

# JANUARY 2010 New Milford High School Monthly Report

Compiled by Eric Sheninger

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## 1. Observations

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Observed by</u>
Joe Andolino	Music Theory	1/7	1	Eric Sheninger
Frank Jacob	Algebra 1B	1/8	1	Eric Sheninger
Jane Swartz	Ensemble	1/12	2	Eric Sheninger
Walt Pevny	Graphics	1/13	1	Eric Sheninger
Dave Malka	Spec. Ed.	1/14	1	Eric Sheninger
Kerr Lockhart	English 9	1/15	1	Eric Sheninger
Ruth Beiner	Culinary Arts	1/6	6	Lou Manuppelli

Summaries: All mid-year evaluations for non-tenured staff members have been completed.

## 2. Guest lecturers

- New Milford High School alumnus Jonathan Silver (2005) was gracious enough to come into Ms. DePoto's and Ms. Collentine's classes discussing his experiences as an actor on Wednesday January 13, 2010. He specifically focused on his experiences in London at the Globe Theatre where he performed in and attended several Shakespeare plays when he studied abroad two summers ago. Jon read Julius Caesar with the classes, acted in several scenes in the auditorium with them and offered his insights, in lecture format, on the importance of Shakespeare's words, characters and stage directions. The students were mesmerized by his enthusiasm, talent, and knowledge. These visits are lessons that they will not soon forget. Jon, also a former G&T student, sat in on a session of the Student View and found it fascinating. He was impressed with the students' willingness to talk, share ideas and equally impressed with their knowledge of topics brought into the classroom from "the real world." He immediately asked if he could return as a "guest" moderator. We were thrilled to have him!
- On Wednesday January 20, 2010, Mrs. Burten's seventh period Algebra 1b class had a surprise visitor. Corporal Danny Hernandez, a 2003 graduate of New Milford, came back in full dress regalia as a United States Marine. Wearing his uniform proudly, he addressed the class about work ethic, behavior, and purpose. Mrs. Burten was so pleased to see one of her students return and give back to her school and her students. Corporal Hernandez gave several examples of his behavior in high school, acknowledging that he was a challenge as a student. He expressed his gratitude to several of his teachers for their unwavering support and confidence in his potential. He candidly described his misguided priorities as a teenager and how the military helped shape his life for the better. Corporal Hernandez talked about the merits of education and how he now realizes that many opportunities were missed and allowed to slip by. Corporal Hernandez was candid about his experiences in Iraq and his future redeployment scheduled for March 2011. He shared stories about the value of true friendship and brotherhood in the marines. Corporal Hernandez hopes the students can learn from his experiences and value the opportunities they have available. Mrs. Burten was filled with pride and gratification, seeing how Corporal Hernandez turned his life around and achieved personal and professional success.
- On January 22, 2010, Mario Sebastian, an artist in Residence and professional musician, conducted an all day music seminar for students of chorus, band, and world language departments. Mario has been a guitarist for Marc Anthony and Jennifer Lopes. Along with his band of professional musicians, Mario Sebastian conducted break out groups for

budding musicians and spoke to students of Spanish classes to impart the importance of speaking Spanish and its positive effects on their future careers. He also focused on his Latin heritage and living in different regions. His message of working hard for ones' dream, "It can really happen to anyone if you work for it" was the motto of the day. The day finished with an assembly where Mario Sebastian performed original music to the delight of the student body. The entire event was organized by Mr. Andolino.

- Jonathan Silva a NMHS alumnus spoke to French classes about his double major, molecular biology and French, and his desire to become a doctor and work with Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors without Borders). Jonathan explained that Doctors without Borders is the Nobel Prize winning aid organization for which the French Honor Society has been fundraising for many years. Jonathan explained our fundraiser to the younger students and talked about our foster Haitian children. He will be studying next year in French-speaking Cameroon as part of his preparation.

### **3. Innovations:**

- The NMHS community came together on Saturday, January 30, 2010, to take part in Project Prom Dress. The idea was initially pitched to NMHS staff by the New Milford Woman's Club in early December with the premise to collect "gently used" prom and other formal dresses for current students to wear. It was advertised as a "green event" and marketed to current juniors and seniors to make financially responsible decisions as opposed to spending hundreds of dollars on a dress that will only be worn once. Using word-of-mouth and Facebook, the message was sent to family, friends, and alumni to donate dresses. From January 4 through 29, over 220 dresses were collected. During this time NMHS staff and members of the New Milford Woman's Club planned the gala event that took place on the evening of January 30, 2010. The event quickly caught the eye of the media spurring both 1010WINS and CBS News Channel 2 to report the story (<http://wcbstv.com/video/?id=137984@wcbstv.com> and <http://wcbstv.com/local/prom.dress.giveaway.2.1458532.html>). It was a grand event consisting of a fashion show where current students modeled donated dresses, raffles were held, music played, and food was available. All raffles and food were donated by local vendors that cater to prom attendees. The grand prize raffle, a \$200 gift certificate to Danielle's Place in New Milford, came from Linda McMahon. The significance behind Linda's donation is that she resides in San Francisco, CA and was so touched by the event that she felt compelled to donate a significant gift to one lucky senior. After the gala junior and senior girls then selected their dresses and tried them on in the guidance suite that was transformed into a changing room. In all, over 85 dresses were taken home. Video footage of the event can be viewed at these sites: <http://www.youtube.com/user/NMHSPricipal>, and <http://www.vimeo.com/9099816>.
- All 9th grade math and computer application classes collaborated on an M&M Spreadsheet Project. Student groups were given a bag of M&M's. They counted and recorded data regarding the number and colors of M&M's in a package. In computer applications, the students created a spreadsheet using the recorded data and performed calculations using Microsoft Excel. Some of the calculations that were performed were mean, median, mode, range, and probability with and without replacement. They also applied bar graphs, pie charts and formatting that was learned throughout the second marking period.
- Mr. Malka's English 9 classes have been practicing and implementing the Four Square Method of writing. Students utilize a graphic organizer to plan and organize the prewriting process and then are able to expand it to longer sentences and paragraphs. These skills can be utilized with all styles and types of writing across the high school curriculum and beyond.

- Mrs. Beiner's International and Culinary Arts classes held a Penny War amongst the grades. The foods classes collected coins during the lunch periods and charted the different grades collections on a poster hung in the cafeteria. The sophomore class was victorious with a collection of fifty-eight dollars. The Penny War raised one hundred and seventy-five dollars for world hunger. The classes bought a goat, two chickens, and five fruit trees to be sent to a third world country. The remaining money was donated to the local food bank.
- The Early Childhood Development preschoolers held a building block fundraiser to help the children of Haiti. The preschoolers collected fifty cents for each block they used to build a tower during the class. This was part of a size concept lesson in which the preschoolers viewed various sizes of buildings. The preschoolers raised fifty dollars that was added to the peer leadership's collection for Haiti.

#### 4. Student honors

- Gifted and Talented is pleased to announce that the applications of two exemplary New Milford High School juniors have been submitted to the 2010 New Jersey Governor's School Program.

Anita George – School of Engineering and Technology

Eileen Gongon – School of the Sciences

The academic records, extracurricular activities, and personal interests of these two students are quite impressive and their gifts, talents, and accomplishments have already brought distinction to their families, their school, and their community. The process of nominating these accomplished students has been most gratifying; writing their letters of nomination, in addition to reading letters submitted by their teachers, made me feel fortunate that I could advise them during the year in our Gifted and Talented Program. m. New Milford is proud to submit these students as their candidates and we wish them the best of luck in being chosen as finalists scheduled to be made known to all involved in April of 2010.

- On Tuesday January 5, 2010, Junior Sam Defreeze was honored as The Record Female Athlete of the Week for her performance in the girls' varsity holiday basketball tournament

[http://www.northjersey.com/sports/hs\\_sports/athlete\\_of\\_the\\_week/Female\\_Athlete\\_of\\_the\\_Week\\_Samantha\\_DeFreese\\_of\\_New\\_Milford.html](http://www.northjersey.com/sports/hs_sports/athlete_of_the_week/Female_Athlete_of_the_Week_Samantha_DeFreese_of_New_Milford.html)).

- Both the boys and girls basketball teams won their holiday basketball tournaments.
- The girl's basketball team was featured in Varsity Aces, which was filmed on location at NMHS Monday January 18, 2010. The blog features the girls' team with a coach and player interview with junior, Sam DeFreese. It can be viewed in it's entirety at

[http://www.northjersey.com/multimedia/video\\_player/?firstGallery=5&playVideo=http://dng.northjersey.com/media\\_server/tr/2010/01/18varsityaces/VarsityAces014\\_169.flv](http://www.northjersey.com/multimedia/video_player/?firstGallery=5&playVideo=http://dng.northjersey.com/media_server/tr/2010/01/18varsityaces/VarsityAces014_169.flv)

- In a mock trial competition sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, the High School's team representing the prosecution defeated a team from the Frisch School representing the defense on Wednesday January 20, 2010. The event was held at the Bergen County Courthouse located in Hackensack, NJ. From opening statement to closing statement, prosecution attorneys Nishant Patel and Sheryl Mathew, supported by witnesses Ryan Bigger, Corey Fetzer and Aimee George, performed with skill, poise, remarkable knowledge of legal procedures and detailed knowledge of the facts of the case. Congratulations to all for their splendid performance.

- Students from Ms. Bettini and Mrs. Morel's art classes had ten art pieces entered into a juried art show on January 19, 2010. The Invitational Art Show was held at Bergenfield High School in the Atwater Gallery and was judged by Montserrat College of Art. Students that were entered into the competition were; Joshua Chu, Vincent Galante, Elan

Bibergal, Joseph Carbone, Diana McMahon, Melissa Gavilanes, Lavinia Galido, Jacob Ramos, and Cara Walenza. Jacob Ramos won 3<sup>rd</sup> place for his sculpture “Atlantis”.



- Aimee George and Alvin George were selected through a rigorous audition process at Mahwah High School to be the newest members of the North Jersey Region 1 Chorus. They will be practicing after school for many afternoons and evenings at Kinnelon High School for the performance that takes place on Saturday January 30, 2010, at Secaucus High School. Aimee placed in the top ten of her section. Congratulations to two fine musicians who are now one of the best in the region!
- Aimee George, Alvin George, Leonard Perez, and Jennilyn Robles performed with the Bergen County Chorus on Sunday January 17, 2010, at Bergenfield High School to a standing room only audience. Congratulations to the top vocalists in Bergen County!
- The Tri-M Music Honor Society and the National Art Honor Society held this year's induction on Thursday January 7, 2010. It began with a very varied concert highlighting artists from Bach to Lady Gaga. Mario Romero and Azela Zarate performed selections that they composed themselves. Mr. Pevny, the Performing Arts Chairperson gave the heartwarming keynote address. The evening finished with a slide show of the inductees artwork and candid shots of the inductees life at NMHS while the Music Inductees performed. Congratulations to the newest members of the Art and Music Honor Societies.

## 5. Field trips

- On Wednesday, January 20, 2010, New Milford High School students traveled to Secaucus to participate in the preliminary session of the 2010 Panasonic Creative Design Challenge. This year's challenge is to design and construct a recycling plant that would sort through debris collected from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. New Milford's design team consisted of Daniel Weininger, Kasumi Almeida and Mario Romero. The team worked hard and designed a great recycling plant. There are still some mechanical problems to be solved and team members hope they will qualify for the finals so they can improve the performance of their robot. Mr. Peter Torpie and Dr. Adu Asa-Awuku are the advisors of the team.
- Students from Ms. Bettini's art class went on a field trip January 19, 2010 to see the Bodies Exhibition at the South Street Seaport in New York City. While there, they studied the systems of the human body, drew in sketchbooks, and discovered the anatomy of the human body. The 19 students had been practicing figure drawing previously in art class and had the chance to see real human cadavers. They made many connections between information learned in art, science, and health classes.



- On January 21, 2010, students in Ms. Schneider's class had the opportunity to tour the Applebee's restaurant in Hackensack. Through the Skills for Independent Living, curriculum students have been studying the types of jobs in a restaurant, as well as how to properly order, eat, and calculate the tip and tax for a meal. The manager and his courteous staff engaged the students in an inquiry-based tour through the prep work required to open a restaurant. Through their tour experience at Applebee's the students had the chance to see these jobs in action, as well as practice the necessary protocol for dining at a restaurant. Each student was required to order independently, calculate the tax, and tip for his or her meal.
- The French presentation to the Middle School on January 14, 2010 was perhaps one of the school's best. The goal was to inform the students of the importance of the French language in the world, to make them aware of the career advantages involved in learning one or more world languages and acquaint them the cultural trips and activities offered in the French program at the high school. Students were reminded that America's biggest trading partner is Canada and New Jersey's largest trading partner is the French-speaking province of Quebec. When doing business with Quebec, all initial business contacts must be made in French. Internationally, French is spoken in forty-seven countries, including nine Arab countries, as either the first or the second language. French is spoken on every continent except Antarctica. The European Community is the largest trading block in world and English and French are the major languages of the European Community and the United Nations.
- Jonathan Silva came as a guest alumnus. He is majoring in molecular biology and will be studying in Cameroon next year. His goal is to become a doctor and work for Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors without borders) Students were also informed that another alumnus, Paul Robalino, who is studying at Yale University, recently returned from studying in Paris for the summer. His trip was completely paid for by Yale. Paul had been accepted to Harvard, Yale, and Princeton. Fluent in Spanish, Paul studied French and was president of the French Honor Society. He had encouraged students who are already fluent in a language to challenge themselves, and learn a new language. Top universities are looking for students who challenge themselves and demonstrate their sincere interest in learning. The students also presented skits from Madeline, and taught basic idioms through their version of The Three Little Pigs. They presented songs in both French and English from Les Miserables and Beauty and the Beast. They explained our upcoming trip to Quebec, our French New York City trip and our popular fundraiser for our Haitian foster child. The students very successfully communicated their excitement for the French program at the high school.

- Students in the Holocaust, Genocide and Human Behavior class had an opportunity to attend the annual Human Rights Conference at Kean University on January 29, 2010. This year's theme was "**Combating Hatred**". The keynote speaker this year was Morris Dees, founder and chief trial counsel for the Southern Poverty Law Center, Montgomery, Alabama. Mr. Dees spoke about his personal journey from a successful business man to the creation of the Southern Poverty Law Center and his ardent commitment to civil rights law. Additionally, Mark Weitzman from the Simon Wiesenthal Center spoke about "Hate on the Internet". He demonstrated compelling statistics on hate and how the internet is used to cultivate, encourage and foster hate. He also warned the students of recruitment techniques by these hate groups. Finally, the head of the Bias Crimes Unit from the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, David D'Amico, ended the day with an outstanding presentation on stereotyping, the ramifications of hate and a personal message of victimization as a result of hate. At the end of his presentation he revealed that as a veteran of law enforcement for over twenty years, he has suffered the consequences of hate because he is gay. His omission and eloquence as a speaker sent a profound message to the students as an entire auditorium of young people instantly stood to give him a lengthy standing ovation! We look forward to attending this conference again next year already slated for February 11, 2011. The following article featuring NMHS students and Mrs. Tambuscio appeared in the Record in relation to this conference  
[http://www.northjersey.com/news/bergen/83109982\\_A\\_stand\\_against\\_hate.html](http://www.northjersey.com/news/bergen/83109982_A_stand_against_hate.html)

## 6. Guidance

- On Tuesday, February 2, 2010, the Guidance Department will be hosting a special onsite enrollment day in conjunction with Bergen Community College. An admissions counselor from BCC will be visiting New Milford High School to help simplify the enrollment process for our seniors. Students will be enrolled that day, and have the opportunity to ask the admissions counselor any questions they have. They will also learn about the placement test and registration process.
- On Thursday, February 25 and Friday, February 26, 2010, the Guidance Department will be hosting junior parent post high school planning information sessions in the cafeteria. The same information will be presented at both sessions, except Thursday's session will be held at 7 PM and Friday's session will be held at 9 AM. Parents should feel free to attend the session that is most convenient for them. The presentations will address the following topics: course registration for the 2010-2011 school year, senior graduation requirements, SAT information, advice on researching colleges and the college application process. After the presentations, each 11th grade student will be meeting individually with their counselor for a post high school planning meeting. If parents have further individual questions, they will be more than welcome to attend this meeting also.

## 7. Professional Development

- On January 14, 2010, Ms. Solimano, Ms. Grompone, and Ms. Lyons attended a workshop offered through the Madison Institute at Paragon Federal Credit Union. The workshop was entitled "Classroom Management Strategies". They were reminded of the importance of the "Three C's". To experience a strong sense of belonging and behaving in the classroom, students need to feel CAPABLE of completing tasks in a manner to meet the teacher's standards. They need to believe that they can CONNECT successfully with their classmates and teacher. Finally, they need to know that they CONTRIBUTE to the class in a significant way. Participants in the workshop reviewed and discussed how student behavior (whether positive or negative) is based on choice and how to empower students to move to positive behavior choices. Participants completed a pre-

survey of their own personal "style" of classroom management, and responding to misbehavior. Strategies that encourage positive classroom behavior were also discussed. For example, by including students in composing a list of Classroom Rules or Behaviors, students can invest their personal opinions and insight as to what are considered positive behavior guidelines to *their* class.

- On Wednesday, January 21, and Thursday, January 22, 2010, Mr. Engstrom attended the Manhattan editworkshop to further his skills in utilizing Final Cut Express. Final Cut Express is a video editing software program that is utilized to make production-quality video what will air on the MSG Varsity channel as a part of the MSG Varsity Club, which is advised by Mr. Engstrom.
- On Thursday, January 21, 2010, Mr. Coyne, Ms. Millian, Mr. Sheninger, and Ms. Vargo attended an in-school training on the use of two recently acquired Document Cameras and AVerMedia Pens. New Milford has been chosen to be an AVerMedia Academy Pilot Site. AVerMedia has donated two state-of-the-art Document Cameras and two classroom sets of their AVerPens for our use in New Milford. Presenters Nancy Strum and Grant Woods provided instruction and innovative ideas on how to use both the Document Camera and the AVerMedia Pens in our classrooms. To see exactly what AVerMedia Pens are, please check out this link: [http://www.avermediausa.com/presentation/videos\\_guided\\_averpen.asp](http://www.avermediausa.com/presentation/videos_guided_averpen.asp). Ms. Millian, Ms. Vargo, and Mr. Coyne are looking forward to using these 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology tools and are excited to see what benefits they yield in the classrooms.
- Ms. Daloisio and her intern Ms. Dretchen attended the symposium "The Quiet Storm: Exploring Connections between Children's Anger, Grief, and Escalating Violence" on January 22, 2010. This professional development symposium began by defining and providing more of an understanding of what anger and grief are, the associated and related behaviors, and causes and/or catalysts that often trigger such emotions. The presenters provided real-life examples of different case studies of children they have worked with to help the audience better understand the topics covered. The presenters also provided a number of different techniques and strategies that can be utilized when working with children dealing with anger and grief. After each technique was explained, the audience was provided with the opportunity to try out these techniques using a variety of different supplies provided. These techniques were aimed at helping the child to acknowledge their emotions, appropriately and effectively express their feelings, and help them successfully manage and reduce these emotions.
- On January 22, 2010, Mr. Manuppelli the High School Vice Principal and Mrs. Zacher the District Student Assistance Coordinator attended training at Hackensack University Medical Center. The purpose of this training was to educate the participants on the negative repercussions of adolescent drunk driving and the legal ramifications. During this presentation the participants watched Stoned Cold II a movie which documented the process of the student attending a party, drinking, becoming involved in a fatal car accident and his trial. Stone Cold II will be utilized during the prom season to educate the students on how one bad decision can affect so many.

## **8. Facilities**

## **9. Theatre Arts**

- This year's spring musical, Rent: School Edition is now rehearsing. The cast of thirty-seven and additional crew members are very excited to be working on this empowering and educational show. Director Alexander Diaz and all production team members have been working tirelessly to ensure an engaging experience for both participants and patrons. This year's spring musical will be performed on March 25, 26, and 27th.

- On Friday, February 26, 2010, there will be an alumni/student revue fundraiser in the NMHS auditorium to support the spring musical. Alumni such as Robert McClure, Alexander Diaz, Jonathan Silver, and Hannah Zarate will be performing with the cast of the 2010 spring musical. Tickets will go on sale soon.

## 10. Other

- This year the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. assembly that the Student Council presented on Friday, January 15, 2010, was quite an accomplishment on the Council's part and the congratulations and compliments were from students and teachers alike. The kids were thrilled that their efforts were so appreciated. Basically it went like this: The Student Council wanted to focus on the "dream" part of King's legacy. Therefore, the Student Council created an 8 1/2 x 11 paper "cloud" that was distributed to each student during homeroom. Each student wrote their own dream (personal, community, world-- whatever) on the cloud. The Student Council then posted the clouds all around the halls of the school. Mr. Pevny walked around with his video camera and filmed kids recording their "dreams." He also interviewed a few of them. That Friday, classes were seen roaming the halls reading the dreams. It was very inspirational. The Student Council also wanted to focus on the "service" part of King's legacy, so they organized a DVD/CD and magazine drive where faculty and students donated old and no longer wanted/needed CDs, DVDs, and magazines. The Student Council collected them, boxed them and sent them overseas to the troops in Afghanistan. Mr. Pevny filmed the kids in action collecting, packing and delivering. The Student Council also wanted to focus on the history of the Civil Rights movement. On January 7, 2010, we took a field trip across the street to the Senior Citizen Center. Walt Pevny brought his video camera. The Student Council conducted a discussion with the Senior Citizens who reminisced about their lives in the 1950's and 1960's during the Civil Rights movement, their experiences during it, and their memories of King being shot and much more...it was an incredible hour of listening, sharing, and learning. The kids were very moved and the Senior Citizens were happy to be thought of and included. Several of them also attended our assembly to see the finished product. Therefore, January was quite productive and memorable for the kids. In terms of the assembly, Walt Pevny compiled all of these separate elements mentioned above and created one film that was shown in between student speeches. This annual assembly is always well done, but this year it was exceptional. Mrs. Collentine is very proud of the Student Council members this year and happy to work with them.
- Mr. Sheninger was featured in an article entitled "Four Ways to Transform Your School Culture" by Converge Magazine on January 15, 2010. The article can be viewed at <http://www.convergemag.com/policy/4-ways-to-transform-your-school-culture.html>
- French students have begun working on their French chocolate kiss sale for our foster Haitian child, which will end on Valentine's Day. In addition, Mrs. Monroe, Mr. and Mrs. Torpie and students are moving forward with preparations for the Quebec trip for this April. .