



New Milford Public Schools
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New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordpds.org



New Milford High School
860-350-6647
Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal
Mr. Marc Balandra, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Liz Curtis, Ass't. Principal
Dr. Christopher Longo, Ass't. Principal



Schaghticoke Middle School
860-354-2204
Mrs. Dana Ford, Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Emily Gervasio, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Suzi Greene, Ass't. Principal



Sarah Noble Intermediate School
860-210-4020
Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal
Mrs. Emily Gervasio, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Ass't. Principal
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Ass't. Principal



Hill & Plain Elementary School
860-354-5430
Dr. Len Tomasello, Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Ass't. Principal



John Pettibone Elementary School
860-354-3218
Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Ass't. Principal



Northville Elementary School
860-355-3713
Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Ass't. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

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Spotlight on Welcome Events

Students transitioning to new schools next year and newly enrolled kindergarteners were invited, along with their parents, to attend evening welcome events at their new schools during the months of April and May. While the general format was similar for all schools, each school provided its own unique touches.

Students and parents attending the welcome events at Hill and Plain School and Northville Elementary School received enthusiastic greetings from administration and staff volunteers who provided general information about the school and answered questions.



JPS Principal Paula Kelleher, who will be moving to Hill and Plain next year, said she and NES Principal Susan Murray coordinated their presentations, emphasizing that all elementary schools follow similar routines and that schedules and events, etc. will be the same at HPS and NES. The principals shared basic information about the school day such as lunch/recess times, parent pick up protocol, and school events that will happen over the course of the year (Family Fun Nights, Cultural Arts Assemblies etc.) while a slideshow of school pictures displayed in the background. This was followed by an open format question and answer period.

Mrs. Kelleher says "We really want children and parents to become familiar and comfortable with their new building." To help make that happen, attendees received a "passport" to use for a school scavenger

hunt designed to help familiarize them with their new school. With the help of volunteers, students and parents were encouraged to find designated classrooms, the gym, art rooms, Library Media Center, etc. With each success, the passport received a “stamp”. NES Principal Susan Murray says for most students “one of the highlights of the evening at NES was exploring the playground and walking up to the school garden, the Plant Patch!”

Students also engaged in an art activity as part of their evening, creating self-portraits with drawings of their favorite things surrounding them. The pictures will be saved for welcome displays in school hallways for the first few weeks of school in the fall.

Sarah Noble Intermediate School gave a musical welcome to their transitioning students and parents as the SNIS band and chorus performed at the event. Principal Anne Bilko shared information about a typical day and answered questions from the audience. Students were given a tour, which included a “school information fair” set up in the gym, and also completed an art activity, customizing their own picture of the SNIS pledge.



Students and parents attending the Schaghticoke Middle School welcome events viewed a video highlighting the SMS experience as part of their introduction to the school and staff. Principal Dana Ford, with assistance from staff members present, answered frequently asked questions submitted ahead of time by current 5th and 6th graders. Principal Ford said “The questions were generally about the day to day workings of the school. How will I find my classrooms on the first day? How does lunch work? What clubs and sports do we offer?” The school prepared a brochure with answers to these and other questions.



A pamphlet introducing the support staff and counseling personnel was also available. The evening ended with parent and student tours of the building led by SMS staff.

All transitioning students will also have an opportunity to take a field trip to their new school during the day to see the school in action. These visits are scheduled for May and June.

Spring Happenings

It seemed during this long, cold winter that spring would never get here but now we are in full bloom. Several annual happenings in our schools are sure signs that summer is not too far behind...



Concerts
throughout the year,
but especially in the spring!
Click to hear a sample from a
recent [SMS Chorus concert](#).



**Art Fests
and
NMHS Senior
Art Show**



**2015
27th Annual NMHS
Senior Art Show**

The Railroad Station, 11 Railroad Street,
New Milford CT 06776

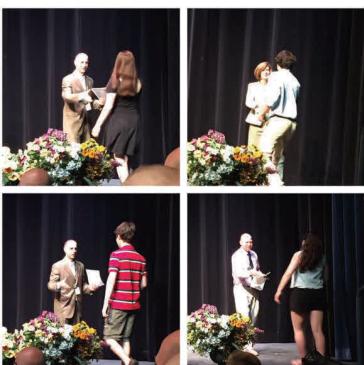


SNIS Walking Project
Using pedometers
to get fit with friends



SNIS Trout Release
Preparing for their final destination
in the Aspetuck River

Spring Happenings



Award Ceremonies
NMHS Freshman/Sophomore
and Junior/Senior Awards
the first of many in
our schools...



Senior Acceptances

On May 1st,
NMHS Seniors showed
their college pride
in t-shirt form.



SNIS Teaches Cooperation

The district character trait for June is cooperation and the SNIS Physical Education department is getting into the spirit early with a unit on cooperative games. The unit starts with a definition of cooperation followed by a discussion of what cooperation looks like and sounds like in athletics, at home and in the community.



SNIS PE teacher Daniella Duque says “This unit is all about encouraging students to work together. It creates challenges for a group that require teamwork to be successful. These competitive, non-traditional activities include using ropes to cross the ‘Grand Canyon’, Scooter Hockey, and Football Frenzy. Each lesson concludes with a debriefing session that explicitly identifies examples of cooperation from the class period. In addition to cooperation, students also exercise their problem-solving skills and learn to persevere when success is not immediate.” From the pictures above, it looks like cooperation is a must!

Technology and Learning

NMPS students continue to utilize technology while learning. We first read about Mrs. Gati-Tisi's Grade 6, Team 3, Language Arts "Writing Heroes" in the December issue of *Spotlight*. This group recently put their writing (and acting) skills to work to create Public Service Announcements (PSAs) which can be viewed here. Mrs. Gati-Tisi asked Gianna M. of the Thor section to explain and Gianna writes:

On May 4th, Mrs. Gati's sixth grade classes decided to make their mark on Sarah Noble Intermediate School by creating numerous Public Service Announcements about a range of topics concerning social issues, environmental protection, and health.

The project, inspired by Star Wars in the Classroom, was titled "#ServeLikeAJedi", nodding its head to the very popular Star Wars movies and the joke "May the Fourth be with you". The idea was to serve society by introducing a change through videos. In the end, the project was a success. Many influential and powerful messages were made.

While young in age and small in numbers, groups of students gathered and put their minds together. They planned out a scene and took a role. Actors, actresses, and thinkers alike combined talents and rehearsed. While working on their video, groups also learned how to ask others for permission to use their image or their property by writing a media release form. Teachers "guest-starred" in the films as well. The importance of teamwork and respect were very prominent as the PSAs were created.

After planning and the permission being granted, filming day arrived at the classroom's door. Students were all ready to film in multiple settings, such as the gymnasium, stairwells, hallways, or the great outdoors. Everyone set off to their destination (with a trusted adult supervising them, of course) and began filming.

Once the recording was finished, the job wasn't done. The footages were raw, and they needed editing. Students added music and effects to enhance the mood and tone surrounding their message.

The amazing thing about this project is that art was created with limited time and with limited tools. It was truly an accomplishment of these classes. This activity was "student-led" and really showed that these classes are growing in independence. Words spoke volumes and creativity was put to use once again. The finished products were really quite inspirational and they couldn't have been any better.

At SMS, Mrs. Morrison's Grade 8 Computer Technology students recently completed their Presentation Unit. They were challenged to create a multi-media presentation on the topic of their choice. Mrs. Morrison says "The only restrictions were the topics had to be middle school appropriate and they should be meaningful. Students worked alone or in small groups utilizing a variety of tools to create presentations on topics ranging from *World Hunger and Society and Women* to the *Best Shoes for Fall*. Presentations used Google Slides, Piktochart, Animoto, SlideGo, Powtoon, WeVideo, TubeChop and more to combine music, video and more traditional presentation media."

[Click here to see a sample.](#)

All About Wellness

New Milford High School, in cooperation with the local Youth Agency, sponsored a Health Fair on May 14th in the NMHS gym. The Fair consisted of 30 local organizations offering services in our community. Some of the presenters included New Milford Hospital, New Milford Police department, New Milford Fire department, New Milford Ambulance, Dental Associates and many more including our own district Food Services department.



Health teacher Mrs. Denise Duggan says “The purpose of the Fair is to make students aware of community organizations and help them obtain contact information for themselves or their peers if they have concerns about their health & wellness. It offers students the opportunity to explore the many services the community has to offer for teenage issues. The event was highly interactive for our students with exercise demonstrations, exercise challenges and games that consisted of questions by presenters to win a prize. Students also had a chance to make a hand print in dirt and become aware of their impact on the earth through the Pratt Center.”

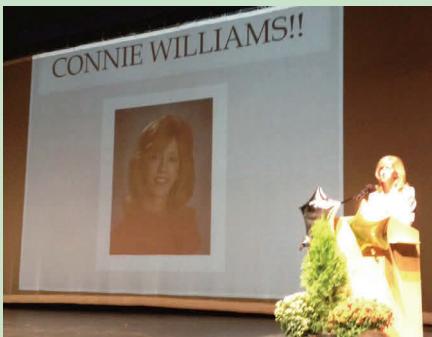
While the Health Fair is a biennial event at the high school, the Red Cross Blood Drive pictured below takes place annually.

Blood Drive a Success



The NMHS National Honor Society sponsored their annual Blood Drive for the Red Cross at the high school on May 5th. Approximately 94 staff and students signed up to donate blood. Kudos to both the organizers and the donors!

Nominate New Milford's Teacher of the Year for 2015-2016



Mrs. Connie Williams
New Milford's 2014-2015
Teacher of the Year

New Milford will be participating in Connecticut's "Teacher of the Year" program again in 2015-2016, with our local nominee to be announced this August. You are invited to nominate teachers from our faculty for this honor by completing the form [found here](#). Print copies are available in all the schools. **Nominations close June 5, 2015.**

NMHS Completes NEASC Visitation

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) visiting committee conducted their on-site continued accreditation visit of New Milford High School from Sunday, May 3rd through Wednesday, May 6th. The committee of 15 educators from Connecticut and Massachusetts was chaired by retired principal Elaine Bessette. Over the course of their four day visit, the committee met with the Board of Education, parents, students, faculty, staff, building principals, and district leaders to collect first-hand information about the inner workings of the school. They visited classes and shadowed students during the day to develop a clear picture of teaching and learning at New Milford High School. The committee compared all the information they collected to the self-study document created by the faculty to develop conclusions about the school's adherence to NEASC's 7 standards for accreditation. At the conclusion of the visit, Ms. Bessette shared a brief summary of the committee's findings with the faculty, highlighting a few recommendations and commendations. The official report will be edited by Ms. Bessette, reviewed by NEASC, and is anticipated to be released in the Fall of 2015.

Principal Greg Shugrue says "A highlight of the visit was the showing of a remarkable video created by NMHS senior Neel Razdan. I reached out to Neel earlier this year and he eagerly accepted the challenge as a senior project. Neel was able to work with minimal direction. He took a few ideas and ran with them. He did a wonderful job of creating a video that captures our school, our community, and our core values and beliefs through the 'WAVE'. Neel not only covered the content, but he also was able to add an artistic element to the project that made the video a very powerful piece."

[Click here to view the video.](#)



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Dr. JeanAnn C. Paddyfote
Superintendent

Mr. Joshua Smith
Assistant 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
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Mr. David R. Shaffer

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Mr. John W. Spatola

Mrs. Theresa Volinski

TEACHERS!

National Teacher Day took place on May 5th this year.

The National Education Association and National Parent Teacher Association marked the occasion by encouraging thank you messages on social media under the hashtag #ThankATeacher.



[Click here to take a look.](#)

It's not too late to add your own message...

In appreciation for our teachers **and** the district staff that support them, we share a well known quote from Forest Witcraft:

**"A hundred years from now,
it will not matter what kind of car I drove,
what kind of house I lived in,
how much money I had in the bank ...
but the world may be a better place because
I made a difference in the life of a child."**

**May
honors**

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.