

OCTOBER 2009 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>
Keith Devereaux	Biology	10/1, 10/2	1	Eric Sheninger
Pete Torpie	Physics	10/5	2	Eric Sheninger
Kabita Choudhury	Marine Bio.	10/6, 10/7, 10/12	1	Eric Sheninger
Adu Asa-Awuku	Chemistry	10/12	5	Eric Sheninger
Vikki Smith	Chemistry	10/13	3	Eric Sheninger
Lynne Torpie	Biology	10/14, 10/15, 10/16	1	Eric Sheninger
Joe Manzo	MWH	10/19, 10/20, 10/21	1	Eric Sheninger
Richard Arturi	Phys. Ed.	10/3	4	Jerry Perrone
Greg Kelly	Phys. Ed.	10/3	5	Jerry Perrone
Dana Buzzelli	Spec. Ed.	10/9, 10/12, 10/13	3	Jerry Perrone
Barbara O'Donnell	School Nurse	10/15	1, 8	Jerry Perrone
Jennifer Gandolfo	Phys. Ed.	10/19, 10/20, 10/21	1, 6	Jerry Perrone
Nadav Malka	Spec. Ed.	10/22, 10/23, 10/26	1	Jerry Perrone
Wendy Mackey	Spec. Ed.	10/26, 10/27, 10/30	2	Jerry Perrone
Sue Michels	English 12H	10/7	4	Lou Manuppelli
Jamie Bruno	English 12	10/8	7	Lou Manuppelli

Summaries:

2. Guest lecturers

- Hannah Zarate (Class of '08 and present Music Education Major) conducted vocal-ups during all the Chorus classes on her visit to the high school during the week of October 26th, 2009.
- On October 16th, 2009, the Nursing Department sponsored an educational program for the New Milford Seniors on cancer screening awareness. Dr. Shin (assistant professor at Touro University College of Medicine and Chief of Urology Department at Hackensack Medical Center) presented an educational seminar on testicular cancer screening to the male seniors. Dr. Shin shared his vast knowledge on the subject with the senior boys, and provided an open forum for them to discuss their concerns and questions on this subject. During the event, the senior girls participated in an educational program on breast cancer screening. The presenter was Ms. Debra Dziubinsky RN, Administrative Head Nurse of the Betty Torricelli Institute for Breast Care at Hackensack Medical Center. During this seminar, the young women discussed breast cancer screening as well as questions on concern on this topic. In addition, the Ladies of the Hassad Group supported and contributed to this event. The students and participating faculty stated that this was a worthwhile and informative program for the students who would not had the opportunity to discuss this subject without this presentation. The speakers also stated that this program was rewarding for them and that our students present the best of our community. They will look forward to continue this event in the upcoming years.
- On October 1st 2009, Bridgid Frentzen from the Community Blood Council of NJ provided an in-service to our 10th, 11th, and 12th grade on the importance of blood donation, and how each one of them can make a difference and help the community. The educational program included a DVD presentation, a question and answer session, and ending with a sign-up for the blood drive on October 15th, 2009. The Blood Drive took place on October 15th, from 9 am to 2 pm. The Blood Drive generated a great response from the student body and from the community with 58 successful donations. A New Milford student will receive a \$500.00 scholarship from the Community Blood Council

of N.J. The next blood drive is March 25th, 2010, and if we get at least 45 more donations the scholarship total will be \$1000.00.

3. Innovations:

- Mr. Andolino has been doing some exciting things in his Applied Music Theory Class. He recently had his students working with Mac Books to create music based on the course content covered up to this point using the Garage Band software found on all Mac Books. The students created original music on Garage Band using some loops. The idea was to create a genre that fit each student's personality. After creating the music, the next step was for the students to get these tracks live and start building a page that others could view online. As time goes on, they can edit the profile and enhance the page. The site that Mr. Andolino decided to use is called JukeboxAlive (<http://www.jukeboxalive.com>). This wonderful web 2.0 application allows students to listen, share, and enjoy music online. Listed below are some examples of what the students created:
 - <http://www.jukeboxalive.com/pcurley>
 - <http://search.jukeboxalive.com/chrisloof18>
 - <http://search.jukeboxalive.com/leonardp>
- The 9th grade English and Computer Applications classes are collaborating on a series of projects that involve knowledge in both language arts literacy and computer literacy this year. Mrs. De Poto's and Mrs. Collentine's Honors classes will be creating newspapers based on Lord of the Flies and A Tale of Two Cities. Topics for the newsletters have been discussed in English classes; the layout and design of the newsletter is worked on in the Computer Apps class. Mr. Lockhart's classes are creating newsletters based on their reading of The Good Earth; Mr. Engstrom's classes will be using their study of Night to create a newsletter and Ms. Bruno's class will be making a newsletter on Of Mice & Men. Students will receive a grade in both classes for this collaborative project.
- Delix Alex and Azela Zarate have been busy recording their newest song that Azela has written. Mario Romero was asked to play on one of the tracks. On certain days, the Music Lab has been transformed into a recording studio complements of Delix Alex.
- REBEL is a New Jersey teen tobacco prevention program, which is sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. The initial registration was on Tuesday, October 1st, 2009, at New Milford High School. Twenty-seven students registered to be an active member of this anti- smoking crusade. The group has had two meetings, which discussed the election of officers, activities such as Adopt a Smoker, What's Your Anti Smoking Pledge, and developing a chapter through the David E Owens Middle School. The New Jersey State Representative will be attending a scheduled REBEL Meeting in November to meet the students and to discuss all key components regarding the New Milford High School's REBEL Chapter.
- On Friday, October 30th, 2009, during 4th – 6th period, 18 students received training on conflict resolution, discrimination and making proper decisions without ill will or biases as part of Project Utopia. The purpose of Project Utopia is to foster a safe and disciplined educational environment that is conducive to learning, where individuals treat one another with civility and respect, despite their race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or mental, physical disability. During the three period training seminar the students participated in an education seminar regarding the key definitions, played the Game of Life (The students pick a card that denotes factious characteristics and they are treated in a manner that represents the overall description. The students are unaware of what the card says) ate lunch and than began the training for Project Utopia. A factitious scenario was developed and two students played the role of being in conflict. It was than the students' responsibility to resolve the conflict and develop a non-judgmental recommendation.

- The students in Mrs. Morel's Art Club and Mrs. Vicari's business club have been very busy collaborating on opening the school store "Knights Novelties" The Art Club students have been working on the design of the storefront and the Business Club students have been working on ordering products to sell as well as organizing the store. The store will be open for business in the near future and is located across from the senior lounge next to the cafeteria.

4. Student honors

- Freshman Kaysee Orozco was crowned the Bergen County Woman's Coach's Association 1st singles tennis champion and The Record's Female Athlete of the Week of October 19th, 2009.
- Seniors Dan Weininger and Sagar Thakkar will be participating in an internship with 2004 NMHS alumnus Brian Foo. Brian works for a company called Project Label. Project Label (<http://projectlabel.org>) is a Web-based platform that strives to create community-powered company nutrition labels that assess a company's health, social, and environmental impacts. Project Label users can add data, learn, discuss, and vote on how these labels should be built. Project Label's mission is to create open communication and goal alignment between consumers and producers, increase corporate reporting and transparency, and increase awareness of issues related to corporate social responsibility (CSR). Dan and Sagar's duties will include collecting/analyzing data about companies and their activities that have an impact on society or the environment, ensuring the quality of the data/functionality on the company's web site, assessing/executing marketing opportunities and target markets, gathering intelligence on customers and competitors, generating leads for possible sales, designing business models, and web and graphic designing.
- Azela Zarate and Jennilyn Robles continue to attend All-State Rehearsals. They were tested on their performances on alternate Saturdays at New Brunswick High School during the month of October. Azela will perform during the Teacher's Convention in Atlantic City on Friday, November 6th, 2009, at 8:30PM in the Old Convention Center.
- The following students, through a rigorous audition process at Cresskill High School on October 22nd, 2009, were accepted to the 2009 Bergen County Chorus: Alvin George, Aimee George, Jessica Milne, Leonard Perez, and Jennilyn Robles. Jessica has the distinct honor of placing 2nd in her section. Mrs. Swartz was a Soprano 1 moderator for the audition process.
- Thirty-nine Students participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Bergen Community College on October 18th, 2009! Their individual efforts raised over \$2,000 and with online donations, Team NMHS contributed \$2,450 towards the search for a cure!
- New Milford High School was one of three high schools in the Tri-state Area to be invited to participate in the launch of the **DASH+ National High School Contest** in New York City on Monday, October 19th. New Milford High School registered in the contest as the Emerald Knights and the team members include Eileen Gongon, Jennilyn Robles, Shanen Mulles, Disha Dass, and Meredith McCann, with Ms Vikki Smith as the team's mentor/advisor. Students were able to view 5 of 53 X-PRIZE innovative energy efficient cars and talked with their engineers.



As part of the Progressive Insurance Automotive X PRIZE Education Program (<http://www.progressiveautoxprize.org/education>), funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, the **DASH+** national high school contest challenges student teams to use their science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills to design a dashboard of the future that incorporates feedback mechanisms and supports behavior change to help drivers maximize fuel efficiency and reduce environmental impact. **DASH+** invites teams to submit their designs, accompanied by a written technical plan/data analysis and video pitch, to convince both the automobile manufacturers and the public to adopt and embrace their new concepts and to gain a better understanding of energy use in vehicles. Supporting more efficient driving behavior through feedback is at the core of **DASH+**. As teams stretch the boundaries of what is possible to envision in visual, auditory, and other sensory cues and experiential elements to make energy efficiency more participatory. Further information about the contest can be view on the website: FuelOurFutureNow.com

5. Field trips

- The Choral Ensemble was invited to entertain at the Senior Center on October 30th, 2009. They sang a selection of Pumpkin Carols, a medley from the “Nightmare before Christmas” and invited the seniors to join in sing a long. Soloists for the afternoon’s performance were Azela Zarate and Melissa Milne.
- Students in Ms. Schneider’s Class have been focusing on a unit based on becoming a sensible consumer. Using Shoprite, online students were able to demonstrate comparative shopping techniques and develop a budget based on the items they needed to purchase. On October 8th, these students were given an opportunity to go to Shoprite, maneuver the shopping cart, choose the items within the pre-determined budget, and purchase the items. Upon returning to school, students were asked to determine whether their purchase was under or over budget.
- On Monday October 12, Ms. Schneider's class and Mr. Devereaux's AP Biology class took a guided eco-cruise through the Meadowlands wetlands courtesy of the Hackensack Riverkeeper Inc. As we arrived at Laurel Hill County Park in Secaucus, students observed a large rock formation known to the people of New Jersey as “Snake Hill”. Officially, name Laurel Hill, the rock formed by volcanic action over 150 million years ago is visible from the New Jersey Turnpike's Eastern Spur. Capt. Hugh, our Riverkeeper guide, split the student’s into two inclusionary groups; one group engaged in land-based activities, while the other group ventured by boat into the meadowlands through the Hackensack River. Through this trip, students: learned about the steps taken to conserve and restore New Jersey wetlands, observed the progress of the Environmental Protection Agency efforts, and observed many different organisms in their natural habitat.
- Ms. Morel’s three-dimensional art students and Officer Wilde visited NJIT on October 14th, 2009. They met with Associate Professor Mr. John Cays, who led a discussion on

the impact that design has on our life, environment and our future. With the aid of a video, he showed them NJIT student work and pointed out how NJIT students utilize technology as an innovative tool. Students were able to tour the Architecture Building and NJIT students' studio spaces where New Milford students were able to witness the future architects and engineers at work. There, students asked NJIT students questions about their projects. The tour then moved to the Graduate spaces and they questioned two NJIT Graduate students about their constructions. Students learned that at the graduate level, mathematical coordinates are given to the computer and everything must be correct. The computer then plots the coordinates and begins to carve out the structure either out of a foam material or out of a poly clay-like material. When the computer is finished, it is opened and the graduate student begins to excavate like an archeologist until the structure is before him. Ms. Morel's students were amazed at the process and realized how much math and artisanship is involved in Architecture. Mr. Cays also shared a lesson plan that will be reviewed with him in order to apply to my New Milford high school students.

- On October 26th and 27th, 2009, the entire freshman class traveled to Bergen County Community College for the Success for all Forum. This forum is based on the idea that all students can develop into leaders of their community by making smart decisions. Two wonderful speakers came in to share their life experiences to encourage students to choose wisely especially in reference to the company they keep.

6. Guidance

- On October 22nd, 2009, the Guidance Department hosted a presentation called "Making College Financial Planning Count". This program was sponsored by *Making It Count!*, a company that provides free programs to high school students on various topics, and *Bank of America*. The program was attended by approximately 40 parents and students. Our presenter discussed many important topics including: how to plan for and manage college costs, types of financial aid that are available, options a family has in developing a college funding strategy, and how to send a child to college without risking a family's financial future.
- On October 27th, 2009, Mr. Carr, Mrs. Bilali, and Mrs. Porr attended a financial aid workshop at Bergen Community College that was hosted by the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA). The workshop served as a resource for communicating updates and changes on state and federal student aid. Parents and students will have the opportunity to learn about these changes when the Guidance Department hosts a Financial Aid Workshop on Thursday, December 3rd at 7:00pm. There will be more details to follow in the next edition of the Guidance newsletter, which will be sent with marking period one report card.
- The New Milford High School scholarship application process is now online! Visit the Guidance Department webpage and click on the icon titled *Scholarship Information and Applications for 2009-10*. You will be able to access detailed instructions on how to apply for NMHS' local and community scholarships, and students will be able to identify for what scholarships they are eligible. Applications will now be printed directly off the website, and returned to a drop box in the Guidance Office.

7. Professional Development

- Mr. Sheninger spoke at the 140 Characters Conference: Exploring the State of Now at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles, CA on October 27th and 28th, 2009. He was part of a panel with educators from across the country and world that spoke about the emerging role of Twitter in education. The panel specifically discussed how Twitter is being utilized by stakeholders in education to share resources, collaborate globally, engage in

thoughtful dialogue/discussion on educational issues, as well as being a means of meaningful professional development.

- The internet is one of the key components that have revolutionized the way an individual learns and interacts in our society today. With this powerful tool, when utilized in the proper manner, the benefits are immense; however when used inappropriately, the negative repercussions can reach potential dangerous levels. On September 23rd, 2009, Mr. Manuppelli and Ms. Zacher attended training sponsored by the Bergen County Prosecutors Office for “Sticks and Stones”. This comprehensive prevention and educational program concentrates on the negative repercussions of cyber-bullying, depression and the misuse of technology for the sole purpose of deformation of an individual’s character. With the increase use of technology regarding cell phones and the internet, we realized that our student body needed to receive an education on their overall responsibilities towards protecting themselves and others regarding the use of the internet and other cyber technology. During the week of October 19th through 23rd, which correlated with “Violent Prevention Week”, “Sticks and Stones” was presented in a school wide assembly by grade level. Each grade level was divided into two different groups in accordance to their homeroom. The students viewed the movie and then participated in a power point presentation which allowed them to continue their education on the negative aspects and allow them to discuss their actions in a group forum. All students who participated in this presentation, a total of 595, were asked to answer a six-question questionnaire regarding their reactions to the overall presentation. A sample of the questionnaire and the statistical analysis is enclosed in this letter. After the presentations were all completed, both Mr. Manuppelli and Mrs. Zacher have received numerous reports of ongoing harassment of our students via the internet. Without the presentation of this program, these students would not be receiving the guidance and support that is required to address the online threats.
- On Friday, October 9th, 2009, Mr. Lockhart attended a presentation by The International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) about an exciting school-to-work transition initiative. IATSE is one of the highest-paid and most traditionally closed unions in the country, which makes this initiative a remarkable opportunity. It has jurisdiction over nearly all specialized backstage work including lighting, sound, electrics, makeup and hair, wardrobe, scene construction and handling from across the state, including theaters, stadiums, convention centers, television studios and lighting and sound rental houses. Interested students attend a presentation by IATSE, and then participate in field visits. From that group, the Local presidents will interview the most motivated and promising candidates and 10 will be selected to be paid apprentices for a total of about 1500 work hours. Apprentices will be enrolled in 144 hours of technical theater courses at Bergen Community College, at union expense, in courses, which can be applied toward an A.S. or A.A.S. degree. Upon completion of the apprenticeship, they will qualify as journeymen, and union members can continue their occupational development in the various specialized trades, many of which are paid at professional levels. Candidates must be high school graduates, at least 18 years old, have a driver's license, be drug free and pass a general knowledge test. The Agency hopes to expand the number of available places in coming years. This is a great opportunity to take a different route from high school to an occupation that can become a profession. On October 19th, 2009, several interested students attended the first presentation at NMHS.
- Mrs. Keesing arranged for a speaker to demonstrate the new Global Issues in Context database at the October faculty meeting. Geoff Thieke, from Cengage Gale, provided teachers with an overview of the many features of this resource. Especially for social studies, science, and health teachers, this database offers terrific research opportunities. Constantly updated, this database includes videos, podcasts, and news from various global news sources, as well as informational articles. Mrs. Keesing hopes that many

teachers will be inspired to give themselves and their students the opportunity to explore Global Issues in Context.

- Mrs. Keesing attended an evening presentation given by Alan November and hosted by the Ridgewood Public Schools. Mr. November is a well-known speaker in the field of educational technology. He was named one of the nation's fifteen most influential thinkers of the decade by Classroom Computer Learning magazine, and in 2001, he was chosen as one of eight educators to provide leadership into the future by the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse. His speech, entitled "Preparing 21st Century Learners: How and Why Their Schooling Differs from Ours". Mr. November identified the three principal themes for preparing our students for the real world: (1) fabulous research skills where students learn to make wise decisions when presented with overwhelming amounts of information – Mrs. Keesing discusses website evaluation skills with 9th graders, and seeks opportunities with teachers of other grades to review those skills; along with this theme, Mr. November cited the critical need to access information from YouTube and other sources, and to not have to contend with blocked websites; (2) great communication skills, since the purpose of the Internet is collaboration; and, (3) self-directed behavior (on the part of students) that shows initiative, passion, and self-discipline. Mr. November repeatedly made the point that our students must have opportunities to practice critical thinking skills when using the Internet. Mrs. Keesing includes the examination of bogus websites in her lessons – a practice that Mr. November deemed very important. He also promoted the need to encourage research from a global – not just American – perspective. Specifically, he championed the idea of showing students what other students around the world are doing as being very motivational. It was a very inspiring talk.
- Mrs. Miller (Math Department Chair) met with Ms. Morel (art teacher) to teach/review the geometry sketchpad in the computer lab. Ms. Morel will utilize it with her art students to create geometrical designs.

8. Facilities

9. Theatre Arts

- Student achievement continues on NMHS's first Shakespeare production (within memory), MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING. Under the guidance of retired teacher James Africano and a group of adult volunteers, student crew members and much of the cast have assembled a setting recalling a Mexican villa in Spanish Mission style, complete with miniature bell tower, raised walkways and a simulated fountain. Ms. Morel and Ms. Bettini's classes are hard at work painting and adorning the structural and decorative elements; and Ms. Morel's classes will be preparing specially made masks for the masquerade ball. Speaking of which, student Christine Batac has prepared and taught a grand tango for the company to perform in that masquerade sequence, while stage managers Ariel Pasquale and Anthony Bottiglierio have led and prodded rehearsals. A number of the principal actors have participated in a series of workshops on Shakespearean acting and the use and performance of verse that goes far beyond classroom experience. Throughout, all of the company has been learning about the financial end of production, participating in fundraising through advertising sales, seeking sponsorships and selling tickets. Soon to come--integration of lighting, sound and the other technical elements.
- NMHS students reached out into the community at large for a Halloween performance on October 30th, 2009, at the Senior Center. The members of the vocal Ensemble performed selections from THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS and other suitably spooky items under the direction of Jane Swartz. Students Sean Niranjian and

Nick Moreno also performed a dramatic adaptation of THE TELLTALE HEART by Edgar Allen Poe. Seniors and students alike enjoyed celebrating this macabre time of year together.

10. Other

- The Choral Ensemble sang is busy recording a CD of the Star Spangled Banner for the Athletic Department.
- Ms. Zacher is in the early stages of scheduling the first annual Parent's Health and Educational Alliance Seminar in March of 2010. The overall purpose of this seminar is to allow the parents to choose a training session, which meets their interest and needs. Each educational program and presenter will be allotted 48 minutes for the presentation. A registration form will be sent to the parents, which denote all of the seminars, which will be available. The parents must sign up for at least two training sessions and, depending on enrollment, that parent will be placed in their first choice. The tentative information is as follows: The Health and Educational Alliance Seminar will be scheduled for Wednesday March 17th, 2009 from 7:00 -9:00. Rooms throughout the high school will be utilized depending on the enrollment of the seminar. The Health and Educational Alliance will be opened to parents of both New Milford High School and David E. Owen students. The seminars will run for one-hour duration. Upon the completion, the parents will be escorted to the cafeteria for food and beverages, and the guest speakers will be available for questions.
- Ms. Zacher is in the early stages of scheduling the Senior Alcohol Prevention Program for the Prom Season. The overall aspect of this program is, "To educate the students on the legal, monetary, emotional, and physical toll of destructive decision making regarding underage drinking and driving under the influence". Last year, the Student Assistance Program sponsored the Mock Accident. We continue with this scenario by having two senior students from New Milford High School will participate in this re-enactment. One student will be the individual charged with driving under the influence of a mind altering substance and the other student must testify against him/her in a court proceeding. The Prosecutors Office will act as the judge and criminal attorney regarding the prosecution of the student and 3-4 additional individuals to act as witnesses of the crash and the family members of the individual who was killed. 2- New Milford Police Officers will testify that they were the first responders on the scene and that they arrested the student for driving under the influence. The scene for this prevention program will be set by utilizing photos from the Mock Accident staged in 2009. These photos will be used in a power point format as evidence for the prosecution. Key character witnesses will be called by the defense and the prosecution as character and expert witness. While on the stand, the prosecutor's office and police officers will discuss the legal ramifications of driving under the influence.
- Volunteers from the NMHS Environmental and Community Service Clubs joined New Milford community volunteers in an effort to beautify the town on October 3rd, 2009, for the annual Clean Community Day. NMHS students cleared the wooded area between the football field, Madison Ave, and the Hackensack River of litter and debris. Not only did students lift large amounts of metal fencing out of the area by the Madison Ave. Bridge, but they were able to see first-hand how the dumping of this type of debris affects the surrounding environment. At the end of the work session, students participated in a tree dedication ceremony to commemorate a community member that devoted her time to the environmental commission during her life.
- Several NMHS students braved the rain and cold to assist volunteers from the First Congressional Church of River Edge in their Pumpkin Patch fundraiser. Volunteers

unloaded 1,600 pumpkins onto the lawn of the church to sell to benefit the church and the Navajo Indians of Northern New Mexico.

- The following fall sports have qualified for the NJSIAA Playoffs: Girls' Tennis, Volleyball, Girls' Soccer, and Boys' Soccer.