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www.newmilfordps.org



New Milford High School
 860-350-6647

Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal
 Mrs. Liz Curtis, Ass't. Principal
 Dr. Christopher Longo, Ass't. Principal
 Mr. Eric Williams, Ass't. Principal



Schaghticoke Middle School
 860-354-2204

Mrs. Dana Ford, Principal
 Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Ass't. Principal
 Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Ass't. Principal
 Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Ass't. Principal
 Dr. Len Tomasello, Transition Administrator



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
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Spotlight on New Milford Schools

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September 2015

Spotlight on September "Getting to Know You"



Every new school year starts with a period of discovery. Students and staff, as well as parents, spend the first few days and weeks settling in and getting to know one another better. This "getting to know you" period starts even before the new school year officially begins with open houses and walkthroughs at the K-8 schools and a formal Freshman Orientation program at New Milford High School.

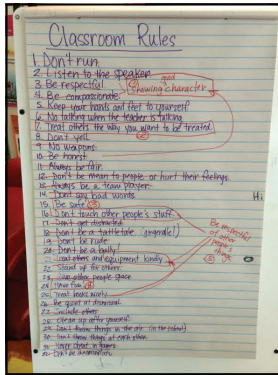
All schools take time to acclimate their students to the building layout so they are comfortable in their classrooms and in special areas. For the elementary schools, this even includes getting acquainted with the cafeteria and playground, two very popular spots!



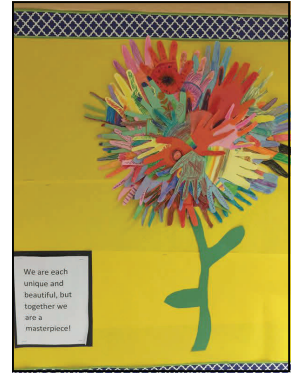
HPS students head out to the playground and try out the new buddy bench.

Staff at all schools spend the first day or two discussing class rules and procedures. Many teachers made this an activity in and of itself, working with the students to set rules collaboratively. Some classes even choose to create a class motto. As a safety measure, all New Milford Public Schools schedule practice emergency drills during the month of September.

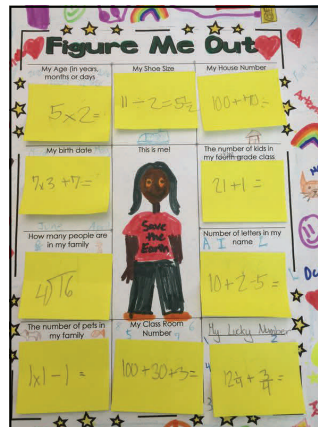
Within each class, students participate in various activities designed to help students get to know each other better. At SMS, for example, students in Grade 8 English classes created dictionary definitions of



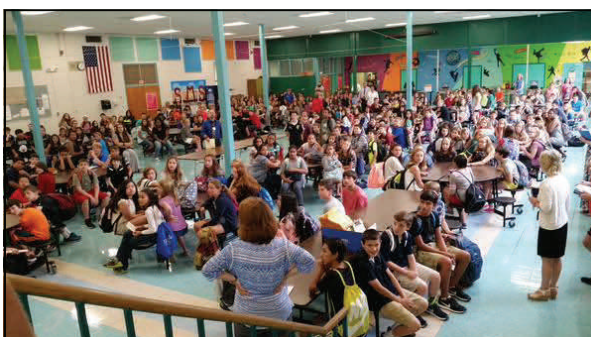
Developing class rules, motto and identity.



themselves and shared quotes that inspired them with fellow classmates. At NES, students designed paper bags decorated with some of their favorite things and then added an item to the bag that pertains to something they love to do or something they're proud of to be shared at “show and tell” later in the week. Some SNIS students got to know their classmates “by the numbers”. The results of many of these getting to know you activities will be on display during the schools’ parent open houses.



Another important focus for the beginning of the year is to build class unity. At the elementary grades especially, this led to fun activities involving “minute to win it” games and the building of marshmallow towers just to name a few. At SMS and NMHS, all grades had class meetings within the first few days of school. At the high school level, the first few activity days give students an opportunity to try out a few clubs before making their selection for the year. Guidance counselors also begin grade level meetings with small groups in September.



Curriculum Nights are taking place in each school this September; dates vary by school and grade. Notices are sent home by each school. Parents attending are always glad they did since the evening provides an opportunity to hear general information about students’ educational, physical and social development as well as specific information from teachers regarding curriculum expectations for the year.

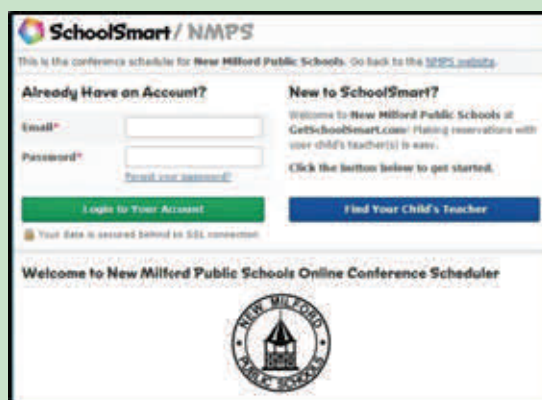
With these general introductions underway, parents can next look forward to individual parent/teacher conferences in November and December. Remember though, if you have any concerns about your child, you don't have to wait for parent/teacher conferences to voice them. All teachers have email addresses which can be accessed through the staff directories on each school's webpage or you can call the school during office hours and leave a message for the teacher.

Parent Teacher Conferences Are Coming Up This Fall

All New Milford Public Schools offer parent teacher conference appointments during the month of November. Schedules vary and every principal will be sending home details for his or her individual school.

One thing that will be the same for all schools is how parents will sign up for their conferences.

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 in early November so if you have more than one student to schedule you can do it all at one time.

The link will be prominently featured on each school's home page.

If you do not have internet access, you can call the individual schools for assistance.

LMCs Embrace New School Year

Our K-8 school library media centers are freshly sorted this year as a result of the reconfiguration of grades in our schools. Books were moved and distributed over the summer to match their new homes. All of our schools' LMCs were "open for business" at the start of school.



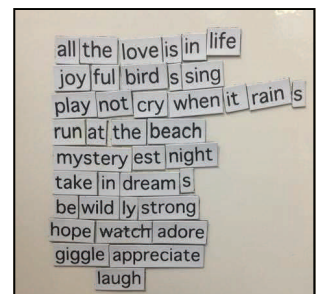
Volunteers painted this artistic mural last spring—a welcome addition to the SNIS LMC.



Mr. Miltimore gives a tour to a 2nd grade class at NES.

At the elementary grades, students started with class visits and a tour by the Library Media Specialists who helped them find that first perfect book with which to start the school year. Regular visits are incorporated into their class schedules.

Students in the older grades are also getting reacquainted with their library spaces. Mrs. Susan Baerny, SMS Library Media Specialist, gave a rundown of what SMS students experienced the first few weeks, "I'll gladly share with you what is happening in the LMC to help students acclimate. All 6th and 7th grade students came to the LMC for an orientation session during their English classes. The procedures for using a pass and signing in when entering the library are being covered. Students are also learning about the differences between the organization of books from what they know at SNIS to how the books are arranged by some popular genres at SMS. We've assembled a new 'Makerspace' area in the LMC where students can gather to create, invent and learn while sharing specific skills in their areas of interest. Students are loving the LMC and we are averaging over 100 students per day coming to borrow books and/or use computers."



Students visit the SMS LMC, its new Makerspace, and take time to create an impromptu magnetic poem on their way out the door (the first of many we hope!).

NMHS Library Media Specialist Robin Stiles says the high school LLC (Library Learning Commons) was also very pleased to reopen its doors to students. "We are sporting some new signs on our walls and will soon be putting up new signs on our shelves to make locating resources so much easier.



NMHS students hard at work in the LLC amongst the new signage.

Upperclassmen are familiar with procedures on how to visit the library and have been keeping us busy since Day 1. Many new fiction and non-fiction print books are on display. Lots of new digital eBooks and online audio-books have been uploaded and are ready to be read or listened to online. Our four teaching spaces: the LLC Computer Lab, the LLC Classroom with chrome books, the Wave Cave, and the Main Floor of the LLC have been actively in use. Freshman Orientation began the week of September 21st and continues for two weeks. The LLC is open after school too for students looking for a quiet place to study or do research.” For more information on the Library Learning Commons (LLC) model, see our [November 2014 district newsletter](#).

For specific information on each school’s library media center, visit the [district website](#), choose a school, and click on the Library Media Center link.

Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Week October 4th – 10th



The Food and Nutrition Services Department will be celebrating Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids Week from October 4th – 10th, as part of National Farm to School Month. Read more about the program here: [Farm to School Program](#).

During that week the department will be highlighting several Connecticut grown and manufactured items such as 100% fruit juice from Ellington, calzones from New Britain, tomato sauce from Meriden, Hummel hot dogs from New Haven, falafel from Hamden, black bean and salsa burgers from Hamden, and Jamaican beef patties from Hartford. Also to be served are Connecticut grown cucumbers, yellow squash, zucchini, peppers and apples.

The CT Agriculture Education Foundation suggests a book tie-in for this event targeted at grades 1-4. It is *The Apple Orchard Riddle* by Margaret McNamara about a school trip to an apple orchard. You can find information on taking your own trip to an apple orchard by visiting the [CT Department of Agriculture’s site](#) to locate local apple growers and get great information about varieties, recipes and more.

New Milford PTO Adds “Manpower”

Students and staff aren't the only ones settling in for a new year. New Milford's town-wide PTO has been active at open house events and has been hosting family welcome events this month at several of our schools. The PTO has always been a wonderful supporter of the New Milford Public Schools both in volunteer hours and donations. Last year alone, the PTO donated over \$130,000 to our schools! This year, the Northville Elementary School PTO, in particular, is looking to continue that volunteer tradition through an increase in “manpower” hours.

NES is focusing on finding not just volunteers – but male volunteers - this year. It all started last March when this year's Co-President Tammy McInerney volunteered her husband Todd to assist in their March Madness event. Next up PTO volunteer Jatanna Winkender signed up her husband Wyatt. And not to be outdone, Jon Seidman got added to that volunteer list by his wife Robyn.

T-shirts were made and the guys wore them proudly! The shirts say NORTHVILLE PTO DAD on the front, and “IT'S NOT JUST A MOM THING” on the back. The men held their own during March Madness and instead of running for the hills, they wanted to sign up for more! Jon Seidman volunteered at this year's open house and says “It's great to be in the building and be involved. My daughter is in 1st grade; she is at the age where I'm still cool. I'll hang out and help out as long as I can, when I can... until she gets to the age where having me around is embarrassing. Then I'll volunteer even more!”



A week later, Co-President Robyn Seidman was approached in the grocery store by a Dad. He too wanted to take part in PTO. He saw the t-shirts and realized that surely, it isn't just a Mom thing. Robyn says: “We aren't trying to break down any gender role walls here. We're just trying to remind parents that the PTO membership is a family membership – and that includes Dad! We love the idea of having a Dad's perspective at our events. Maybe their presence will change some of the activities we do. Maybe they can get the kids more involved. Maybe they can just give Mom a night off! No matter what, it's awesome to see a Dad taking an active role in the PTO. My husband works from home, so he does have the ability to assist at events during the day, but even Dads who work outside of the home can help out in the evenings or on weekends.”

Northville PTO is extremely excited to be welcoming more dads into the fold. Who knows, maybe other New Milford schools will soon see an increase in “manpower” as well?

**New Milford Public Schools
Superintendent Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote
Announces Retirement**



At their September 8, 2015 meeting, the New Milford Board of Education regrettably accepted Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote's notice of her intention to retire effective January 31, 2016 as Superintendent of the New Milford Public Schools. Board Chair Angela C. Chastain subsequently sent a letter to parents and staff in which she offered the following praise for Dr. Paddyfote's over 35 years of service to New Milford:

On behalf of the New Milford Board of Education I would like to thank Dr. Paddyfote for her leadership. Dr. Paddyfote has given New Milford Public Schools 110% and has always been available 24/7. She arrives early, stays late, answers emails and returns phone calls on weekends and holidays, and has successfully guided New Milford Public Schools as Superintendent for the last 13 years. Her given tasks have not always been easy; she has persevered through several difficult budget years, and most recently, the reconfiguration of our K-8 schools, of which I've heard nothing but positive reports! Under Dr. Paddyfote's leadership, the district has begun such innovative initiatives as all-day kindergarten, Project Lead the Way for students in grades 6-12, implementation of curriculum coaches to improve test scores and rigor for all our students, and technology improvements including district-wide wireless internet and SMART Boards in all classrooms - just to name a few.

Dr. Paddyfote has had a long and distinguished career at New Milford Public Schools. She first joined New Milford Public Schools in 1980 as Director of Pupil Personnel as has been Superintendent since 2002. We send her best wishes for her retirement.

**SUPERINTENDENT
SEARCH**

The New Milford Board of Education is committed to conducting a thorough search to identify Dr. Paddyfote's successor. Additional information will be forthcoming and updates are available on the district website under the ["Superintendent Search"](#) button.



New Milford Public Schools

50 East Street
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Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote
Superintendent

Mr. Joshua Smith
Deputy Superintendent

Ms. Ellamae Baldelli
Human Resources Director

Mr. John Calhoun
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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Love Note Day!

September 26, 2015

The practice of writing and sending love letters has a long and illustrious history. Famous romantics like Lord Byron and William Shakespeare penned sonnets and odes, and inspired generations to do the same.

A love note is any written expression of emotion addressed to a loved one. It can be short or long, formal or casual, poetry or prose. In Germany, love notes are delicately painted by hand on high quality paper and are considered folk art.

Write a note to someone you love. Tell them why they're important to you, why you admire them, and how much you love them. Love Note Day can be for any family member or for long-time friends, too. It's the perfect day to make someone feel appreciated through just a few heartfelt words.

Then send your letter in the mail. Hand it to them in person. Hide it somewhere you know they'll find it.
You are sure to make someone's day!

Did You Know?

The oldest surviving love letter in the English language dates back to 1477! Called the Valentine's Day love letter, the note was written by Margery Brews to her fiancé John Pasto.

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.

September 26, 2015