

NOVEMBER 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>
Walt Pevny	Graphic Arts	11/3	1	Eric Sheninger
Jane Swarctz	Orchestra	11/5	0	Eric Sheninger
Lynne Torpie	Hon. Biology	11/11, 11/12, 11/13	1	Eric Sheninger
Linda Keesing	Hon. English	11/12	7	Eric Sheninger
Joe Andolino	Band	11/13	0	Eric Sheninger
Carina Porr	Guidance	11/14	7	Eric Sheninger
Frank Jacob	Algebra	11/17	1	Eric Sheninger
Keith Devereaux	Biology	11/18, 11/19, 11/20	1	Eric Sheninger
Nora Aivars	Pre-Calculus	11/25	1	Eric Sheninger
Rose DePoto	English	11/25	7	Louis Manuppelli
Jerry Engstrom	English	11/17, 11/18, 11/19	7	Louis Manuppelli
Jaime Bruno	English	11/17, 11/18, 11/19	3	Louis Manuppelli
Karen Vicari	Computer	11/3	5	Louis Manuppelli
Wendy Mackey	Special Ed.	11/18, 11/19, 11/20	5	Jerry Perrone
Jennifer Gandolfo	PE/HE	11/21, 11/24, 11/25	2	Jerry Perrone
Matthew Frederick	PE/HE	11/21, 11/24, 11/25	3	Jerry Perrone

Summaries:

2. Guest lecturers

- On 10/28 Dr. Cucci (Mr. Andolino's fiancé) visited with the Early Childhood Development classes to discuss labor and multiple births.

3. Innovations:

- The Culinary Arts classes participated in a soup experiment in order to develop empathy for people in need of food. This experiment was used to introduce the school's food drive.
- Upon completing a unit on Immigration Literature, Ms. Consentino's juniors took a journey into the distant past by creating a personalized family tree, researching, and learning new things about the countries of their heritage. The students then shared this information with one another via oral presentations accompanied by numerous visual effects. The culminating activity was a food-fest in which students enjoyed tasting delicious dishes from various cultures; these dishes were prepared by their wonderful parents and relatives to whom owe our thanks! The entire experience proved to be a truly enjoyable and educational experience!

In Honors Chemistry, Ms. Smith wanted to encourage the students to think outside of the box and have some creativity. She asked students to develop an experiment/lab project which they would demonstrate in front of their classmates and explain. Each group wrote a research report using the scientific method based on a series of experiments they tried, stating the problem, and what would be the solution.

- This month in Gifted and Talented class, The Student View had a special treat. Vice Principal Lou Manuppelli came in and sat in the audience interjecting thoughts and comments alongside other students in the class; Special Education teacher, Ms. Wendy Mackey came in and served as a commentator on the panel; Spanish teacher, Ms. Jen Lyons also came in and served as a panel commentator. Each "guest" came in on different days and really added to the students' discussions. The Student View has been a success due in most

part to the passion the kids seem to have for the topics they bring in. It seems as if they also enjoy having their educators come in and not only *see* them in action, but *be part* of that action. It is the hope that the list of teachers and administrators who choose to "take a little time to enjoy The Student View" continues to grow!

- As a project Mr. Frederick asked the students to bring in their own first aid kit for class since they were talking about emergency situations and how to be prepared for one. In their first aid kit, the students brought in what they thought to be the necessities to have in such a kit. They then presented the kits to the class and they were to write down anything that they didn't have in their kit and add it at home for homework.

4. Student honors:

- On Wednesday November 19th The Challenge team of seniors Kinjal Desai, Trisha Javaluyas, Angela Wan, and Kristi Saporito, and junior Filip Piasevoli competed against Waldwick High School in the first round of the competition at NEP Studios in NYC and did an exceptional job. The competition, sponsored by Cablevision and News 12, will air NMHS's first round battle with Waldwick on Saturday, February 21st, 2009 at 6:30 PM. For more information on the competition visit <http://www.powertolearn.com/challenge/>.
- On Saturday November 15th Mrs. Bettini and her daughter Lauren Bettini brought Abby Talla, Jacob Ramos, Judy Koo, Shawn Theodor, and alumni Christian Hincapie to Portfolio Day at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. They stood on line with thousands of students waiting to get their portfolios reviewed by the art colleges of their choice. They got excellent feedback and Judy Koo's portfolio was accepted on the spot by the School of Visual Arts.
- On November 13th, band members Shirley Rojas, Leslie Seda and Mario Romero were inducted into the Music Honors Society.
- Band Members Anthony Vinci and Nick Novak were part of the town's Veterans Day ceremony; it was the first time the band had participated in several years.
- On Sunday, November 23rd, the Knights Varsity Cheerleaders competed at the FDU Fall Invitational Competition placing 1st in the team cheer dance category. Junior Brielle Onello placed 1st in single dance drill. Senior Christina Carpio and junior Brielle Onello placed 2nd in double dance drill. Seniors Kelly O'Grady, Erica Terrana, and junior Stacy Hoock were overall champions for the 2nd year in a row in the triple dance drill category.
- On Thursday November 13, 2008 at 7:00pm, New Milford High School inducted the 2008 members of the Art and Music Honor Societies. It was a spectacular concert, induction ceremony, and multimedia presentation. Thirteen students from the music department and three from the art department were officially inducted. Alexander Diaz, a New Milford High School alumnus and director of this year's spring musical, was in attendance as the keynote speaker; he also performed during the concert. The pre-induction concert included songs from "Only Hope" to "I'm Yours", and "Lily's Eyes", and even student written compositions. The night was concluded by a slideshow of the art inductees portfolios together with a choral tribute. The night was a shining success with much praise from the audience.
- Senior Lijin Joy was accepted to sing at the all Eastern Concert in March.
- Seniors Lijin Joy and Jonell Robles performed at the All-State Concert in Atlantic City and NJPAC in November.

5. Field trips

- On 11/10 Mrs. Burten's American History class enjoyed a wonderful opportunity when they visited Ellis Island. A beautiful day enhanced the experience when the students were able to explore the Island and enjoy the wonderful view of New York City. As the ferry passed the Statue of Liberty, they were able to envision what those who crossed the Atlantic might have sensed as they entered the port of New York. Because of the small group we also

enjoyed a private session with a Park Ranger and Historian for Ellis Island. His information made the immigration experience come to life and he was able to relate today's immigration process to that of the turn of the century. The students will complete their study of immigration by interviewing a recent immigrant to this country. They will compare the challenges of today's immigrant experience with those who entered America at the turn of the century.

- On 11/5 and 11/24 the Early Childhood Development classes toured the labor and delivery section of Valley hospital. On Wednesday, November 19, the Music Department and the Drama Society took 30 students to Montclair State University to hear about and experience a sample of the B.F.A. and B.A. programs in the performing arts at MSU. After a brief reception and question and answer period with the dean of the School of the Performing Arts, students chose from a number of workshops representing some of the major areas of study at the school, including Acting, Dance, Singing for Musical Theater, Creativity in Production and Stage Combat. Students were fully engaged in participatory activities—in fact, our participants in the dance workshop were very impressive. The instructors were welcoming and enthusiastic. The Stage Combat instructor even remained a few minutes after class to help with tips and pointers for the fights in the Opening Knights fall production. A question-and-answer session with the production staff and cast of the current MSU production, *Crazy For You*, followed the presentation which included Josh Delacruz (NMHS '07) who plays as the male lead. Students learned about the exhaustive and exhausting process of putting on such an ambitious production; from adapting the costumes and choreography from the Broadway originals, to balancing rehearsals and studies. Then it was lunch in one of the university refectories, and a full-scale performance of *Crazy For You*. It was no exaggeration to say that the MSU production was a dead-on reproduction of the Broadway original, from the scenic stunts, the imaginative choreography and the thoroughly ingratiating warmth and charm of the leading man, in this case our own Josh Delacruz. Our students not only came away with a strong impression of the level of an MSU education in the performing arts—several juniors and seniors planned to add it to their application/audition list—but, in light of Josh's performance, began to understand what can be possible for a graduate of NMHS in the wider world.
- The Film Studies class made what seems to be evolving into an annual tradition: a visit to the Museum of the Moving Image in Astoria, Queens. The Museum sports a number of interactive exhibits which demonstrate the mechanical and physiological principles which make motion pictures possible. We began by examining a number of the pre-motion picture toys and experiments used to capture motion. Then a number of us danced and wiggled around in front of a blank wall, while photos were taken at regular intervals. The result was a series of still photographs which could be arranged in a flipbook to simulate a movie. We then saw a number of the early devices used to play back motion pictures, including the nickelodeon and the kinetoscope. After examining some early motion picture equipment, students had the opportunity to dub dialogue onto an existing film (*Babe*) using the system called Automatic Dialogue Replacement (ADR). They also heard and saw how a complex multi-layer soundtrack for a sequence in *Titanic* was put together, how green screen is used to place an actor in any environment at will, and how pre-digital film editing was done on the original Steenbeck table used to edit such classics as *Raging Bull* and *Goodfellas*. Our whirlwind tour wound up with an exhibit of costumes and marketing items used to promote major films. We all agreed that a longer visit was warranted and to that end, the Museum obliged by providing all of us with passes for two to return on our own to explore motion picture technology and history.

6. Guidance

- On Tuesday, December 2nd, the Guidance Department will be bringing a group of qualifying seniors to William Paterson University for an "Immediate Decision Day" The students will

meet with admissions counselors, tour the campus, be treated to lunch, and receive their admissions decisions that afternoon. Eligible students will also receive their scholarship packages that day. The students will still have until the spring to decide if they would like to attend William Paterson University, but this is a great way to simplify the admissions process.

- On Thursday, December 4th at 7:00pm in the auditorium, the Guidance Department will be hosting a very important financial aid workshop for parents of 11th and 12th grade students (9th and 10th grade parents are also welcome). This annual workshop is always worthwhile but is especially relevant this year, because there have been important changes to financial aid on both the federal and state levels and also to the FAFSA form. The presenter will be Kimber Decker, Senior Vice President of Nelnet Campus Solutions. Nelnet is an educational planning and financing company. Previous to this position, Mr. Decker worked as a financial aid officer at Montclair State University. He brings with him many years of experience and expertise. Mr. Decker will be reviewing the FAFSA form line by line, offering helpful advice for maximizing your financial aid award and answering any questions.

7. Professional Development:

- Nine teachers at New Milford High School are participating in an on-going professional development project that will develop and implement authentic based learning at New Milford High School. These teachers participated in the third workshop of this continual process this month with Jim Gamble from Project Able. The training consists of teachers from all of our prestigious departments creating authentic based learning projects for their students, and for the rest of the faculty within the high school. These projects are also being shared on-line in a massive database that Project Able has developed. This will enable the teachers of NMHS to network with schools nationwide to obtain, modify, and provide feedback for authentic learning lesson plans concerning every academic and performance based discipline available to our student body. This group of teachers includes Kerr Lockhart, Jennifer Lyons, Linda Keesing, Maria Grompone, Amy Solimano, John Coviello, Richard Cella, April Millian, and Joyce Monroe. They are the vanguard group who will spearhead this learning style both in New Milford High School and in schools across the nation. Project Able has partnered with Apple Inc. in order to infuse these authentic based learning projects with state of the art technology, for which Apple Inc. has provided separate training for this group.
- Mrs. Keesing attended one day of the annual New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL) recently. One highlight was the Leadership Breakfast, featuring Julie Walker, the Executive Director of the American Association of School Librarians and Secretary of the Executive Board for the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. The Partnership for 21st Century Skills (<http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/index.php>) formed in response to the report released by the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce in 2006 (see *Time*, 12-18-06 – accessible in our EBSCO online database). Business community, education leaders, and policymakers have united to create the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, and New Jersey is one of ten current partnership states participating in the “P21” effort. Global competition, global cooperation, information growth, yet-to-be-determined new careers, and a growing service economy are the significant themes for which we need to prepare our students. Information growth requires developing information literacy skills, critical thinking skills, and problem solving skills. Mrs. Keesing stresses information skills - finding, evaluating, and using information – when she works with students. She believes there is an enormous need to give our students regular practice opportunities to grow those skills and others. Reading comprehension is a paramount skill to sharpen so that our students can then apply critical thinking to the information they locate.

Ms. Walker stated that the most important skills employers seek when hiring a high school graduate include work ethic, collaboration, good communication, social responsibility, critical thinking, and problem solving ability. Both skills and proficiency in academic content areas will grow in value over the next five years.

In addition to core content areas, educators need to address the following 21st century themes to give our students a chance to succeed in the world of today and tomorrow:

- Global awareness
- Financial, economic, and business literacy
- Civic literacy
- What are government's responsibilities in today's world?
- Health literacy

Go to www.21stcenturyskills.org/route21 to get involved in “sharing our learning’s” by contributing model lessons and more. Click on “Process”, and see how extensive this resource intends to be.

- On 11/20 Mr. Manuppelli attended a professional development workshop through Region V on PBS (Positive Behavior Systems). This organization helps schools to create school wide discipline and student management plans for school districts.

8. Facilities

- New desk tops were installed on existing frames in room 317.

9. Other

- Senior football running back A.J. Scoppa became Bergen County's all-time leading yards rusher in a November 14th game at home versus Butler. A.J. gained 285 yards to put his career mark at 5,460 yards with one game left in the season. For his accomplishment, A.J. was named The Record Male Athlete of the Week for the third consecutive year. Cablevision Channel 78 will be airing a segment on A.J. Scoppa. The show is called Sports Scene and will air on 12/2, 12/3, and 12/4 at 7pm.
- Senior boys' soccer player Anthony Crouchelli was named 2nd Team All-County and was at the top of North Jersey in goals scored for the year. In addition, senior boys' soccer player Tyler Monroy is the North Jersey leader in assists.
- Culinary Arts had a Thanksgiving Dinner on Friday, November 21. Students made stuffing, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, frozen chocolate mouse pie, and pumpkin pie. Students had a lesson on manners and proper etiquette before the dinner and students were graded on their etiquette.
- November saw the culmination of NMHS's new annual tradition: the fall production of the drama society, the Opening Knights. This year we enjoyed a new work created by Mr. Lockhart specifically for the students in our school. As a matter of fact, because more talented students came to audition than anticipated, a new third act was written to utilize all that talent. A company of 25 actors and 20 crew members was guided by Mr. Lockhart and Mr. Coviello through the entire production process. The actors learned techniques of action analysis through improvisation, as well as the conventional skills of memorization and movement blocking. Students learned to harmonize and blend styles and approaches of acting, and worked collectively to tell a story through character. The crew learned the principles of construction of a box set, complete with doors and platforms—how to estimate the square footage requirements in a given performance space. Under the leadership of Senior Matt Kaprielian, the crew and Ms. Morel's drawing classes learned some techniques of color selection, stippling, aging and *trompe d'oeil* effects to make two-dimensional surfaces appear to be three-dimensional. Senior Justin Munier led a lighting and sound team that operated completely autonomously to learn the craft, and serve the needs of the entire production. Their creativity and independence was a constant throughout.

Finally, the cast and crew met the challenge of five different audiences (including the preview assembly), adjusting the responses and expectations of each group, yet maintaining the illusion of the first time. There were some technical challenges to be met each time, particularly the amazing emergency sprinkler effect devised by Mr. Coviello. Students learned that a single accomplishment does not excuse one from the necessity of repeating or even surpassing that accomplishment in subsequent efforts. Thanks to all the other faculty who contributed their own substantial efforts to support this program, including Walt Pevney (and some of his classes!), Karen Vicari, Ruth Beiner, Lynette Bettini, Nicola Schneider, Nicolette Perna, Rose DePoto and Barbara Schlamp.

The students of NMHS came together in this time of giving to provide food to the residents of the New Milford community by donating over 1,000 items to the Ascension Church Food Panty of New Milford. Students organized a collection contest to increase the school's motivation to participate! Mrs. V. Smith's Homeroom- 331 won the contest with over 100 items donated!

Student Assistance Coordinator

The New Milford Alliance on Substance Abuse is a volunteer organization which develops interventions and prevention programs regarding adolescent destructive decisions and the use of mind altering substances. Some of the drug free activities that the New Milford Alliance has sponsored are:

DARE

Junior Police

National Night Out

Project Graduation

Fishing Derby

Training for the New Milford School District faculty on adolescent chemical addiction

PAS VI Alcohol Detector

The Drug Alliance meets every 3rd Thursday at 7:30 in the Borough Hall. On November 20, 2008 the PAS IV was introduced to the members. The PAS IV is a passive alcohol detector Passive Alcohol Sensor is used effectively in schools to "sniff" breath alcohol, beverages/open containers or enclosed spaces (lockers, vehicles, etc.) for the presence of alcohol. The Passive Alcohol Sensor is a great deterrent for keeping students from drinking alcohol. The parents, Drug Alliance members, police officers and local government representatives **ALL SUPPORT** the use of the PAS IV and commend New Milford High School on their dedication to the students regarding their academics and overall health and well being.

Programs in Process

Support Groups

Mock Accident

Educational Programs

Family Training

Safe Homes