

May 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

- Phil Grieco, Director of Sports Marketing/Sponsorships for M&M/Mars, spoke to select groups of students on 5/21/08 that expressed an interest in Marketing/Advertising careers. He presented a detailed look into a career in this area that included specific responsibilities (NASCAR, NFL), perks, college courses, and other related jobs that he held prior. At the conclusion of the presentation Mr. Grieco gave out his contact information and encouraged each student to contact him with any questions, arrange a visit, or inquire about possible internships.
- On Monday, May 19th Ina and Jack Polak spoke to our students regarding their experiences during the Holocaust. Jack and Ina Polak are Holocaust survivors whose story has been recently documented in a film entitled, "Steal a Pencil for Me." Their unusual romance and exchange of love letters amid unimaginable horror at the Westerbork deportation camp in their native Holland and the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in Germany are a testament to the power of love and courage. The Polaks married in 1946, and this past January, they celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary. They emigrated to the United States in 1951, and they raised three children. Our students had the opportunity to experience their story through the documentary. Through this first-person account, they were able to ask the Polaks questions regarding their survival and learn a great deal about their will to live after the Holocaust. Additionally, Irene Frank and Larry Pick, two New Milford Holocaust survivors, told their stories of surviving several concentration and death camps to our students. Ms. Frank and Mr. Pick are annual guests during the school's Holocaust Day of Learning and remain committed to our students.
- High School students had the opportunity to see a presentation sponsored by the Municipal Drug Alliance on 5/15/08. Matt Bellace presented his "How to Get High Naturally" presentation to grades 9 – 12. Matt has earned his PhD in Clinical Psychology and is also a stand-up comedian. He did a great job connecting with the students and getting his message across in a meaningful way to the students.
- On Wednesday, May 21st, the Social Studies department hosted two veterans who spoke of their experiences in the military as a special annual program we hold each year before Memorial Day. New Milford resident Rich Schimel shared his experiences as an Army Ranger in Vietnam, and Rich Musicant shared his experience in combat from the Persian Gulf War of 1990.

3. Innovations:

- It is the goal of the PE Department to provide a curriculum that will benefit the student beyond the walls of the classroom. This year approximately 25% of the senior class has been certified in CPR. Some students that are continuing their education in the health field have taken a more advanced CPR class that will help them in their career choice. Also, a few alumni students that are either going to school currently for some degree in healthcare or doing something that requires them to continue to keep their certification up to date have returned to New Milford to get recertified. Graduates of New Milford High School always know that the doors are open for the alumni to return to their alma mater for assistance with whatever they may need

- Friday, May 16 saw a new level in student creativity and initiative at New Milford High with the advent of the Student Play Festival and Competition, hosted and produced by Mr. Lockhart's Drama Class and the Opening Knights, the new NMHS drama society. Back in early spring, students were invited to write new and original plays between 10 and 20 minutes in length, producible on the NMHS stage. As an additional incentive, prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25 were offered. Mr. Lockhart says, "The idea came to me as I was teaching the Drama class about the great play and poetry festivals in Athens of the 5th Century BC. Although we see the plays of Sophocles, Euripides and Aeschylus as pillars of our cultural heritage, those men were just trying to do their best to win a prize. Mr. Lockhart figured if it's good enough for Sophocles, it's good enough for New Milford High. From the plays submitted, five were selected as semi-finalists, as follows: "I Dream of Carrman" by Ryan Dempsey '08, a surreal fantasy based on the trials and tribulations of the college application process; "Modern Shakespeare" by Sean Walsh '09, a wild travesty of Hamlet, Macbeth and a few other scraps of the Bard about the revenge plot of a young man unfairly denied the part of a lifetime; "Tumor Boy" by Sean Theodore '08, a complex mixture of science fiction and black humor about a strange accident of birth; "Beginning Our Descent" by Jessica Milne '11, a light-hearted romantic comedy set on an airliner; and "Group Therapy" by Vanessa Rappa '08, which contemplated the consequences of school violence in the vein of NO EXIT or OUTWARD BOUND.

Each playwright decided to direct and produce his or her own piece, assembling and rehearsing their actors. Interestingly, although the evening was billed as both a festival AND a competition, several of the playwrights appeared in plays by other writers, emphasizing the festival aspect of the whole evening. The judges, selected from the audience, consisted of Mrs. Susan Kaprelian, a stalwart supporter of theater arts at NMHS, Michael Kusnir '08 and Samantha Lockhart, William & Mary '10. After the five competing plays were performed, the judges withdrew while the cast put on a short sketch repeated from this winter's cabaret. Finally the winners were announced: 3rd prize, Ryan Dempsey, 2nd prize, Vanessa Rappa, 1st prize, Sean Walsh. Within minutes, Mr. Lockhart was hearing students' plans for new plays for "next year." Mr. Coviello, advisor of the Stage Crew, and co-advisor of Opening Knights, "Fun as it was, the competition was really just a gimmick. What this evening was about was students stepping up, taking the reins and not waiting for teachers or other adults to tell them what to do or how to do it. This was a major learning and growing experience, and I hope we can not only continue it, but provide even more structure and guidance for the students to realize their own visions."

- The students in Mrs. Vicari and Mr. Ivchenko's 9th grade computer applications classes are learning how to use Microsoft Access which is a database management system. They also are learning how to use the Guidance Naviance system which allows students to keep a resume of academic and extra curricular involvement as well as begin to research college and career information. The students will use Microsoft Access and the Guidance Naviance program to create a database of colleges that they may be interested in. They will also use Microsoft Word to create a college resume that will be updated each year.
- Mrs. Beiner's Culinary Arts classes will be hosting an Iron Chef Competition in June. The competition will be judged by their peers. The judges will have to bring in one can of food to get a ticket and the food will then be donated to a local food bank. This is to address the recent articles covering the food shortages at local food banks.
- Students in Ms. Smith's Honors Chemistry class were given a ten week project to complete on Photography and its application to chemistry. In week one, students arranged themselves in groups of 3 or 4 and were asked to purchase Kodak TX 400 black and white film. One camera was shared amongst each group and each student took about 6 pictures on the roll of black and white film purchased. They could not use disposable black and white cameras or any other type of black and white film. Students were then asked to create a list of all items in the pictures taken and for each item make up a list of the chemical names and formulas

that may be contained in that item. This list and the roll of films were due at the end of week two.

Students in their groups during Chemistry laboratory then developed their black and white negatives using the necessary black and white film chemicals which were provided. They learned how to load the negative in a makeshift darkroom into a day tank. Once the film was in the day tank, students could complete the necessary steps of development in the classroom setting. Once dried the negatives were set out to CVS to be printed. Students were then given a detailed outline of the individual report that each had to hand in using three formats; Power Point Presentation, Report or a Scrapbook.

The report consisted of eleven sections: 1) An Introduction, 2) History of Photography, 3) How the Camera Work, 4) Steps involved in the development of the film and their functions, 5) The Science behind Photography which included any chemical reactions and their equations, 6) The actual lab which was to be set up in the Scientific Method Format which had an Objective, Procedure with diagrams, Observations and Conclusions of the lab, 7) A table containing the actual chemicals and their formula used in the lab, 8) The printed copies of the pictures from CVS of the negatives the students developed with the list of chemical names and formulas, created in week one, to match and put under each picture, 9) Conclusion – what they have learned from doing this project, 10) Glossary and 11) References. All students did a great job on this project and Ms. Smith was greatly pleased.

4. Student honors:

- New Milford High School was awarded the second place position after an excellent performance in the first ever Ethics Bowl competition for high school students, held at the Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken New Jersey. The school was proudly represented by juniors, Kinjal Desai, Robert Dobos, Justin Munier and Sean Walsh. Contestants responded to questions related to ethical issues in science and technology and were judged on the basis of their moral imagination, creativity, intelligibility, ethical concerns and feasibility of their proposed solutions to a problem. About twenty schools, selected from several New Jersey high schools, participated in the competition and awards were given to the top three schools.

All the high schools were put in groups of two and New Milford High School was paired against Union Catholic in the second round of the competition. Our students were asked to present a case for or against the labeling of genetically modified foods (GMFs). Our team presented a case in support of labeling GMFs and explained that it is necessary to inform buyers if the food they are purchasing is modified because there could be long term harmful effects and the onus should be on the manufacturer. When the roles of the two teams were reversed, New Milford responded to the Union Catholic High School team's presentation in support of the use of animals for scientific experimentation. New Milford commented by explaining that it was not enough to meet state regulations and stressed the need for a higher standard to avoid cruelty to animals. Our team also rejected reports of increase in life expectancy of animals in captivity. It was the view of the New Milford team that the reports did not take into account such factors as emotional stress or the quality of life experienced by the animals.

On behalf of Stevens Institute of Technology, Professor Craig awarded three high schools with certificates of excellence. New Milford was given the award for second place and the first place award given Union Catholic High School. A plaque will be sent to the school at a later date.

- AP Calculus student Arti Desai has been designated as a recipient of a 2008 GE Star Award in the 4-year category. Arti has nominated Ms. Miller to receive a one time financial award of \$500 to be used at NMHS as directed by her.

- Jennifer Montecillo received a \$500 scholarship from "The Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs" for her portfolio. Jennifer was one of four Bergen County seniors to receive this honor. She competed with high school seniors from all of Bergen County.
- Kathy Carter was selected to receive a 2008 Historic Preservation Commendation Award from the Bergen County Historic Preservation Advisory Board as an excellent example of her Historic Preservation effort in the Youth Preservation Project category. This was presented to Kathy in honor of her work on the Peetzburgh Project for the New Milford Historic Preservation Commission, which was a photographic project involving historic homes in this area of the borough. Kathy was presented the award on 5/8/08 by County Executive Dennis McNerny and the Board of Chosen Freeholders.
- Abigail Talla was the recipient of a \$1000 scholarship to "Otis College of Arts and Design in Los Angeles," an art school in California. She will be studying fashion design in their summer program.

5. Field trips

- Ms. Morel's 3-D Design sections visited the Guggenheim art museum in NYC. They were there to see the Cai Guo-Qiang Exhibit. Cai Guo-Qiang is internationally acclaimed as an artist whose creative transgressions and cultural provocations have literally exploded the accepted parameters of art making in our time. This is especially true of *Inopportune: Stage One*, Cai's largest installation to date, which presents nine real cars in a cinematic progression that simulates a car bombing, occupying the central atrium of the Frank Lloyd Wright rotunda. Ms. Morel's students were not only exposed to the experience of walking in a Frank Lloyd Wright Architectural environment but, they also experienced first hand the ground making work of Cai Guo-Qiang. He used traditional and non-traditional materials as his medium to alter the public space of the museum and to address political and socio-economic issues in the world (http://www.guggenheim.org/exhibitions/exhibition_pages/cai.html).
- This year Quebec City is celebrating four hundred years since it's founding by Samuel de Champlain. Thirty four students from New Milford High School, Mr. and Mrs. Torpie and Mrs. Monroe spent April 18-22 visiting Montreal and Quebec City. The French speaking Province of Quebec is the largest province in Canada, (it is four times the size of Texas) and the richest in natural resources. Our students experienced "hands on" Quebec history and culture in French and visited a French school where they were greeted by French Canadian students. After a tour of their school and lunch, many students formed bonds and continue to communicate with each other. New Milford students had many opportunities to interact in French with the people of Quebec and gained an insight into the historical importance of this unique city for England, France, and the United States. The goal of the Quebec trip, and the past French Exchange Program, has always been to introduce students to unique cultural experiences and provide them with knowledge and confidence so that they may return with their families and friends to build on these experiences. Judging from the reactions of many students, the trip was a tremendous success!
- On May 14, 2008, 28 Forensic Science students visited the Bureau of Criminal Identification in Hackensack. The BCI is the crime scene investigation laboratory for Bergen County. Detective Mike Stallone gave an engaging presentation on past investigations in the county. Using PowerPoint slides incorporating actual crime scene photos, he demonstrated the importance of documenting all evidence at a scene and went on to describe how the evidence was used to solve the crime. Using techniques learned in class, the students were able to describe how fingerprints, footwear impressions and blood spatter were used to help reconstruct and solve an arson fire, a bank robbery, a traffic accident and a homicide. The students were very interested to hear the stories behind the crimes, for example the jilted girlfriend who burned the home of the vending machine owner - he lost much of the

\$100,000 in cash he had stored in the home, and the unfortunate friends drag-racing on Route 17 and on New Bridge Road. The local nature of these crimes made a big impression on the students. After the presentation, the students were treated to a tour of the laboratory facilities. They were shown the garage where vehicles are examined and peeked in the mobile crime lab trucks. The detectives showed off the automated fingerprint machine, demonstrated how fluorescent dyes and lights are used to make substances visible and test fired a revolver into a water tank to show the unique markings made by a weapon on the bullet and casings. The tour was very interesting; it brought to life and highlighted the relevance of the analytic techniques learned in class.

- The Early Childhood Development classes ran a picnic for the preschoolers at Darlington Park on 5/22/08. This field trip allowed the students to plan outside activities for the children, but due to the weather the high school students learned how to modify the activities for inside use.
- The Culinary Arts classes traveled to New York to visit Ferrera's Pastry shop on 5/14/08. This is the oldest coffee shop in Manhattan. The students took a behind the scenes tour of the shop to enrich their knowledge on pastries and cake decorating. After touring the shop the classes then traveled to the Art Institute of New York to see what programs that school has to offer graduating students.
- On 5/27/08 the International Foods classes toured Chinatown as part of the Asia unit. The students had a chance to view the markets of Chinatown. They were asked to state how these markets differ from the food markets they have in New Milford. The students lunched in Little Italy as part of the review of Italian Cooking.

6. Professional Development

- Ms. Vicari attended a professional development workshop on 5/5/08 given by the Bureau of Education & Research on USING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS TO STRENGTHEN CONTENT AREA LEARNING.
- Mr. Manuppelli attended a workshop on 5/12/08 provided by NJ Principal's and Supervisor's Association that reviewed School Law, Internet Safety, and School Leadership Styles. It was a great opportunity for him to meet with other Vice Principals to gain further insight to the position.
- On 5/13/08 Ms. Miller and Ms. Aivars attended a workshop at Middlesex County College sponsored by Texas Instruments to learn about the new NSpire calculator. Ms. Miller attended sessions for Geometry and Calculus and Ms. Aivars attended sessions for Statistics and Pre-Calculus. Both agreed that this calculator offers great opportunities for allowing the students to better understand mathematical concepts, by being able to visualize them.
- On 5/19/08 Mr. Coviello collaborated with D.E.O. Middle School teacher Lorraine Montecucollo to give a ninety minute presentation concerning the augmentation of classroom instruction using assistive technology at William Paterson University's Accessibilities Conference. The presentation focused on how to augment the classroom, school building, and school district with learning literacy software that was both state of the art and fiscally responsible. Training techniques for all educational stakeholders and methods of funding for these programs were emphasized. Both Mr. Coviello and Ms. Montecucollo brought back many cutting edge assistive and universal technology devices to their respective schools to the benefit of both special needs and regular education student populations.
- On 5/20/08 Mr. Sheninger attended a workshop entitled Administrators as Change Agents and Instructional Leaders. This program was hosted by the Madison Institute at the Paragon Federal Credit Union in Montvale, NJ. The workshop focused on making administrators more aware of individual and collective strengths/needs as educational leaders, more aware

of the critical factors that affect the change process, and to begin to develop action plans that will serve to create and maintain a successful learning organization.

- On 5/17/08 Mrs. Bettini attended a workshop at the Visual Arts Center in Summit, New Jersey. She enjoyed a gallery lecture and a question and answer session with the artist Sarah Walker. The workshop included a Gallery Exhibition "Midnight Full of Stars." Sarah Walker gave a "hands on" workshop and Mrs. Bettini photographed the work of her fellow educators to show her students. She prepared a lesson for her classes using her samples and Mrs. Walker's ideas. The project consisted of layered paintings in white acrylic paint on black paper. The students were inspired by Mrs. Bettini's visuals "Patterns in Nature" and pictures of the galaxy.

7. Facilities

8. Guidance

- New Milford High School has entered into an agreement with St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) in Sparkill, New York to offer college level courses to eligible 11th and 12th grade students at NMHS. This is particularly exciting because NMHS is the first public high school in New Jersey to enter into this collaboration with STAC. Upon successful completion of a class, students will be issued three college credits through a transcript provided by STAC. Students will be able to take this transcript to many participating colleges and transfer the credit. Each college level course taken at NMHS will cost \$75 per credit. This is a deeply discounted rate, even when compared to tuition at New Jersey State schools which cost, on average, over \$300 per credit. In addition to getting a head start on their college education, students will have full access to STAC's library, special events and lectures, and teachers will have the opportunity to bring students to sit-in on classes and lectures at STAC. For the 2008-2009 school year NMHS will be offering two college level courses through STAC—PreCalculus Honors and Film Studies. We plan to expand the program to include more courses in the future.
- On Tuesday, June 10th the staff of New Milford High School will gather with students, families, and members of the community to celebrate the seventh annual Senior Awards Night. Recognition, award, and scholarship recipients will be announced during the banquet. The valedictorian and salutatorian of the class of 2008 will be honored with plaques presented by the New Milford/Teaneck Elks Club. More than 50 individual scholarships will be awarded to members of the graduating class of 2008, including recognition of the "Top Ten Graduates". In addition, special recognition awards, the President's Education Awards, and the Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars Award will be presented.
- On Wednesday, May 21st, the Guidance Department had the opportunity to escort a group of students to a special reception at the New Milford Women's Club. The Women's Club sponsors NMHS students annually to attend the HOBY seminar and Girl's Career Institute. They also provide scholarships to outstanding students in the areas of music and art. The reception provided the opportunity for the Women's Club to get to know these students and the students the opportunity to thank the Women's Club for their generosity.

9. Other

- Members of the NMHS Varsity Cheerleading Squad hosted a Cheerleading Clinic on May 10, 2008 under the supervision of head coach Dana Buzzelli. The clinic was held to gather students from grades 1-8 who were interested in learning cheer motions, jumps, chants, and dances. The squad raised about \$1000 towards their school activities fund.

- Mrs. Bettini is pleased to announce that her new Studio Art: 2-D Design course syllabus was authorized to use the AP designation for the 2008 – 2009 academic year.
- It has been a busy month of May for the HS Band. The Band performed at the Grand Opening of the new *Stop and Shop Supermarket* in Emerson. They also performed at the Springfest at *Palisades Mall* in West Nyack, NY. They marched in the annual Memorial Day Parade in town and participated in the Bergen Teen Arts Festival.
- Ms. Keesing was happy to learn she submitted a winning application for Picturing America, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), conducted in cooperation with the American Library Association (ALA). She will receive an official award letter from NEH Chairman Bruce Cole in September 2008, along with Picturing America award materials, including forty images and a teacher's resource book.
- The baseball team defeated Cresskill 13-0 to clinch the BCSL Olympic Division Championship. Coach Dennis Sasso was named BCSL Olympic Coach of the Year.
- The boy's tennis team ended their season with a school-record 20 wins and the first state sectional finals appearance. Coach Joe Ricciardelli was named BCSL Olympic Coach of the Year.
- The boys track team secured the Bergen County Relay Championship earlier this season. The following athletes will be competing in the state championships in Egg Harbor on May 30th-31st: Katie Teets, Patrick Mitchell, John Esposito, A.J. Scoppa, Aimyle Tolentino, Brian Hirt, Steven Conner, Will Torpie, Rasheed Lawrence and John Follety.
- A retirement dinner was held on Thursday, May 29th for High School teachers, Dale Major, James Shea, Tom Slane, Carol Restivo, and Ray Harrison. We will miss their collective 165 years of experience in New Milford, and wish them each a happy and healthy retirement.