



New Milford  
Public Schools  
50 East Street  
New Milford, CT 06776



New Milford High School  
Mr. Greg Shugrue, Principal



Schaghticoke  
Mrs. Dana Ford, Principal



Sarah Noble  
Mr. Len Tomasello, Principal



Hill & Plain  
Dr. Sandra Nadeau, Principal



John Pettibone  
Mrs. Paula Kelleher, Principal



Northville  
Mrs. Susan Murray, Principal

### Contents:

Graduation	1
Year in Review	2
Giving Back	3
Just for Fun	4

# Spotlight on New Milford Schools Community Issue

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Summer 2011

## Class of 2011



Photo by Morgen Purcell  
NMHS Senior

New Milford High School (NMHS) graduated its 114th class on Saturday, June 26th, 2011, at Western Connecticut State University auditorium. 361 graduates participated in the commencement exercises.

The Class of 2011 valedictorian was Nicholas Ortiz and Kathleen Norell was salutatorian.

The Class of 2011 consisted of 178 boys and 183 girls. Included in the class were 73 National Honor Society members, 8 National Merit commended students and 1 National Merit finalist.

83% of the students will be pursuing higher education. 58% are planning to attend a school in Connecticut. 38% of the four year college students will be attending the University of Connecticut or Central, Eastern, Southern or Western Connecticut University. Some other schools NMHS graduates will be attending are Bates, Boston College, Duke, Fordham, George Washington University, Harvard, John Hopkins, Ohio State, Penn State, Rochester Institute of Technology,

Yale and the U.S. Naval Academy—to name a few.

NMHS students received approximately \$700,000 in scholarships and grants through state, colleges and local organizations.

Graduation was the culminating event of a busy spring for New Milford High School seniors. Additional spring activities included the senior prom in May, the annual scholarship night, the senior banquet, the senior trip and the senior picnic.

Following graduation, almost 300 seniors attended the 17th annual graduation party at NMHS. The graduation party is an evening of safe celebration sponsored by the Grad Party committee consisting of parent volunteers and contributions from local businesses. The evening consisted of food, sports competitions, music, trivia and the always popular hypnotist Dan Larosa.

# Y e a r i n R e v i e w

**September 2010**—Northville Elementary welcomed students back with a family cook-out and magic show. Students were thrilled when Susan Murray, NES Principal, “magically” appeared from behind the magician’s cube to kick-off the school year!

**October 2010**—Eight NMHS seniors have been named “Commended Students” in the 2011 National Merit Program. The students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million who entered the 2011 competition by taking the 2009 PSAT.

**November 2010**—JPS kindergarten students participated in their annual feast on Tuesday, Nov. 23rd. The children made cranberry bread, cornbread, and pumpkin pie with the help of parent volunteers.

**December 2010**—Various charitable efforts were underway during the season of giving to help others who are need. Efforts included: a coat drive, hat and mitten drive, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Stuff a Stocking, Operation Smile, JPS Santa Fund, Leo Club assisting at the Senior Citizens Christmas party, National Honor Society Stuff a Cruiser, NMHS Art Department Holiday sale with proceeds going to Loaves and Fishes, French Honor Society Star Project, and toy donations to CT Children’s Hospital in memory of Kendra Cummings.

**January 2011**—Eighth-grader Iman Dervisevic is the first female student to win the SMS Geography Bee.

**February 2011** - The 100th day of school was celebrated by all elementary schools. Many activities involving “100” were completed.

**March 2011**—Students at New Milford High School performed “The Drowsy Chaperone” as the 2010-2011 all school musical. Performances were held March 18-20 and March 25-26.

**April 2011**—Fourth, fifth and sixth grade students at Sarah Noble Intermediate Schools performed “The Mouse of Merwinsville” on April 28th and 29th. The play was written by SNIS teacher Susan Hackel.

**May 2011**—The Hill and Plain third-grade chorus performed at the “Friends of Hill and Plain” volunteer appreciation event on May 5th.

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Think you’re smarter than a 5th grader? Try your knowledge with these questions which have appeared on actual 5th grade tests to find out. Answers can be found at [www.newmilfordps.org](http://www.newmilfordps.org) by clicking on the newsletter link.

- 1) A heptagon is a shape with how many sides?
  - a) 6
  - b) 7
  - c) 9
- 2) What planet is closest to the sun?
  - a) Venus
  - b) Jupiter
  - c) Mercury
- 3) Which of the following is NOT one of the Great Lakes?
  - a) Huron
  - b) Alberta
  - c) Ontario
- 4) Which one of the following states is NOT part of the Four Corners?
  - a) Utah
  - b) Arizona
  - c) Nevada
- 5) John has 2 yard sticks and a 12-inch ruler. He laid them end-to-end in a line. How many feet long is the line?
  - a) 5 feet
  - b) 7 feet

# G i v i n g B a c k



Although community service is not yet a requirement for graduation, every school reinforces the New Milford Public School District’s adopted character education program by participating in at least one community outreach project throughout each school year. Generally, these projects benefit the New Milford community.

In Charlene Carson’s second grade class at Northville Elementary School, students support Loaves and Fishes in various service projects throughout the year. In November, they make sweet potato casseroles for Thanksgiving dinner, even peeling the potatoes themselves—a first for many of the students. During the holidays, students collect socks, mittens, and gloves and in February, they make Valentine’s Day cookies for dessert with the Valentine’s Day meal.

“The second grade curriculum is OUR New Milford community,” states Mrs. Carson. “Reaching out to those in need in our backyard gives students a sense of pride and accomplishment.”

For the past 14 years John Pettibone School (JPS) has participated in a service project in conjunction with New Milford Social Services. The school adopts 20-25 New Milford children who are in need and provides them with holiday gifts. “Santa” makes a visit to personally thank the JPS students at the conclusion of the project.

The French Honor Society at New Milford High School participates during the holidays as well. For the past several years, student members of the group have collected for a project known as Boots and Books. This past year, the group donated 87 pairs of boots and over 100 books. In addition, about \$1000 in gift cards from local businesses were also donated. The group is looking to add a project that will benefit New Milford Animal Welfare for the 2011-2012 school year.

“The kids in the French Honor Society have always been wonderful and extremely generous about their time and efforts for this project and many have stated that helping neighbors, even though they don’t really know who they are, just ‘feels good,’” states Barbara Polley, NMHS French teacher.

Peg Molina, director of New Milford Social Services, comments that the largest program NMPS students contribute to is the New Milford Food Bank. All the schools, and some student civic groups, have collected at various times. In addition, some classes or groups have sponsored hygiene or household product drives for items that cannot be purchased through Food Stamps (now called “SNAP” - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).

“Basically, many financially distressed households are struggling to pay their basic bills. Their housing and utility costs, food and transportation are a very high portion of overall income. These are households that literally make choices between paying bills and buying food. This is where the help comes in. It is essential help that many of us have the luxury of taking for granted.” comments Molina. “Students see that poverty and financial struggle exists everywhere, not just in cities or other countries. It is right here in their town.”

“It is important for the children to see that other families are not as fortunate as they are, they need to learn compassion (one of the character traits we study),” comments Heliett Sanchez, guidance counselor at Hill and Plain Elementary School.

The mission of the New Milford Public Schools, a collaborative partnership of students, educators, family and community, is to prepare each and every student to compete and excel in an ever-changing world, embrace challenges with vigor, respect and appreciate the worth of every human being, and contribute to society by providing effective instruction and dynamic curriculum, offering a wide range of valuable experiences, and inspiring students to pursue their dreams and aspirations.

## Then and Now

Has it been a while since you were in school? A few things have changed, but some things are timeless. Stroll through these past 50 years of trends and see what you remember.



**1961**

Movie—West Side Story

Music  
Runaway by Del Shannon

Book  
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Cost of a gallon of gas: \$0.31

Hot Topics  
Alan Shephard stays in space for 15 minutes, marking the first U.S. manned space flight.

Yo-Yos are the national craze.



**1981**

Movie  
Raiders of the Lost Ark

Music  
Bette Davis Eyes by Kim Carnes

Book  
A Light in the Attic by Shel Silverstein

President Ronald Reagan is shot.

Princess Diana and Prince Charles are married.

The first space shuttle, Columbia, is launched into space.

Donkey Kong, Ms. Pac Man and Asteroids are introduced.



**2011**

Movie  
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 2

Music—The Black Eyed Peas

Book  
The Help by Kathryn Stockett

Cost of a gallon of gas: \$3.50

Hot Topics  
Princess Diana and Prince Charles' son, Prince William marries Kate Middleton.

Launch of Space Shuttle Atlantis marks end of the Shuttle program by NASA.

\*Tablet graphic-  
[www.device-mag.com](http://www.device-mag.com)

New Milford Public Schools distributes *Spotlight on New Milford Schools* monthly (September—June) via email. If you are a parent, grandparent, or community member and would like to have it delivered to your email, you may sign up at [www.newmilfordps.org](http://www.newmilfordps.org), click on district information, then on district newsletter.

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