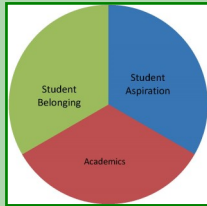




New Milford Public Schools
 50 East Street
 New Milford, CT 06776
 860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



New Milford High School

860-350-6647

Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal
Mrs. Liz Curtis, Asst. Principal
Ms. Linda Scoralick, Asst. Principal
Mr. Eric Williams, Asst. Principal



Schaghticoke Middle School

860-354-2204

Dr. Christopher Longo, Principal
Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Delaney, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal



Sarah Noble Intermediate School

860-210-4020

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



Hill & Plain Elementary School

860-354-5430

Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Asst. Principal



Northville Elementary School

860-355-3713

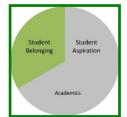
Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 8, Issue 10

April 2018

Enriching Our Schools



April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month. Studies show that one of the most important factors to a student's educational success is the regular involvement of parents and caring adults. As the New Milford Public Schools mission statement says, we are "a collaborative partnership of students, educators, family and community" and nowhere is this more evident than in the presence of hundreds of volunteers who give their time, dedication and encouragement to support student achievement.

Volunteerism comes in many forms. Parents, grandparents, retirees, community and corporate sponsors act as library helpers, mentors, guest speakers, internship and scholarship sponsors, and field trip chaperones. Parent groups support our music programs, athletic teams, and graduates. The dedication of these many volunteers helps stretch school district resources to provide a variety of support and activities that might not otherwise be possible.

Every school is fortunate to have an active Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) whose members work tirelessly throughout the year. The PTO coordinates school volunteers and sponsors special school events and after hours family events. Fundraisers provide money to help subsidize student field trips, special assemblies, scholarships and other non-budgeted items.



This year the PTO has sponsored welcome back events and spirit days, the annual Maureen Haas Cross Country Meet, the Family Science Nights, March Madness events, dances, game nights, movie events, book fairs, and read-a-thons. In-school event sponsorship includes author visits during Literature Week, anti-bullying assemblies, and cultural performances. Field trip funding has been used for team building trips at the middle school level, live theatre performances of Charlotte's Web for elementary students, and curriculum related visits to the Pratt Center and Beardsley Zoo.

Superintendent Joshua Smith says, "Volunteers help build the relationship between the schools and the community, provide supports to our students and staff, and enrich the conversation about the work we do each day. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated people support our community of learners."

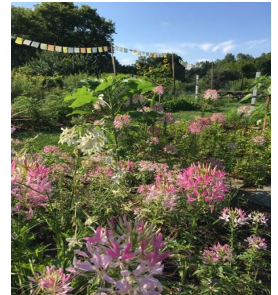
Volunteers Help NES Plant Patch Thrive

The NES Plant Patch is a welcoming place for student gardeners in both spring and fall. Longtime volunteer Claire Runyan recently sent an annual update for NES teachers to share with their classes. We thought it was interesting reading for the community as well, especially as Mrs. Runyan is looking for volunteer helpers...

In the spring of 2017, NES students in PreK through second grade planted over 40 different crops including potatoes, peppers, tomatoes, beans, green onions, snap peas, ground cherries, carrots, brussels sprouts, herbs, and flowers. New crops included shelling beans, eggplants, lettuces, popcorn (netted to keep out crows), broom corn and tomatillos.



The first and second graders were able to successfully plant crops they could harvest before school ended. First graders grew snap peas and second graders experimented with planting lettuces in potting soil bags (as the soil at the Patch is not quite rich enough to ensure solid germination of lettuce seeds). Classes were able to have a salad party with the literally pounds of lettuces students grew.

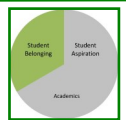


In the fall, every class participated in harvesting and students had the opportunity to taste peppers, beans, tomatoes, carrots, ground cherries, and herbs. We were SO PROUD of students' willingness to try new foods! In addition to harvesting, kindergarten classes learned about the five senses, first graders experimented with making tomatillo



salsa, and second grade classes made harvest soups with potatoes, peppers, tomatoes, beans, green onions, carrots, and herbs they picked themselves.

Each year, the second graders contribute works of art to the Patch as a legacy project. Last spring, Northville resident John Kuck donated birdhouses for each



class to decorate with thumbprints and signatures. These have been installed on the fence around the Patch, and we are hoping to have birds nesting in them this upcoming spring. This will provide an opportunity for extra science observation, but with birds, not plants.



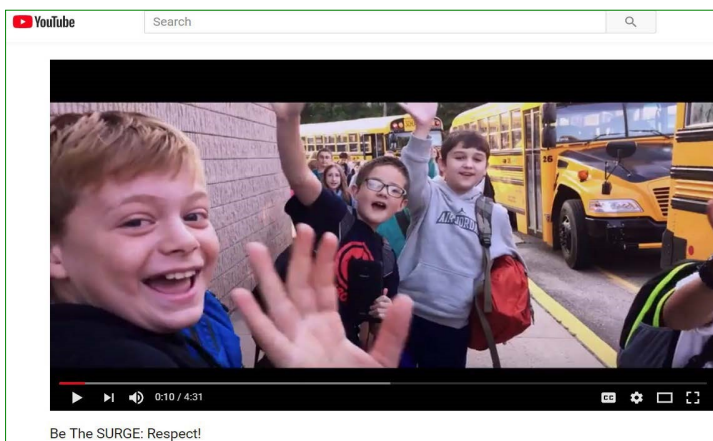
Plans are underway for 2018, beginning this month if weather permits. New crops we are looking into planting are: celery, a different kind of popping corn, garlic, chickpeas, asparagus, and various flowers and herbs.

A time-lapse camera was purchased last year with PTO funds. The plan is to use it to watch individual plants as they grow, and then share the amazing photos with teachers, who can show the students on their smart boards.

Volunteers are always needed to help the garden grow. The Patch needs tending in the spring, summer and fall. If you're interested in helping teach classes or maintain the Patch for our students, including tasks like weeding, watering, harvesting, and mowing, please email Claire Runyan at: slimemold@earthlink.net. Put Plant Patch in the subject of the email. Mrs. Runyan says "No gardening experience is necessary, the Plant Patch is all about us learning together."

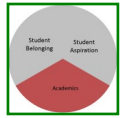
Schaghticoke Middle School's next SURGE video in the series is out. This one for the letter R: RESPECT.

R



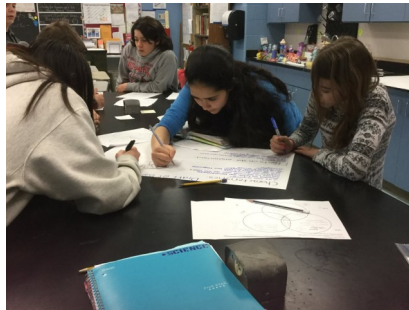
R

View it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhaJSATx47Q&feature=youtu.be>

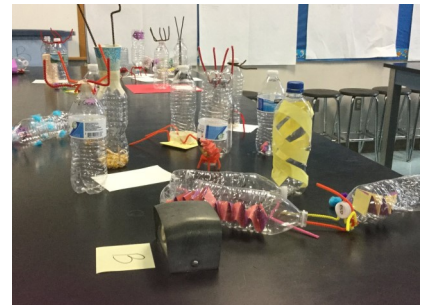
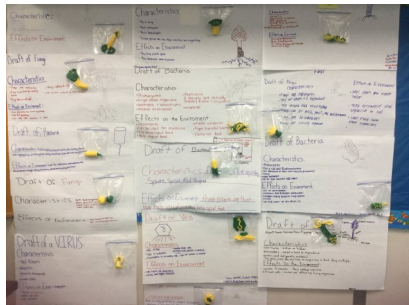
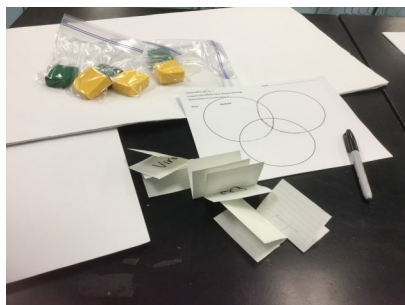


Next Generation Science Standards in Action

SMS Science teacher Tracy Nevins says, “Students are becoming more and more acclimated to applying their science knowledge in different and new ways in classrooms all over New Milford. The state's acceptance of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and our district's support of it helps to encourage science teachers in the district to try out new strategies using materials that are not traditional to science classrooms.” A recent activity in Mrs. Nevins’ classes illustrates the standards in action and reflected the cross cutting concept of “Structure and Function.” It also tied in the Engineering practice of model building.

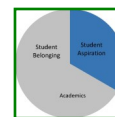


Says Mrs. Nevins, “My science students grouped themselves to plan and build either a virus, bacteria, or fungi, putting to use the material they had learned so far about those organisms. The students made connections to how the organisms meet their needs in nature, tying their structures to their functions. The previous night's homework was a Venn diagram, drawing in ELA literacy from the Common Core state standards, to compare and contrast those microbes, providing students with information to share with their group mates the next day. They were given chart paper, a few markers, two pieces of Play dough and a class period. Their task was to work together to build the microbe they had picked from a flower pot. First they had to sketch what they were going to build. In addition to the sketch of the model-to-be, a poster needed to include characteristics of their virus, bacteria or fungi and how it interacted with the environment.”



The final products were a testament to what the students had learned during the unit and created a few more questions which will drive a bit more work they still need to do.

NMPS Teachers Awarded Fellowships for Summer Learning



The non-profit foundation Fund for Teachers (FFT) supports educators' efforts to develop skills, knowledge and confidence that impact student achievement. The organization “awards summer fellowship grants to PreK-12 grade teachers to pursue self-designed professional learning. Teachers decide what they want to learn and where they want to learn it. Their odysseys take them all over the world – as scientists, artists and agents of change – and they return to their classrooms with new ideas that transform student learning.” Teachers submit projects and destinations they believe address specific achievement gaps, theirs and/or their students, and use the adventure to enhance teaching and learning.

Since 2001, Fund for Teachers has invested over \$30 million in nearly 8,000 teachers, transforming grants into growth for teachers and their students. This year alone, FFT is providing over \$2 million in grants to support fellowships for 487 teachers, who will be learning on 6 continents, in 89 countries, representing 354 schools.

This is the third year, NMPS teachers have received grants. In 2016, NMHS English teacher Jasmina Ferizovic attended the International Self-Determination Theory Conference in Victoria, British Columbia. Last year, NMHS Science teachers Virginia Landgrebe and Kristen Stolle visited Australia to attend the annual science education conference of the Australian Science Teachers Association. Fund for Teachers announces the grants in conjunction with past FFT fellows (now ambassadors) and local administrators where available. Besides the good news, ambassadors bring the awardees a special gift of a custom FFT backpack. This year, congratulations go to:



*Robin Barboza-Josephson and Catherine Gardner
(NMHS Science teachers)*

Katie Gardner and Robin Barboza will be traveling to Alaska where they will be visiting Anchorage, Prince William Sound, Seward, Valdez, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Tangle Lakes, and Denali National Park to experience an entirely different type of ecosystem from that found in Connecticut.

“This trip will allow us to have direct interaction with a very fragile and disappearing ecosystem touched little by human interference”, says Katie. “The Alaskan landscapes are rich with the region’s geological history concerning the advancement and retreat of glaciers. In addition, this trip will provide an opportunity to observe the plant and animal life of an environment completely different from our home state.”

Highlights of the trip include camping, sea kayaking, canoeing and lots of hiking. Robin says, “This once in a lifetime opportunity will allow us to bring back first hand experiences to share with our students about global warming, food webs, ecosystem services, biodiversity and more.”

While on the trip, the teachers will be interacting with their students via social media. This will enable students to ask questions about their travels before, during and after the trip.

Jane Cox (NMHS English teacher), pictured with ambassadors Virginia Landgrebe and Kristen Stolle



Jane says her fellowship is an authentic learning experience in Great Britain, which will allow her to bring first hand insights back to her classroom. “I will spend several days in London, where I will attend a performance of Shakespeare's “Othello” at the Globe Theater(!), get a chance to see the original manuscript of *Jane Eyre*, visit Charles Dickens' house, etc. The fellowship will also allow me to follow in the footsteps of the British Romantic poets in the English and Irish countryside. I will learn about William Butler Yeats both in Dublin and then at the Yeats Society in County Sligo, and I will experience first hand the sources of inspiration for the British Romantics (Wordsworth and Coleridge's Lake District, a visit to the actual

Tintern Abbey which Wordsworth wrote about, and the Lake Isle of Innisfree, which inspired Yeats, etc.). The learning will be shaped largely by the literature I teach; I plan to visit Ireland first, then England, and include a brief visit to Wales. I plan to document my travel with a photo journal so that when I return to my classroom next year, I will be able to share with my students the culture and the context behind the literature we study.”

Roxanne Kraft and Ashley Vinhateiro (Litchfield Hills Transition Center teachers), pictured with Director of Pupil Personnel Laura Olson

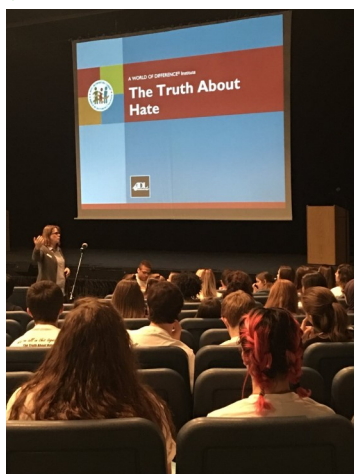


Roxanne and Ashley will be learning mindfulness based stress reduction techniques at a workshop in Savusavu, Fiji. During this week long retreat, the teachers will be participating in daily yoga and meditation sessions, along with mindfulness workshops exploring ways to live with greater presence, clarity, and ease in daily living.

Roxanne and Ashley are teachers in the Litchfield Hills Transition Program which services students aged 18-21. Mrs. Kraft says, “Our transition program, offered through the New Milford Public Schools, is for students requiring special education transition services. It is unique in that it focuses on employability skills, daily living skills, and social skills. Incorporating mindfulness in ourselves, with our students, and with our staff will

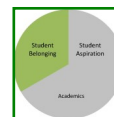
have a ripple effect in every aspect of our program and our lives. It will create a positive classroom learning environment, workplace environment, and home environment.”

To see a complete list of 2018 Fellows and descriptions of their projects, visit the program's website at fundforteachers.org.



Hearing “The Truth About Hate”

On April 3rd, NMHS students in grade 11 participated in “The Truth About Hate” assembly program, which was offered in partnership with the Anti-Defamation League. During the program students learned how stereotypes (ideas) can lead to prejudice (feelings/attitudes) and eventually to discrimination (action). Students also learned about how seemingly small jokes, rumors, and remarks form a foundation for what is known as the pyramid of hate. Left unchecked these acts of bias can act as building blocks for more serious/severe acts such as marginalization, harassment, vandalism, and genocide.



After learning about the pyramid of hate, students heard from voices within their school community, as peers recounted the things they had witnessed locally. Finally, students participated in small group discussion. During these conversations, students brainstormed ways of being an ally and reflected on one thing they could start or stop doing immediately to help combat instances of prejudice, discrimination, and hate in our community.

Assistant Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo said, “This assembly extends the NAMES program offered to grade 9 students. It was a wonderful first move towards tackling bias and will help to create a common terminology for change.”



Nomination Forms for New Milford Public Schools 2019 Teacher of the Year Will be Emailed on May 1st

New Milford will be participating in Connecticut’s “Teacher of the Year” program for 2019, with our local nominee to be announced this August. Per the CT State Department of Education, “This prestigious recognition program focuses public attention on excellence in teaching and is designed to recognize, honor, and celebrate exemplary educators.”

Nomination forms will go out by School Messenger on May 1st, will be posted on the district website under the Staff Recognition tab, and will be available as a paper copy at all district schools. Please consider nominating one of our many deserving staff members. Nominations will close May 31st.



**The work of talented student artists
will be on display in May.
Come and see!**

NMHS Senior Art Show on May 25-27 at The Maxx

It is also the **3rd Alumni Show**.

Artists from the past 30 years will be participating
with both old and new artwork.

SNIS Student Art Show
on May 7, 17, 21, and 24
on campus from 6:00—8:00 p.m.



**Congratulations to April's
New Milford Public School "Stars"!**



**Denise Ambrose-Arnauckas
Christine Benson
Jennifer Chmielewski
Jack Ducey
Theresa McGuinness
Ann Marie Tozzi**

Special congratulations to **Denise Ambrose-Arnauckas** who will drive the
Ingersoll Auto of Danbury NMPS courtesy car. Don't forget to visit the district
website to [submit your staff nomination](#).


New Milford Public Schools

50 East Street
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860-355-8406

Mr. Joshua Smith
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

Ms. Roberta Pratt
Technology Director

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan
Food Services Director

Board of Education

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Assistant Secretary

Mr. Bill Dahl

Mr. Joseph Failla

Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mr. J.T. Schemm



Global Astronomy Month

As we finally move into spring, and warmer days and nights, what better time to turn our attention to the night sky? Scientists agree and they have dubbed April “Global Astronomy Month”. The month also includes the annual Astronomy Day, which fell this year on April 21. This special day is celebrated not once during a calendar year but twice – once in spring and once in fall. Both spring and fall events are observed on the Saturday closest to the quarter moon. The purpose of the holiday is not only to celebrate astronomy and all of its contributions to society but also to bring the general public together with astronomy professionals and groups. Here in New Milford we are lucky to be able to celebrate astronomy all year long.



The **John J. McCarthy Observatory**, on the grounds of New Milford High School, is open to the general public. Dedicated and highly knowledgeable volunteers offer their expertise to our NMPS students and staff through programs at the observatory and in the planetarium at Sarah Noble Intermediate School.

For more information on this wonderful community resource, visit JJMO website at
<http://www.mccarthyobservatory.org>.

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.

A p r i l i s