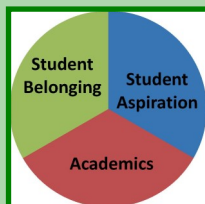




New Milford Public Schools
50 East Street
New Milford, CT 06776
860-355-8406
www.newmilfordps.org



New Milford High School
860-350-6647
Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal
Mrs. Liz Curtis, Asst. Principal
Ms. Linda Scoralick, Asst. Principal



Schaghticoke Middle School
860-354-2204
Dr. Christopher Longo, Principal
Mr. Kevin Best, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Sasha Salem, Asst. Principal



Sarah Noble Intermediate School
860-210-4020
Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Asst. Principal
Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Asst. Principal



Hill & Plain Elementary School
860-354-5430
Mr. Eric Williams, Principal
Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Asst. Principal



Northville Elementary School
860-355-3713
Mrs. Gwen Gallagher, Principal
Mr. Kevin Best, Asst. Principal

Spotlight on New Milford Schools

Volume 11, Issue 7

January 2021

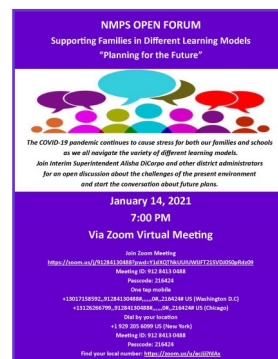
NMPS Hosts Open Forum

On January 14, Interim Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo hosted an Open Forum for parents and community members via Zoom. The purpose was to discuss how the group can collectively support families in New Milford through this challenging school year, while students have been in the hybrid model of instruction and continuing learning when remote instruction has been necessary. Ms. DiCorpo was joined on the call by all five school principals, the Pupil Services Director, Technology Director, other Central Office and building administrators and community organization representatives. Ms. DiCorpo encouraged callers to share their feedback about their struggles and successes to help the district plan for the remainder of the year and beyond.

Callers praised district teachers and supporting staff for their hard work and extra effort, saying they are doing their very best in a difficult situation, but talked about the stresses on families as they try to juggle hybrid and sometimes remote learning. They long for a return to full in person school.

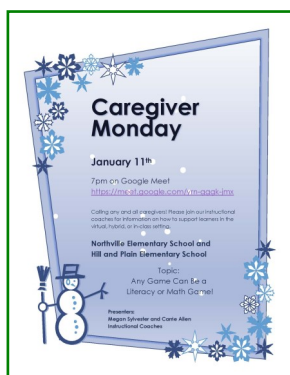
Ms. DiCorpo said she meets weekly with the Director of Health, District Medical Advisor, school nurses and others to review current metrics for the Town of New Milford and of those in surrounding towns. She said the district has proactively used mitigation strategies around holiday breaks to try to keep schools open. They have made a concerted effort to increase substitute coverage so there is sufficient staffing. She said she understood how challenging this has been for all stakeholders, with some tough months still to come, but a vaccine on the horizon finally.

Looking to the future, Ms. DiCorpo said that district administrators have been collaboratively planning over the last month or so on the timing to bring back students to full in person learning in the early spring. At the same time, students who are accessing their education remotely will continue to be able to do so if parents wish.



The initial goal is to bring back students PK-2 all in person under a four and one half day schedule. First, transition protocols must be developed to ensure a safe and smooth return. This includes internal planning and funding of needed materials, such as additional partitions and air purifiers; staff input and feedback; as well as a parent survey as to intent to return. Once the PK-2 group is established, the district will look to return grades 3-5 to in person learning as the next group shortly after. Ms. DiCorpo said they are exploring possibilities for the middle and high school as well. As we continue to work through the process, updates will be provided.

Parent Partnership Initiative: Caregiver Mondays



On select Mondays October through February, our Elementary and Middle School instructional coaches are providing opportunities for caregivers to learn about specific elements of instruction. Each meeting runs for approximately twenty minutes per grade level on select Mondays for grades K-8. Topics focus on information that is timely and relevant to the learning taking place in your child's classroom, whether he or she is in person or participating in learning remotely. So far, eight sessions have been held. Session recordings can be found here:

[October 26: HPS/NES](#)

[November 9: SNIS](#)

[November 16: SMS](#)

[November 30: HPS/NES](#)

[December 7: SNIS](#)

[December 14: SMS](#)

[January 11: HPS/NES](#)

[January 25: SNIS](#)

One more session is scheduled for:

February 1: SMS



Remember to Nominate NMPS "Stars" of the Month

Throughout the 2020-21 school year, we would like to continue to publicly recognize NMPS staff members for the good work they do to positively impact our students and/or the community. Parents, students, and fellow staff members are invited to [complete a short online form](#) to nominate a New Milford Public Schools staff member: whether it be a teacher, guidance counselor, nurse, paraeducator, school psychologist, secretary, social worker, administrator, cafeteria worker, custodian, coach or another support person of your choice. You are welcome to make a nomination at any time and for as many deserving staff members as you wish. From all the forms submitted, honorees will be randomly selected each month for public recognition by the Board of Education and they will receive a "star" lapel pin as a small symbol in recognition of their many star qualities.

Kindergarten Registration for 2021-2022 Has Begun

Are you, or do you know, a family with a child turning 5 years old by December 31, 2021? If so, New Milford Public Schools invites parents of 2021-2022 incoming kindergarteners to begin the registration process for the next school year.






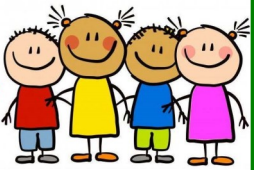
Parents can start the online registration process by visiting www.newmilfordps.org and clicking on the "Student Registration" link on the homepage. To begin the online registration process, please click on the school your child will attend (Hill and Plain or Northville) and make sure to be under the 2021-2022 school year. You can check which school your child will attend by clicking on the "Kindergarten Registration Documents" and going to the "Boundary Directory". Some forms are not available online and a paper copy must be completed. These forms are under the "Kindergarten Registration Documents" and can be printed out or picked up at the following locations:

Hill and Plain/Northville - Main Office
The Youth Agency at the John Pettibone Community Center
At your child's daycare
New Milford Town Hall

For the month of February, you can complete the registration process at the school your child will attend on Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and on Thursday, February 25 from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. All registrations forms and documents must be brought to the school to finalize registration.

For registration questions, please call the main office of the school your child will attend:

Hill and Plain: 860-354-5430
Northville: 860-355-3713

 New Milford Public School Hill & Plain Elementary School 860-354-5430 Northville Elementary School 860-355-3713	 New Milford Public School Hill & Plain Elementary School 860-354-5430 Northville Elementary School 860-355-3713	 New Milford Public School Hill & Plain Elementary School 860-354-5430 Northville Elementary School 860-355-3713
 Kindergarten Registration <div> <div>Online Registration</div> <div>Registration Documents</div> <div>Medical Information</div> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Visit the New Milford Public Schools website Select "Student Registration" button Select your home school (school boundaries) Select the 2021-2022 school year Complete registration Child's birth certificate 3 proofs of residency: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mortgage Deed/Rental agreement Utility Bill Real Estate Tax Bill Bank Statement Your personal ID (driver's license, passport) Physicals must be within one year of the 1st day of school Health requirements are listed on blue physical form and are strictly enforced Medication can not be given without a physician's order and written permission from parent/guardian 	 Registro de Kindergarten <div> <div>En línea Registro</div> <div>Registro Documentos</div> <div>Médico Información</div> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Visite el sitio web de las Escuelas Públicas de New Milford Seleccione el botón "Registro de estudiantes" Seleccione su escuela de origen (límites escolares) Seleccione el año escolar 2021-2022 Registro completo Acta de nacimiento del niño 3 comprobantes de residencia: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hipoteca Contrato de escritura / alquiler Factura de servicios públicos Factura de impuestos inmobiliarios Extracto de cuenta (licencia de conducir, pasaporte) Su identificación personal (licencia de conducir, pasaporte) Los exámenes físicos deben realizarse dentro de un año del primer día de clases Los requisitos de salud se enumeran en el formulario físico azul y se aplican estrictamente. No se pueden administrar medicamentos sin la orden de un médico y el permiso por escrito del padre / tutor <p style="text-align: right;">Spanish</p>	 Registro de jardim de infancia <div> <div>Conectados Cadastro</div> <div>Cadastro Documentos</div> <div>Médico Em formação</div> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Visite o site das Escolas Públicas de New Milford Selecione o botão "Registro do Aluno" Selecione sua escola em casa (limites da escola) Selecione o ano escolar de 2021-2022 Registro completo Certidão de nascimento da criança 3 comprovantes de residência: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hipoteca Contrato de escritura / locação Conta de serviços públicos Lei de Imposto Imobiliário Extrato bancário Sua identificação pessoal (carteira de motorista, passaporte) Os exames físicos devem ser dentro de um ano após o primeiro dia de aula Os requisitos de saúde estão listados no formulário físico azul e são estritamente aplicados A medicação não pode ser dada sem a ordem do médico e permissão por escrito dos pais / responsáveis <p style="text-align: right;">Portuguese</p>

News from Our Schools

Northville Elementary School

December provided us with the opportunity to try to be problem solvers. This was our focus for our November C.A.R.E.S. meeting. Students learned ways in guidance class, and with their teachers, on how to solve problems that they get confronted with. One way to solve a problem is using an affective statement which the staff learned in our Restorative Practices professional development: "I feel (*emotion*) when (*behavior*) because (*impact*).” For example: "I feel *hurt* when *you speak unkindly to me* because *I think you are mad at me and not my friend.*"

Students earned C.A.R.E.S. coins during the month and earned a sing-a-long in the cafeteria. Cohort B got to sing along with Mrs. Gallagher and Mr. Best before break. However Cohort A did not, so Mrs. Gallagher did a sing-a-long on Twitter. The staff had their own fun with the annual '12 Days of Nessy' contest. They had to find Nessy hidden around the school and even online when we were remote.



Our focus for the month of January is how to be independent workers. Students are learning new ways to turn in work in the Google Slideshows. They are working on different programs (RAZ Kids, IXL). They are trying their best each and every day. Keep building up your independence. Northville is proud of you!

Hill and Plain Elementary School

For the month of January, our teachers have been focused on giving the MAP Assessments to all students. These assessments will help provide information about our students that will drive our instruction. Students have done a great job learning new technology and completing these assessments on Chromebooks for the first time. Thank you to all of the parents and daycares who have helped with the process this month!

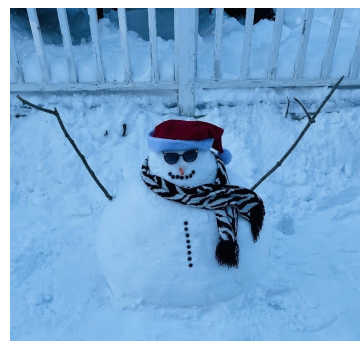


Hill and Plain School is continuing its focus on Choose Love through our Hat and Mitten Drive this month, with donations going to New Milford Social Services. Thank you to everyone who has donated already. For those still wanting to donate, hats and mittens will be accepted through mid-February.

Sarah Noble Intermediate School

The first ever SNIS Snowman Contest proved that even in a pandemic SNIS students can make lemonade out of lemons, or in this case snow. The SNIS PTO sponsored our contest and both hybrid and remote students went to work last month to create their masterpiece. Our students showed lots of creativity and produced some amazing snowmen! Check them out on <https://youtu.be/sxmYNIWcQOc> and see some examples on the next page.

Congratulations to the SNIS Snowman Contest Winners: Alexa Rodriguez, Ela Reichin, and Yemeli Nunez, and one cool snowman from the Mercante family too!



Schaghticoke Middle School



The SMS Talented and Gifted (TAG) department was happy to host Dr. Shelly Jones, Associate Professor of Mathematics Education at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), for a series of online mathematical presentations on January 20 for ALL SMS students as well as SNIS TAG students. TAG teacher Linda Santoro organized this opportunity for students.

Dr. Jones has been an educator for 25 years teaching at the middle school, high school and collegiate levels. She has served her community by working on various committees at the Connecticut State Department of Education and presenting at conferences at the local (Associated Teachers of Mathematics in Connecticut – ATOMIC), regional (Benjamin Banneker Association) and national (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics: NCTM) level. She recently authored the book, *Women Who Count: Honoring African American Women Mathematicians*. The book highlights the lives and work of 29 African American women mathematicians, including Dr. Christine Darden, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Dorothy Vaughan from the award-winning book and movie *Hidden Figures*.

During the presentations, students heard about African American women mathematicians and then were invited to participate in an interactive math activity. Topics differed by grade level and included magic squares, Euler paths and circuits, tessellations and transformations and palindrome numbers. The presentation took the place of other regular school classes or activities, much like an assembly would if students were all in school in person.

New Milford High School

Course Selection

This month, NMHS school counselors kicked off Course Selection for the 2021-22 school year via recorded presentations for students and parents. Counselors also sent links to their google classrooms where students could access course selection sheets and more.



Latest Episode of Green Wave TV Released

Green Wave TV is happy to present our second full episode of the year. [Episode #2](#) includes a promo for the New Milford High School Marching Band and Colorguard, Sarah's Good News, interviews with students and staff in the halls, a short capturing quarantine, and a holiday-themed message from the New Milford community.

2021 Virtual College Fairs

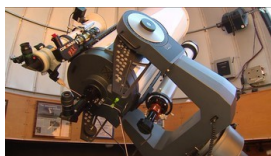
Researching colleges can be a time consuming process. Fortunately, NACAC (National Association for College Admission Counseling) is bringing THOUSANDS of colleges to high school students across the country through their [upcoming spring 2021 virtual college fairs](#). Students can meet with admissions reps from the comfort and safety of their own home. The fairs are free to attend and parents are welcome!

Yearbooks

NMHS yearbooks are on sale now. All yearbooks must be ordered online following this link: [Order your 2021 Yearbook here](#). You'll know you're on the correct page when you see the NMHS information below: New Milford High School, NEW MILFORD, CT JOB #14103



John J. McCarthy Observatory Turns 20!



The John J. McCarthy Observatory opened its doors to the public in December 2000 and has been a valuable resource in our district over the last twenty years. The observatory volunteers have collaborated with NMHS faculty, providing unique experiences to our students that students in other parts of the state don't have access to. Here are some of the highlights from the last ten years:

- Independent Student Research Projects (quasars, astrophotography, comets, etc.)
- 9th Grade Science Class Field Trips
- English Class Field Trips (The Odyssey)
- Collaboration with PLTW Classes (projects, mentorships, etc.)
- Chorus and All School Musical Collaboration (incorporation of JJMO images)
- Planned Collaboration with Plant Science Classes (Galileo's Garden)

New Milford is very fortunate to have an operating astronomical observatory that is open to the public with volunteers who will go above and beyond to support science education for all of our students and the broader New Milford community. This year has been a particular challenge, but JJMO continues to move forward with new initiatives and programs and we all look forward to the day (hopefully soon) when it can open its doors again. In the meantime, JJMO is providing virtual experiences to all, including a special 20th anniversary virtual Second Saturday Stars program which can be viewed at www.mccarthyobservatory.org.

New Milford Adult Education Advances in Competition



On January 12, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education announced 95 finalists in the Rethink Adult Ed Challenge, a \$750,000 competition to advance pre-apprenticeships. These finalists include the New Milford Adult Education Program! Finalists hail from 32 states and two territories, and include higher education institutions, local educational agencies, community and faith-based organizations, and correctional facilities.

Although apprenticeships serve as a pathway into careers across industries, many adult learners face barriers to accessing them. Pre-apprenticeships break down these barriers by equipping adult learners with the knowledge and skills they need to enter and succeed in apprenticeships — which can expand access to rewarding careers across the United States.

The Stage 2 virtual accelerator will run from February to June 2021. Finalists will have access to a range of digital resources — such as case studies, activities, and webinars with subject matter experts — to help them develop detailed program proposals. A judging panel will review the Stage 2 proposals and select one grand-prize winner and up to five runners-up. The challenge will award \$250,000 to the grand-prize winner, and up to five runners-up will each receive at least \$100,000. Good luck New Milford!

**Information copied from <https://www.rethinkadulthood.com/>

NEW MILFORD YOUTH AGENCY

Parent 2 Parent Workshop



FREE workshop for parents, run by parents, and co-facilitated by Sara Wells, LMSW, to learn about and share your: EXPERIENCES, CONCERNS, ISSUES, & HELPFUL TIPS



TOPICS INCLUDE:

"How do I parent a home schooled child without 'losing my mind'?"

"Can anyone else relate to my struggles?"

"How do I deal with a child who has anxiety due to living in this pandemic?"

"How can I be good to myself?"



For more information please contact Sara Wells, LMSW
860.210.2030 or swells@newmilford.org
Registration required: www.myyouthagency.com

Parent 2 Parent Workshop and Teen groups!

Peace, Love, & Stand Up to Hate - an ongoing teen group designed to promote inclusion, diversity, friendship, team building, and kindness. The mission is to create a safe space for communication, celebrate differences, practice self care, and show that progress is possible.

Girl Power - High school girls group to help boost self esteem through fun group activities and creative projects. This is a safe place for teenage women to come together, share stories, discuss important topics, get advice, and make friends, with a goal of being kinder to each other and ourselves.

For more information, contact Sara Wells, LMSW, at swells@newmilford.org or call (860) 210-2030.

BOE Adopts 2021-22 Education Budget



New Milford Public Schools Interim Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo and administrative team members presented the proposed 2021-22 education budget to the New Milford Board of Education for consideration on the evenings of January 19, 20, 26 and 27 in public session. The 2021-22 Superintendent's Budget, as proposed, was \$66,096,024 which is an increase of \$1,631,248 or 2.53% over the current year's budget.

Ms. DiCorpo states, "This proposed budget is the result of collaborative effort with District administrators and building principals. The request supports specific needs and increases in costs in our Special Education budget as well as contracted services in the Department of Pupil Personnel and Support Services, includes an allocation for Middle School and High School summer programming, adds a 0.5 Guidance Counselor at Sarah Noble Intermediate School, as well as maintains class sizes to support small group and individualized instruction. It also continues the District's focus on instructional improvement, allows the district to continue to upgrade the Student Information System, as well as additional costs related to one to one student devices and continued school safety. As always, the District has worked hard to prioritize initiatives, find efficiencies, and reallocate resources in order to continue improving the education we provide to students, while maintaining a fiscally conservative and responsible budget proposal."

Over the course of several nights, the Board heard detailed presentations regarding each of our five schools from PK-Grade 12; and from the departments of Instruction, Pupil Personnel/Special Education, General Administration which includes the Business Office and Human Resources, Facilities and Technology. Public comment was offered each evening.

The Board of Education's Adopted budget, as approved on January 27, 2021, was finalized at \$65,846,024, which represents a 2.14% increase over the current year's budget. The reduction of \$250,000 from the Superintendent's proposal was recommended by Board Chairperson Wendy Faulenbach, and approved by the full Board, as an offset from the Internal Service Fund. "This offset from the health insurance reserve account has been endorsed by the Town," said Mrs. Faulenbach, "and provides fiscal relief without touching any programs."

Budget documents and video recordings of the four evenings of presentations and deliberations can be found under the Budget tab on the district website [here](#).

Board of Education Chairperson Wendy Faulenbach says, "The budget process is extremely difficult and time consuming for all involved. The entire Board and district recognize their responsibility and take this charge very seriously. The Board worked diligently through adoption to put forward a fiscally conservative request while balancing the needs of instruction and programs. Hard choices continue to be made. The Board appreciates the engagement of the community continuing through this process as it moves through the Town Council and Board of Finance. The Board hopes the budget will be supported as presented."



New Milford Public Schools

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

Ms. Alisha DiCorpo
Interim Superintendent

Mrs. Catherine Calabrese
Interim Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Kevin Munrett
Facilities Director

Mr. Anthony Giovannone
Fiscal Services & Operations
Director

Mrs. Sandra Sullivan
Food Services Director

Mrs. Catherine Gabianelli
Human Resources Director

Mrs. Laura Olson
Pupil Personnel &
Special Services Director

Mr. Brandon Rush
Technology Director

Board of Education

Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach
Chairperson

Mr. Joseph Failla
Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Cynthia Nabozny
Secretary

Mrs. Tammy McInerney
Assistant Secretary

Mr. Pete Helmus

Mr. Brian McCauley

Mrs. Eileen P. Monaghan

Mrs. Olga I. Rella

Random Acts of Kindness Day® is Wednesday February 17, 2021 Random Acts of Kindness Week is February 14-20, 2021

#ExploreTheGood #MakeKindnessTheNorm
#RandomActsofKindnessDay

Celebrate kindness! Scientific evidence shows us the positive effects of doing kind acts for others as well as receiving or even witnessing kindness. Even the smallest act of kindness can change a life.

Visit <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/> for ideas.

- ◆ [Kindness at Work 2021 Calendar](#)
- ◆ [Kindness at Home 2021 Calendar](#)
- ◆ [Kindness Coloring page](#)
- ◆ [Kindness Bookmarks](#)
- ◆ [Kindness Bingo](#)

Kindness Jar

Start with an empty jar & decorate it however you'd like. Every time you witness an act of kindness, write it down and place the memory in the jar. Collect memories, observations and unexpected surprises of kindness throughout the week. On the last day of kindness week, Saturday, February 20, 2021, empty the jar and reflect back on the kindness you experienced, witnessed, or perhaps performed yourself.

Love Note

Find your favorite pen and two nice pieces of paper. Write a letter to someone who has changed your life for the better. Tell them how they have helped you. Then send it. Next, write a letter to yourself. Describe all your strengths, skills, values, behaviors and actions that have gotten you to where you are. Seal it in an envelope and put it somewhere that you'll find later when you really need to hear those words.

Kindness Worksheet

Download [this worksheet](#) and list five day-to-day activities you do. Then, next to each activity, write a way you can do the same activity, but with an added element of kindness. For example, "Floss & brush teeth" might get transformed into "Think of five things I'm grateful for while flossing and brushing." This is an excellent exercise to think of ways to incorporate kindness (for others and yourself) into your daily routine.

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.

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