

NOVEMBER 2007 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>
Lynne Torpie	Biology	10/23, 10/24, 10/25	3	Eric Sheninger
Linda Keesing	English	10/25	5	Eric Sheninger
Yvonne Haskill	Algebra	10/30	2	Eric Sheninger
Mary Bilali	Guidance	10/31	6	Eric Sheninger
Rich Cella	Algebra	10/31, 11/1, 11/2	1	Eric Sheninger
Adu Asa-Awuku	Chemistry	11/6	2	Eric Sheninger
Pete Torpie	Biology	11/7	1	Eric Sheninger
Jennifer Gandolfo	P.E./Health	10/22, 10/23, 10/24	8	Jerry Perrone
Basheba Mitchell	Spec. Ed.	10/23, 10/24, 10/25	2	Jerry Perrone
Debra Broomall	Spec. Ed.	10/30, 10/31, 11/1	6	Jerry Perrone
Dana Buzzelli	Spec. Ed.	11/5, 11/6, 11/7	8	Jerry Perrone
Wendy Mackey	Spec. Ed.	11/13, 11/14, 11/15	6	Jerry Perrone
Jennifer Lyons	Spanish	10-23, 10-24, 10-25	3	Louis Manuppelli
Stephanie Digler	Culinary Arts	1-13, 11-14, 11-15	3	Louis Manuppelli

Summaries:

2. Guest lecturers

3. Innovations:

- The HS Math Department will be administering a “Mock HSPA” exam to all 11th grade students on 11/27/07. The results of this exercise will then be used by the math teachers to focus on areas of difficulty to further prepare our students prior to the March HSPA.
- During the First marking period Language Arts and Computer Applications classes collaborated to create a newspaper containing feature articles, editorials, and letters to the editor. The pieces of writing were based upon the literary texts currently being read and analyzed in Language Arts classes. Students worked collaboratively in small groups of two or three to create pieces of writing that not only illustrated creativity but that also reflected an accurate understanding of the characters, events, and themes of the literary works under discussion. In the computer labs, students formatted the articles into columns, added supportive visual elements, and created interesting headlines and fonts. In the Ninth Grade Honors classes, students combined their efforts to create *The New Roman Times*, one large newspaper illustrating all of the events that took place in Act I of Julius Caesar on the day of Caesar’s triumphant return to Rome. Attached are examples of some completed projects from Mr. Harrison and Ms. Vicari.
- For an incentive to get students (Seniors/Juniors) interested and enthused about Marine Biology and also as a way to keep them studying and on task, Ms. Smith had a student challenge where she divided them up into groups for a total of 7 groups. Students played the game “Who wants to be a Millionaire” and questions were based on what they have learned over the year so far. There were 4 food prizes.
 - 1st – Popeye Chicken meal
 - 2nd – Jamaican Patties
 - 3rd – Ms Smith’s Jamaican Jerk Chicken nuggets.
- 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 will demonstrate in front of their classmates and explain. Each group (min and

max of 3 people which she assigned) will write a research report using the scientific method based on a series of experiments they have tried, stating the problem and what would be the solution. They were time spent with the students in the computer lab helping them determine the best possible experiments and after school activities helping them work out any details and/or trying their experiments. An example of one possible project involved a group of students wanting to demonstrate a smoke bomb using potassium nitrate and sugar. She asked the students, what is the problem or reason you would want to make a smoke bomb. They replied to get smoke. She asked why you would want to do that. Well they answered perhaps for an SOS. Then a story was built around being stranded on an island and they needed a way to signal for help which was part of their problem and the solution would be to create this smoke bomb. She said but doesn't this lead to another problem? You on a deserted island How will you obtain the potassium nitrate and sugar. So the idea was developed trying to extract the potassium nitrate from bananas and the sugar they found a recipe to do so. Students then came after school and mashed and heated bananas with water to extract any possible potassium nitrate. The mixture was filter to obtain the water solutions. The water solution was then evaporated to obtain any solid. The solid would be tested by a flame test (a lab we already did in class) to see if there is any possible potassium in the extracted solid. I would also take a sample to friends who can analyze samples via HPLC (High Pressure Liquid Chromatography) or GC (Gas Chromatography) to see if the students were able to extract potassium nitrate.

Other projects: 1) Orange juice and testing different products for the best source of vitamin C. 2) Making different liquids soaps with fragrances and conducting a sensory panel to find the best product. 3) Have a spill (oil spill) and using different techniques, find ways to separate the two compounds.

- Mrs. Major's class completed a project on immigration with each student focusing on a part of their own ethnicity and their own family's immigration story in creating a scrapbook or poster or children's story.
- Ms. Consentio just completed an Immigration Literature Unit. Juniors prepared and presented reports on their heritages with some "dressing up" for the occasion. A follow-up activity included a Foodfest held in Ruth Beiner's room whereby students brought in special dishes representative of their backgrounds and cultures. Everyone had a great time tasting all the fabulous food choices. Parents went "all out" in the preparation of unbelievably delicious foods! It was a great learning experience!
- Mr. Coviello introduced an on-line homework help strategy through the use of technology. He created a screen name through instant messaging which he has given to his students so they can instant message (IM) him during after school hours for assistance with homework, tests and projects.
- For the first 2 weeks of the 2nd marking period Ms. Bernardo and Mr. Arturi will be teaching CPR to the seniors as part of the health curriculum. They will be using a power point presentation as well as demonstrating on the manikins how to perform CPR and clearing an airway for adult, child and infant. By developing a collaborative teaching unit and utilizing a non-traditional classroom setting, it will help benefit the students with more teacher/student instruction and interaction. At the end of the unit a student who successfully completes the work may get certified in CPR if they choose. Certification will be through the American Red Cross.
- In Ms. Mackey's Personal Finance Math class, the students have earned some "cash" in class by following a simple chart of daily rules... i.e.: coming to class on time, being prepared, showing respect for peers, having homework completed, etc. They have had the opportunity to earn between \$75-\$100 per day for the last week and a half. The overall objective for this plan was to have the students make a deposit, write checks, and compute the balance on their check register. They are having a blast doing this! It allows for the students to choose items for family and friends, budget their money, and learn different

ways to spend it. Most importantly they are learning how to important earning and saving your money can be, and how to correctly document all of their spending. This 3 day lesson will be followed up from a visit from a representative from Commerce Bank in Bergenfield. The students will get first hand information on different accounts available, and get some free stuff to boot!

4. Student honors:

- The Gifted and Talented Program has registered 83 high school students for this year's program making this year our best year to date. Four juniors have been selected as New Milford High School nominees to the New Jersey Governor's Schools. They include : Angela Wan – Governor's School on the Environment, Kinjal DeSai – Governors School in the Sciences, Sean Walsh – Governor's School on Public Issues and the Future of New Jersey, and Judy Koo – Governor's School of the Arts. Once again this year the Gifted and Talented Program will coordinate New Milford High School's participation in the Bergen County Teen Arts Festival. New Milford students will participate in Dance, Drama, Chorus, Instrumental music, Visual Arts, and Creative Writing.
- Hannah Faye Zarate performed with the All-State Chorus on Friday November 9, 2007 at 8:30 PM in Atlantic City and will perform on Sunday afternoon November 18, 2007 at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. Hannah was selected by audition last March and has rehearsed in the Edison area on alternate Saturday's since last June. The Star-Ledger has named these students "the best of the Best!"
- Christian Hincapie was the recipient of the Marie Walsh Sharpe Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to only 60 students nationwide. On June 17th he flew to Colorado Springs and attended a two-week seminar, all expenses paid. The instructors were two respected artists, Mr. Charles Painess and Mr. David Kapp. Students took a weekend trip to the mountains where they drew and painted. He got to meet extraordinary classmates, who had the same thing in common, a passion for art. On June 30th he returned to N.J. to get ready for his month long stay at the Governor's School for the Arts. Students studied music, dance, film, writing, theatre and visual arts. The visual arts classes consisted of 14 students from all over the state. Christian's pastel painting was accepted in the Juried Art Show at the Art Center of Northern New Jersey in New Milford. His work was selected from 300 entries. One hundred and fifty artists entered and only seventy five will be on exhibit. The Art Center is located on Center Street and is closed thanksgiving week. It will be on display from November 18th to December 13th, Monday through Thursday 9:30 – 4:30 and 7:00-8:30.
- Jillian Cottiers and Kenny Lopez spoke at the New Milford Jewish Community Center on Friday November 9th regarding their participation in the New Milford High School Holocaust Study Tour 2007. Their efforts to speak about their experiences were greatly appreciated by the Center community.
- The 2007 New Milford High School yearbook was selected as one of the top 6 yearbooks in New Jersey for layout and design. The competition is among all Herff-Jones published year books in NJ.
- Ms. Bettini's students will present their portfolios on Sunday 11/18 where Parson's Art School administrators will be examining them and considering student for admission.
- 4 students were selected for Bergen County Chorus: - Hannah and Azela Zarate, Jonell Robles, and Lijin Joy.

5. Field trips

- On October 31, 2007 six students from Mr. Harrison's Ninth Grade Honors Language Arts class traveled with Mr. Wilson to the New Milford Senior Center to read Edgar Allen Poe's classic thriller, "The Black Cat", to senior citizens attending a special Halloween luncheon.
- On Friday 11/16/2007 Mrs. Haskill and Mrs. Aivars took their sophomore and junior Honors Math Classes to a Math Fair at William Paterson University. The purpose of this event is to promote Mathematics through a series of exciting talks and interactive presentations in different areas of mathematics not discussed in high schools. In addition a group of WMUNJ students will discuss life as a math major at the university. Students will also learn more about exciting career opportunities in mathematics.
- The Guidance Department will be taking a group of 20 qualifying seniors to William Paterson University for an Immediate Decision Day on November 20th, 2007. The students will have the opportunity to experience a quick, easy, and personalized admissions process. They will interview with an admissions counselor, tour the campus, leave with a decision, and possibly, a scholarship.
- Several of Mr. Coviello's students did attend the Ellis Island trip and are creating a student documentary to bring the experience to their peers. The project has been formulated in such a way that pieces of it may be used in multiple social studies classes.
- The Spanish I Classes took a field trip to the HOSTOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE in the Bronx on Monday, November 5th. The trip was organized by Jennifer Lyons and Basheba Mitchell. The trip enabled students to view an authentic cultural performance that was directly correlated to what was learned in class. The students saw a performance on the Puerto Rican music and dancing, **La bomba y la plena**. The students saw this performance after a 2-day lesson on La bomba y la plena, and doing research on the topic in the computer lab. After the performance, the students enjoyed lunch at a Dominican Restaurant. The students were served empanadas, arroz con pollo, frijoles, and flan for desert.
- ECD classes went on a trip to Valley Hospital to explore the delivery room and nursery facilities. Their visual experience reinforces what they have been learning about early childhood development.
- In late October, twenty five upper classmen of the Music Department attended a workshop at Lincoln Center on Music Composition. They also were given a guided tour of the premises

6. Professional Development:

- The HS will be holding an in-house professional development session on Monday 11/26 from 3-4 PM for all professional staff. Topics, with the presenter in parentheses, will include portfolios/portfolio assessment (DePoto), utilizing assistive technology (Coviello), UnitedStreaming (Tambuscio), MS Office 2007 (Vicari), and preparing for the state biology assessment (Baker).
- All high school biology teachers attended a Biology assessment workshop where they were instructed on the philosophy and application of the performance assessment piece for the end of year biology assessment test. Christine Kane, project director of the Performance Assessment Alliance led the teachers in the use of these types of questions for our classrooms and New Jersey's desire to improve science scores with this type of higher order thinking.
- Dan Baker and Dr Asa-Awuku (will/have) attended a workshop on "Project Lead the Way". Through this effort, high schools partner with higher education institutions to prepare students interested in engineering careers by offering pre-engineering courses in the high schools. Project Lead the Way offers resources to high school and middle school teachers that strengthens student opportunities in engineering or science throughout the state, and the College of Engineering is pleased to support this program.
- Ruth Beiner attended a one day ECD conference in Atlantic City concerning developments in the teaching of early childhood development programs and ideas.

- On Nov. 29 and 30 Mr. Cella will be attending a workshop instructing me about a new Texas Instruments calculator, the N-spire. Upon completion of the workshop I will be receiving a calculator, an overhead hook-up, and a program that links it to the computer. Bringing this technology back to the classroom will allow for interesting demos, and visual representation of concepts that are not so easily drawn on a blackboard.

7. Facilities

- New desk tops have been ordered for room 305 (Mr. Cella) and will be installed shortly an existing frames.

8. Other

- I was selected to be featured in a show called "The Principal". This is for a pilot episode for the series and will be shown on CourtTV (soon to become TruTV). The premise of the show is a day in the life of various principals. For participating, the HS received \$5000.
- On Monday November 19th, the Bloustein Center for Survey Research of Rutgers University will be conducting a survey of selected students. This was organized by Mr. Manuppelli (Vice Principal) and Mr. Gouraige (Administrative Intern). At the conclusion of the survey the HS will receive between \$600-\$800.
- The physical education department held its 1st annual Turkey Shoot with the faculty members on Wednesday 11/7. They also are having a Turkey shoot with the Junior and Senior classes. Winners will be announced before Thanksgiving vacation. Six turkeys that were donated by Shop Rite will be given to the top male/female shooters from each class.
- There will be a Financial Aid Workshop for parents of 11th & 12th grade students (9th & 10th grade parents are welcome too!) on Wednesday, November 28th, 2007 at 7:30 PM. Come and learn the facts about Financial Aid and important information about filling out the FAFSA. Our presenter will be Kimber Decker, Vice President of Nelnet Campus Solutions.
- Mrs. Burten received a 300 dollar for a trip to the Trenton Statehouse for a tour and a meeting with Representatives who will discuss how a law is made.
- Mrs. Monroe: The National Honor Society is sponsoring a peer tutoring program. The induction ceremony will be held on Tuesday, November 20th
- The Social Studies Department received from New Milford resident Bob Meli framed biographies – and photos - of those individuals from New Milford who sacrificed their lives in WWII – and after whom streets are named in their honor.
- The football team advanced to the Group I-North I semifinals by defeating Westwood 45-7 on 11/10. They then advanced to the Group I North I finals after defeating Hawthorne 33-31 on 11/17.
- The flood committee recently put in an order for 4 dry suits and assorted life jackets (in child, youth and adult sizes) for our rescue units in town. Walt Pevny met with Fire Chief Dave Stormer to discuss the needs. Future purchases will include outfitting our town shelter (which is currently our Middle School) with Towels, socks, sweat shirts and sweat pants. We feel it is necessary to have these items on hand in case of another disaster
- Members of Mrs. Hernandez's Mural Painting Club have taken a flying start with a number of exciting projects. Students put their painting skills into action by helping to paint the scenery for the new school musical "The Hostage". Mural club members transformed the Library into a Day of the Dead extravaganza. Students and teachers were treated to a delightful array of Day of the Dead memorabilia. The Day of the Dead is celebrated by the first week of November as an old harvest festival that focuses on remembering deceased relatives and other loved ones. It is celebrated by a number of cultures including Mexico, Trinidad, Europe, and others. Some cultures refer to it as all souls Day. The colorful display in the library pays special tribute to two famous Latino artists, Surrealist Cult Icon Frida Kahlo, and her husband acclaimed mural painter Diego Rivera. The display was

mesmerizing ,Intricate paper banners flew above your head, and lead you to the reliquary table, that included decorated painted skulls, hand embroidered tapestries, collages, books and magazines about Frida and two life like skeletons dressed as Frida and Diego topped the display. Students in Mrs. Hernandez's Media and Sculpture classes also put on an awesome display of the Day of the Dead in the Cafeteria display case. It showcases student art consisting of skulls, masks, paper cuts, and reliquary boxes. Students of the Mural Painting Club are now busy painting a 4x6 panel painting consisting of a Patriotic and multicultural theme. With the hard work and dedication of these extraordinary students the Mural is sure to be a splendid and attractive masterpiece!