

June 2008 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>
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Summaries:

2. Guest lecturers

3. Innovations:

- The June 6th "*I Give*" Dunk Tank, Carnival, Magic Show, and Student Luau Dance was a complete success, and helped to generate almost \$8,000 for the New Milford Community. The dunk tank was supervised by Mr. Pevny and was a big attraction during the school day. Several faculty members, including our charismatic Principal, were soaked by ball wielding students looking for revenge for various disciplinary actions taken against them. Mr. Coviello and the stage crew set up the carnival while this was going on outside. With student leaders such as Mike Kontomanolis, Sarah Ebel, Matthew Kaprielian, and Mike Kusnir the job was completed with great precision and speed. The "*I Give*" Carnival ran from 3PM to 7PM on the front lawn of the high school. Over twenty student groups manned a plethora of game and food booths for the New Milford townspeople to enjoy. Returning teacher Wendy Mackie provided the music and karaoke for all to enjoy. Food was supplied by community donations and prepared by a dedicated group of parents including Mr. and Mrs. Maggi, Mr. and Mrs. McCarten, Mr. and Mrs. McCann, and Mr. and Mrs. Cottiers. A multitude of NMHS faculty members and administrators were in attendance to ensure its success thanks to the organizational efforts of Mrs. Tambuscio and the entire "I Give" committee. Mr. Sheninger, Mr. Manuppelli, and Mr. Perrone personally acknowledged the incredible efforts by this group of people who included such veteran faculty members as Rose Depoto and Pam Miller and new teachers Nicola Schneider and Dana Buzelli. NMHS was proud to have hosted hundreds of visitors from the community and school and even more proud to support those in need within that community and school. At 7PM alumnus James Vagias performed his professional magic show for a large New Milford audience of children and grown-ups alike. This event raised hundreds of dollars to support the "I Give" cause. This event also showcased such esteemed students as Hannah Zarate and Vanessa Rappa who worked as assistants to Mr. Vagias. Mr. Sheninger also performed and was made to "magically" appear from an as yet undetermined location. Experts, including Mr. Vagias, are still trying to figure out how to reverse the spell and send him back. The entire day of philanthropic activities culminated with the student Luau dance in the high school courtyard. This dance raised well over a thousand dollars and was great fun for the hundreds of students who were in attendance. This dance was also supervised by Walt Pevny who had student Justin Munier DJ the affair. Ruth Beiner catered the event by soliciting a very generous donation from the New Milford Shop Rite. Everyone is excited that this event has truly become an annual affair and that it will continue into the future.
- Members of Student Council and Peer Leadership visited Belvidere High School (Warren County, NJ) on 6/2/08 under the Guidance of Mr. Sheninger, Ms. Schlamp, and Ms. Tambuscio. The premise of the meeting was to exchange innovative ideas unique to each

school. NMHS students were intrigued by several activities that are run at BHS and are eagerly looking to implement some of them during the 2008-2009 school year.

- As the culminating activity for the Probability and Statistics class taught by Ms. Aivars, the students had to create a statistical study. They chose a topic of interest, with regards to the NMHS students. They then created a survey and chose a simple random sample of NMHS students to give the survey to. When they got the results, they had to tabulate all of them, decide on the best way to graphically display them, do statistical analysis to answer various questions about their results, write a written report and do an oral presentation to the class. Some of the topics chosen this year were: sleep, driving, tanning, music preferences, jobs, thoughts on the upcoming presidential election, football and exercising. The students learned how studies are done, what kinds of problems are encountered and that not all data provides you with statistically significant results. A lot was learned by all.
- At the end of May, Ms. Mackey gave her seniors (Business Math) a form with all of their classmates names on it. She asked each of them to write something positive about each of their friends- something they liked or admired. They were instructed not to write anything if they didn't have anything nice to say. On 6/19/08 Ms. Mackey created a tangible memory that will last forever with them. She took all of their comments and created little cards for each of the students. She compiled all of the positive comments, placed them in a 2x3 text box, and then made a second box with a hand selected quote from her, and a sign with a graduation cap that said Congratulations! Mrs. Mackey- 2008. To finish it off, Ms. Mackey mounted them in a little paper frame and laminated each one. Her last instruction to these seniors will be to keep these cards in their wallets, and to remember what impressions they have made on a group of students (and their favorite teacher!) here at New Milford High School.

4. Student honors:

- At the annual Senior Awards Dinner on 6/10/08 held at the Clinton Inn, NMHS students received over \$50,000 in scholarships. When taking into account university scholarships, the class of 2008 has received over 1.2 million dollars!
- Judy Koo was accepted for the 2008 six week summer art program at the Cooper Union School of Art in Manhattan. This is a full scholarship program with no charges for classes and materials.
- Lijin Joy and Jonell Robles obtained the 1st nomination for All-Eastern Chorus which will be held in Rhode Island in March. Their nomination was based on their All-State scores.

5. Field trips

6. Professional Development

- Mr. Manupelli attended a program called Gangs in Suburbia on 6/10/08 at Bergen County Community College. The conference was designed to facilitate collaboration of all community resources to combat gang activity in Bergen County. Many professional connections were made to assist students in and out of school.
- Mr. Andolino participated in an exchange visit to Belvidere High School on June 2nd. Time was spent with two music teachers that work together instrumentally and vocally. They demonstrated the various ensembles that included Band, Chorus, Madrigals and a unique group that incorporates modern instrumentation and vocals. Scheduling ideas, equipment issues and fundraising were also discussed. An overall sense of the school environment compared to NMHS was developed through their presentation. It was an informative and enjoyable visit. Spending school time sharing ideas with fellow teachers and administrators in a similar position was a rewarding experience.

- Ms. Schneider was selected as one of the 28 teachers from Bergen and Hudson Counties to participate in the Honeywell Institute for Ecosystems Education Professional Development field study this August in the Hackensack Watershed. The New Jersey Audubon Society (NJAS) and Honeywell have partnered to create an exciting, week-long, 30-hour professional development program. The program offers in-depth experiences that use inquiry as a basis for building effective field studies. This week of professional development is designed to provide teachers with:
 - New Jersey-specific content information that focuses on the natural systems that unite urban, suburban and rural communities
 - In-depth experiences that use inquiry as a basis for building effective field studies
 - Practice using the same skills and tools that instructors will use with their students so that content information can be effectively integrated into existing curricula
 - Access to printed, technological, and organizational resources to enhance classroom investigations and field trips
 - Chances to model lessons and field trip techniques used in outdoor experiential learning situations

By connecting the classroom to the real world, teachers can help students become more aware of the world around them, take an active role in preserving their local environments and acquire the critical thinking, problem solving and basic life skills to be informed global citizens

- Mrs. Monroe was asked by the New York City Foreign Language Teachers Association to present a workshop at their convention this coming October on teaching Quebec history, culture and language through folksongs and other media. She hopes to integrate into this workshop the technology skills which she will learn at this summer's iPod training which she'll be attending.

7. Facilities

8. Guidance

- On Tuesday, June 10th New Milford High School's Senior Awards Night was held at the Clinton Inn in Tenafly. Over 250 guests were in attendance including faculty, presenters, family, friends, and students. The 44 seniors honored at the banquet received over 50 scholarship and recognition awards. Valedictorian, Paul Robalino, and salutatorian, Damin Hashash, were recognized with plaques presented by the New Milford/Teaneck Elks Club. This year's scholarships contain several new awards, including:
 - The Jerry Liblit Scholarship (former member of the Board of Education)
 - The Ray Harrison Scholarship
 - Theater Arts Achievement Scholarship
 - NVE Bank Scholarship

We are grateful to all of the generous scholarship contributors and very proud of our outstanding scholarship and award recipients. The students attending this dinner received over \$50,000 in scholarships. The Class of 2008 has earned over 1.2 million dollars in scholarships and grants.

9. Other

- On Thursday June 5th from 6pm -9pm, the Music Honor Society and The Student Council worked together to pull off a great night for the Senior Citizens of New Milford. As early as 3:00 that afternoon the MHS and the SC worked very quickly to transform the cafeteria into a twilight environment of colored balloons, flowers, and candles on every table. The students worked hard and got all the food donated from local caterers or restaurants. There was great music provided by a DJ and the students even named a Prom King and Queen who

shared a dance with New Milford's Homecoming King and Queen named earlier this year. About 45 senior citizens attended. They ate, danced and laughed all night. The kids not only escorted seniors to their tables, helped with set up and clean up but also danced the night away with the guests. It was a smashing success and we can't wait to do it again next year!!!

- The Varsity Sports Banquet took place on June 3rd at Gatsby's. Sixty-three seniors were honored at this dinner. In addition, the Athletic Boosters awarded \$1,000 scholarships to eight seniors.
- Seniors Will Walsh and Chris Tacoma were selected 1st Team All-County for baseball by the Bergen County Coaches Association. Both Will and Chris were also selected to play in the New Jersey State Coaches Association All-Star Classic on June 14th.
- Boys' tennis coach, Joe Ricciardelli, was named North Jersey Coach of the Year by The Record.