

# FEBRUARY 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>
Jen Lyons	Spanish 3	2/1/10	2	Eric Sheninger
Dana Buzzelli	Spec. Ed.	2/3/10	3	Eric Sheninger
Jen Gandolfo	Health 9	2/4/10	2	Eric Sheninger
Wendy Mackey	Spec. Ed.	2/5/10	2	Eric Sheninger
Jerry Engström	English 12	2/24/10	3	Eric Sheninger
Katherine Vargo	Spec. Ed.	2/25/10	1	Eric Sheninger
Nicolette Perna	MWH	2/2/10	5	Jerry Perrone
Joseph Manzo	Am. Hist 1	2/3/10	2	Jerry Perrone
Keith Devereaux	Biology	2/4/10	7	Jerry Perrone
Carina Porr	Guidance	2/24/10	7	Lou Manuppelli
Lawrence Ramsey	Math	2/24/10	1	Lou Manuppelli

Summaries:

## 2. Guest lecturers

## 3. Innovations:

- On Monday, February 8, 2010, Mr. Devereaux's and Mrs. Burten's biology class had an interactive web-cam conversation with Harriet Loeb, Mrs. Burten's sister. The biology class had been discussing biotechnology and advances in medicine. A discussion arose about cochlear implants, and how this surgery gives deaf people the ability to hear. Ms. Loeb has a cochlear implant; she showed the students exactly what it was and gave them insight as to what it is like going through life with hearing loss. Questions were answered by Ms. Loeb, and the conversation was a great way of showing the students that what they are learning can actually be applied in real life.
- On Friday, February 5, 2010, Mr. Torpie's CP Physics classes learned a memorable lesson about pressure when their teacher sandwiched himself between two beds of nails, placed a cinderblock on the top and had a student volunteer smash the cinderblock with a sledge hammer. The force was distributed over so many nails that no one nail exerted enough pressure to puncture the skin. The bruised and battered teacher did the demonstration for three different classes, and is glad he does not have to do it again this year.
- Mrs. Vicari and Mrs. Keesing collaborated with the Computer Apps classes for a project in which students conduct research on a current technology topic. Students are to create several PowerPoint slides about their topic, and each of them will make a presentation to the class. Mrs. Keesing provided instruction on using the magazine portion of the EBSCO subscription database including how to limit the date fields to the past year. Mrs. Keesing also gave instructions on using the social bookmarking website, [www.delicious.com](http://www.delicious.com), to find information. Students brainstormed about various applications of technology, and tried to find something that connected with their own interests. Students then used EBSCO, Delicious, and other websites to locate articles of interest. All students were successful in using the online resources, and their presentations will cover a variety of topics involving technology developments in the past year.
- In Humanities class the students are reading Homer's *The Iliad*. Two things are different with the unit this year: first, student teacher, Ms. Lisa Schiff (NMHS '06) is teaching the

material rather than Mrs. Collentine. Second, Ms. Schiff created an effective and memorable way for the students to understand Achilles' famous shield. The shield is made up of nine different scenes representing life in ancient Greece: from weddings to farming to the gods and goddesses hovering over everyday life. Ms. Schiff's spin was a lot more fun for the students: she had them each create their own shield, but it was to be made up of nine scenes representing important moments in their lives. From births of siblings, sweet sixteen's, getting braces, or perhaps their first car. The students made beautiful "shields" filled with photographs, decorations and captions that truly showed they not only understood the original content, but were more than happy to "update" it and make it personal. Great job students and great job future teacher Ms. Schiff! Look below for a sampling of what students came up with!



- Students in Ms. Perna's American History II class began to study the 1920's. As an introductory activity, students worked to create podcast interviews dealing with the culture of the 1920's. Students worked in pairs to conduct some research on the culture of the 1920's and then worked together to write an interview with one person as the interviewer, the other as someone that lived during the 1920's. Students had the option to focus on one aspect of 1920's culture or do an overview of multiple aspects. They will record their podcasts with their partners and then the class will listen to them and discuss them.
- Mr. Tusa recently used iPods in his AP American History courses. He stated that using the iPods was a very rewarding pedagogical activity for the students as well as for him, and that consequently he expects to use them again. The Podcast activity was an integral component of the class's present study of the Progressive Era. Students were organized in pairs, with each student representing a different "muckraker" (e.g. Lincoln

Steffens/Ida Tarbell). After researching the life/accomplishments of each respective muckraker, each pair produced a hard copy document of two interviews consisting of a brief introductory statement about the muckraker and ten pertinent questions to be asked/answered interchangeably. Using the iPods students recorded the interviews and subsequently replayed them to the whole class. As students listened to the recorded interviews, they took notes and engaged in pertinent Q/A and discussions. Mr. Tusa expects that the next iPod activity will be to podcast teacher edited selections from Orson Welles "The War of the Worlds."

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

- Junior wrestler James Favia placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the NJSIAA District Wrestling Tournament, advancing to the Regional Tournament.
- In a girls' basketball game versus Cresskill on February 27, senior Cassidy Holowach scored her 1,000<sup>th</sup> career point. Cassidy is now the 8<sup>th</sup> NMHS basketball player overall and the 6<sup>th</sup> female player to achieve the 1,000-point milestone.
- Over the course of the Girls' Indoor Track season Katie Teets, Christina Yambao, Kailey Barszcz, Jada Toote, and Khadijia Cox had a combined total of six Indoor School Records this season. Katie Teets individually has the 600-meter record at 1:48.2; Jada Toote has both the 300 meter at 43.7 and the 800-meter at 2:32.8. Together Katie Teets, Christina Yambao, Kailey Barszcz, Jada Toote have the 4x400 relay 4:20.3, the 4x800 relay 10:30.8 and the Distance Medley Relay at 13:58. Katie Teets, Khadijia Cox, Kailey Barszcz, Jada Toote have the Sprint Medley Relay 4:30.3.
- Boys' Indoor track athletes Filip Piasevoli and John Follety both tied the school record in the 55-meter dash at 6.6 seconds.
- Senior, Melissa Gavilanes had her sculpture, "Scream" accepted into the Open Juried Show for Bergen County Artists at the Art Center of Northern New Jersey in New Milford on February 7. She won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the competition.
- Selected students from Miss Bettini's art class have artwork presented in the high school art show in the New Milford Public Library for the month of March.

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

- On February 24, 2010, Miss Bettini's art class went to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to study Greek sculpture and drew from observing paintings from many art periods.

#### **6. Guidance**

- On Tuesday, March 30, 2010, the Guidance Department will be sponsoring the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) for any interested 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. The ASVAB is part of a career exploration program that assists students in choosing a career and/or college major. This career program combines a student's skills and interests to develop a comprehensive and personalized report with suggestions for possible careers that are based on these findings. The ASVAB will test students in three different areas—math, verbal, and science/technical skill. Eight subtests are combined to form these three categories. These subtests are arithmetic reasoning, mathematics knowledge, word knowledge, paragraph comprehension, general science, electronics information, auto and shop information, and mechanical comprehension. Students will receive scores for all eight of these tests, along with interpretation of the scores.
- On Friday, April 23, 2010, 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 can help them decide on a college major. There are already many informative and exciting speakers lined up for the day, but the Guidance Department is still looking for volunteers to speak to our students. If

anyone is interested in presenting or would like to provide a reference for a speaker, please contact the Guidance Department.

## **7. Professional Development**

- On Friday, February 5, 2010, Mr. Sheninger was notified that he was selected as one of fifty administrators nationwide to attend the first ever Google Teacher Academy for Administrators. He will be traveling to San Antonio, TX on March 5, 2010 to receive intense training on various Google educational tools. For more information on the Google Academy visit <http://www.google.com/educators/gtaforadmins.html>. To view the press release visit [http://www.newmilfordschools.org/NMHS/media/Google\\_Release.pdf](http://www.newmilfordschools.org/NMHS/media/Google_Release.pdf).
- Utilization of the Google applications is becoming more relevant to the teacher and the classroom. On Tuesday, February 9, 2010, Mr. Devereaux volunteered his time to provide Professional Development for fellow staff members on these applications. He worked with Mrs. Burten and Mrs. Solimano and showed them how to negotiate through the process of setting up their own webpage. His expertise in the area was extremely helpful and his patience appreciated.
- Mrs. O'Donnell participated in multiple workshops offered through the Nursing Spectrum, which included Cardiovascular Effects of Cocaine, Anxiety Disorders, Adverse Drug Effects, and A Orthopedic Emergency.
- Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Olivia Burten attended the annual AMTNJ conference. The focus of the conference was trends in math education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The keynote speaker, F.J.Merlino – President of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Partnership for STEM Education, discussed the significant correlation in economic stability between education and economic growth. There is a lack of quality and quantity of math, science and engineering graduates in the United States as compared to other countries with emerging economies, with less than 0.1% of recent college graduates earning degrees in these areas. A great deal of information was provided on upcoming end-of year assessment in Algebra. Strategies were offered to better prepare our students and encourage the utilization of Number Sense to compliment algebraic processes. The controversy over the use of calculators continues in the assessment discussion. However, the use of calculators is diminishing in the assessment process. College Algebra courses are discouraging the use of calculators and promote the use of Number Sense.
- Mrs. Miller attended “Changes to NJ ASK Mathematics 2010, Grades 6, 7, & 8 “given by Mike Luke – NJ Department of Education. Mr. Luke discussed and provided examples that highlight the changes made to the mathematics section of the grades 6-8 mathematics NJ ASK for the 2009 -2010 school year. Specific issues and changes discussed include calculator usage, test blueprint, item alignment, and assessment scoring and rubric development. Mrs. Miller obtained a Power Point presentation of the changes to the 2010 NJ ASK. She shared this power point presentation with middle school administration and math teachers.

## **8. Facilities**

## **9. Theatre Arts**

## **10. Other**

- On February 23, 2010, the Business Club opened the school store “Knights Novelties”. Students in the Business Club will be selling hats, scarves, headbands, and various school supplies during their lunch periods. The School store will be open every Tuesday and Thursday during lunch.

- French Kiss Fundraiser: For the past twenty-seven years, the French Honor Society has been fundraising to sponsor foster children in Haiti. This year was very special despite the fact that Mrs. Monroe was hospitalized due to burst appendix in the middle of the fundraiser. The French classes, with the help of Mrs. Beiner and Mrs. DePoto, worked on their own to make the Kiss Sale a great success. Students, parents, and alumni contributed Hershey Kisses in order to fill the orders, and everyone volunteered their time and effort so that this year's sale would be a success. We are all very proud of the way in which our students responded.
- The boys and girls basketball teams both qualified for the NJSIAA tournament. On March 2, 2010, the girls will host Ramsey at 5:00pm and the boys will host Dumont at 7:00pm.
- On January 26, 2010, the "Hoops for Haiti" Girls' Basketball game raised \$409 for the Red Cross Haiti Relief Effort. Thank you for your support!
- The NMHS Community Service Club is working to create baby kits and hygiene kits for Haitian survivors from February 22 through March 31, 2010. As part of the first response effort, CWS Kits for Haiti has reached out and expressed a critical need for Baby Kits and Hygiene Kits for Haitian Survivors. Homerooms will compete against each other to see who can compile the most kits. The following items will be collected to create the specific kits:

Hygiene Kit	Baby Care Kit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)</li> <li>• One washcloth</li> <li>• One wide-tooth comb</li> <li>• One nail clipper</li> <li>• One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)</li> <li>• One toothbrush (in original packaging)</li> <li>• Six standard size Band-aids</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six cloth diapers</li> <li>• Two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)</li> <li>• Two washcloths</li> <li>• Two gowns or sleepers</li> <li>• Two diaper pins</li> <li>• One sweater or sweatshirt (can be hand-knitted or crocheted)</li> <li>• Two receiving blankets (one can be a hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket)</li> </ul>

The Homeroom that collects the most *complete kits* will earn a Bagel Breakfast (each homeroom will be asked to raise \$2 to cover the shipping cost for each kit that is completed). The Kits will be collected by Community Service Students the week before Spring Break and sent to The First Congregational Church in River Edge, NJ, through a program called: Church World Service Kit Program.