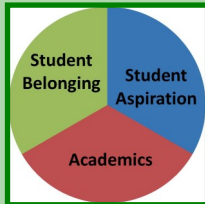




New Milford Public Schools  
50 East Street  
New Milford, CT 06776  
860-355-8406  
[www.newmilfordps.org](http://www.newmilfordps.org)



**New Milford High School**  
860-350-6647

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



**Shaghticoke 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

Mr. Eric Williams, Principal  
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Asst. Principal



**Northville Elementary School**  
860-355-3713

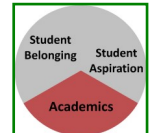
Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal  
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal

# Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 9, Issue 10

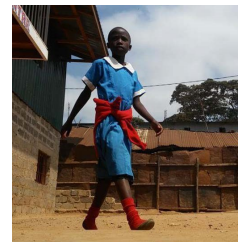
April 2019

## SMS Practical Arts Students Make Clothing for a Cause



SMS grade 8 Practical Arts students turned their sewing skills to a good cause this spring, making clothing for the organization Crossing Thresholds. The organization's mission focuses on education and hope for better living.

In the ten years they have been in existence, Crossing Thresholds has opened four primary schools and one high school in Kenya. In total, they are now feeding and educating approximately 1500 children. Recently, they opened a new site in Puerto Rico.\*



SMS Practical Arts teacher Barbara Morris says, "For their Fabric unit, students needed a project to build skills using the sewing machine as well as thinking about clothing. A New Milford community member involved with the Crossing Thresholds organization came to me with the idea and it seemed like a perfect tie in."



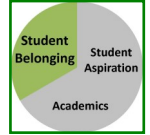
Students constructed simple sundresses and loose fitting shorts for donation to children in Kibera, Kenya. The materials are minimal, a pillowcase for the dress, or 3/4 yard of fabric for a dress or shorts. In all, they were able to make at least 100 clothing items, which will be put to good use when they get to Kibera.

"Many children have only a school uniform so these items will give them a second outfit", says Mrs. Morris. "It means a new item of clothing and that someone cared enough to make the clothing for them. It's a win for them, and for our students."



\* <https://www.crossingthresholds.org/>

## NMHS Juniors Participate in “No Place for Hate” Seminar



*“Hate happens here in Connecticut and the seeds of hate can be found in every high school. Stereotyping, jokes, name-calling, and rumors are all seeds that can blossom into prejudice, discrimination and hate. The key to combating hate is to address these issues before they grow into major problems. This program is designed to help students understand how these issues affect their daily lives and the role they can play in challenging prejudice and hate.” – Anti-Defamation League*



Sponsored by the NMHS School Climate Committee, in conjunction with the Anti-Defamation League, the program “No Place for Hate” was offered to juniors on April 2nd. The seminar teaches participants (students and faculty) the role they need to take in combating bias and bullying as a means to stop the escalation. The goal for this event is to make students aware of what hate is, how it grows, how to recognize hate, and subsequently fight hateful actions and words. To

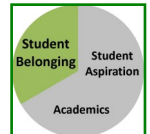
assist in facilitating this event, seniors and juniors volunteered to participate in the program throughout the day.

Climate Committee member and Social Studies teacher Sue Andrews says, “I was so proud of students who were brave enough to share their thoughts and feeling for the open microphone portion of the program.” Through the School Climate Committee, special events, and in their daily interactions, New Milford High School administration and staff are dedicated to providing a safe and nurturing environment conducive to learning for all.

For more information about the program, visit the [ADL website](#).

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## Kindness Matters Poetry



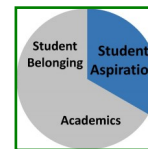
Last month we invited you to join NMPS to “Light it Up Blue” on April 2nd for Autism Awareness Day. Schools and classrooms did their own celebrations as well. Mrs. Strell’s grade 4 classroom at SNIS provides one example. Students read an article about Autism and how being kind to one another is paramount despite someone’s differences. “The theme of the article affirmed that we should be viewing others who are different with kindness and openness,” says Mrs. Strell.

After reading the article and discussing the SNIS School Pledge and values, students were asked to form groups. Mrs. Strell asked the class to creatively express how they would choose to be kind to others at school with Autism, as well as to others with special needs. Many students chose to write poetry, songs or creative paragraphs about the topic of kindness. According to Mrs. Strell, “My students felt extremely passionate about this topic and enjoyed writing and presenting their work.” To see the poets in action, check out Mrs. Strell’s twitter feed: @Piccocteach.



## NMHS Art Students Recognized

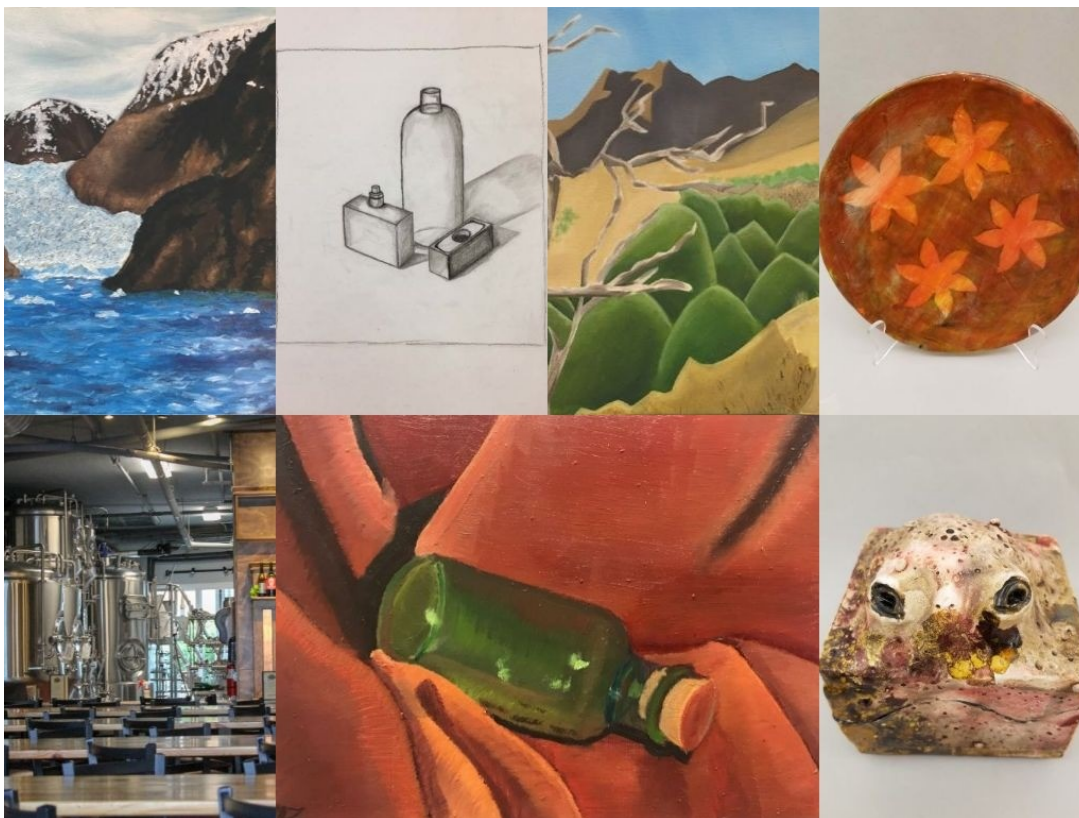
Student artistry has been on display this spring courtesy of the work of several talented NMHS students.



The Brookfield Craft Center hosted its 4th Annual Juried High School Exhibition, *Artists on the Rise*, from March 9-31. This juried student art show is open to all high school student artists in the Greater Danbury area who design and create their own work in any of the following categories: clay/ceramic, photography, fiber, glass, jewelry, mixed media 2D, mixed media 3D, painting, drawing, metal, wood, or video. We are pleased to report that the following NMHS students had work accepted: Isabella Baggott, Aaron Hollister, Chloe Onorato, Christina Onorato, Julia Sparaco and Emma Street.

Isabella, Chloe and Christina, along with fellow NMHS students Alyssa Parsons, Colleen Ryan and Michaela Zegarelli, also had artwork accepted into the 6th Annual Student Arts Expo at Hunt Hill Farm. The Expo is a juried student art show taking place during the month of April. It is part of the Farm's Ruane Emerging Artist Program and is open to students from high schools across Litchfield County who design and create their own work.

On a national level, NMHS junior Kyle Paist had his ceramic piece, *Toad Box*, juried in to the 22nd annual K-12 Ceramic Exhibition held in conjunction with the annual conference of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA). Designed to showcase the best K-12 ceramic work made in the country, the exhibition takes place in Minneapolis this year. See below for just a sample of the work of these talented artists.

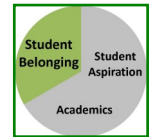




## Parents As Partners



Annually throughout the year, NMPS offers a series known as *Parents As Partners*. Parents, community members, and staff are invited to come and learn about topical issues that relate to our children. The workshops are designed to assist families by educating and informing them on issues that they may face. “This program has helped me understand more about what my child is facing and how to help him. I know that I’m not alone,” said one parent of a teenager following a March 25 workshop. This year, the series provided three workshops:



### *Positive Discipline: A Workshop for New Milford Parents*

This past fall, parents participated in a five part parenting program designed to teach important social and life skills in a manner that is respectful and encouraging for both children and adults. Feedback from parents who participated was very positive. The workshop included teaching concepts such as self-discipline, confidence, motivation, honesty, etc. Due to the positive responses, the district will be offering the series again this coming fall in 2019. For more information, please call the Office of Student Affairs, 860-354-2654.

### *The Teenage Brain~Cracking the Kid Code*

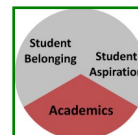
On March 25, approximately 50+ parents, faculty and community members gathered in Sarah Noble’s LMC to listen to counselor, author, and speaker Stephanie Jensen. Ms. Jensen’s presentation was designed to help parents “Crack the Code” in terms of handling common teenage behaviors. This informative and humorous two-hour presentation included information on brain development that explained the many challenging behaviors that can cause parents to “lose their minds.” Ms. Jensen explained how the biochemistry of the teenage brain, today’s technology, and societal norms affect our teenagers. She presented the crowd with strategies on how to prevent negative behaviors and to help our teenagers to develop positive social skills. All who attended walked away with useful information and strategies to implement at home and in our schools to help families.

### *Empowering Smart On-Line Choices*

On April 29, Mr. Scott Driscoll presented a workshop for parents, community members, and staff at the Sarah Noble LMC regarding the impact online exposure has on our children. Mr. Driscoll’s focus was on how we can help our children use technology in the safest ways possible.

*The district plans to offer other helpful seminars next year.  
Watch for announcements starting in the fall.*

## Enhancing Classroom Learning With Field Trips



On Friday, March 29, SNIS students in grades 4 and 5 took a field trip to NMHS where they attended a special sneak preview of the all-school musical, Footloose. SNIS Music teacher Gloria Capone arranged the trip, with transportation subsidized through a PTO grant. SNIS principal Anne Bilko says, “Our students were over the moon! Believe it or not, many teachers talked about how excited their classes were just entering the theatre. Many students have never been to anything other than a movie theater or shows here at SNIS where they are on a gym floor.”



It was a wonderful example of the district vision for student aspirations too, since our younger music students not only joined in the fun that day ([see video clip](#)) but could envision themselves up on the stage in years to come. For Mrs. Capone it was particularly sweet, “It was especially touching for me to see so many of the students that started with me in 4th grade chorus up there like little rock stars. It reminds me why we do what we do.”

This field trip is just one example of enhancing classroom curriculum with experiential learning. To date, the district has approved 112 field trips this year. Sometimes the trips are of a competitive nature, for band or academics groups, or for clubs like DECA, FBLA or HOSA. Other times they focus on a particular area of learning, such as when students visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Wall Street, the United Nations, the Botanical Gardens, and even the Superior Court.

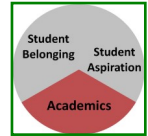
Often times the focus of a trip is on reinforcing curriculum in a real world situation such as when our younger students visit the Bronx Zoo or the Pratt Center, attend a live theater version of the book they just read, or when they tour the Town of New Milford to find out more about the place that they live.

Field trips also may provide an opportunity for team building, such as those undertaken by our middle school students at the beginning of the year where students work collaboratively on fun challenges. Other trips in this vein include the CIAC Sportsmanship Conference and Unified Sports events.

Still other trips focus on post-secondary aspirations, like those offered recently by the high school to Porter and Chester Institute and Naugatuck Valley Community College, as well as the “virtual field trips” provided through fall college visitors to NMHS.

“When students embark on these experiential trips, they get to experience a new place where their learning comes to life, as the trips are extensions of their learning in school,” says Assistant Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo. “The trips are made possible by classroom teachers who research, discuss amongst their grade level peers and later seek approval for these experiences. As a district we are also fortunate to have a supportive Board of Education and PTO who value these learning experiences for all students. Ultimately we want all students to be inspired by learning, and these wonderful experiences do just that.”

## Visitors Enhance SNIS Curriculum



Field trips provide one way to enhance classroom curriculum with experiential learning. Another well-used strategy is to bring guest speakers to school to speak to a bigger group of assembled students. SNIS students and staff welcomed several special guests recently, who entertained with topics aligned with their curriculum.

Just in time for St. Patrick's Day, with the help of Music teacher Gloria Capone, SNIS welcomed Bagpiper Jonathan Henken. Students and staff were greeted with the sounds of his bagpipes in the front lobby as they entered school for the day. In addition, grade 5 students had a demonstration lesson from Mr. Henken. Students observed how to play the instrument, learned about the details of the piper's outfit, including his kilt, and made a cross curricula connection learning that bagpipes were commonly used during war to lead the men "over the top" of the trenches and into battle. To hear Mr. Henken's bagpipes in action, [click here](#).



On April 5th, grade 4 students experienced a presentation by Karen Land, a three-time participant in the 1,000+ mile Iditarod dog sled race that takes place from Anchorage to Nome in Alaska each year. Students met Noggin, her Alaskan husky, and learned about all the equipment she used during the race. Prior to the presentation, Library Media Specialist Mary Lavoie taught lessons to the students about the Iditarod in connection to their non-fiction unit of study. Assistant Principal Jennifer Chmielewski notes, "In addition to the students learning about Karen Land's journey and about the sport of dog mushing, they learned the importance of adaptability, trust, determination, and perseverance." Throughout the presentation, students activated their prior knowledge and asked specific questions. The room was filled with excitement at the end when all fourth graders were given the opportunity to pet Noggin as they departed!

Also on April 5th, State Representative Bill Buckbee gave a presentation to third grade students where he explained how a bill becomes a law, which is part of the third grade Social Studies curriculum. Representative Buckbee explained that all laws start with an idea and he reached the third grade interest level by suggesting that we should "try to pass a law for kids at Sarah Noble to get free ice cream on Fridays." He explained the different steps that this idea would need



to go through and possible outcomes, and ended with a Q & A session.

Scot Haney from WFSB Channel 3 visited on April 10th, arriving solo to SNIS after his day job of being a meteorologist to speak to third graders about weather. As part of the science curriculum, third graders learn about clouds, climate, wind patterns, natural hazards and apply this learning to make claims or



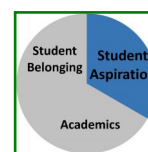
predictions about what type of weather will happen next. Scot started his presentation by naming all the elementary school teachers that he had and who he still keeps in contact with. He expressed the important role teachers play in our development and told the third graders to look around the room to thank their teachers. He then went on to tell how he became a meteorologist. Scot said he actually never wanted to be one, he just knew that he wanted to be on television one day and now he has been with WFSB for the past 21 years.

Scot explained the difference between high pressure and low pressure. He continued with describing the different types of storms such as hurricanes, tornadoes, microbursts and macrobursts. A highlight of the lesson was learning how hurricanes get their names. SNIS teacher Heather O'Loughlin says, "He called three girls and three boys up with 'A' names, then the same for 'B' names. He said that they already have names from A-Z, alternating boy and girl names for the next six years. To demonstrate how hurricane names are retired or recycled, he used a student to illustrate category 1 through category 5 strength, adding much humor by having students spin in a circle as he spoke how he would describe it on air. It was very funny!" Scot told the students that hurricanes that cause destruction get retired and those names are never used again. The ones who do not cause destruction get recycled back into the list. The lesson ended with questions from the students.

### West Point Band Performs with NMHS Wind Ensemble



On Monday April 22nd, the West Point Band gave a special combined concert with the New Milford High School Wind Ensemble. The West Point Band is comprised of graduates from America's finest music schools and provides world-class music to local, national and international communities. The Band's storied history features performances for U.S. Presidents, Heads of State, foreign dignitaries and high profile events in the New York Metropolitan Area. Mr. Al Bayers, former New Milford High School Band Director and member of the West Point Band, was instrumental in creating this wonderful opportunity for our students. The NMHS Wind Ensemble, conducted by Mr. David Syzdek, performed first in the concert followed by a wide selection of great American music played by the West Point Band. The concert ended with the two bands combining for the final two numbers: the Official West Point March and Stars and Stripes forever. *Thank you to Kris Stewart for photos from the event.*



# **SPRING RESOURCE FAIR**

## **WHEN**

**May 8, 2019  
6:00-8:00pm**

## **WHERE**

**New Milford High School  
Room 2325 - Lecture Hall - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

## **FEATURING PRESENTATIONS FOR FAMILIES ON:**

**D.D.S. - Dept. of Developmental Services  
B.R.S. - Bureau of Rehabilitative Services  
Benefits Specialist (Dept. of Rehab. Services)  
Guardianship  
Special Needs Trusts  
Ability Beyond- ATLAS program  
Friends of New Milford  
Marrakech**

**THE SPRING  
RESOURCE  
FAIR IS FOR  
FAMILIES  
WITH YOUNG  
ADULTS WHO  
HAVE  
DISABILITIES  
AGES 14-21**

**FREE**

**Water & Light  
Refreshments  
will be served**

**SPONSORED BY:**



**NEW MILFORD  
HIGH SCHOOL  
and LHTC**





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



**Rebecca Allen**



**Diana Beddows**



**Jane Cornelis**



**Kelly Gallo**



**Megan Lago**



**George Osuch**

Thanks to **Ingersoll Auto of Danbury** for their donation of the NMPS courtesy car.  
Don't forget to visit the district website to [submit your staff nomination](#).

### **Eric Williams Named New Principal at Hill & Plain School**



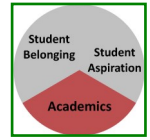
At a special meeting on March 26, 2019, the New Milford Board of Education appointed Mr. Eric Williams as Principal of Hill & Plain Elementary School. He succeeds Mrs. Patricia Corvello who has served as Interim Principal since last summer.

Mr. Williams is a familiar face to many in New Milford, having served as an assistant principal at New Milford High School since 2015. Prior to that, he taught Social Studies at both Bethel and Danbury High School and was the head of the Social Studies Department while in Danbury. He earned his bachelor's degree in education from WCSU and his master's degree in literacy education from the University of New England. He also holds a certificate of advanced studies in educational leadership from Sacred Heart University.

“Eric Williams brings an engaging spirit and a deep commitment to student success to his new leadership role,” noted Interim Superintendent Steve Tracy. “He knows what quality instruction looks like and he is committed to supporting teachers in their daily efforts on behalf of our children.”

Mr. Williams states, “I am grateful for the support and opportunities provided to me the past four years at New Milford High School and I am extremely excited to begin working with the staff, students and parents of Hill and Plain Elementary School.”

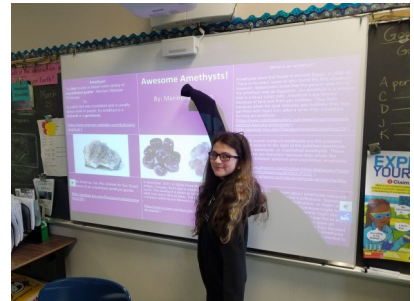
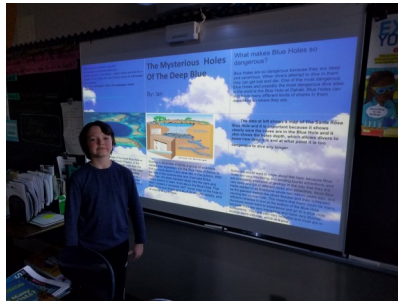
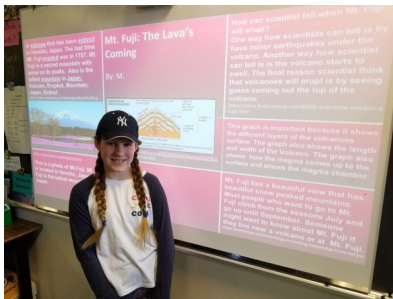
## SMS Students “Play” Tic-Tac-Geo



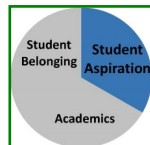
SMS Science teacher Carol Allison describes a recent class assignment below. We reached for the dictionary to research the included puns. Now that her students have successfully completed the fun assignment, we bet they could tell you what they all mean without having to look them up!



Students in Mrs. Allison’s 6th grade Science classes have been working on a Geology unit. As a way to go “deeper”, students researched, wrote about, and later presented the “schist” of their topic to the class. Of “quartz” the project, called “**Tic-Tac-Geo**”, was set up on a Google Slide template with nine parts to complete, just like a tic-tac-toe board, which also lent itself to a “gneiss” pacing guide for each day. Students not only learned to “dig” into technology even better (don’t take it for “granite”!), but they also learned from each other on a range of topics from the Ring of Fire to amethyst formation, from geysers to blue holes to volcanoes. All in all, it’s been a “rocky” month!



## NMHS Hosts College and Post-Secondary Options Fair



New Milford High School held its annual College and Post Secondary Options Fair in the NMHS arena on April 10th. Over 90 colleges, universities, armed force branches, and technical/trade schools were on hand. The event was well attended, with many families taking advantage of this opportunity to meet face to face with college admission representatives, ask questions, and gather information. NMHS school counselor Danette Lambiase says, “It was a successful event with students and families walking away with a lot of valuable information.” To see the list of presenters, [click here](#).

To keep up to date with high school happenings and upcoming events, read the high school’s [monthly newsletter here](#).

**New Milford High School News Blast**  
April 2019

**JUNIORS: Important SAT School Day Information for 4/9**

Starting April 9th is the state wide administration of the SAT for all grade 11 students.

Open arrival to school, Grade 11 students should plan all electronic devices to their power and program directly to the device at 7:00 AM. Instructions and timing will post immediately upon arrival. No student will be admitted to the testing room after 8:00 AM.

**Students must bring:**

- Two number two pencils - (no mechanical pencils)
- Three letter size pencils should be left with their desks during testing
- An approved calculator (approved calculator information)

**SAT School Day**  
Computer

