

January 2009 New Milford High School Monthly Report

Compiled by Eric Sheninger

1. Observations

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Observed by</u>
Kerr Lockhart	English 9	1/13	1	Eric Sheninger
Jerry Engstrom	English 11	1/14	3	Eric Sheninger
Jamie Bruno	Journalism	1/20	7	Eric Sheninger
Matt Frederick	Health 11	1/21	3	Eric Sheninger
Jen Gandolfo	Health 9	1/22	2	Eric Sheninger
Mike Coyne	Skills	1/27	5	Eric Sheninger
Debra Smith	Reading	1/29	2	Eric Sheninger
Thomas Carey	Biology	1/21	5	Jerry Perrone
Lynne Torpie	Biology	1/22	3	Jerry Perrone
Richard Cella	Algebra 1B	1/23	1	Jerry Perrone

Summaries:

2. Guest lecturers

- On January 22nd and 23rd, Mrs. Tambuscio came to Mr. Engström's fifth and seventh period C.P. English 9 classes as a guest speaker on the topic of the Holocaust. Mr. Engström's classes have been reading Elie Wiesel's memoir, *Night*, which is the recollection of a young Jewish boy, who went through, and survived, the death camps at Auschwitz. The presentation was a part of the conclusion of the unit and proved to be an extremely worthwhile endeavor as the students responded with impressively candid and thoughtful questions. Mr. Engström's fifth period cooperative teacher, Mrs. Mackey, was instrumental in the planning of not only the unit of study, but also the aforementioned engagement with Mrs. Tambuscio.

3. Innovations:

- On 1/13 and 1/14 special grade level assemblies were held for current 10th and 11th grade students to inform them of the many elective courses that they could take at NMHS. Each department presented on the unique courses offered in their respective content areas. Students were provided with a description of each elective and a rationale as to why they should take the course. The overall purpose of these assemblies is to increase not only interest, but also enrollment in a variety of specialized courses to better meet the needs of the students.
- On January 15th, the Student Council held their annual Martin Luther King, Jr. assembly. This year was particularly memorable as nine different students ranging from grades 10-12 (some speaking in front of an audience for the first time in their lives) took the podium and declared, "I have a dream"; they then shared those very personal dreams with their peers in the audience. Will Esposito did a fine job introducing the program as President of the Student Council. Members of the ensemble also performed in between student speeches, singing poignant songs that emphasized Dr. King's platforms and ideas. Song such as "Imagine," "One Step at a Time" and "Waiting on the World to Change" beautifully rounded out the program's message. Once again, our students rose to the occasion and made their fellow students appreciate a "day off from school" in an important and significant way.
- Members of Student Council and Peer Leadership hosted a meeting with students from Pompton Lakes High School (Passaic County, NJ) under the Guidance of Mr. Sheninger, Ms. Schlamp, Ms. Bernardo, and Ms. Tambuscio. The premise of the meeting was to

- exchange innovative ideas unique to each school with the hopes of making each better. Last year a similar event was held with Belvidere High School. The students of NMHS presented various programs that help to define NMHS culture such as Denim for Dollars, Bear Hugs for the Holidays, Fundraising Efforts for Darfur, the Gifted & Talented Program, Holocaust Study Tour, Drama Club activities, and the NM Gives Back Carnival. Our students presented a thorough PowerPoint presentation and infused multiple video clips in order to provide a detailed, inside look at life in New Milford. NMHS students then guided representatives from PLHS through our building and conversed over lunch catered by Sanducci's. Our students will travel to Pompton Lakes High School later this year to learn about their special programs with the goal of possibly implementing some of them here.
- Students in Mr. Ivchenko and Mrs. Vicari's 9th grade Computer Applications course just completed a project called "**Moving Out**" using Microsoft Excel, Word, and the Internet. The students were given a one time expense budget to furnish a 1-bedroom apartment. Using the Internet, they searched for specific household items and furniture. They created a budget that listed the items and cost of the items in a spreadsheet. Using formulas in Excel, the students stayed within their budget. In addition, they were given a monthly budget and a list of expenses to create a second spreadsheet. They searched for a 1-bedroom rental apartment that would not cause them to go over their monthly budget. The final step of the project was to write a modified block letter to their parents explaining that they were moving out and would like to take four items from their home.
 - Mrs. Solimano's Spanish 4 classes completed an alternative assessment that counted as one-half of the mid-term grade. They created an original album of their lives with photos. Each photo was captioned with a Spanish annotation. The beautiful albums are on display in Mrs. Solimano's classroom.
 - All 9th grade biology students in Mrs. Torpie, Mr. Devereaux, and Mr. Carey's classes are participating in an Authentic Based Learning Project in which they must test various factors that effect plant growth. They have been put into the role as the manager of the Hackensack HomeDepot's Nursery. Each 'managerial group' has received a memo from the CEO of Home Depot stating that there will be a reward to the nursery manager who can come up with a way of growing bigger, healthier plants as fast as possible. The students have designed their own experiments and are comparing their data to the teacher's control plants. They have been gathering data daily, and are going to create a presentation explaining their findings to the CEO in the form of a PowerPoint presentation or an audio/video podcast.
 - As Mrs. Michels' Honors English class studied the novel, Pride and Prejudice, by Jane Austen, they ventured on a cooperative effort to explore the Regency Era in which the story takes place. Groups researched the dress, foods, social etiquette, and women's roles and rights of the time. Some students revealed the dress of the era for young and old, rich and poor. This group explained the Eton and Skeleton suits, the differences between frocks and waistcoats, britches and trousers. Others displayed the empire waist and Spencer jackets in details. Some of the boys, yes the boys, baked "pigeon in a hole," with some modifications, for the entire class. Recipes for parsnip pie, clotted cream, and Barmbrack gave curious students a taste of the Regency desserts. Students were glad that the stringent rules of manners have relaxed although they all are still very mannerly young adults says their teacher. Finally, the roles of women, their alternatives to marriage and their legal rights, if any, were certainly a real revelation for all. All the research gave them a broader experience into this fascinating era of the early 1800's.

4. Student honors:

- New Milford High School students participated in the 2009 Panasonic Creative Design Challenge. The Challenge was organized by Panasonic Corporation of America and held in

the North Building Auditorium in Secaucus on Wednesday January 21, 2009. Students were asked to design and build a robot that would be used to clean the beach. New Milford presented two teams led by Justin Munier and Christian Pecoraro. Other members of the team were Eileen Gongon, Kasumi Almeida Jason Korzelius, and Charles Seifert. For this year's challenge, the students had to design and construct a device that can perform various tasks associated with cleaning up a beach and the portion of the ocean closest to the shoreline. They were particularly excited when they successfully tested the use of electromagnets to pick metal items on the beach. The robots did not complete the course because of some problems with gear design. Nevertheless, both teams advanced to the finals, which will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2009, at NJPAC in Newark. Oral presentations will take place in mid March at NJIT. Mr. Peter Torpie and Dr. Adu Asa-Awuku are the advisors who accompanied the teams to the competition. For more information please visit

<http://www.panasonic.com/cdc/presentations/CDC%20Coaches%20Workshop%2010-2008.ppt>

- The following students are members of this year's Mock Trial Team

Representing the Plaintiff	Attorneys:	Sean Walsh and Angela Wang
	Witnesses:	Diane Montecuallo
		Melissa Milne
		Sheryl Mathew
Representing the Defense	Attorneys:	Kinjal Desai
		Kristi Saporito
	Witnesses:	Lucian Feraru
		Neena Oomenn
		Nishant Patel

The team has won all competitions to date, defeating Wallington HS on 1/8/09, Leonia HS on 1/12/09, and St. Joseph's HS on 1/21/09. The team has now qualified to compete in the quarterfinals, which will take place on 1/29/09 at 5:30 P.M. at the Bergen County Court House.

- The end of an amazing year brings forth a hopeful new year. The New Milford High School chapter of NAHS had a very productive 2008. Many members began the year with a creative summer attending extensive art programs. Abigael Talla attend a 2008 summer course at Otis College of Art in California, after being awarded a scholarship, while Judy Koo attended the Cooper Union six-week summer outreach program. From the beginning of the school year, the members did not hesitate to pick up their pencils and brushes.

President Matt Kaprielan and Vice President Judy Koo warmly welcomed new members Abigael Talla, Jacob Ramos, Melissa Milne, and Virginai Amorosa into the New Milford High School chapter of NAHS. Our members were busy working on their A.P. portfolios and college portfolios, but they were also working on other art projects. President Matt Kaprielan, who is currently taking A.P. 2D and 3D, has been very active in set designing. Matt worked on the set for the school's fall play, The School Inspectors. He has also worked on previous school play sets. In addition, He worked on the Bergen County Players Theater for the set of The Full Monty. Matt had received a scholarship for sculpting classes at the Art Center, where he is taking a printmaking course. Judy Koo exhibited many of her artworks at the Korean Imagination Exhibit at Bergen PAC and the Student Exhibition at the Art Center of Northern New Jersey in 2007 and 2008. Judy is attended the Cooper Union 9 week fall outreach program, as well as the Cooper Union 6 week summer outreach program.

The last months of 2008, the NAHS members worked hard in and outside of class. The

members organized an after school mural program and the first project was the Sports Mural Hall. The mural honored the sports New Milford students participate in and the Sports Hall of Fame. The project was very successful and appreciated by the student body. Currently, the mural club is working on a new mural in collaboration with the history department. The theme is the important times in U.S. History.

5. Field trips

- On February 4th, Mr. Engström brought seven students to represent New Milford High School at the 2009 North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad open round competition at New York University. The North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad is a contest in which high-school students solve linguistic puzzles. In solving the problems, students learn about the diversity and consistency of language, while exercising logic skills. The competition lasted three grueling hours, but at the end of it, the students were excited about the event they had just taken part in, and were anonymously optimistic about their performance at the competition.

6. Guidance

- On Tuesday, January 6th, NMHS welcomed back fourteen alumni students from the class of 2008. Graduates spent the day speaking to students about their experiences in college. The 11th grade students were addressed in small groups with a focus on the college application process. The 12th grade students attended an assembly that focused on life as a first year college student. Both groups were given plenty of time to ask the alumni questions. At a lunch hosted by the Guidance Department, the alumni had the opportunity to visit with department heads, board members, and other invited guests.
- During the week of January 7th, parents of 11th grade students received a mailing containing the following information: the results of the practice Math HSPA test that was administered in October, a "Parent Guide to the March 2008 HSPA Test" booklet, and a request for the parents of junior students to make an appointment for a meeting with their child's guidance counselor. This meeting will focus on the post high school planning process and the 12th grade course registration information.
- Two admission representatives from Bergen Community College will be at NMHS on Wednesday, Jan 28th to meet with approximately forty seniors. The representatives will interview each student, review their application, and answer any questions regarding placement exams, majors, or programs offered at Bergen Community College.

7. Professional Development:

- Mrs. O'Donnell, the school nurse received training in the following areas through the Nursing Spectrum:
 - Type 2 Diabetes Reaches Epidemic Proportions Among Youth
 - How Can We Reach Teenage Smokers

8. Facilities

- A mobile laptop cart containing Mac Books has now been assembled and is ready for use in conjunction with the mobile iPod learning lab.

9. Other

- Ms. Zacher (S.A.C.) and John Walsh from the NM Drug Alliance applied for and received a grant in the amount of \$1,125.00 to provide prevention and education programs by the Alliance Activity. The money has been allocated to address high-risk students who present maladaptive patterns of behaviors that are hindering their ability to

excel academically and socially through an in-house program called, "The Key to Inner Vision". This ten-session educational skill building program address the beliefs and behaviors that lead to violence, drug abuse/dependency and school failures by enhancing decision making skills, conflict resolution and goal setting in adolescent. The Key to Inner Vision will be offered to junior students who meet the criteria for participation in this group. The Junior Class was selected to assure a healthy Senior Class next year.

- The girls' basketball team has qualified for the Bergen County Tournament and will be playing a first-round game versus River Dell on Saturday, January 31st at 5:30pm at Paramus Catholic.
- On February 7th at 7:00pm, the boys' varsity basketball team will be playing at home versus Glen Rock in the Mike Pevny Scholarship basketball game.
- The Opening Knights will be presenting an invitational, interactive murder mystery on February 6th and 7th for all family and faculty members of our community. This show is strictly a fundraiser to help support theatrical activities during the school year. Murder, mayhem, and comedy will be provided! This show takes place in multiple settings around the school building and will feature over forty NMHS students with two alternate endings.
- On February 13, 2009, Alexander Diaz and friends will presenting a Love Cabaret entitled "What I Did for Love" at 7:30PM in the James Africano Auditorium. This love song cabaret will feature love songs from your favorite musical productions and artists. All performers are professional singers from the tri-state metropolitan area. The finale of this cabaret will feature the entire cast of this year's spring musical, WORKING. Tickets are \$10.00 for students and \$15.00 for all other patrons. All proceeds will fund this year's spring musical!!!



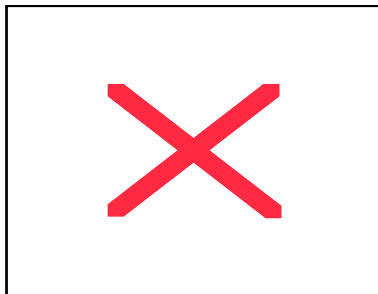
New Milford High
School

NEW MILFORD, NJ

JANUARY 12, 2009

Class of 2012 Health and Alliance Seminar Registration For Seminar

The Student Assistance Program is sponsoring the first annual Freshmen Class Health and Alliance Seminar in March. The freshmen class was asked on January 12, 2009, to select three different seminar topics that they wish to attend. The topics of the groups were selected by the students who participated in the initial assessment of the student's needs. Once the tally is complete the top 5 seminars will be scheduled and experts in the specific fields will



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educate the freshmen on that specific topic. Some of the topics that were selected focused on: adolescent struggles regarding substance abuse and mental health issues, proper study skills, eating disorders and depression to name a few.

PROJECT UTOPIA

The New Milford's Student Assistance Coordinator, Dorene Zacher has written an in-depth grant to develop PROJECT UTOPIA, This unique concept is a multi cultural peer group which consists of two members of all races, creeds, religions and other diverse cultures that represent New Milford High School. The development of this program will address cultural, ethical and racial issues, which will allow the students at New Milford High School to take a proactive approach in addressing society's stereotypical deformation of character and to allow the students a voice regarding their own personal experiences. PROJECT UTOPIA breaches the gaps. The active participants in this voluntarily group must be willing to stand up and fight for what is right; not only for the particular student, but for the entire student body. Student's claims of discrimination and bullying by another student will be judge by a jury of their peers and will work closely with the administration. The grant was written for the amount of \$2,500