

## WMS SEVENTH GRADERS TAKE LEARNING ON THE ROAD WITH TRIP TO FLANDERS



Woodbury Middle School 7th-grade science students took their learning on the road this month with a special visit to Flanders Nature Center to learn all about the art of making maple syrup. Students applied what they've learned so far in their Matter Cycling and Photosynthesis unit by getting hands-on experience with the anchoring phenomena of maple syrup.

At the Flanders Sugar House, students learned about the maple syrup-making process from start to finish, the history of New England maple syrup-making, and the different tools involved. Students got a demonstration of the evaporator to see how sap becomes maple syrup. Over at the Trail House, students learned about the Sugar Maple tree, how to identify it, how to measure its diameter, and determine if it is 'tappable'.

Before the visit, seventh-grade science teacher Kari McCarthy led students in a Matter Cycling lab to answer the question: where do the macronutrients fat, carbs, and protein, come from? The lab was to confirm or eliminate possible inputs as sources of macronutrients in plants. After more classroom learning on this phenomenon, the students will return to Flanders in April to visit a pond ecosystem on the Flanders campus to collect, identify, and document plant and animal life.

## NHS TEACHER WINS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING HISTORY TEACHER

Congratulations to our own Nonnewaug High School History Teacher Michael Sturges who was awarded the Daughters of The American Revolution Chapter Outstanding Teacher of American History.

Mr. Sturges was presented with this prestigious award at the DAR Trumbull chapter meeting in February. Congratulations!





## NHS CLASS OF 2024 TOP 3

Nonnewaug High School's Top 3 students of the Class of 2024 are Anna Galvani -Valedictorian, Cole Wenis - Salutatorian, and Rubie Lombardi - Essayist.

These students cited their commitment to hard work, a robust course of study at Nonnewaug High School, and ongoing support from teachers and staff in both Nonnewaug High School and the Region 14 community that paved the path to their academic success.

Anna is a member of Nonnewaug's Robotics Team Beta, the Student Council, and the National Science Honor Society. She served as the vice-president of the Student Council for two consecutive years and as president this year. She is captain of Team Beta and helped lead the team to the State Championship and their win of the Design Award. Anna received the Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy for Spanish. Anna volunteers at the non-profit organization Linguistics Justice League and is a first-degree black belt in Taekwondo. In college, she wants to major in mechatronics engineering.

Cole Wenis is secretary of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society and a member of the Science National Honor Society and Spanish Ambassadors Club. Cole received the Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award, obtained the Connecticut Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish, and was recognized for excellence in AP Physics. As a pianist of nine years, he has performed in the school talent show twice. He is an active member of Boy Scouts Troop 52 in Watertown and helps in the community with food drives, conservation projects, and other events. Cole is working to complete his Eagle project -- two flowerbeds in Hollow Park. He enjoys reading books, writing poetry, and spending time in nature. Cole plans to pursue a degree in computer engineering with a minor in music.



Rubie Lombardi has been a member of the National Art Honor Society for four years and serves as President this year. She also serves as Vice President of the National English Honor Society. Rubie has been involved in the Drama Club and held many lead roles in plays and musicals during her four years here. She assistant directed last year's musical. She received the Harvard Book Award and many other art awards including the Scholastic Art Award for her achievements. Rubie will be studying English and Studio Art at Wesleyan University in the fall.

## WMS STUDENTS AT CMEA



Five Woodbury Middle School music students performed at the prestigious Connecticut Music Educators Association Northern Region Middle School Festival at Plainville High School with music students from 43 towns in the Northern Region. The CMEA concert festival experience challenges the musicians by allowing them to perform alongside and develop relationships with other high-caliber young musicians from around the state and be led by top conductors in the country.

The students are Kaylee Maciulewski, 8th-grade Orchestra - Harp; Maeve Feeney, 8th-grade Orchestra - Double Bass; Flynn Amodio, 8th-grade Orchestra - Violin; Kirill Oleynikov, 8th-grade Orchestra- trumpet; and David Torres - 6th-grade Choir - Tenor.

## TEAM CANCER CRUSADERS

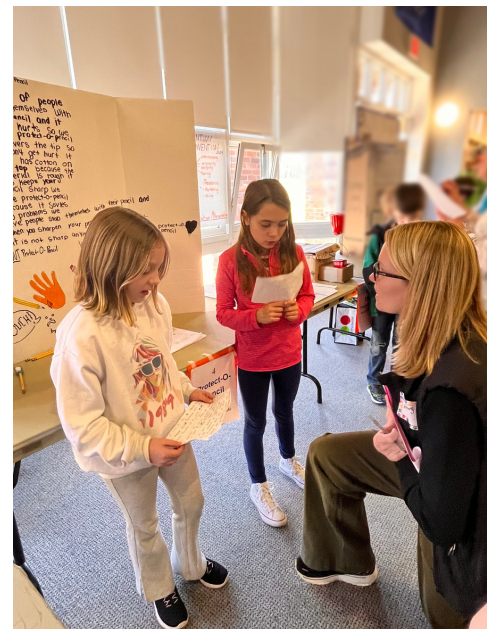


Congratulations to Nonnewaug High School students Andrew Grivner and Gavin Sandor and all of NHS Team Cancer Crusaders for a hugely successful Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) Student Visionaries of the Year campaign.

Team Cancer Crusaders raised \$30,100 and came in 4th place overall out of the 15 student teams. From the NHS Red Out alone their team earned \$8,500! At the grand finale, Andrew & Gavin and their team earned the CT 2024 Research Mission Award for their Mission Pillar which was dedicated to new research for blood cancer treatments. The 15 CT 2024 Student Visionary teams raised \$269,652 for the fight against leukemia and lymphoma.



# 2ND ANNUAL ELEMENTARY INVENTION CONVENTION SPARKS COOL IDEAS



If you've ever been frustrated with things like burnt toast, shoes that keep coming untied, a karate belt that won't stay put, or even whether to keep that empty pizza box or throw it away, look no further than the Region 14 Elementary School Invention Convention.

The 2nd annual event at both Bethlehem and Mitchell Elementary Schools showcased the inventions of third, fourth, and fifth graders who took an everyday problem and came up with a solution.

Some projects included a crust remover, butter softener, a pencil protector, desk dividers, a book protector, and many more creative solutions.

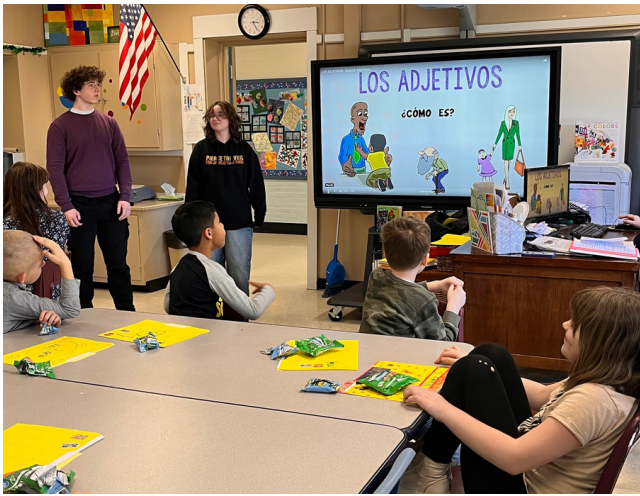
Both schools welcomed several Region 14 community members including administrators, district science teachers, Library Media Specialists, Board of Education members, and other staff who judged the students' work. Judges scored the inventions on originality, designing and building, testing and refining, market potential, social value, and presentation.

This event was organized for the second year as an optional event for upper elementary students by Christina Strell, Instructional Leader for Elementary Science and Social Studies to get students thinking about problem identification, problem-solving, and creativity. The top scorers at each school will move on to the state online semi-final judging round and possibly the state finals at the University of Connecticut in June.



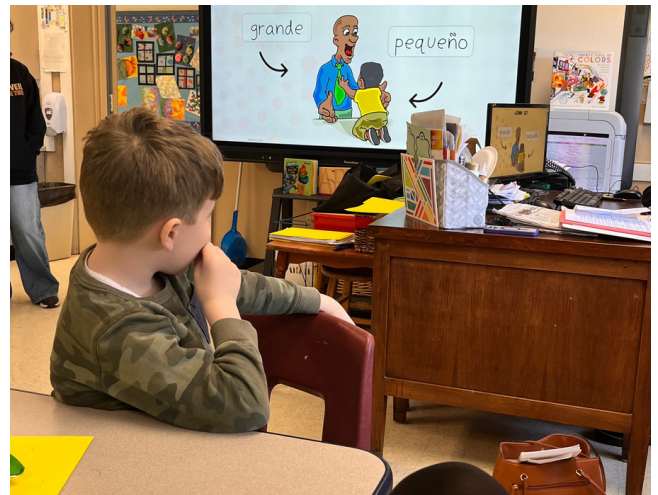


## SPANISH CLUB BRINGS NEW LANGUAGE TO MES



Bienvenido! Every Monday after school in March, students from the Spanish Club at Nonnewaug High School came over to Mitchell Elementary School to share their love of the language. The high school students, along with World Language teachers and advisors Jane Caruso and Karen Sandor volunteered their afternoons once a week to oversee Mitchell's Spanish Club.

The high school students worked with their younger peers on common vocabulary words and helped them learn about the Hispanic Culture through engaged learning, arts and crafts projects, and more. There were eight high school students and 25 elementary school students in grades 2 - 5 involved in this terrific multi-grade Spanish collaboration.

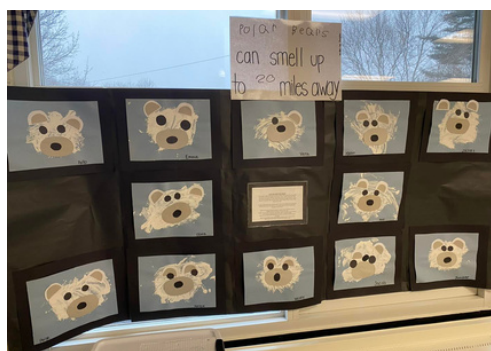


## ARCTIC ADVENTURE IN BES PREK WAS NICE COLD FUN!

The PreK 4 Arctic Afternoon Adventure at Bethlehem Elementary School was a super cool event where students helped teach their families all about this wonderful Arctic unit they learned in class.

During March, the PreK students dove flippers first into learning about different animals, the polar region, and survival in cold climates.

They were excited to show off their amazing artwork featuring different animals, science experiments, and an igloo STEM building station. The children were the teachers and taught their families all about the Arctic.





# AGRISCIENCE LEARNING IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM



Students assisted Dr. Lisa from Tri-State Vet with the Boer Goat herd's annual checkup in the barns. Students learned about this process and helped administer some of the herd's annual vaccines.



The Agriculture Production class took their classroom learning about food science and organic chemistry into the NHS Culinary kitchen to make some fudge. The fudge lab helped agriscience students evaluate the ability of sugars to crystallize when interacting with different ingredients. This is a wonderful collaboration between Agriscience and Culinary for students to perform this lab.



The Animal Science class learned about the dairy industry from local farmers right here in Woodbury at Logue's Farm. During this period-long mini field trip students were able to see the milking process including the milking parlor, bulk tanks, a free stall barn, calf hutches, and the calves in the calf barn.



FFA students visited Mitchell Elementary School for March's annual Read Across America celebration. They brought rabbits Moana and Snow White and guinea pig Charlie. Students read books like "Howard B. Wigglebottom Learns to Read" to first-grade classes. The elementary students enjoyed the opportunity to learn about and play with the animals.



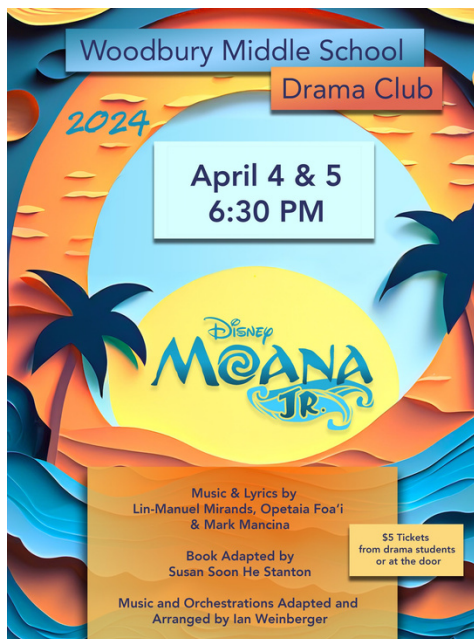
## AROUND THE DISTRICT



**Nonnewaug High School Agriscience** students in the **Woodbury FFA** joined the approximately 140 FFA students from across the state at the annual Connecticut Agriculture Day at the State Capitol on March 20. Ag Day is an annual celebration of the diversity and success of agriculture in Connecticut. Our FFA students had the opportunity to join with other students and experience many exhibits from farmers across the state. They also met with Governor Lamont and other local legislators to educate them on the importance of agriculture and ask them for support.



The **Unified Program** has officially been added to the Unified Champion School registry of Special Olympics North America. Nonnewaug's program now officially appears on the list of more than 9,400 schools across the nation and the interactive map of Unified Schools that can be found on the Special Olympics North America website. We are so proud of our Unified advisors, teachers Conor Gereg and John Dominello, and the many student-athletes of all abilities who make this exemplary program an integral part of the Region 14 community.



**Don't miss the fantastic musical productions from the Drama Clubs at both Nonnewaug High School and Woodbury Middle Schools in April.**

The WMS production of Disney's "Moana Jr." will be presented on April 4 and 5 at 6:30 p.m. on the stage in the middle school gymnasium. Tickets are \$5 and will be sold in school by Drama Club students and at the door before the performances.

The NHS Drama Club will perform "Once Upon A Mattress" on April 11, 12, 13. The shows are at 6 p.m. in the auditorium. Tickets are \$5 for students and Senior Citizens and \$10 for adults. Scan the QR code for tickets to the NHS show only.



## WAYS TO CONNECT WITH REGION 14



[www.ctreg14.org](http://www.ctreg14.org)



Swift Reach Alerts



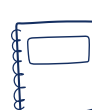
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