

June 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>
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Summaries:

2. Guest lecturers

- Josh Dela Cruz, class of '07, returned once again to the Chorus room to treat the students to his "Acting for the Singer Workshop." The students chose, researched, and performed various pieces. They learned that "actors are not just performers; they are scholars that must do extensive research on their character and the work that they are performing. An actor's actions must be justified and supported by evidence." A paper detailing the research process was written and submitted by each attendee. A showcase of their final works was performed for the teachers and students. Josh ended with a Jazz dance routine that was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved. Josh is showing himself to be a wonderful teacher even as he enters his senior year at MSU in Musical Theater.

3. Innovations

- Mrs. Keesing, advisor to BookChat! (NMHS's book discussion club), arranged a Skype session with author, Sara Zarr. Skype is software that provides for free video calls – in this case, they Skyped to the author in Utah. Ms. Zarr wrote the book, Sweethearts, the club's reading selection for June. This culminating activity for the club was a highlight for the most successful year BookChat! has ever had. Thirteen students were present for the Skype session, and most of them took the opportunity to speak directly with the author. We talked about the book and about the craft of writing. It was very exciting to converse with a successful author, and it will remain a memorable experience for all of us. Mrs. Keesing hopes you will read her blog post for more information and pictures from the session. Go to <http://www.nmhslib.blogspot.com/>.
- As the culminating activity for Ms. Aivars' Probability and Statistics class, the students had to create a statistical study. They chose a topic of interest, concerning the NMHS students. They then created a survey and chose a simple random sample of NMHS students to give the surveys to in order to garner the required information. When they got the results, they had to tabulate all of them, decide on the best way to graphically display them, do statistical analysis to answer various questions about their results, write a written report and do an oral presentation to the class, incorporating their graphs in a Power Point presentation. Some of the topics chosen this year were: music preferences, sports, make-up, fashion, sneakers, and exercise. The students learned how studies are done, what kinds of problems are encountered and that not all data provides you with statistically significant results.
- On June 17, 2010 students from New Milford High School and Jersey City Public Schools who attended the Holocaust Study Tour presented their experiences to an audience of 85 parents, NMHS Administration, community members, and donors. This annually funded program offered six New Milford students, two Jersey City students and three students from Kansas and California the opportunity to experience Holocaust history at authentic learning sites in Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland. This year's highlights included an opportunity for students to interview three Holocaust

survivors in Olomouc, Czech Republic who have never told their stories formally. The students will be working together this summer to complete the testimonies and submit them to the Oral History Archives of The U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC and to Israel's Yad Vashem. A student book of reflections was published again this year along with a documentary recording the experience.

- There has been an increase in blogging by students and staff over the course of the year. To this end, Mr. Sheninger approached two students in the senior class (Filip Piasevoli and Diane Montecuollo) about submitting for publication on his blog, "A Principal's Reflections". Students were simply asked to write about their experiences at NMHS and apply them to the theme of the blog:

Education is a reflective practice. This blog provides my views on educational leadership, effective technology integration, best practices, and creating a student-centered learning culture.

Both pieces were absolutely fantastic and really validate the work being done at NMHS. Please take time to read and even comment on these blog posts written below:

A Student's Perspective by Filip Piasevoli

<http://esheninger.blogspot.com/2010/05/students-perspective-on-leadership.html>

What I Learned Because of School by Diane Montecuollo

<http://esheninger.blogspot.com/2010/06/what-i-learned-because-of-school.html>

4. Student honors

- Senior Cheryl Mathew has been named Valedictorian for the New Milford High School Class of 2010. You can learn more about Cheryl and her accomplishments here http://www.northjersey.com/news/96538209_Valedictorians_at_the_head_of_their_class.html
- Senior Filip Piasevoli was selected to the a 1st Team All-Bergen County baseball team. Filip also was selected to play in the New Jersey Senior All-Star Classic.
- The Cast of Rent was asked to be the headlining group at the National Teen Idol Competition at BCC on Sunday, June 27, 2010. They will be performing a medley from Rent. As school is coming to an end, they are back in rehearsals. Alex Diaz, '03, their director, Stacey Shiver, their choreographer and Mrs. Swartz all were on hand to help polish their routine so they once again can dazzle the audience with their talents. Meredith McCann, Melissa Milne, and Azela Zarate were awarded scholarships to attend the three-day workshops preceding the Teen Idol Competition. They will be taught by the major players in the recording industry and will be contestants in the competition.

5. Field trips

- The High School Band performed at a recruitment assembly at the middle school on June 8. The 8th grade was very enthusiastic about being a part of the fall season with the band and color guard. The band combined with strings also performed at the High School Commencement.

6. Guidance

- On Tuesday, June 8, 2010, New Milford High School's Senior Awards Night was held at the Colonial Inn in Norwood. Over 250 guests attended including faculty, presenters, family, friends, and students. The fifty-three seniors honored at the banquet received over 85 scholarship and recognition awards. Valedictorian, Sheryl Mathew, and salutatorian, Filip Piasevoli, were recognized with plaques presented by the New Milford/Teaneck Elks Club. The amount of scholarship money distributed that night

exceeded \$94,000. In total, the class of 2010 has received over \$650,000 in scholarship, grant, and aide money. NMHS is thankful to all of the generous scholarship contributors and very proud of our outstanding scholarship and award recipients.

7. Professional Development

8. Facilities

- The high school continues to acquire and integrate the latest technology in order to prepare students to be 21st Century learners. A few remaining funds from this year were used to purchase four more iPod Touches that will be added to the mobile iPod learning lab and two more Mac Book laptops to be integrated into the mobile cart.

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9. Theatre Arts

- Rent: School Edition, this year's spring musical, won an award for Outstanding Chorus this year at the Metropolitan Theatre Awards hosted by the Helen Hayes Youth Theatre.

10. Other

- New Milford High School was featured in the June issue of Education Week's Digital Directions magazine. The article was entitled "Social Networking Goes to School" and can be viewed at <http://www.edweek.org/dd/articles/2010/06/16/03networking.h03.html>
- The third ever Carnival and Luau was held on Friday June 11, 2010, to benefit the senior class. There was overwhelming support from the community in the form of food and financial donations. The day culminated that night with the luau in the courtyard. Overall, the event raised over \$2000 for the senior class.
- On June 18, 2010, the first ever Dodgeball Tournament was played at New Milford High School. There were a total of 13 teams entered including two faculty teams and 11 students teams made up of both boys and girls. The event was a huge success raising just about \$800 for the senior class. There was a lot of excitement all through the night with great games and tons of fun. The students as well as the faculty and parents in the stands had an awesome time and requested that we continue this new tradition at New Milford for years to come.
- NMHS received the 2009-2010 Thomas Wachenfeld Sportsmanship Award Presented by the North Jersey Board #33 Basketball Officials Association.
- Head Girls Tennis Coach, Joe Ricciardelli, was selected as the Bergen County Coach of the Year.