

# March 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> |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Ray Harrison     | English        | 3/12/08     | 2             | Lou Manuppelli     |
| Barbara Schlamp  | English        | 3/12/08     | 5             | Lou Manuppelli     |
| Ruth Beiner      | E.C.D.         | 3/18/08     | 1             | Lou Manuppelli     |
| Lisette Morel    | Art            | 3/18/08     | 8             | Lou Manuppelli     |
| Timothy Gouraige | World History  | 3/11/08     | 1             | Jerry Perrone      |

Summaries:

## 2. Guest lecturers

- The guitarists of the HS Band were introduced to two guest speakers this month by Mr. Andolino. Adrian Pollut of Bogota brought in an acoustic guitar and spoke about special chord techniques. Adrian will also be performing in the orchestra in this year's musical. Kosaku Nakamura of Park Ridge brought in various electric guitars and spoke about soloing. The students also participated on their own guitars and were very appreciative of some outside perspectives.
- Officer Wilde was a guest speaker in two of Mr. Tusa's History classes in which he provided a significant pedagogical contribution. Although the topic of Prohibition is set in a particular historical time period, the dangers and problems that may arise from the inappropriate consumption of alcohol are not confined to any particular historical period, age group, or gender. These problems may affect young and old alike in the present no less than they have in the past. Hence, the pedagogical significance of Resource Officer Wilde's excellent presentation and discussion of these dangers and problems with our 11<sup>th</sup> graders. Officer Wilde's presentation grabbed our students' attention from the very beginning. It was interesting, lively, and entertaining – engaging all students to participate with frank discussions and demonstrations. With the experience of a master teacher, Officer Wilde addressed the topic with clarity and professionalism. And with the knowledge and experience that only he as a Police Officer can provide, his contribution to widening our students' pedagogical experience as to the problems and dangers that may result from the inappropriate consumption of alcoholic beverages was uniquely significant and informative.

## 3. Innovations:

- Mr. Devereaux and Mrs. McGoldrick's Ecology class has started working on a project where they will be designing a bulletin board based on a particular biome. Each group will be given a designated portion of one of the bulletin boards in the class. They will incorporate organisms from all the major plant and animal phylum's, and will illustrate a food web within their biomes display. Teachers will be asked to judge the boards, and the winning bulletin board will win a prize that is still to be determined.
- Mr Ivchenko's 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Computer Applications classes worked to determine if they were ready to live on their own! Using Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word, students looked forward to a time when they would be moving out of their parent's house. Using retail sites on the World Wide Web, they shopped for all the items they would need to move into their own four-room apartment – from baking pans to beds. They were allowed to take four things from their old residence, but everything else had to be new, and have a real price. When they had found all the stipulated items, they used Microsoft Excel to add the prices and confirm that they had met a specified budget (less if they moved out right after high school, more if it were after college or trade school) Next students found an apartment on the Web and

calculated their ability to live month to month when paying rent, utilities, groceries, car costs, and, if applicable, college loans. In a third worksheet, students made pie charts of their one-time moving costs (total cost for each room's items) and monthly costs. Finally, the students used Microsoft Word to summarize the project in the form of a letter to their parents.

- In preparation for the final presentation by Mr. Lockhart's Drama Class, which will be a short play festival on May 16<sup>th</sup>, prizes will be offered (Visa Gift Cards) in substantial amounts to the best new student play. Judges will be selected from the audience that evening, so we urge Board and community members to come and perhaps be picked as a judge. The idea came to Mr. Lockhart as he was teaching about the play festivals in Athens in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century B.C., when all the great classics, from *Medea* to *Antigone* were written, not simply for art's sake, but in order to win hotly contested prizes. Renown and material rewards have always been part of the motivation in the performing arts; and the experiment is being borne out so far, by a high level of interest expressed by students of all different levels of ability and involvement with academics.
- The students in French will be learning about the history and culture of Canada, Quebec, and Louisiana through French Canadian and Acadian folksongs. When presented chronologically, a study of these folksongs provides not only the history but also a deep cultural understanding of the struggle of the French Canadians and Acadians to preserve their language and traditions. The Province of Quebec is the largest foreign trading partner of both New Jersey and New York and an understanding of its culture and history is important for both business and travel.

#### **4. Student honors:**

- The Varsity Bowling Team has been chosen by the Bergen Record as their "Team of the Year". This is the second time in three years that the team has had this honor. The article is scheduled to appear in the March 26th paper.
- Christian Hincapie's work will be on display in the Iberian Exhibition at the Bergen Performing Arts Center in Englewood. It will be on exhibit from now until April 5th. The reception is Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from 3:00 to 5:00.
- Christian Hincapie, Jennifer Monticillo, and Judy Koo won Scholastic Art Gold Keys regionally for their artwork. Out of 6,000 submissions 650 were chosen.
- Sophomore Jerry Caylao is the 2008 winner of the Math Department's annual Pi Day Contest. Jerry successfully memorized 155 digits of Pi, breaking the old school record of 62 digits.
- Senior Hannah Faye Zarate was accompanied by junior Jonell Robles for her college vocal audition. Hannah was awarded the rare "Dean's Scholarship" for her outstanding performance.

#### **5. Field trips**

- Our Student Assistance Counselor Ms. Hubbard has set up a trip for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade to attend a presentation on Gangs in Suburbia. The program will be at Bergen Community College and will have speakers from the Bergen County Task Force, the NJ State Police Gang Unit as well as a former gang member. Our students will be broken up into groups of fifteen with students from other schools in Bergen County and will speak about the problems of gangs in schools and the community. As a follow up, students will have class discussions in both their English and History classes.
- The Art Honor Society and Advanced Art Lab students will be attending a field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York on Friday April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Lockhart's Film Studies class enjoyed a field trip to the Museum of the Moving Image in Astoria, Queens, accompanied by Ms. Lyons of the World Language Department. There they experienced a number of exhibits bearing on the history and technology of motion

pictures. They began with various primitive devices used to simulate the movement of drawings (such as the Zoetrope). Then they posed and moved in front of a blank wall, while a camera took intermittent photos which were made into a flip book the museum gave us. The class then made some simple collage animations using video cameras, dubbed our voices onto a clip from the movie *Babe* and heard how the soundtrack from the climactic portions of *Titanic* was assembled from elements including an elephant's roar played backwards and the crushing of a soda can. Finally, they were able to see the operation of the actual original experimental prototypes of the very first video games from 40 years ago, and manipulate their facsimiles, as well as work and play with a number of digital imaging game systems from the 70s to the present. As it was, the brief 2-hour trip could only scratch the surface of the amazing resources in this museum. This is a trip that will most certainly be repeated with future Film Studies classes.

- Mr. Wilson, Ms. Tambuscio, Mr. Devereaux, Mr. Coviello, the students in the Holocaust course, and other interested students were afforded an opportunity to visit The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC for a two-day seminar from March 13-14, 2008. This year's program included several important learning opportunities:

- \* A small group of students had the opportunity to visit the Collections and Conservation Archive. The staff of the archive revealed several important artifacts including Olympic medals from the 1936 Nazi Olympics. Students learned the historical value of artifacts and the science involved in the preservation of these artifacts.

- \* Judy Cohen and Rebecca Eberling, Museum Photo Archivists, graciously spoke to our students about the newly released photos they discovered involving Nazi officials at Auschwitz. These photos were released to the public in September of this year. Students learned the process of how these photos were acquired, the research into discovering the names of individuals in the photos, and the implications for history. The story of these photos and their research were in the March issue of *The New Yorker*. This April, National Geographic will be airing a special on these photos discovered by Judy Cohen and Rebecca Eberling.

- \* Alexandra Zapruder, author of *Salvaged Pages: Young Writers' Diaries of the Holocaust*, spoke to our students about her work researching diaries. This book is utilized in the Holocaust course as well as an MTV documentary that highlights the diarists in this research. The students were able to ask Alexandra questions for over one hour. They focused their questioning on how the author discovered the diaries, interviews and encounters with the surviving diarists, how the diarists were chosen for inclusion in the research, and the author's involvement in the documentary. This was a wonderful opportunity for the students to engage a scholar regarding their research.

In addition to these enriching workshops, the group was permitted to enter the Permanent Exhibition (PE) of the Museum at 9:30AM - before the official opening of the Museum.

## 6. Professional Development

- Mr. Sheninger attended a Global Forum hosted by the Madison Institute at the Paragon Federal Credit Union located in Montvale, NJ on Monday 3/17/08. The forum included local business leaders, fellow educators, and officials representing the Bahrain and Jordanian Ministries of Education for an important round table discussion on "Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century: A Global Perspective". The Overarching Essential Question for the session was: How can schooling be best shaped in a manner that will most effectively prepare our students for life and work in the 21st century? Various Sub-topics that were addressed in some form during the discussion were: Exponential Growth, 21st Century Competencies, Communication and Collaborative Skills, Equity, Integration of Technology Into the Curriculum, Assessment and Evaluation, Problem Solving – Higher Order thinking Skills, and 21st Century Workplace: What does it look like? What will it look like?

- Mr. Sheninger attended a workshop entitled “Effective Leadership: Team Building, Community, and Collaboration” hosted by the Madison Institute at the Paragon Federal Credit Union in Montvale, NJ on Wednesday 3/12/08. The informative presentation focused on topics that presented strategies dealing with creating a shared vision, building collaborative teams, creating high achieving learning environments, designing instruction with assessments in mind, providing for meaningful professional development, technology leadership, and leading/managing change. The seminar allowed me to become more aware of individual and collaborative strengths/needs as an educational leader, to become more aware of 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 here at NMHS.
- Ms. Keesing attended a program, offered at the Highlands Regional Library Cooperative, concerning podcasting. The first part presented a definition of podcasting and its possible applications. The second part addressed considerations that go into creating original podcasts. Unfortunately, there was no real hands-on opportunity at the workshop. Once she masters firsthand the various components of creating a podcast, it should be easier to do future ones. She is excited about the potential for making original podcasts! There are endless possibilities for applications. She would like to see teachers include original podcasting as a presentation option for students to showcase what they have learned. Students, such as in her BookChat! club, might make a podcast of books that they would like to highlight for others. There is a myriad of applications across the curriculum for podcasting. In the future, we might want to discuss adding a podcast link to the Library page for others to enjoy the broadcasts created by NMHS students and faculty.

## **7. Facilities**

## **8. Guidance**

- On Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> the Guidance Department will be hosting a Career Day for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. This is a great opportunity for juniors to learn more about careers they have an interest in and gather information that may help them decide on a college major.
- The Guidance Department will host an SAT Parent Workshop on Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30pm in the auditorium. This program will focus on the significance and specific content of the SAT exams. Do not miss this opportunity to understand the importance of the SAT Test.
- On Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM, parents of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will have the opportunity to learn about the college search and application process from parents of our current 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. The panel will share insights and experiences from the past year.
- On Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> it is the 12th grade parents turn to learn from the experiences of parents of recent alumni. A panel of alumni parents will give our current senior parents advice on preparing their sons/daughters for the first year of college. Topics such as registering for classes, what to buy for a dorm room, and moving onto campus will be included. All your most important questions will be answered! Both info sessions will be held in the NMHS auditorium.

## **9. Other**

- The High School received a check in the amount of \$5000 for the school’s continued participation in the Principal’s Office, which will premiere on TruTV sometime in the fall.
- The High School received a check in the amount of \$101 from Target for the school’s participation in the Take Charge of Education School Fundraising Program.
- Ms. Tambuscio has been selected as a finalist for Princeton University’s Distinguished Secondary Teaching Award. She was selected from a pool of 84 of the best educators in the state and is now one of 10 teachers being considered for this prestigious award. On 3/10/08,

a professor from Princeton visited NMHS to conduct an on-site observation. This included observing two of Ms. Tambuscio's classes and meeting with select groups of high school administrators, teachers, and students. If Ms. Tambuscio is selected as one of this year's four winners, she will receive \$5000, \$3000 will be given to the media center to be used at her discretion, and she will be acknowledged at Princeton University's commencement in the spring.

- The school's Emergency Crisis Management Team met on Thursday March 13<sup>th</sup> to plan for the school's first lockdown drill in conjunction with the New Milford Police Department. The lockdown drill took place at 9 AM on Tuesday March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Congratulations to Dan Suarez for qualifying for the NJSIAA State Wrestling Championships. Dan completed the tournament with 2 wins and 2 losses.
- The Record's monthly sports magazine will be sending a photographer to NMHS on 3/24 to photograph trophies from our display cases to be highlighted in their "Trophy Case" section of the magazine. New Milford will be featured in the May issue.
- The annual New Milford Athletic Boosters Golf Outing will be on Wednesday, June 25th at Valley Brook Golf Course. Tee time is 8:30 AM. The luncheon will be from 2pm-5pm at either Jersey Boys in New Milford or at Sanducci's. Registration forms will be distributed soon. Anyone not interested in playing golf may purchase tickets for the luncheon separately.