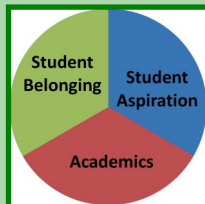




New Milford Public Schools  
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New Milford, CT 06776  
860-355-8406  
[www.newmilfordps.org](http://www.newmilfordps.org)



#### New Milford High School

860-350-6647

Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal  
Mrs. Liz Curtis, Asst. Principal  
Mrs. 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. Patricia Corvello, Interim Principal  
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Asst. Principal



#### Northville Elementary School

860-355-3713

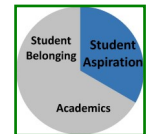
Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal  
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal

# Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 9, Issue 5

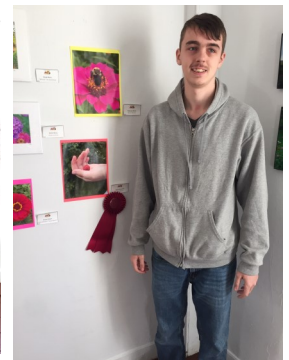
November 2018

## Students Shine in Photography Contest



The Litchfield Hills Transition Center (LHTC) is a New Milford Public Schools' program that provides mandated services to eligible students 18 to 21 years old. As part of the program, students learn vocational services. This year, our LHTC students have been working at the Judea Gardens in Washington as a jobsite, during spring planting and the fall harvest season.

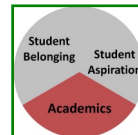
In September, many of our students and staff entered a photography contest designed to highlight the Garden. Photographers were asked to submit images that reflect the beauty and the mission of Judea Garden, which grows organic produce for members of the surrounding community with limited means. Four categories were available for submission: Adult Black and White, Adult Color, Fourteen and Under Black and White and Fourteen and Under Color. The photographs were judged for first, second and third place in each category. Thirty-six images by students and adults were submitted for judging.



Litchfield Hills Transition Center teacher Roxanne Kraft encouraged her students to participate. "I thought the contest was a perfect way to engage our students with the outdoors and tap into their creativity. The students enjoyed their photographing of the Garden and then the final work of selecting, naming and matting the photos." The efforts paid off as LHTC students and co-teacher Ashley Vinhateiro were awarded ribbons. Congratulations to Ms. Vinhateiro and students Michael Sauer and Marc Belansky. For more photos visit:

<http://www.steeprocksassoc.org/photography-exhibit/>

## Idiom Day Returns to SNIS



The 5th annual Idiom Day took place at Sarah Noble Intermediate School on October 31st. All fourth grade classes participate in this event, as students dress up to provide a visual illustration of their exploration of this figurative language. The idiom (as defined by Merriam-Webster) is an expression that cannot be understood from the meanings of its separate words but that has a separate meaning of its own. Ever heard the expression “biting off more than you can chew” or “hitting the nail on the head”? Pictured are just a few examples of the idiom in action. Take a look at the list below and see if you can spot them in the students (and staff) pictured.

- Made of money
- Copy cat
- Eyes in the back of my head
- Smarty pants
- I’m all ears
- Break a leg
- Frog in my throat
- Head in the clouds
- Social butterfly
- Hold your horses
- Raining cats and dogs
- Take a shot
- On thin ice
- Skeletons in my closet
- This place is a zoo



## NES Chemistry Day

For the last few years, NMPS parent Wyatt Winkenwerder and his colleagues from Azko Nobel have provided a Chemistry Day experience for NES K-2 students. Three different stations are set up to demonstrate chemical reactions. As the photos show, the volunteers really got into their roles as “mad scientists” and the students found the demonstrations truly awesome and exciting!





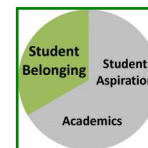
## HPS Students Take a Field Trip to Town Hall

New Milford Town Hall employees are promoting healthy eating for themselves and the community. To that end, they have installed a Tower Garden in the main lobby of Town Hall which will provide them with healthy vegetables. Mayor Pete



Bass and Personnel Director Gregory Bollaro reached out to NMPS to see if there was a class interested in partnering with them on the project. Mrs. Mannion's HPS first grade class happily volunteered.

Mrs. Mannion says, "We grew seeds in our classroom, and then once they sprouted, we brought them to Town Hall to plant in the Tower Garden. The students were thrilled to place their plants in the garden." Interim Superintendent Steve Tracy attended to watch the planting, and joined the class for a tour of Town Hall guided by Mayor Bass.



In addition, Mrs. Mannion's class is borrowing a Tower Garden for three months to have on site at HPS. Mrs. Mannion reports that the class is very excited to see what they can grow and eat in their own classroom. "I so appreciate the Town reaching out to involve the students in the community," says Mrs. Mannion. "I see a sense of importance in building relationships in the Town. You never know what it may inspire in these little ones!"



## Students and Staff Active in Community Service

This is the time of year where we traditionally pause to give thanks. One of the things we are thankful for in the New Milford Public Schools is the generosity of our students and staff. Community service projects take place every year all year long and this year is no exception. In the spirit of the season, we spotlight just a few examples below.



HPS students Making a Difference through donations of goods and food to Social Services

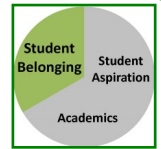


SNIS students wearing pink and raising funds for breast cancer awareness



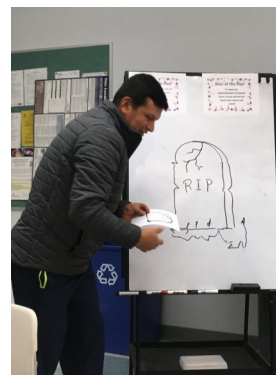
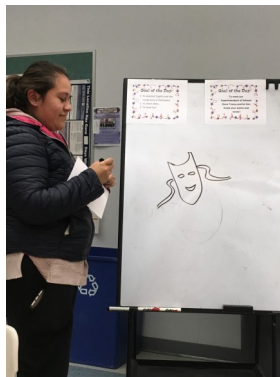
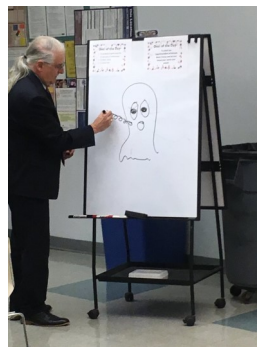
NMHS Field Hockey representing Julia's Wings (aplastic anemia) at the Kent Pumpkin Run

## Halloween Pictionary with Adult Education ESL



New Milford Adult Education students who are studying English as their second language were pleased to welcome Interim Superintendent Steve Tracy as a guest at their October community meeting. Dr. Tracy asked about their children's experiences within the New Milford Public Schools and they had the opportunity in turn to ask questions and voice their thoughts.

Community meetings provide an opportunity for students to practice conversation, new vocabulary, and other skills learned in the classroom. Every month is something different and a chance for all levels to get together and participate in their learning journey. The October community meeting provided vocabulary practice with a Halloween theme. Dr. Tracy even joined the group for a little Pictionary fun.



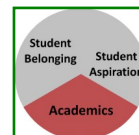
ESL (English as a Second Language) is a free program to assist foreign speaking immigrants and workers, 18 years and older, who want to learn more about the community and United States; need to improve job skills for job advancement; want to take an active role in their children's education; and who need to become comfortable and more fluent in English. Each class includes speaking, listening, reading, writing, vocabulary development, and grammar instruction.

New Milford Adult Education offers a day program in Conversational ESL and three evening programs: two levels of ESL study and a course in US Government and Citizenship. Christy Martin, Adult Education Facilitator, says "The program has helped students obtain skills that have led to employment, become more involved with the community, and last year, helped eight students earn their US Citizenship."



## Coaching to Support Instruction

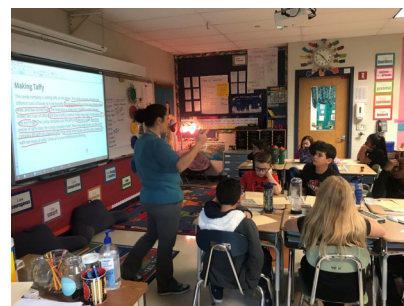
The November 6th Committee on Learning meeting featured a presentation on the role of instructional coaches in the district. Assistant Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo and the district's coaches shared information on their overall role and some day to day specifics in their partnership with our district teachers.



New Milford Public Schools has one district-wide data coach, two math and two literacy coaches (one of each for SNIS and one shared by NES and HPS), and a humanities coach for SMS. The primary role for all coaches is to provide support in their specific area of expertise to the everyday classroom teacher who often wears many hats covering a variety of disciplines. Coaches work one on one with teachers, attend PLC (Professional Learning Community) meetings, and host professional develop-

ment by grade level or for the whole school. They assist teachers in their classrooms too, as co-teachers, or to demonstrate best practice in an area.

“Coaches also have the advantage of being able to look at district-wide program structures to see student progression from grade to grade,” says Assistant Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo. “This in turn can help inform their work with individual teacher pace and instruction. In all cases, the coach is there to support teacher and student success through better planning, instruction, and implementation of curriculum.”



## Alaska Expedition in the Spotlight

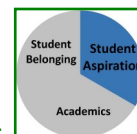
The April 2018 *Spotlight on New Milford Schools* reported on the upcoming summer adventures of NMPS teachers who had been awarded study grants through the non-profit corporation Fund For Teachers. Among the lucky grant recipients were NMHS Science teachers Katie Gardner and Robin Barboza-Josephson. Their summer exploration of Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and Denali National Park was so successful that Fund For Teachers chose to highlight them on their national website and social media accounts.



They wanted to demonstrate the real-life work of scientists in the realm of ecology.

“This is quite an honor”, say Katie and Robin. “We are super excited to have our trip recognized and part of their permanent blog. It was truly a trip of a lifetime and an extremely valuable resource that we have already referenced in our classrooms on multiple occasions.” Visit the Fund For Teachers website [here](#) for a quick peek at their adventures.

## NMHS Athletic Hall of Fame Welcomes New Inductees

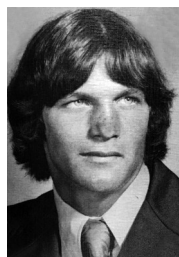


The NMHS Athletic Hall of Fame welcomed twelve new inductees at its second annual banquet held October 27, 2018 at the Fairview Farm Golf Course in Harwinton, CT. The well attended event paid homage to outstanding Green Wave athletes representing a span of 65 years.

The 2018 Class honored the late Alfred “Sonny” Zaloski (Class of 1947), Bryan Riley (1975), Maggie Rinaldi-Chappuis (1980), Trey Lavalette (1982), John McCafferty (1983), Louis Heaton (1984), the late John Ndukwu (1984), Alexis Thompson Kleinhans (1990), Morgan Brady Degan (1997), Jeanna Bradle Freeman (2006), Meghan Johnson Lyon (2008) and Conor Kirkegard (2012).



Alfred “Sonny”  
Zaloski



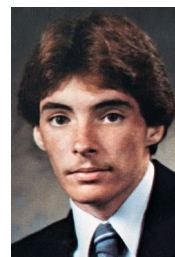
Bryan  
Riley



Maggie  
Rinaldi-Chappuis



Trey  
Lavalette



John  
McCafferty



Louis  
Heaton



John  
Ndukwu



Alexis  
Thompson  
Kleinhans



Morgan  
Brady  
Degan



Jeanna  
Bradle  
Freeman



Meghan  
Johnson  
Lyon



Conor  
Kirkegard

These distinguished athletes join inaugural AHOF inductees Joseph Wiser, a legendary coach and athletic director, and iconic coaches Fran Zaloski (field hockey, basketball, softball and more) and the late Russell Devin (track & field, cross country), as well as the late Fred Collins (Class of 1933), Howard “Pete” Pease (1962), Peter Squires (1970), Mary Schneider (1979), Laura Doria (1986), Jamie McCullough (1991), Jesse McCullough (1991), Rob Belville (2000) and Ashley O’Connor (2010).

Interim Superintendent Stephen Tracy complimented Hall of Fame President Norm Cummings and the event organizers on an outstanding program. “What a powerful tribute to these fine athletes and to the role that Green Wave sports have played in inspiring our town’s young people over the years” he noted. “With all of the family members and former teammates on hand, it was a wonderful evening of reunion and reminiscence.”

*The NMHS Athletic Hall of Fame is sited at the high school. More inductees are expected to be announced in the spring of 2019. For more information, an in-depth look at all 24 inductees and more photos, visit [nmhsahof.org](http://nmhsahof.org) or email [nmhsahof2017@gmail.com](mailto:nmhsahof2017@gmail.com).*



# Veterans ★ Day ★

Thank you for your courage,  
dedication, and hard work.  
And thanks to the military  
families for their support,  
resilience, and sacrifice.



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



**Samantha Gati-Tisi  
Jenna Giudice  
Nicole Heering  
Margaret Jones  
Colleen Peterson  
Jennifer (Missy) Smith**



Special congratulations to Margaret Jones who will drive the  
Ingersoll Auto of Danbury NMPS courtesy car.

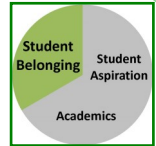
Don't forget to visit the district website to [submit your staff nomination](#).



## Building Bridges through NAMES



This month, all sophomore students at NMHS attended the *NAMES* program, a dynamic day-long presentation facilitated by the Anti-Defamation League. This program has been held annually for the last 17 years. It is designed so that participants gain a working understanding of diversity issues, the harm caused by prejudice and discrimination, and their own power to have an impact on others. This year's theme was "building bridges" and focused on building connections with fellow students.



NMHS counselor Rob Nathan and a few of the student facilitators shared a brief summary with the Board at the November meeting. Mr. Nathan introduced students Tiffany Dessureau, Bridget Fedigan and Alyssa Lombardo who said they became facilitators and panelists after being inspired by the program as sophomores. The initiative continues for juniors in the *Fight Against Hate* program.



**Congratulations to the NMHS Marching Band and Color Guard named USBands Group 6A CT State Champions! First time honors for New Milford.**




**New Milford Public Schools**

50 East Street  
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**Dr. Stephen Tracy**  
Interim 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

**Mrs. Sandra Sullivan**  
Food Services Director

**Board of Education**

**Mr. David A. Lawson**  
Chairperson

**Mrs. Tammy McInerney**  
Vice Chairperson

**Mrs. Angela C. Chastain**  
Secretary

**Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan**  
Assistant Secretary

**Mr. Bill Dahl**

**Mr. Joseph Failla**

**Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach**

**Mr. Brian McCauley**

**Mr. J.T. Schemm**

**National Child Safety  
and Protection Month**


The [National Institute of Health's website MedlinePlus](#) offers several resources in the area of child safety, starting with basic common sense reminders such as:

- ◆ Installing the right child safety seat in your car
- ◆ Teaching children how to cross the street safely
- ◆ Making sure children wear the right gear and equipment for sports
- ◆ Installing and testing smoke alarms
- ◆ Storing medicines, cleaners and other dangerous substances in locked cabinets

There are numerous links to other topics such as first aid, general home and playground safety, and to specific suggestions such as choosing the right backpack for your child.

You can also narrow your search by your child's age or the season. Right now, you can check out "Winter Safety Tips" and "Making the Holidays Safe".



Consider bookmarking the site since new links are added frequently.

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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.