.”



Photos courtesy of Maggie Colangelo



# H

# &

# P



# High Touch, High Tech



John Pettibone 3rd graders are scientists! High Touch, High Tech—a program of hands-on, fun, inquiry-based science activities for students, visited the school in late May. Students performed experiments in small groups as well as independently. Students participated in three programs that follow the third grade science curriculum:

**“Our Living Plant”** This program focuses on the atmosphere, UV light, and how plants and animals adapt.

**“Chemistry Sensations”** This program explores physical and chemical properties of matter.

## **“Dig It”**

This program introduces how the earth makes rocks and minerals. Students panned for gems and were very excited when they learned they would be able to keep what they found.

The students enjoyed the presentations and experiments.

“Everyone’s face lit up, and they were instantly engaged in the program,” reports JPS 3rd grade teacher Shannon Arcano. Mrs. Arcano made arrangements to bring the program to JPS after she had experienced a similar program while teaching 4th grade at Sarah Noble Intermediate School.



Photos above from High Touch, High Tech website  
[www.hightouch-hightech.com](http://www.hightouch-hightech.com)

**JPS**



## 3rd Grade Experiences



Above—Greg as Harry Houdini. Right—Adam writes with a quill pen.

Third grade students at Northville Elementary School are always busy, but have been more so these past few weeks. In addition to all they normally do, they've been busy preparing for Biography Day, Colonial Day, a chorus concert, an art show, and a trip to Hartford. These experiences provide a special way to close out the third grade year (and they're learning too, but we won't tell them that).

### **Biography Day**

After reading several biographies in class related to the colonial era in Connecticut, students choose a biography to read at home. Some students "catch the history bug" and choose someone from the past. Other students prefer to learn about a contemporary personality based on that student's interest in sports, art, music, etc. The students then write a "Who Am I?" riddle in class using facts that they learned about their biography subject. On Biography Day, the students dress up as their biography subject to present

their riddle before an audience of family and friends who are encouraged to guess their identity. This activity is designed to be an enriching experience that inspires continued learning. It also provides many students with their first public speaking opportunity.



### **Colonial Day**

Third grade students spent an entire day participating in hands on activities related to colonial life.

Diane Swanson, director of The Pratt Center, organized this year's activities with the help of parent volunteers. Students learned about colonial chores by churning butter and working in the Northville garden. The students learned about the work of colonial craftsmen through tin punching and weaving demonstrations. Each student completed a tin punch and weaving project to take home. To gain a better understanding of what life was like for a child during colonial times, the students participated in a schoolhouse activity where they wrote with quill pens and learned how a one room schoolhouse differs greatly from our current education model.

### **Capitol Trip**

This trip is the culmination of our social studies unit on Connecticut. Visiting our state capitol in Hartford provides students with a first hand look at our state government. This year's trip will be particularly exciting as they will be able to witness the legislature in session.

**N**  
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**S**

# S c h o o l L u n c h



The mission of the Food and Nutrition Services Department is to serve healthy meals and to have healthy students. One of the ways they accomplish this is to participate in a fresh fruit and vegetable program. When available, locally grown produce is served to students through the School Breakfast and School Lunch Programs.

Some highlights of locally grown produce served at our schools this year are zucchini from Baggot Farm in East Windsor, apples from Blue Hill Orchard Farms in Wallingford, corn on the cob from Botticello Farms of Manchester, and yellow squash from Deercrest Farm in Glastonbury, CT.

Most recently they served organic carrots from Fort Hill Farms which is located in our own town of New Milford! Finding locally grown produce is challenging at times due to the growing season in Connecticut.

When we can't purchase from our local farmers, the fresh produce is purchased from our American farmers.

Remember, when viewing the school lunch menu, fresh fruits and vegetables can be recognized because they are highlighted in green and/or say "fresh."

In recognition of National Employee Health and Wellness Month, a nutrition class was presented to food service employees by Director Sandra Sullivan, R.D. This important nutrition information benefits employees as well as increases awareness in the work they do when providing healthy school meals.

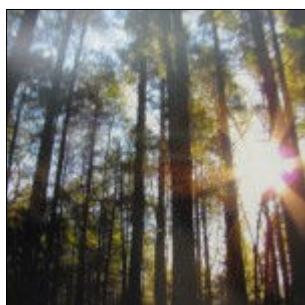






**Alex Thalassinos** and **Jennifer Paradiso** (pictured left) were honored as outstanding seniors at the South West Leadership Dinner on May 5th, 2011. The South West Conference annually honors two seniors from each member school for their outstanding contribution to their athletic team and their demonstration of leadership qualities.

**Erin Shannon** and **Steve Cronin** (pictured right) received recognition from the Connecticut Association of Schools for their excellence in the classroom and athletic arena as well as their leadership qualities.



Winners for the Earth Week photo contest included (l-r)  
1st place—Erin Demko  
“Fungus on a Log”

2nd place—Preston Rutz  
“Wonderment”

3rd place—Ryan Carmellini  
“MapleLeaf”

The New Milford High School Jazz Bands, Concert Band, and Wind Ensemble performed their spring concert on May 19th.



Continued on next page

## New Milford Schools Calendar

### June 2011

- June 3—Grade 3 Picnic—JPS  
 Grade 3 Talent Show —HPS  
 Grade 3 Recorder Concert—9:45 a.m.—NES  
 Poetry in Motion—2:00 p.m.—JPS  
 End of Year Assembly—2:00 p.m.—HPS (rain date 6/20)
- June 6—Spring Athletic Awards—NMHS  
 4th Grade Chorus—7:00 p.m., SNIS
- June 7—Facilities Meeting—6:30 p.m., Lillis Bldg., Rm. 2  
 Operations Meeting—7:30 p.m., Lillis Bldg., Rm. 2
- June 10—Field Day—JPS  
 Field Day—HPS (rain date 6/16)  
 Kindergarten Hoe Down Performance 10-10:30 a.m. & 2:00—2:30 p.m.—NES
- June 11—1,000 Suns for New Milford Sunflower Planting—2:00 p.m., NM Observatory
- June 14—Board of Education Meeting—7:30 p.m., SNIS Media Center
- June 15—3rd Grade CT Day—NES
- June 16—School-Wide Relay for Life—NES
- June 17—1st Grade *Little Red Hen* Play—NES
- June 21—Field Day—NES (rain date 6/22)
- June 23—Last Day for everyone except SMS
- June 24—Last Day for SMS  
 8th Grade Promotion Ceremonies  
 (Promotion students will leave with parents following their ceremony.)  
 Noon Dismissal—SMS
- June 25—Graduation 2:30—WCSU



Photos courtesy of Trish Haldin

#### Accolades Continued:

Bob Coppola, former Board of Education and Town Council member, admires art work from the New Milford High School Senior art show. The art show was held May 27-29 at the Railroad Station. The display included paintings, drawings, and sculptures.

Students with pieces in the show are pictured below.





# 2011-2012 District Calendar

## NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2011 –2012 School

### August 2011 3 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

23 Teacher Work Day  
24-25 Professional Development  
26 All Staff Convocation  
29 Students Return-Early Dis.  
30 Early Dismissal

### September 20 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

5 Labor Day  
28 Elem. Early Dismissal/PD  
29 Rosh Hashanah

### October 20 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

10 Columbus Day  
19 HS/SMS Early Dismissal/PD  
26 HS/SMS Early Dismissal /PD

### November 18 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

1-4 & 7 SMS Parent Conf/Early Dis.  
8 Election Day/Professional Day  
11 Veterans Day  
15-18 Elementary Parent Conferences /Early Dismissal  
23 Early Dismissal/Thanksgiving  
24-25 Thanksgiving Recess  
29 HS Parent Conf/Early Dis.

### December 16 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

1 HS Parent Conf/Early Dis.  
6 HS Parent Conf/Early Dis.  
8 HS Parent Conf/Early Dis.  
23 & 26-30 Holiday Recess

### January 2012 20 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

2 Holiday Recess  
16 Martin Luther King Day

### February 19 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29		

17 & 20 Winter Recess

### March 22 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

27-30 Elementary Parent Conferences /Early Dismissal

### April 15 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

4 HS Parent/Conf/Early Dis.  
6 Good Friday  
16-20 Spring Recess

### May 22 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

2 HS/SMS Early Dismissal /PD  
9 Elem. Early Dismissal/PD  
16 HS/SMS Early Dismissal/PD  
28 Memorial Day

### June 5 Days

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

7 Last Day of School

- First Day of School
- Schools Closed
- Schools Closed/PD
- Early Dismissal / All Schools

August 29th & 30th are both Early Dismissal Days  
September 28—Elementary Early Dismissal Only—PD  
October 19 & 26—HS/SMS Early Dismissal Only—PD  
November 1-4 & 7 — SMS Early Dismissal Only—Parent Conferences  
November 15-18—Elementary Early Dismissal Only—Parent Conferences  
November 29—High School Early Dismissal Only—Parent Conferences  
December 1, 6 & 8—High School Early Dismissal Only—Parent Conferences  
March - 27-30—Elementary Early Dismissal Only—Parent Conferences  
April 4—High School Early Dismissal Only—Parent Conferences  
May 2—HS/SMS Early Dismissal Only—PD  
May 9—Elementary Early Dismissal Only—PD  
May 16—HS/SMS Early Dismissal Only—PD  
Graduation Date will be set by the Board of Education at its April 2012 Meeting

Distributed May 4, 2011

Any days lost by emergency closing of schools will be added to the calendar after June 7th through, and including, June 20, 2012. After June 20th, days will be deducted from the beginning of spring recess starting with April 16th, 17th, etc.



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

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Mr. Les Weintraub  
 Intermediate Principal

Dr. Sandy Nadeau  
 Hill & Plain Principal

Mrs. Paula Kelleher  
 John Pettibone Principal

Mrs. Susan Murray  
 Northville Principal

## Summer Reading

Reading is one of the best ways to retain information learned during the school year throughout the summer months and is strongly suggested for New Milford students.

If your student needs a little incentive to read throughout the summer, you might want to check out these programs. All offer prize incentives that might motivate even the most reluctant reader.

### **New Milford Public Library Summer Reading Program**

Program runs July 5-August 12. Program theme is One World, Many Stories. Additional details will be available at [www.newmilfordlibrary.org](http://www.newmilfordlibrary.org) or in the children's department of the library located at 24 Main Street, New Milford.

### **Bank Street Book Nook Summer Reading Program**

Program runs June 15-August 31. Upon completion of program reading log, students can earn a \$5 Book Nook gift certificate. For more information, visit [www.bankstbooknook.com](http://www.bankstbooknook.com) or stop by the store at 50 Bank Street, New Milford.

### **CT Reads—The 2011 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge**

Program launched May 6th, 2011. Forms, additional information and grade level book suggestions are available at the CT Department of Education website—[www.sde.ct.gov](http://www.sde.ct.gov).

You can also create your own summer reading program. Here's How:

1. Pick a goal for your child. This can be done in a variety of ways—number of books read, number of pages read or number of minutes read. Have your child use a notebook to keep track of his/her reading.
2. Set-up an incentive program. Have both short and long term goals. Offer coupons for a no chores day, sleeping in or staying up late, or a day at the park. Additional prizes can include toys, a gift card, movie rental—whatever your children enjoy.
3. Offer a "big" prize at the end for the reader with the most pages (minutes, books, etc) and throw a pizza party for the whole family to enjoy!

DISPATCH