

# OCTOBER 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>
Tim Gouraige	History	10/3, 10/4, 10/5	3	Eric Sheninger
April Millian	Math	10/10, 10/11, 10/13	7	Eric Sheninger
Dan Baker	Biology	10/15	7	Eric Sheninger
Keith Devereaux	Biology	10/16, 10/17, 10/19	3	Eric Sheninger
Carina Porr	Guidance	10/18	2	Eric Sheninger
Pam Miller	Math	10/18	4	Eric Sheninger
Vikki Smith	Marine Bio.	10/19	1	Eric Sheninger
Frank Jacob	Math	10/22	1	Eric Sheninger
John Coviello	Spec. Ed.	10/1, 10/2, 10/3	2	Jerry Perrone
Nicola Schneider	Spec. Ed.	10/10, 10/11, 10/12	1	Jerry Perrone
Michael Coyne	Spec. Ed.	10/10, 10/11, 10/12	8	Jerry Perrone
Colleen Tambuscio	Spec. Ed.	10/18	1	Jerry Perrone

Summaries:

## 2. Guest lecturers

- Carol Restivo (HS nurse) arranged for a speaker since October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. This yearly Breast Cancer Awareness presentation is sponsored by Triboro Hadassah and presented by an RN from HUMC, Mary Ann Jordan. All presenters were all breast cancer survivors. The students were informed about early warning signs and the importance of early detection along with a review of self breast exam. They were given information to take home and share with other females in their lives and received a small gift associated with breast cancer awareness.
- Office Wilde will be team teaching with Mrs. Tambuscio in the Holocaust course regarding the historical topic of the role of law enforcement during the Holocaust. Office Wilde and Mrs. Tambuscio detail the manipulation of the Code of Ethics that was created during the Nazi era for German police officers and compare it to the Code of Ethics that Office Wilde is sworn to uphold as an officer of the law today. Additionally, Officer Wilde comments on the actual role played by local police in round-ups and deportations during the Nazi era. Through a series of historical images that demonstrate the role of law enforcement, this collaborative lesson reveals the relevance and lessons for society today.
- Mr. Coviello invited his father, a Vietnam Veteran, to speak to his English 12 students regarding his experiences serving in Vietnam. This presentation connected directly with the student's reading of *The Things They Carried*.

## 3. Innovations:

- Ms. Jamie Bruno will attend the Junior Varsity Aces Workshop on Sports in Journalism at the Bergen Record on Oct. 16 with student journalist, Filip Piasevoli.
- On October 4<sup>th</sup> we conducted a surprise seatbelt check in conjunction with Hackensack Medical Center's Trauma Prevention Department. This check was part of the "Get It Together" seatbelt challenge New Milford High School is participating in with a number of other Bergen county high schools. Our first checkpoint had great results with 89% of our student drivers wearing seatbelts. 76% of front seat passengers had their seatbelts on and 42% of backseat passengers were wearing seatbelts. In total we checked 303 seatbelts with a 70% positive result. As a follow-up on October 9<sup>th</sup>, Meliam Gonzales from Hackensack University Medical Center came and spoke with our senior physical education classes. She

presented an hour slide show which discussed the benefits of wearing seatbelts as well as shared her experiences in the emergency room with individuals who were not wearing seatbelts. In November we will be conducting another unannounced seatbelt check to look for improvement among our student drivers and passengers.

- The special education teachers involved in the teaching of Practical Skills collaborated to create a unit of instruction on the use of PowerPoint presentations in the content areas.
- The athletic open house took place before the 8<sup>th</sup> grade orientation. All of the head coaches were present to meet parents and students to answer questions and provide information about their programs.
- The Athletic department would like to thank Judy Van Sadlers, Ann Teets and Debbie Mastrotto for all they have done to reorganize, clean, and decorate the trophy display cases in the athletic wing. The hallway looks better than ever. In addition, Greg Kelly was helpful in organizing students to paint the hallway for community service.
- Mr. Coviello has been using room 110 for his history class - PowerPoint presentations were completed by the students using the computer, projector and smart board
- The fall drama production of *The Hostage* by our newly-formed drama club, the Opening Knights (John Coviello and Kerr Lockhart, co-advisors) is not only providing the expected venue for verbal and physical, expressivity but has become an opportunity for cross-discipline learning. Because the play, written by Brendan Behan, is set in Ireland in 1958, in the midst of the struggle for the rights of the Catholic minority in Northern Ireland, cast and crew received a briefing from Mr. Lockhart on the history and politics of relations between Britain and Ireland over the last 800 years, with particular emphasis on the Easter Uprising of 1916 and the Treaty of 1922 and the conflicts between the Free-Staters and the die-hard Republicans. Mr. Lockhart also gave a brief presentation on the theories of epic theater, dialectic and “alienation” as articulated by the German playwright Bertolt Brecht and his carried on today by filmmakers such as Jean-Luc Godard and Lars von Trier; theories which underlie some of the play’s more startling effects. Ms. Beiner has provided her expertise in clothing that is both accurate to the period and setting, but expressive of the character, through design, pattern and color. Mr. Pevny’s graphic classes have made and will make major contributions in the design and production of flyers, tickets, posters and programs. Ms. Bruno will be working with a team to create a facsimile newspaper from Dublin in the 1950s, which will be distributed before the play to give the audience the necessary historical and political background. Set painting and decoration is to be ably assisted by the classes of Ms. Hernandez, our interim art teacher. The play incorporates naturalistic singing and dance, which is being organized and led by Andrew Sharp, an extremely talented Celtic musician and choreographer, who will soon be competing in Scotland for the title of World’s Greatest Bagpiper. Mr. Shea’s audio-visual expertise will soon be supporting the Stage Crew in developing techniques for projection of lyrics for some of the play’s sing-alongs. Mr. Africano has been on board teaching all members of cast crew set-building techniques with hands-on application. These techniques incorporate mathematics, as well as industrial arts. Mrs. Vicari will soon be working with students to create playbill for the show. Mr. Coviello is working diligently with many students teaching theatrical production and stage management methods. In total this Fall production is educating over one hundred members of our student body both at rehearsals and in the classroom! While the students may *think* they are just enjoying the fun and camaraderie of another school show, multiple disciplines and multiple intelligences are being engaged in an integrated cross-curriculum project. Members of the Board of Education will be soon receiving their VIP passes to performances on November 15, 16, and 17, so we hope you will make every effort to see the product of the students’ efforts.
- The biology classes were all trained how to access their Miller/Levine biology text online in order to review the excellent videos, animations, quizzes, vocabulary and web links. These features are a terrific enhancement of the class discussions and lectures.

#### 4. Student honors:

- The Choral ensemble performed for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent orientation 10/8 and sang the National Anthem at the home football game on 10/12. Hannah Faye Zarate is still attending rehearsals on Saturdays in Central Jersey for the All State Chorus. Seventeen members of the chorus are auditioning for the Bergen County Chorus on October 25<sup>th</sup> at Cresskill High School. Twelve music students are being considered for induction into the Tri-M Music Honor Society.
- Michael Kontomanolis was invited to speak at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the New Jersey Holocaust Commission on October 21, 2007 at Kean University. This is a state wide commemoration in which Michael will be speaking alongside **former Governor Thomas Kean**.
- Jessica Yager, a 2007 graduate of NHMS who is attending George Washington University, has been accepted into **a multi-year intern program at The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC**. Her duties will include the facilitation of tours as well as opportunities to become involved in research initiatives.

#### 5. Field trips

- Students in selected 11A English classes will participate with Mrs. Burton's history classes on a field trip to Ellis Island as a culmination of their study of American immigrant literature at the end of October.
- Math League will be participating in the twenty second annual Joseph W Andrushkiw Mathematics Competition held at Seaton Hall University on Saturday , November 17,2007
- Selected music students will be attending a music composition workshop at Lincoln Center on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. They will also be given a backstage tour of Lincoln Center.
- Mrs. Piasevoli, parent of peer leader Filip Piasevoli, helped facilitate a Peer Leadership initiative to raise funds for the purchase of solar cookers for refugees of an on-going genocide in the Darfur region of the Sudan. The students raised over \$200 by setting up a booth at the Hackensack Street Fair on Saturday, October 6, 2007. Peer leaders have organized and implemented an action plan for this year that will include additional opportunities to educate our community about the issues surrounding this human rights crisis.
- Spanish I field trip scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup> to a Spanish Cultural Exhibition followed by a visit to a Spanish restaurant for lunch. Miss Lyons and Ms. Mitchell in charge.
- The Marine Biology classes of Mr Devereaux, Ms Smith, and Lynn Torpie went on a field trip to Sandy Hook, NJ on October 18. The Sandy Hook staff takes them on a tour of the various ecosystems (wetland, estuary, salt marsh), points out areas where succession is occurring, and they also learn how to collect samples using nets and waders before examining them with microscopes.

#### 6. Professional Development:

- Kerr Lockhart will be attending a HSPA holistic scoring workshop for educators involved in scoring the SRA, sponsored by the N.J. Department of Education on Nov. 15
- The following workshops were offered on the Staff Development Day 10/8:
  - Suicide Prevention (entire HS staff)
  - Articulation between Middle and HS staff in all departments
  - How to effectively and efficiently collaborate b/w Special Education teachers (in-class support) and regular education teachers
  - Web Design (all departments must have a webpage up by January 2008)

- Rich Arturi attended the “Managing Challenging Behavior in the Classroom” workshop. The course gave strategies for teachers to help deal with the student who speaks out, disrupts class and refuses to do any work when asked to.
- Kerr Lockhart and John Coviello will be attending a breakfast on 10/30 at the NJPAC in Newark where they will meet with the Arts Education Department. They will learn about the NJPAC’s array of Arts Education programs for our school and students.
- Lou Manuppelli and Officer Wilde attended a Gang Awareness Workshop conducted by the Bergen County Prosecutors Office. Informational flyers about gang awareness and prevention will be distributed to the freshman class parents to help them identify signs of gang activity and resources for assistance.
- Ms. Keesing attended at BELS Meeting. The program entitled “I’m Not Supposed to Use the Internet” explored effective Internet searching. One salient theme is that although high school students are quite good at how to “im” and text-message, they are quite lacking in proficiency when it comes to research skills.
- Dan Baker has joined the committee of NJSELA (New Jersey Science Educators Leadership Association). This committee of science supervisors meets regularly to discuss matters of mutual concern. Our recent meetings have focused on the biology assessment scheduled for May 2008 and our participation at the recent NJ Science Convention.
- Lynn Torpie, Keith Devereaux, and Dan Baker attended the NJ Science Convention at the Garden State Exhibition Center on October 9 and 10. Various workshops offered the newest and innovative software, hardware, equipment, books, demonstrations, and teaching techniques to assist science teachers. Mr Devereaux’s highlight were biology demonstrations that showed cell processes. Lynn Torpie attended an interview with Miller and Levine (the authors of our new biology text) who talked about using controversial subjects to introduce biology topics. The highlight for Mr Baker was attending two workshops focusing on the biology assessment for May 2008. The wealth of material provided will be a great asset to prepare our biology students.

## **7. Facilities**

- New desk tops we installed on existing frames in room 321. Room 313 is scheduled to get new desk tops installed over the next couple of weeks
- New furniture for the science rooms that were renovated over the summer arrived on 10/16

## **8. Other**

- I was inducted into the NJ Council of Education on Friday 10/12. The NCOE was established over a century ago (1887) as a “cadre of eminent educators” to promote the cause of public education in NJ and currently has a membership around 300 persons. The Council provides a forum for thoughtful discussion of educational issues and the corresponding social, economic, and political conditions and policies which set the framework for implementing effective education. The Council remains a statewide organization, which encompasses education at all levels, including elementary, secondary, and college. It brings together professionals with the roles of school administrator, college professor, and Department of Education emissary. It establishes an environment where members of diverse interests can participate in discussions of mutual interest and concern. In order to get in you have to have a primary and secondary sponsor, have 5 years of administrative experience, and submit an application for review. I am sponsoring fellow district administrator Jeanna Velechko for induction this May.
- HS hosted a Blood Drive on 10/12 in the Old Gym.
- “Schooled” DVD sales netted \$450 for the music department. DVD’s were sold at both the HS and Middle School Back to School Nights and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent’ Night here at the HS. A private donation of \$100 was also made to the music department.

- The Guidance Department is administering the PSAT/NMSQT on Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> to all 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. This is the first time that test will be given during the school day with over 95% of the students participating. The PSAT/NMSQT is a reasoning test that indicates how a student will perform on the SAT and the route of entry to the National Merit Scholarship Competition. The score report provides the students and their families the opportunity to prepare for the SAT in their junior year.
- The girls' soccer team was victorious in their County tournament 1<sup>st</sup> round game at Ramsey on October 10<sup>th</sup>. The upset win was sealed in a shootout after a scoreless regulation and overtime. Unfortunately the run came to an end on 10/14 at the hands of Rutherford by a 4-1 score.
- The girls' tennis team defeated Cresskill in the Group I State Sectional semifinals on 10/10. They traveled to Northern Highlands High School on Friday 10/12 but unfortunately lost 4-1. This is believed to be the deepest a NMHS girls' tennis team has gone in the state tournament.
- The girls' volleyball team qualified for the county tournament for the first time in recent memory. In their match vs. Tenafly on Saturday 10/13, they lost 2-0. However, the state tournament deadline is later this week and the team will qualify.
- Annual Halloween Parade for seniors – Wednesday 10/31 period 8 in the HS auditorium
- The Environmental Club, led by Mrs. Torpie, met October 17 for the first time. Twenty students attended. Discussions included class officers, and thoughts about improving the outdoor, boxed-in enclosure by the senior lounge to make it some type of environmental attraction. Some club members also participated in the communities town clean-up day (sponsored by New Milford) last month.