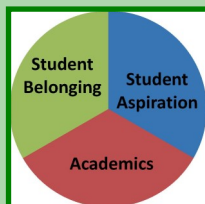




New Milford Public Schools  
50 East Street  
New Milford, CT 06776  
860-355-8406  
[www.newmilfordps.org](http://www.newmilfordps.org)



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

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



**Schaghticoke Middle School**  
860-354-2204

Dr. Christopher Longo, Principal  
Mrs. Kerri Adakonis, Asst. Principal  
Mrs. Jennifer Delaney, Asst. Principal  
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal



**Sarah Noble Intermediate School**  
860-210-4020

Mrs. Anne Bilko, Principal  
Mrs. Jennifer Chmielewski, Asst. Principal  
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Asst. Principal  
Mrs. Jennifer Meyers, Asst. Principal



**Hill & Plain Elementary School**  
860-354-5430

Mrs. Patricia Corvello, Interim Principal  
Mrs. Jennifer Hankla, Asst. Principal



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

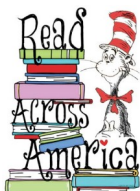
Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal  
Mrs. Barbara Nanassy, Asst. Principal

# Spotlight on New Milford Schools

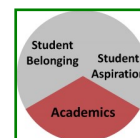
Volume 9, Issue 9

March 2019

## Spotlight on Reading



The new year brought several special reading events for our K-5 schools, everything from author visits, to PTO sponsored Read-a-thons, to the always popular Read Across America Day.



Read Across America Day was held on Friday, March 1st this year in honor of the birthday of Theodore Geisel (March 2, 1904), better known as Dr. Seuss. All students took time out to read and our PK-2 schools celebrated with special guest readers. Town and State officials, Board of Education members, and other community members including former teachers, visited the schools to share their love of reading.



Interim Superintendent Steve Tracy was lucky enough to read at both schools, sharing his favorite book, *The Little Engine That Could*, with kindergarten classes. HPS teacher Kathy Mannion coordinated the event at HPS. She said, "It was a fun day for students. The guests were welcomed with treats and enjoyed their time in the classrooms. We celebrated our love of reading and learned that reading can take you places you've never imagined, no matter what age you are!"



Throughout February and March, the PTO sponsored annual Read-a-thons at the schools, designed to promote reading at home in addition to school, while raising funds to support PTO sponsored activities and classroom book purchases.

At SNIS, the Read-a-thon theme was "Million Minute March" where the goal for students was, you guessed it, a million minutes read!

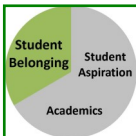
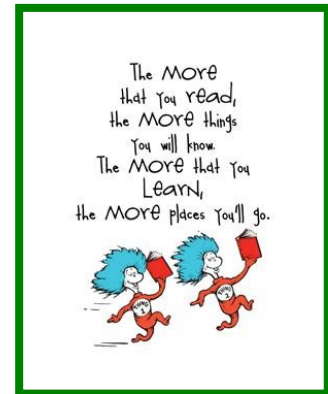
At HPS, the theme was “Reading is Dino-mite”. There was a friendly competition among the students, classes and grades as students made reading pledges and completed logs of minutes read. Stickers, bulletin board postings, and morning announcements provided encouragement. This year the students read a total of 111,163 minutes, excluding minutes read in school.



At NES, a hungry caterpillar bookworm, named Nella by student vote, provided a visual representation of minutes read for the school’s Read-a-thon event. In this case, Northville students read books and/or chapters and recorded them on slips of paper, which were added to the bookworm to keep it growing. And wow, did it grow. Very hungry indeed! PTO volunteers worked hard to mark the bookworm’s steady growth as it progressed down the halls of Northville. Students did a

wonderful job keeping them busy. Visit the NES PTO page on Facebook to see videos of their progress throughout the month.

~  
*Thank you to all the PTO volunteers  
 and guest readers for helping to  
 reinforce the importance of daily  
 reading for all our students!*  
 ~



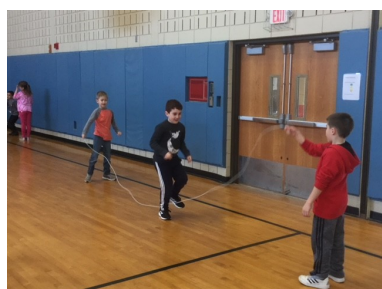
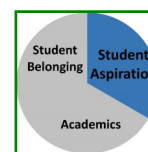
**Let's Light It Up  
 Blue!**

**Please join  
 New Milford Public Schools  
 staff and students  
 and wear blue  
 on Tuesday, April 2nd  
 as we  
 “Shine a Light  
 on Autism Awareness”**



## NES Students Focus on Heart Healthy Activities

February was National Healthy Heart month, and NES PE teacher Denise Merrill had students talking about and participating in heart healthy activities. "Our primary focus was on the locomotor skill of jumping. The students were reminded that jumping is always on two feet. They discovered that there are many different ways to jump - up and down, fast or slow, side to side, front to back, and high or low."



For those of us who don't remember, there are many different ways to jump rope. The first unit used the long jump rope, which requires two turners on the ends and at least one jumper in the middle. Students learned that it helps to jump softly, watch the rope, and stay close to the middle. They also learned that the turner needs to slowly turn a big full circle to help the jumper in the middle.

For the second jump rope lesson, students practiced jumping a short self-turned rope. The students started the lesson by measuring their jump ropes to make sure the rope was a good size for them, and then the students practiced making shapes with their ropes and jumping in, out, and around their shapes. Finally, the students practiced jumping a self-turned rope while standing in their individual exercise spots.



The next lesson introduced the Chinese jump rope. Mrs. Merrill says, "This rope is great for beginning jumpers because the rope does not move. Since you can change the level of the Chinese jump rope, it is also great for advanced jumpers as well. The second grade students used the Chinese jump ropes along with jump bands. The jump bands are much more challenging because the bands are moving as the middle person jumps. The jump bands require focus, communication, and

good timing."

On Tuesday, March 5th, the school hosted a Jump Rope for Heart event for second grade students who raised over \$2558 through sponsors. Students enjoyed some dancing, fun and lively music, and lots of jumping rope. The event concluded with bottled water and fruit, served by the PTO.



Interested in more heart healthy ideas and suggestions for your children?

Check out these webpages:

[10 Ways to keep your child's heart healthy](#)

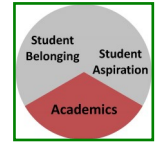
[Healthy Heart Activities, Coloring, Puzzles and Learning Page](#)

[Kids' Corner at nutrition.gov](#)

## K-5 Students Explore Computer Science



According to the U.S. Department of Labor “Employment of computer and information technology occupations is projected to grow 13 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations. These occupations are projected to add about 557,100 new jobs.” In light of these facts, computer science instruction has become a hot topic throughout the United States. At the elementary level, teaching computer science encourages students to blend math skills, creativity, and problem solving.



Here in New Milford, the K-5 Science Enrichment teacher Mrs. Susan Brofford works with students both during and after school in this area. At the K-2 level this year, HPS and NES second grade students were introduced to code writing through a game based program in which their character navigates across the ocean while catching fish and avoiding some pesky pirates.



At Sarah Noble Intermediate School, every class participated in the school wide “Hour of Code” event. The Hour of Code is an international event designed to help students learn the basics of computer science and broaden their exposure. To learn more about Hour of Code and how you can use it at home, visit [www.code.org](http://www.code.org). As part of this event, third and fourth grade students used block-based programming to build programs incorporating loops and functions using familiar characters. Fifth grade students took their programming to a new level using computational thinking to develop algorithms to code a dance party.



The after school Computer Science and STEM Clubs at SNIS kept the coding fun going. Third grade students worked on debugging. Mrs. Brofford says, “Students were surprised to learn that Admiral Grace Hopper actually found a moth in the machine she was working on that caused the problem leading to the popularity of the term ‘debugging’”. Even more surprising was the fact that the moth is preserved in the Smithsonian!” Fourth grade students worked on coding games with functions that allowed them to rack up points in the games they created. Fifth grade students added conditionals and repeats into their skill set.

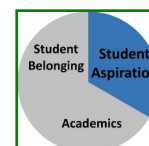


They used their new learning to create code to program electronic signs and games. Students in these clubs also learned about the importance of internet safety, avoiding cyberbullying, and being good cyber-citizens.

“Our students are surrounded by technology”, says Mrs. Brofford, “It’s so important to teach them how it works, what role they can have in creating it, and the impact it has on all our lives.” Additional instruction will continue into the spring.

## K-5 Family Science Nights

Family Science Nights took place this month on March 19 for our K-2 students and on March 21 for SNIS students. The highly successful events have become an annual collaboration between the schools, New Milford PTO and K-5 Science Enrichment teacher Mrs. Susan Brofford.

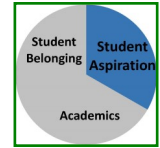


This year approximately 70 students participated at the K-2 level and over 100 students presented projects in grades 3-5. In addition to the exhibitors, a full house of students and families showed up to see the presentations. Each night, between 10-15 NMHS students volunteered their time to facilitate hands-on STEM activities. SMS Project Lead the Way students were on hand to demonstrate their work.



A number of paraeducators, teachers and administrators from the three schools attended to act as judges, and/or provide support, as well as much deserved praise to our budding scientists. Special thanks to the PTO and student volunteers.

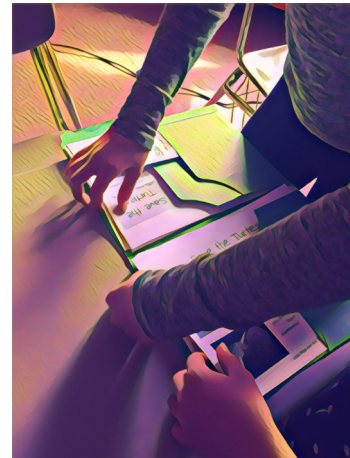
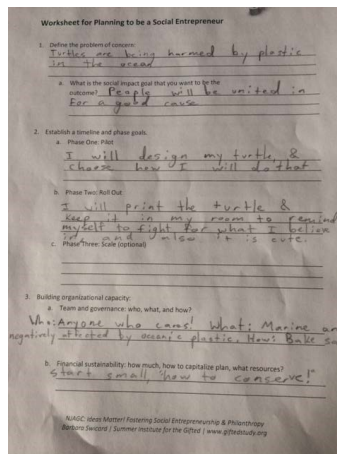
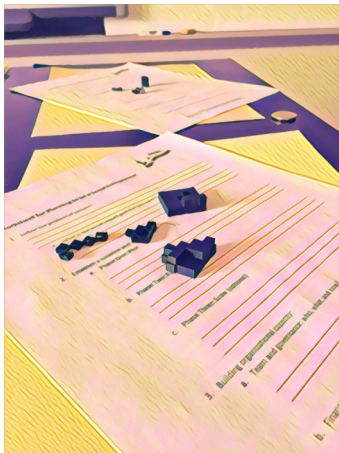
## SMS TAG: 3D Printing Towards a Better World



Over the course of eight class sessions, SMS TAG students blended 3D printing for the betterment of a global society, integrating mindfulness and social emotional growth as they worked to become social entrepreneurs. 3D printing allows for hands-on experiential artifact making and connects with both middle grade math standards and the NGSS science standards.

SMS TAG teacher Dr. Yvonne de St. Croix chose mindfulness as a framework based on professional development the school is doing in that area. Students began the project by viewing the brief animated video, “Why Mindfulness is a Superpower” then transitioned into an empathy video featuring Brene Brown, a research professor who wrote the book *Dare to Lead*. Finally, students watched a video from Project Daniel, which is a project that uses technology for the sake of benefiting humanity.

Next students focused on their problem-solution proposal development through extensive writing and use of scheduling and worksheet tools. During several follow up sessions, students integrated their proposals into 3D printing project development and worked collectively to solve problems. As a final step, students turned to the Makers Empire software platform for 3D design to develop their understanding in how to code new, purposeful 3D objects that met the goal set by the project and aligned with their individual proposals.



So, what projects did students focus on? Students were drawn to environmental concerns such as removing plastics from the oceans and the deforestation of animal habitats. One student chose to make a 3D turtle to have on hand as a reminder to keep fighting for a safe ocean. Students concluded the projects by printing their 3D design, completing their social entrepreneur philanthropy proposals, and presenting their designs and completed proposals to the class.

For more information on this project and to see what else is planned this year, visit the NMPS TAG website at [www.nmpstag.com](http://www.nmpstag.com).

If it's March it must be...



National Nutrition Month® is an annual nutrition education and information campaign created by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The campaign, celebrated each year during the month of March, focuses on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. Starting this year, National Nutrition Month® was honored as its own theme, which is to increase the public's awareness of the importance of good nutrition.

The New Milford Public Schools Food Services department supports this campaign by tweeting a nutrition tip of the day throughout the month. We share a few below, but if you'd like to see more, visit them on Twitter @NMPSFoodService. Better yet, become a follower so you can see what they are tweeting all year long.

### **The Cheapest Prescription in the World: Exercise**

Take the stairs up to your office. Park a little further away from the grocery store. Walk your dog around the block. Carry out the trash. It's the cheapest prescription in the world, but most people don't want to fill it. The weekly recommended amount of activity for adults: at least 150 to 300 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity or 75 to 150 minutes of vigorous-intensity activity, combined with muscle-strengthening activity on at least two days. Examples of moderate activity include brisk walking, ballroom dancing, water aerobics or pulling weeds, according to the American Heart Association. Vigorous activity can involve running, swimming laps, bicycling fast, aerobic dancing or working a shovel or hoe in the garden.

### **Healthy Shopping**

When you go to the grocery store, "shop the perimeter" first. The outside is where you'll usually find fresh produce, healthy dairy products (fat free milk, yogurt and cheese) and fresh meats, chicken and fish. Fill your cart mostly with those items and then get what you need from the middle of the store.

### **Whole Grain Recommendations**

One of the key recommendations of the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans is to consume at least half of our grains as whole grains. Read the ingredient statement on products and choose those with a whole grain, like 100% whole wheat flour as the first ingredient. Make a list of the grains you eat most days, like crackers, rice, pasta, and substitute with whole wheat crackers, whole grain bread, brown rice, and whole wheat pasta. By simply substituting a full serving of whole grain for a refined grain at each meal, you can reach the recommended 3-ounce equivalents of whole grain each day!



Whole grains are often a good or excellent source of fiber, so read the nutrition facts panel and choose products that provide 3 or more grams of fiber per serving.

### Keep calories out of your coffee

Choose nonfat milk or 1/2 nonfat through 1/2 2%. Soy Milk adds protein but also added sugar. Almond Milk has less sugar & less protein. Avoid Coconut Milk, it's low in protein & high in saturated fat. Sugar packets add 20 calories.

### Build a better sandwich

Ask for a sandwich with whole wheat bread. Keep in mind that "multigrain" may mean more white flour than whole. Avoid wraps unless they're whole grain. If you're craving a sandwich, get a half sandwich plus a half salad instead. Go for a side like apples or carrots, not bread. You get extra produce and fiber. Ask for a lettuce wrap. Lose the refined grains by wrapping your sandwich in greens.

### Why Not Walk?

Whether you need to shed some pounds, relieve stress or clear your mind, walk it off, your heart will thank you! Walking is a great form of physical activity. It doesn't require any equipment, money or particular skill set to take to the pavement, trail or shopping mall. Find a buddy or group to provide motivation and conversation along the way. People of all ages can join in!

## Footloose Performances Start Friday!!

### NMHS All-School Musical

Tickets for Footloose may be purchased online at <https://nmhsct.booktix.com> or through the box office at NMHS. For more information, call the box office at 860-350-6647 ext. 1552. All seating is reserved and all tickets purchased in advance\* are \$10 each.

\*In an effort to reduce large crowds at the box office on a show date, please be aware that this year tickets purchased at the door on the day of the performance will cost \$15 each. Credit cards incur an additional \$1.50 fee per ticket.



Senior citizen passes are available through the Senior Center or by calling the Superintendent's Office at (860) 355-8406.

NEW MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL  
ALL-SCHOOL MUSICAL 2019  
*Presents*  
**Footloose**  
THE MUSICAL

Stage Adaptation by  
DEAN PITCHFORD and WALTER BOBBIE  
Based on the Original Screenplay by Dean Pitchford  
Music by TOM SNOW Lyrics by DEAN PITCHFORD  
Additional Music by ERIC CARMEN, SAMMY HAGAR, KENNY LOGGINS and JIM STEINMAN

PERFORMANCES AT NEW MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Friday, **March 29** at 7:00 PM  
Saturday, **March 30** at 7:00 PM  
Sunday, **March 31** at 3:00 PM

Friday, **April 5** at 7:00 PM  
Saturday, **April 6** at 2:00 PM  
Saturday, **April 6** at 7:00 PM

**\$10 Advance Tickets      \$15 At the door**

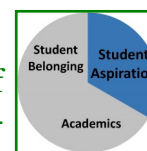
Tickets available online at [nmhsct.booktix.com](https://nmhsct.booktix.com)  
Tickets also available at the high school box office or call (860) 350-6647 x1552  
Credit cards accepted with \$1.50 fee per ticket

"FOOTLOOSE" is a trademark used under license from Rodgers and Hammerstein as licensee of Rodgers and Hammerstein, Inc. on behalf of the Owners.



## NMHS Students Shine at State Conferences

On March 5th, New Milford High School DECA (Distributive Education Club of America) members traveled to the Aqua Turf in Plantsville, CT for the Connecticut State DECA Competition. DECA is a club that consists of business students who compete on the State and National level to demonstrate their skills on business topics. The NMHS members competed with 1,100 students from around the state. Of the 46 NMHS DECA members that participated, thirteen students placed, and eleven students qualified for nationals which will be held in Orlando, FL from April 26th to May 1st.



- ♦ **International Business Plan Team Event**  
First place: Liam Lacey, Jack Schipul, Amelia Moschitta
- ♦ **Independent Business Plan Team Event**  
First place: Emilia Tesoriero
- ♦ **Buying and Merchandising Operations Research**  
Second place: Dylan Magner, Mackenzie Beck
- ♦ **Franchise Business Plan Team Event**  
First place: Sophie McSherry, Ayden O'Neill, Sarah Mickelson
- ♦ **Financial Services**  
Fifth place: Kyle Beebe, Jack Snowdon
- ♦ **SBE School Store for Recertification**  
Ivanna Torres, Madison Martinelli

DECA prepares emerging business leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high school and colleges around the globe. Students compete in a formal setting on the state level and gain experience with academic competition as well as professional behavior and expectations.

The competitions enhance the preparation for college and careers by providing programs that integrate into the classroom. Students use skills and applications learned in the classroom to demonstrate their knowledge of the subject. The state competition is a way they can demonstrate their skills in developing business plans, communication, interviewing, and interpersonal skills. Students also have the opportunity to earn college scholarships when competing at state and national levels.

\*\*\*\*\*

New Milford High School members of the FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) Club had similar success at their state conference. FBLA is the largest career student business organization in the world. With over 196,950 members and more than 5,200 chapters, FBLA prepares students for careers in business through leadership development, academic competitions, educational programs, and community service.

FBLA's National Awards Program recognizes and rewards excellence in a broad range of business and career-related areas. Through state-based competition at the spring State Leadership Conferences, members compete in events that test their business knowledge and skills. Top winners in each state are eligible to compete for honors at the National Leadership Conference each summer.

This year's CT State Leadership Conference was held on March 12th. New Milford students competed in nine different events and made an impressive showing by placing in seven out of the nine events entered. First and second place winners qualify to move up for national competition this summer in San Antonio, TX. Here are the winners and their events:

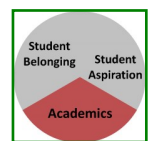


- ♦ **Computer Applications**  
First Place: Skylar Mink
- ♦ **Digital Video Production**  
First Place: Michael Milczarski
- ♦ **Introduction to Business Presentation**  
First Place: Jay Bishop, Jake Wilkinson
- ♦ **Emerging Business Issues**  
Second Place: Nicole Chodack, Alexa Duncan
- ♦ **Cyber Security**  
Second Place: Nick Magnante
- ♦ **Business Communication**  
Fifth Place: Evan Golembeske
- ♦ **Publication Design**  
Fifth Place: Abby Hunniford, Lilly McDermott

*Congratulations to all the students on their success!*

## Graduation Requirements Changing

In its 2017 regular session, the Connecticut General Assembly enacted a number of laws that impact Connecticut schools. One of those acts, Public Act 17-42, concerns revisions to high school graduation requirements starting with the Class of 2023, our current 8th graders.



New Milford High School graduates are well positioned for the state's minimum requirement of 25 graduation credits, since New Milford Public Schools currently requires 26 credits for a graduating senior. The Act also modifies some of the subject-matter credit requirements, and it is here that adjustments will need to be made.

Under Public Act 17-42, students graduating in 2023 and beyond must complete credits in a variety of clusters.

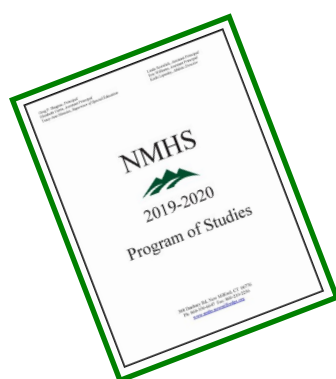
These clusters are:

- 9 credits in the humanities including civics and the arts
- 9 credits in science, technology and mathematics
- 1 credit in physical education and wellness
- 1 credit in health and safety education
- 1 credit in world languages
- 1 credit of “mastery-based diploma assessment”

In addition, Public Act 17-42 provides increased flexibility for school districts to award credits by permitting boards to grant credit to students who demonstrate mastery of the subject matter content through “educational experiences and opportunities that provide flexible and multiple pathways to learning, including cross-curricular graduation requirements, career and technical education, virtual learning, service learning, dual enrollment and early college, courses taken in middle school, internships and student-designed independent studies, provided such demonstration of mastery is in accordance with such state-wide subject matter content standards”.

What does it all mean? Change is coming. Discussion about what form that change will take is happening now at the Board level. Both the Committee on Learning and Policy subcommittees, in conjunction with NMPS administrators, are discussing all the possibilities offered by the Act.

Assistant Superintendent Alisha DiCorpo said she has been meeting with NMHS administrators and department heads to review current requirements and where they might go from here. Ms. DiCorpo said, “While New Milford is over the minimum requirement of 25 credits, the make-up of these credits is changing and the district will need to craft avenues to review, discuss, and make changes, which will then need to be properly communicated to parents. For example, one part of the new requirements is a cluster of nine credits total in Humanities, which will include Civics and the arts, versus the old requirement of four credits of English and three of Social Studies. These new clusters provide more opportunities and choice for students. This could also lead to discussions at the Board level about imparting minimum requirements in certain subject areas.”



There is some urgency to the discussion about needed revisions, since the Act is planned to go into effect for the incoming Freshman class. However, NMHS Principal Greg Shugrue said they are well aware of the effect any changes will have, but that the nature of freshman schedules gives the district time to have a thoughtful discussion about its plan going forward, as well as time to communicate that plan to parents. “Most freshmen schedules are pretty basic in choices so there is time to work through the more involved changes that will be needed before students graduate as seniors.” Stay tuned...



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



**Cynthia Bonnell**



**Maria Brito**



**Maureen Dunkerton**



**Katherine Fossi**



**Charlene Kirkwood**



**Virginia Quinn-Mooney**

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](#).



**March is  
Board  
Appreciation  
Month!**

Thank you to Board of Education members Angela Chastain, Bill Dahl, Joseph Failla, Wendy Faulenbach, David Lawson, Brian McCauley, Tammy McInerney, Eileen Monaghan, and J.T. Schemm for your volunteer service to New Milford Public Schools.



## New Milford Public Schools

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

**Dr. Stephen Tracy**  
Interim Superintendent

**Ms. Alisha DiCorpo**  
Assistant Superintendent

**Ms. Ellamae Baldelli**  
Human Resources Director

**Mr. Kevin Munrett**  
Facilities Director

**Mr. Anthony Giovannone**  
Fiscal Services & Operations  
Director

**Mrs. Laura Olson**  
Pupil Personnel &  
Special Services Director

**Mrs. Sandra Sullivan**  
Food Services Director

## Board of Education

**Mr. David A. Lawson**  
Chairperson

**Mrs. Tammy McInerney**  
Vice Chairperson

**Mrs. Angela C. Chastain**  
Secretary

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

**Mr. Bill Dahl**

**Mr. Joseph Failla**

**Mrs. Wendy Faulenbach**

**Mr. Brian McCauley**

**Mr. J.T. Schemm**

## National Poetry Month\* is just around the corner...

April is National Poetry Month! Inaugurated by the [Academy of American Poets](#) in 1996, it has become the largest literary celebration in the world with schools, publishers, libraries, booksellers, and poets celebrating poetry's vital place in our culture.

The Academy's website offers [30 ways to celebrate national poetry month](#), including:

- #2 Sign up for [Poem-a-Day](#) and read a poem each morning.
- #11 Attend a poetry reading at a local university, bookstore, cafe, or library.
- #15 [Chalk a poem](#) on the sidewalk.
- #18 Celebrate Poem in Your Pocket Day on April 18. The idea is simple: select a poem you love, carry it with you, then share it with coworkers, family, and friends.
- #21 Watch a [poetry movie](#).
- #25 Recreate a poet's favorite food or drink by [following his or her recipe](#).
- #29 Get ready for Mother's Day by [making a card](#) featuring a [line of poetry](#).

Which one will you choose?

## Here's a suggestion for Poem in My Pocket Day April 18, 2019

**I Meant to Do My Work Today**  
*by Richard Le Gallienne*



I meant to do my work today,  
But a brown bird sang in the apple tree,  
And a butterfly flitted across the field,  
And all the leaves were calling me.  
And the wind went sighing over the land,  
Tossing the grasses to and fro,  
And a rainbow held out its shining hand,  
So what could I do but laugh and go?



\*Information taken from [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org)

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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