



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 Chmielewski, Asst. Principal
 Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal
 Dr. Len Tomasello, Transition Admin.



Sarah Noble Intermediate School
 860-210-4020

Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal
 Mrs. Emily Gervasio, 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

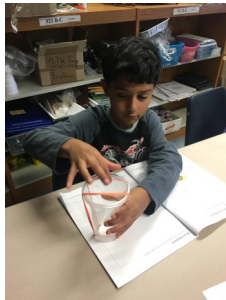
Volume 7, Issue 6

December 2016

Science Enrichment and PLTW Pathways Continue Growth

The district's science enrichment and Project Lead The Way (PLTW) programs continue to offer students opportunities for exploration and growth.

Science enrichment teacher Susan Brofford is in her second year providing services to elementary and intermediate students. Mrs. Brofford teaches classes at Hill & Plain and Northville elementary schools as well as at Sarah Noble Intermediate School. We asked Mrs. Brofford to tell us what students have been studying so far. As you will see, it has been a busy start to the year.



At Hill & Plain and Northville, first grade groups are currently investigating the properties of light and sound, including vibration from sound waves and the effect of different materials on the path of a beam of light. After students develop an understanding of light and sound, they are challenged to solve a design problem of how to communicate over a distance by using light and/or sound. Students use the design process to sketch, build,

test, and reflect on their device. In second grade, groups are working on Materials Science. Students investigate and classify different kinds of materials by their observable properties, including color and texture. They learn about states of matter and properties of materials including insulators and conductors. In the design problem they will be challenged to keep ice pops cold – without a cooler. Students will apply their knowledge and skills to determine the best material to solve this design problem and then evaluate how their designs might be improved.



At Sarah Noble Intermediate School, third graders are working on Forces and Motion. Students are exploring simple machines such as wheel and axles, levers, the inclined plane, and more. They're investigating the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces on the motion of an object. Third graders have also completed visits to the Planetarium. In fourth grade, participants are exploring Energy Collisions. Students explore the properties of



mechanisms and how they change energy by transferring direction, speed, type of movement, and force. Students discover a variety of ways potential energy can be stored and released as kinetic energy. They explain the relationship between the speed of an object and the energy of that object, as well as predict the transfer of energy as a result of a collision between two objects. Fifth grade robot-

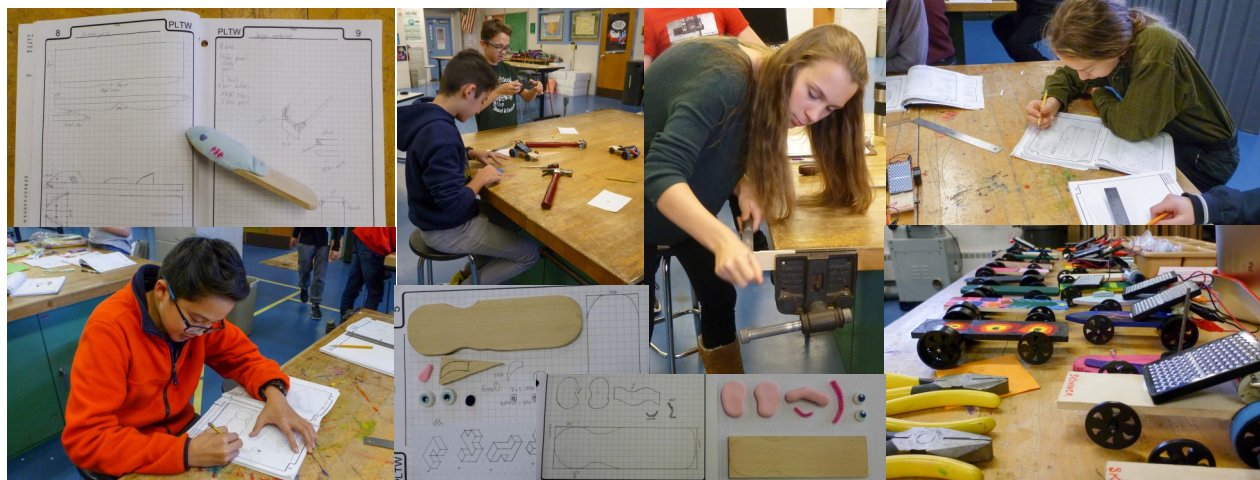
ics students are exploring the ways robots are used in today's world and their impact on society and the environment. Students are learning about a variety of robotic components as they build and test mobile robots that may be controlled remotely. Fifth grade students are also visiting the planetarium as they cover the solar system and stars. Throughout the month of December, SNIS students are participating in the annual Hour of Code too.



In addition, Mrs. Brofford says "Project Lead the Way Launch enrichment courses are ongoing in grades 1-5. All groups are working on problem-based learning activities and exploring how engineers solve problems in the real world. Students are learning that failure is an option and actually helps us design things that work better!"

Now in its second full year, the middle school PLTW program is in full swing as well. SMS Technology teacher Ms. Karyn Skinner says "Students in all seventh and eighth grade classes have been exploring the engineering design process, game design, AutoCad, and reverse engineering. Hands-on projects and 1:1 technology have been key factors in their exposure to the Project Lead the Way course."

Students in this year's Project Lead the Way eighth grade classes have worked hard at learning how to communicate their design concepts visually. With sketching practice and understanding of types of sketching they are able to quickly and effectively transform their ideas into a product. Working on thumbnail, perspective, and isometric sketching has given these students several different ways to work efficiently. Building small structures from a set of supplies, rendering three-dimensional game cubes, and redesigning solar powered cars have been the focuses the first half of the year.

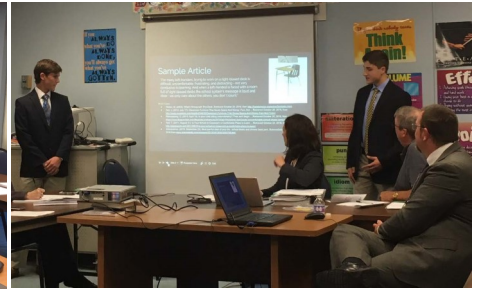


New Milford High School PLTW teacher Mrs. Erin Lucia says the high school PLTW program, which began in 2012, continues to grow steadily. “The physical NMHS PLTW wing is evolving. Over the summer NMPS Facility and Technology departments did a wonderful job adding windows between a classroom and the new Makerspace. This space is home to the program’s laser engraver, 3D printer, 3D scanner, and general workshop materials. Computers were moved into the adjacent classroom to provide improved student work spaces.” Academically, Mrs. Lucia is very pleased to report that New Milford High School PLTW students are now earning college credit and transcripts directly from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in addition to the University of New Haven.



The NMHS PLTW Community Partnership Team held its annual meeting at the John J. McCarthy Observatory (JJMO) this fall. The Team welcomed a new partner, Vision Engineering, in New Milford. Community partners that have continued their involvement with the PLTW program are JJMO, Kimberly Clark, Pitney Bowes, and Robotics and Beyond. Both Kimberly Clark and Vision Engineering will be accepting students for job shadowing opportunities this coming year. Engineers from these partners will also offer mentorship to Engineering Design and Development (EDD) students as well as offer career discussions in classes.

Students in this year’s EDD capstone class presented their initial project proposals to the Committee on Learning at its November meeting. PLTW teacher Mr. Brad Jones says as a culmination of their training, students in this senior level class must identify an issue and then research, design, and test a solution, ultimately presenting their solution to a panel of engineers. The students’ presentation of initial project proposals at Committee on Learning was the first of three required formal presentations. The power point presentations described the students’ idea for a prototype, current patents for similar items on which the students plan to improve, and the market research they have done. As part of the project, students also develop a marketing brochure and keep an engineering binder of research and development. As Mr. Jones stated “This is the closest a course can come to actually duplicating professional work.” The Committee heard presentations from several students:



- ◆ PLTW student James Kane described his idea for an improved oil splatter guard which he believes will greatly improve on existing models with a few innovations.
- ◆ Students Darius Baker and Michael Carroll presented their idea for a portable power pack which looks at combining solar, wind, and hand crank power for a portable charger for people living off the grid.

- ◆ Students Matt Adamou and Tommy Schneider call their project the U-Desk. They are seeking to redesign a student desk to make it comfortable for right or left hand students and to improve the comfort of the seat and back support.
- ◆ Students Devin Collentine and Codie Holick are designing a car coin sorter which will use a digital display and dispenser and hopefully cut down on distracted driving.
- ◆ Students Cesar Gavilano and Kurt Jonke call their project a Tail Pipe Turbine. They are seeking to capture the excess energy not used by cars, and more specifically motorcycles, to power a plug-in device to be used for device charging. They visited local motorcycle dealers the week before their presentation and were encouraged to be told that there would be a big market for their product if they are successful with its creation.

The Committee was very impressed by the professionalism of the students and with their ideas and wished them much success going forward. Mr. Jones said students will also present in March at the CT Science and Engineering Fair, and in May at an as yet to be determined venue.

SMS Students Create With Recyclables

This fall, a group of Schaghticoke Middle School students entered a contest titled [Made By Milk](#). According to SMS Grade 6 teacher Mrs. Amy Marsan, participants had to decide on and create a sculpture for the carton construction contest's invention theme using only recycled milk cartons, in this case from the SMS cafeteria. Once the student group agreed on a design, these would-be engineers worked diligently to construct their idea, which they labeled "The London Bridge". Over one hundred recycled milk cartons were manipulated, inserted or flattened, cut and/or painted to fit into the three dimensional model of a bridge. A gear was rigged to allow the bridge to open and close. All the designing and engineering was completed by students after school for one to two times a week in about a month.



Mrs. Marsan says, "The best part of this project was seeing students work incredibly well together to create their vision. The not so great part was the sour smell of less fortunate milk cartons (but we did not let that stop us). A special shout-out to the fun and creative students who made this happen, to the staff members who each played an important assisting role (Ms. Seewald, Ms. Skinner and Ms. Zimmitti), and to the support of SMS administrators Dr. Longo and Dr. Tomasello and parents."

The SMS team, who call themselves the Black Hole Bessies, submitted photos along with a written essay explaining what makes their creation unique to the contest judges in hopes of winning the contest's \$5,000 grand prize. School staff took to the twitter universe to encourage voting for the entry as the "People's Choice" award. Winning schools will be notified in the beginning of January. Fingers crossed!

BOE Approves New Courses and Curricula

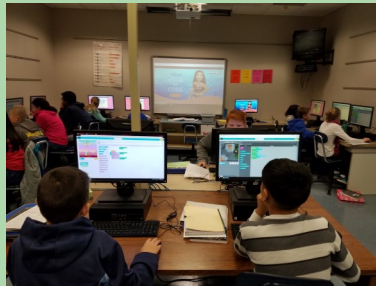
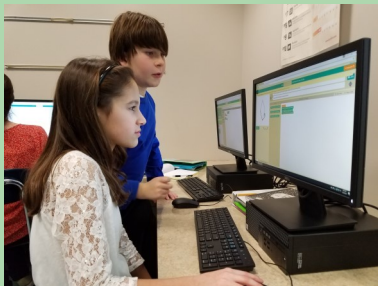
The November Committee on Learning meeting included presentations of two new classes and several revised curricula. These courses were subsequently approved by the Board of Education at its December 13, 2016 regular meeting.

AP Human Geography and AP Environmental Science

These new Advanced Placement courses tend to appeal to both traditional and non-traditional AP students and will offer another avenue for more students to be exposed to a college level course in high school so as to get a taste of college expectations and pace.

NMHS Social Studies teacher Mrs. Suzanne Andrews says the AP Human Geography course will stress real world applications. Students will look at such things as how the actual land has effected civilization over time and how we as people affect the land. Topics will include migration and political struggles, population trends, cultural patterns, climate change, food production and urban land use.

Mrs. Sara Del Mastro, NMHS Science Department Chair, says the focus in this course is on environmental issues and the science behind them. The course will include a true science lab component. Mrs. Del Mastro said the budget for the course will include funds for transportation so that students can take field trips to experiment with resources in their natural setting, for example through water quality testing. She said the area around New Milford provides many local possibilities for exploration.



SMS 6th graders participate in annual Hour of Code event

Sixth Grade Digital Citizenship

Seventh Grade Introduction to Computer Applications

Eighth Grade Intermediate Computer Applications

SMS Technology teacher Mrs. Jennifer Morrison said sixth graders have the Digital Citizenship class once every six days for the year. Students begin with a study of copyright and social media usage with the theme of digital citizenship. Their second semester focuses on keyboarding skills. In seventh grade, students have Introduction to Computer Applications twice every six days for the year. The course features an introduction to word processing and to spreadsheets. A class newspaper is the final project for the first semester unit. Second semester focuses on coding applications. Mrs. Morrison said there are many different options offered here due to individual student background and experience with coding.

The end goal is to use coding for the creation of a project. In eighth grade's Intermediate Computer Applications course, the focus is on publications. Students are exposed to Publisher and Google tools and must create a brochure of some kind based on interest. Second semester includes a unit on data, including what kinds of data is collected and what businesses do with it. Students complete an independent study as a final project which may involve such things as photo editing or virtual reality. As a final piece, students must make a tutorial as part of the project to teach others what they have learned.

Introduction to Computer Programming and AP Computer Science

NMHS Business teacher Mrs. Shana Bergonzelli-Graham said these high school courses build on the middle school foundation. The Introductory course offers a gentle introduction to programming which is meant to engage student interest in further study in the advanced AP Computer Science course. She stressed how important she thinks it is to foster student interest in this field as there are so many opportunities for future growth.

English I: College Prep and Honors

NMHS English Department Chair Ms. Kathy DelMonico said this course has been redesigned, separating units by genre for organization. Students start with the short story and focus on reading and presentation. The course offers a choice of texts for students and teachers while using common assessments for all.

English II: College Prep and Honors

NMHS English teachers Mr. Jeffrey Bronn and Mrs. Jen LaCava summarized this sophomore curriculum which has been revised to include more challenge and diversity in its four major units. Teachers have a choice of several texts for each unit, allowing for individual interest and differentiation. Mrs. LaCava said there is also quite a bit of non-fiction study included as well.

English III: College Prep and Honors

English teacher Ms. Julia Rose said this junior curriculum focuses on American literature and it has been revised to include more diversity and a digital literacy piece. Ms. DelMonico said there is a strong use of primary documents in the course as well.

Literature & Media Studies

Ms. DelMonico said this is a brand new senior level course that was approved last year. The course will include student "reading" of text and film to analyze how text is adapted and interpreted for film. Technology will be an integral part of the course base which will culminate with students producing their own film.

Architectural Drafting I

NMHS Assistant Principal Mr. Eric Williams said this is a revision of a full year course. The first semester is focused on hand drawing of plans. The second semester moves on to computer assisted AUTO CAD.

NMHS Students Attend Regional Conferences

Student Athletes attend CIAC Sportsmanship Conference

In November, a group of New Milford High School student athletes attended the annual Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) Sportsmanship Conference. The nine student athletes are all members of the school's Athletic Council Club and were recommended for attendance by advisors Mr. Keith Lipinsky, Mr. Giles Vaughan, and Mr. Daryl Daniels. This year's CIAC Sportsmanship Conference focused on the unveiling of the CIAC's new *Class Act Schools* initiative for sportsmanship. As described by the CIAC:



This initiative is designed to empower schools, and particularly students, to take ownership for all issues related to sportsmanship within their Athletics department. Schools will have the opportunity to opt-in as an official Class Act School. Doing so includes striving to follow an established set of guidelines for behavior at sporting events, and creating a student-led group to monitor and address sportsmanship concerns within the school. The CIAC will serve as the sponsor for the program, which aims to provide a framework enabling schools to promote, encourage, and monitor positive sportsmanship within their departments.

The behavioral guidelines that are part of the *Class Act Schools* program were developed through collaboration and discussion with students, coaches and athletic directors at previous CIAC Sportsmanship Conferences and are intended to create a consistent framework for acceptable behavior from all athletic stakeholders including participants, coaches, students, and parents.

“One of the biggest challenges our membership has expressed to us in trying to promote positive sportsmanship is consistency. Actions that one school might not object to are considered inappropriate at another school,” CAS-CIAC Executive Director Karissa Niehoff stated. “By choosing to be a part of the program a school is defining what is considered acceptable actions within interscholastic athletics, and then challenging its student leaders to address concerns either within their school or with an opponent.”

New Milford will be joining other schools to sign on as a *Class Act School*. To see a listing of current school members and the adopted behavioral guidelines for players, coaches, game personnel/announcers and spectators visit the [CIAC website](#).

NMHS DECA Takes Power Trip to Washington D.C.

Members of the New Milford High School DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) Club traveled with advisors to Washington D.C. in November to attend the regional DECA based Power Trip Conference held there. The weekend was packed with leadership development, college preparation, career exploration and professional development. During their stay, students attended workshops to help prepare them for the upcoming state competition in March and to gain real life experiences on succeeding in the business world. The conference provided a wonderful opportunity for students to mingle with other students as it attracted more than 1,200 student leaders from over 26 states.



The Washington D.C. setting enabled NMHS DECA students to tour well-known monuments including the Washington Monument, the White House, Lincoln Memorial, Theodore Roosevelt Memorial and Arlington Cemetery just to name a few. Advisor and NMHS Business teacher Mrs. Deb Knipple tweeted regularly during the trip. To see highlights, check out twitter at [#nmhsdecatakesondc](https://twitter.com/nmhsdecatakesondc). To see more about the NMHS DECA group, follow Mrs. Knipple [@MrsKnipple_DECA](https://twitter.com/MrsKnipple_DECA).

NMHS FBLA Students Attend National Fall Leadership Conference

DECA students weren't the only ones taking a trip this fall. Members of the NMHS FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) Club journeyed to Dallas in November to attend a national conference titled "A Legacy of Leadership". Students and advisor NMHS Business teacher Mrs. Janice Perrone participated in motivational general sessions, professional development, and career planning workshops.

Students could choose from several session topics including: 10 Things Every Student Needs to Know to Succeed, The Do's and Don'ts of Public Speaking, Interview Skills, Teamwork, and Entrepreneurship, among others. The event even offered one-on-one resume critique. While attending official FBLA activities, all attendees were required to wear professional business attire.

It wasn't all work and no play though. Social events included a Blue Jeans for Babies Dance Saturday night where the \$5 entrance donation benefited the March of Dimes. NMHS students also found time to take in a few of the local sites including a stop for Dallas barbecue.





Congratulations to the New Milford Public School “Stars” for the month of December!



**Karen Brenneke
Carrie Kelly
Jane Loormann
James Mattia
Anthony Nocera
Dyane Rizzo**

Special congratulations to **Carrie Kelly** who will drive the Ingersoll Auto of Danbury NMPS courtesy car for the month.

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



SNIS Teacher named Outstanding New Professional



Congratulations to SNIS Physical Education teacher **Deirdre Burke** who received the **Outstanding New Professional Award for 2016** from the Connecticut Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CTAHPERD). This annual award is given to outstanding health, physical education, recreation or dance educators who have excelled in the profession by making exemplary contributions to their workplace and

community. Recipients demonstrate passion, commitment and skill in their teaching, model a healthy, active lifestyle, serve as a role model for students, staff and the community at-large, and demonstrate involvement in their learning community. Way to go Deirdre!



SNIS Students Meet Marine Pen Pal

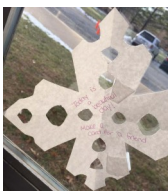


Students in Mrs. Persico's SNIS third grade class were thrilled to get a visit this November from their pen pal. Mrs. Persico said students had been corresponding with her stepdaughter Elena since September when she entered Marine boot camp. "Elena had just left for the 13-week camp. I knew she would need some encouragement and I thought having my students write letters would tie nicely into our curriculum with letter writing, discussions about team work, and character traits. All the students' letters were very

encouraging. Elena kept all the letters and pictures my students wrote her in her footlocker. She loved how the students befriended her right away and drew pictures of her with them and wrote inspiring notes about not giving up, persevering through this difficult time, and having a growth mindset. One student wrote how she needed to train her brain and try different strategies when her boot camp got tough. One student even told her to have fun in the Army! The students were really interested if she had made friends and had a nickname. Elena was able to write to the whole class and answer their questions in her letters."

Students were very excited to hear that Elena, now a PFC Marine, was coming to visit. Mrs. Persico says they loved meeting Elena in person and all had fantastic questions to ask. The question that Elena loved answering the most was when Cheyenne asked her if she was proud of her accomplishments. Elena replied, "Yes, I am very proud. I wanted nothing more than to be a U.S. Marine and I accomplished that goal." Elena's advice to the class was to dream as big as you want and believe that anything is possible if you put your mind and heart into the journey.

Kindness On Display



It's snowing in Ms. Carr's Kindergarten class at HPS and the flakes are coming with special messages of kindness. Ms. Carr says, "As one of our class rules, we have been working on showing kindness to our friends, our teachers and our parents. In this winter season, we have been receiving snowflakes from the North Pole complete with messages of how the children can be kind each day. Each morning the class is excited to see that a new snowflake has landed on our window. The children spend each day working hard on our act of kindness. I then post the snowflake on our Twitter timeline so that the parents can continue to work on this act of kindness at home. The children are loving spreading kindness each day."

The Northville Elementary School community came together to "Kickoff Kindness." The school was alerted to a need for donations at the New Milford Food Bank. Over the course of a week,



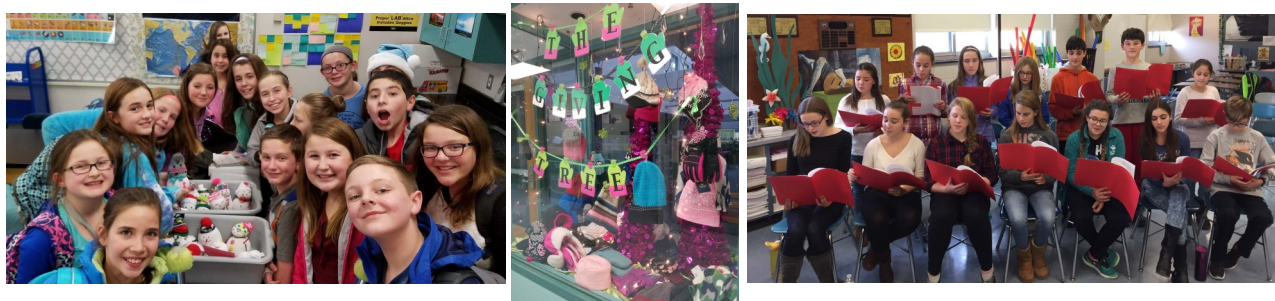
the children came in with over 950 items for the families in need. Together with School Resource Officer Scarcella, the students filled a police cruiser with all the kind donations that were delivered to the New Milford Food Bank. NES also proudly displayed their giving tree, which spreads warmth from head to toe for New Milford Social services.



SNIS has several grade level kindness projects going on this year. In Grade 5 this month, students and staff participated in the New Milford Social Services Santa Fund project. Mrs. Kivela speaks for all the classes when she says, “My class loved the Santa project. My students were so proud to be able to ‘adopt’ a little boy, raise funds, and make Christmas happen for him!” The SNIS Grade 5 elves worked hard wrapping presents before posing for pictures with their completed gifts.

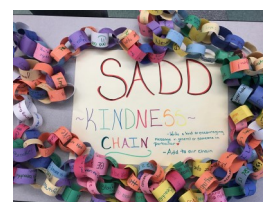


At SMS, students are showing kindness in many ways including donations of winter wear to the SMS Giving Tree, a visit by the SMS chorus to Candlewood Valley Health and Rehab and Leo Club’s decorative snowmen for New Milford Hospital.



Kindness is also on display at NMHS. Mrs. Keane’s Child Development students are “lighting each other’s lives up with kindness”. Says Mrs. Keane, “Each day during this month of December when students come into class they write something kind about another one of their classmates to add to a string of paper lights. The decoration brightens up the room and the kind words offered brighten up the students’ day.”

SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) students have also created a kindness chain for the high school’s cafeteria. Students could write something kind about anyone and it was added to the chain. The chain will be hung in the café for the rest of the semester as a visual reminder that NMHS students have compassion for each other.



Don't miss
the
2017

New Milford High School All-School Musical



Friday, March 17—7:00 PM

Saturday, March 18—7:00 PM

Sunday, March 19—3:00 PM

Friday, March 24—7:00 PM

Saturday, March 25—2:00 PM

Saturday, March 25—7:00 PM

Tickets available as of January 3rd.

Visit the box office or call 860-350-6647 ext 1552



New Milford Public Schools

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

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Assistant Superintendent

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A New Year is Right Around the Corner

In the spirit of the season here's a few interesting ways the New Year is celebrated across the globe:*

China: The front door of the house is painted in red which symbolizes happiness and good fortune.

Brazil: Brazilians believe that lentils signify wealth and prosperity so they serve food items made up of the legume like soup or rice on the New Year.

Wales: In Wales, during midnight, at the initial bell toll, the back door of the house is first opened and then immediately shut. This symbolizes releasing the old year and locking out all the bad luck it brought. At the final toll of the bell, the door is re-opened to welcome the New Year with all its goodness, luck and prosperity.

Japan: The faithful wear a costume of the next year's zodiac animal (in 2017: the rooster) to the local temple, where bells chime a sacred 108 times.

Norway: People prepare a symbolic dish of rice pudding with an almond in it. The pudding is sweet in taste, and eating it is believed to confer one with a sweet year ahead. Whoever gets the hidden almond in the rice pudding is considered to have an extra lucky year ahead.

Colombia: Hoping for a travel-filled year, residents tote empty suitcases around the block.

Denmark: Revelers stand on chairs and then jump off them together at midnight. Leaping into January is supposed to banish bad spirits and bring good luck.

Finland: It's a longtime Finnish tradition to predict the coming year by casting molten tin into a container of water, and then interpreting the shape the metal takes after hardening. A heart or ring shape means a wedding in the New Year; a ship forecasts travel; and a pig shape signifies plenty of food.

Cultures and traditions vary in different parts of the world but almost all of them are meant to bring happiness, prosperity and good luck in the New Year. We wish the same to all of you!

*Thanks to www.123newyear.com

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.

December