

JANUARY 2012 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>
Carolyn Paulus	English 11	1/20/12	3	Eric Sheninger
Rebecca Millan	Modern World History	1/20/12	7	Eric Sheninger
Christina Ginter	Special Education	1/5/12	2	Jerry Perrone
Maureen Westervelt	Special Education	1/12/12	6	Jerry Perrone
Lauren Bettini	Art	1/14/12	2	Jerry Perrone

Summaries:

2. Guest lecturers

3. Innovations

- Special Education teacher Wendy Mackey began to use Glogster in the classroom with her students. Read her guest blog post here <http://esheninger.blogspot.com/2012/01/getting-started-with-web-20.html>.
- Freshman Biology Students are working together to create 'Green Cities'. They are using their knowledge on sustainable living and the effect that humans are having on the biosphere to design a city that will be 100% self-sustaining.
- Biotechnology students are using templates from Mrs. Vicari's business class to create a business plan centered on a biotechnology that they have learned about in class.
- This year the Student Council's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. assembly was presented on Friday, January 13. It was quite an accomplishment on the Student Council's part, and the congratulations and compliments they received from students and teachers alike were greatly appreciated by the class officers who were happy to hear all the accolades. The Student Council wanted to focus on the entire "I have a Dream" speech since most people only know certain famous lines pulled out of context. What ultimately came to be this year's program was a combination of King's historic speech, photographs of historical images and of our own New Milford High School student body, and song selections from NMHS alumni from the classes of 2009 and 2011. Songs selections came from the Broadway musical *Shenandoah*, such as "Why am I me?" and "Freedom," were sung after being appropriately introduced by similar thematic content from King's speech. These two songs were sung by Alvin George (2011) and Leonard Perez (2011) and then Alvin George and Meredith McCann (2011). "Climb Every Mountain" from *The Sound of Music* was also sung after an appropriate and relevant pause in King's speech. This song was sung by Meredith McCann and Aimee and Anita George (2011). Finally, "Defying Gravity," from the Broadway show *Wicked* was sung by Aimee and Anita George. Jonell Robles (2009) gracefully played the piano. Another part of the program that was quite touching was when eight students from NMHS got on to the stage and read along with King's speech in their own native foreign languages. Students like Mohamad Hashash and Mo Soliman, Chris Stavrou, Sophie Ogata, and Christine Koo stood proudly on the stage and read in Arabic, Greek, Japanese, and Korean. Their parts of the speech were read in unison with Vice President Anthony Whittaker who continued that same part of King's speech in English. A few teachers said that part was their favorite part of the program. All throughout the presentation of King's speech and the singing portion of the program, images were projected onto the screen in the

auditorium. From the American flag, bald eagles and the new Martin Luther King, Jr. monument to pictures of our own NMHS students working together, laughing together and just being together—the images were a great reminder of King’s legacy and our wonderful school as a microcosm of the world at large. All members of this year’s Student Council were filled with great ideas and worked very hard. Special kudos should go to Corresponding Secretary Julia Cruz. She worked tirelessly at finding images and putting together last minute changes even right up until the audience arrived.

- During the school year, New Milford High School participated in the ninth annual “Get It Together Challenge.” The overall purpose of this program was to increase the use of seat belts and decrease the rate of adolescent fatality while driving automobiles. Two mandatory unannounced seatbelt checks were scheduled to determine the statistics of seat belt use among our students. Mr. Gerry Perrone, New Milford High School’s Vice Principal, and Mrs. Dorene Zacher attended the training at Hackensack Hospital. The first check was on September 28, 2011; 308 students were screened to determine seat belt use. 227 students or 74% of New Milford High School students were indeed wearing their seat belts, however 81 students or 26% were not. On October 26, 2011 the second seat belt check was scheduled, this time 363 students were screened. 299 or 82% of the students were wearing their seatbelts and 64 students or 18% were not. In a matter of one month, New Milford had an increase of 8% of seat belt use. Another key aspect of this life saving program was a contest offered by the “Traumatic Brain Injury Coalition of New Jersey. The “U Got Brains Champion School” program was an opportunity for NMHS to develop and execute a campaign to address adolescent destructive driving. Mr. Walt Pevny and his Multimedia Class developed the “Drive Safe Box” This creative and cutting edge project was developed to raise awareness and promote hands free driving regarding the use of all technological advances such as cell phones. The Multimedia class developed a short "Public Service" video on the dangers of texting while driving and his Advanced Desktop Publishing class developed a "marketing campaign" for the product ads, brochures, website, and advertisements. Through their hard work and effort, the Brian Injury Association selected New Milford High School on January 16, 2012, as the winner, and NMHS will be awarded \$1,000 to develop the prototype. Dr. Asa-Awuku’s knowledge and brilliance, with the help of his Engineering Club, will develop the prototype of the “ Drive Safe Box”. If New Milford is selected as the State winner, we will receive a driving simulator and recognition for our dedication to assure that our students and community members will arrive home safe.
- The student’s in Mrs. Vicari’s Business Strategy courses presented their Business Proposals and Business Plans to the Foundation For Free Enterprise as part of a business competition. The students as a group came up with unique business ideas and wrote a business plan to present at the end of the semester.
- During the month of January, the ELL students celebrated Black History Month by reading and learning about many influential people that were part of the civil rights movement. All lessons were engaging utilizing the Smart Board/computers, and tapped into the four language domains: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Additionally, the ELL students researched information about Martin Luther King, Jr., and studied his famous speech, “I have a Dream”. As a culminating activity, the ELL students prepared a Power Point presentation about Martin Luther King, Jr., which included his childhood history, family information, special events and achievements, the Southern Christian Leadership organization (SCLC), and his assassination.

4. Student honors

- One of our new students, Niarra Cortezano, won the Gold Key Award in the Scholastic Art and Writing contest. This is the top award given to a small amount of students. Gold Key award winners will exhibit their work at the Montclair Art Museum from February 11-

March 9, 2012. The reception and award ceremony is February 15 from 6:00-9:00pm at the Museum.

- The Mock Trial team ended its 2011-2012 season with outstanding performances by all team members. Victories against Don Bosco and Paramus High Schools confirmed the team's outstanding work in preparing for the competitions. Teacher coaches Mr. Tusa and Mr. Wilson, and attorney coach Judge Keith Bachmann could not have been more pleased by the team's skilled and gracious performance in representing our school. The competitions were organized and sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation in collaboration with the Bergen County Attorneys Association, and required the team to prosecute/defend in a criminal case dealing, among other things, with both burglary and racism. Attorneys Amanda Howell, Greg Winkler, Sagar Desai and Keval Patel, and witnesses Jennilyn Robles, Jesus Collado, Lauren Miller, Merin Cherian, Caleb Gomez, and Nichole Francisco performed, in the words of the judges, with skill, knowledge, and mature professionalism. The team is open to all students, boys and girls, grades nine through eleven, and welcomes new members for the next season.
- In Ms. Levy's class this month, a student who has been struggling and who has trouble working well with groups recently found a lot of success with the "War of 1812 in the News Project". His job was to create a historically accurate advertisement for something sold in his region of the country during the War of 1812. He did a great deal of research online and in books to find an oven that was widely sold in New Jersey during the War of 1812. He meticulously drew the oven and created a fantastic, accurate, and creative advertisement enticing Americans at that time to buy the oven. When he got up to share it with the class, not only did his group cheer for him, but the whole class broke into applause.
- On Sunday January 15, 2012, six students from New Milford High School earned, through audition, the honor of performing in the Bergen County Band and Chorus Concert at Westwood High School. Charles Sternberg performed on trombone with the Bergen County Band and Briana Cole, Kimberlee Korzelius, Jennilyn Kate Robles, Angelica Santiago, and Gregory Winkler performed with the Bergen County Chorus. Jennilyn was one of the top ten of her voice section. The concert is run by the Music Educators of Bergen County; all the schools of the county are eligible to have their students audition for a chance to be part of this prestigious group. Congratulations to these six high school students. They are now regarded musically as the "Best in Bergen County."

5. Field trips

- Students in Ms. Luo's Mandarin I class went to a Chinese Supermarket for Chinese New Years to search for items related to the event. They also went to a Chinese restaurant to learn how to make steam bun and to see the various food traditions of Chinese New Year.
- The students in Mrs. Westervelt's MD Class took a trip to NVE Bank on January 11, 2012. The purpose of the trip was to become familiar with a bank within the community following a banking unit in class.
- Students in the Holocaust course were invited to attend a special program sponsored by the United Nations and the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation. The students participated in the piloting phase of a new online resource developed by the USC Shoah Foundation and attended this event because of their participation in the program. New Milford High School senior, Stephanie Dabaghian, spoke about her experiences using the testimonies and her family background. More than 350 New York metropolitan area high school students debuted the work that they completed in the iWitness application at the United Nations Headquarters on January 23, 2012. iWitness marks a major new initiative from the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education. Designed as an online resource for secondary school teachers and students, iWitness provides teachers and students access to the video testimonies of more than 1,000 Holocaust eyewitnesses from the Institute's archive, along with educational tools and supporting resources. Organized by the

- On Thursday January 5, 2012, the Guidance Department hosted a special onsite enrollment day in conjunction with Bergen Community College. Admissions counselors from BCC visited New Milford High School and helped approximately sixty students complete the on-line enrollment. Students had the opportunity to ask the admissions counselor questions regarding the placement test, registration process, and academic programs available at BCC.
- On Friday January 6, 2012, eleven alumni students returned to NMHS to participate in a college information program for our current junior and senior students. The alumni had just completed their first semester and not only shared their experiences but also answered NMHS student's questions regarding the college application process, choosing a college, financial issues, roommate situations, academic course load and so much more. The eleven alumni students attend Drexel, TCNJ, NJIT, George Washington University, Quinnipiac, Bergen Community College, Villanova, Rutgers, Montclair, and Boston College. Thanks to the alumni, the program was both informative and fun.
- During the month of January and into early February, guidance counselors are meeting individually with all 11th grade students to discuss course scheduling for senior year, post-high school planning, the college search, college admission testing and the application process. Parents/Guardians have also been invited to attend this very important meeting to assist their children in planning for their post-secondary goals. Freshman and sophomore students will meet with their counselors in February to choose their courses for the next school year.
- Junior students will be receiving their NJ State issued HSPA prep booklets within the next few weeks. The booklet will be distributed in English classes. They contain useful test taking information and HSPA practice problems. Parent/guardian information will be sent home with report cards. The HSPA is scheduled for March 6-8. Information will be mailed home to parents/guardians of junior students.
- Local scholarship information is available for seniors on the guidance department website.
- NMHS will be administering the March 10th SAT. The deadline for regular registration is February 10, 2012. Students can register at collegboard.com or see your guidance counselor for more information.

7. Professional Development

- On January 23, 2012, Mr. Fiscina attended the College Board Middle States Regional Forum in Baltimore, MD. He was both an attendee and a presenter. Mr. Fiscina attended several presentations on numerous topics. Some highlights were first the Keynote speaker address given by Wes Moore. Wes is a Rhodes Scholar and established author. He talked mainly about how decisions in our life shape the life we live. All of our students are only one decision away from either greatness or destruction, and they do not even know it. In addition, Wes made a great point about saying that we are not a product of our environments, but rather a product of our expectations. If we show high expectations for our students then they will rise and strive to meet our expectations. Mr. Fiscina attended sessions on an early college program, "Students' Successes and Struggles with Rigorous Coursework Through AP", and about the Common Core Standards. Then during the last session of the day, Mr. Fiscina sat on a panel and presented Teaching with Technology. He gave a presentation on how using cell phones in the classroom engages students and authenticates lessons. He discussed multiple usages of the cell phones and the advantages of having such an accessible technological tool.

8. Facilities

- The Athletic Wing is undergoing a facelift of sorts. The Hall of Fame is under construction with the member names being repainted by one of our students. Two sports were added to

the wall, and there is a new NM logo near the girl's team room. Each of the trophy showcases were cleaned and reorganized by a parent.

9. Theatre and Performing Arts

10. Other

- Special congratulations to Mrs. Maureen Clancy who has been awarded the DAANJ (Director of Athletics Association of NJ) Secretarial Award of Excellence. She will be honored at a dinner in the near future.
- On January 21, 2012, Mrs. Dorene Zacher received notification from Mr. Bruce Baek an independent filmmaker that he is in the process of developing an educational film entitled "No More Tears". According to Mr. Baek, the overall purpose is to share and spread the powerful and positive anti-bullying program that New Milford School District has developed and to prevent children nationwide from being victimized. Once the legalities have been resolved, filming should begin the end of February.
- The Mike Pevny Benefit Classic was a great success on Friday, January 20, 2012. The night raised the most money ever for the scholarships of our students. It was a packed house as all three teams were victorious.
- On January 9, 2012, a unique anti bullying program was offered to the high school students. The emotional and physical pain of bullying was interrupted through dance. The Cats Paying Dues Dance Company under the direction of Mr. Andrew Nemr tapped their way into the hearts of the students and faculty by sharing their own personal issues of alienation, judgment, and ridicule throughout their life.
- On January 9, 2012, Felix Kwon from Korean national public television, KBS, interviewed Mrs. Dorene Zacher, District Student Assistance Coordinator, Harassment Intimidation and Bullying Coordinator and BUDDY Advisor, at the recommendation of Assembly woman Valerie Huttie's recommendation. The purpose of this interview was due to New Milford School District's exemplary anti-bullying program that has been implemented throughout the district. BUDDY Members, administration and staff were interviewed to discuss the overall concept of the BUDDY Program and how it is making a difference in the lives of our students and community members.
- Over the past month, the community service club has been actively involved in a tutoring program at David E. Owens middle school. Each week students from the high school get together with students from the middle school. The program has been a huge success in aiding and mentoring the middle school students. In other community service news, students have been volunteering their time at local hospitals and schools in an effort to give back to those who give so much. Some of their activities include; teaching after school classes, assisting in an office, and acting as an extra hand when needed.
- The students in Mrs. Westervelt's MD Class also continued to practice service learning this month as they baked cupcakes and set up for the Sophomore Class Bake Sale on January 25 and 26, 2012.
- The Class of 2012 raised over \$2300 on January 28, 2012, at the Pasta Dinner fundraiser held in the high school cafeteria. Over 200 community members, board members, parents, faculty, former graduates, and current senior class members all came out to support this fantastic fundraising event. Seniors Matt Gonzalez and Joel Martinez enhanced the evening with their musical expertise. The money that was raised will help to subsidize the upcoming senior class expenses. Special thanks go out to Mrs. Tambuscio for lending a hand, making the evening an absolute success.