



MINUTE

A MINUTE TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING @ NMS

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

VOLUME: 1 / ISSUE: 29

DATE: 3-28-24

HEADLINES

WEEK AT A GLANCE

MCAS ELA

SEMI FORMAL

BEST BUDDIES

KINDNESS CORNER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senior Interns

The senior internship program begins on Monday, April 1st. We have 19 seniors scheduled to begin their internship at NMS.

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Week at a glance

- **Term Ends** -- Term III ends today, Thursday, March 28th. Report cards will be posted to Aspen on Friday, April 5th for parents to access.
- **National Geo/History Bee** -- NMS students took a qualifying online assessment on Thursday, March 7th, for the National Geo and/or History Bee with Mr. Gray. The following students qualified for the Regional Competition on April 7th:
 - 6th: Angelina Hutchison, Devan Parmar, Theodore Griffin, Eli Eliodor, Ava Finn
 - 7th: Ruoyuan Li, Leo Bretsch
 - 8th: Thomas Donovan, Jack Rohrbach
 - **Congratulations to our students!!**
- **Annie** -- Leapin' Lizards! It's almost time to step back in time to 1933, where a Little Orphan named Annie reminds us all that no matter what "the sun will come out, Tomorrow". Join Annie, the "rotten orphans", Daddy Warbucks, Grace, Miss Hannigan, Rooster, Lily and the rest of the Spotlighters, Cast and Crew, for a fun filled time with Annie Jr. Performances are at Norwell High School, Friday, April 5th @ 7pm and Saturday, April 6th @ 2pm and 7pm. Tickets go on sale at the NMS main office on Monday, April 1 and are \$10 each, cash or check made out to Norwell Middle School. No phone orders, tickets must be purchased in person and all ticket sales are final.
- **Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences** -- will be on Wednesday, April 10th (12 to 2:30pm) and Thursday, April 11th (5 to 7pm). This year, all conferences will be held in person and will be ten minutes in length. Conferences are scheduled to allow parents to review their child's Semester two progress, and how to best support them moving forward. Please be advised, these conferences are not utilized to review upcoming student placement. Student placement for our 6th and 7th graders will be reviewed and sent out in May. After placements are sent out, parents are welcome to meet with me to review their child's placement. (see page 3 for additional information)



MCAS (ELA)

ELA MCAS -- Just a friendly reminder that we have ELA MCAS (all grades / 6,7,8) Session One on Tuesday, April 9th, and Session Two on Thursday, April 11th. Students are academically in a great position for this test and we ask that students are well rested, feeling positive and well nourished in order to let their abilities shine.



SAVE THE DATE: 8TH GRADE SEMI FORMAL



MAY 31ST
7-9 PM
NMS CAFE



★ HOSTED BY THE NMS STUDENT GOVERNMENT: MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW ★

Best Buddies (Empty Bowls)

Students were creating their own pottery bowl for the Empty Bowls program at NHS, with the support of the HS art teacher. The Empty Bowls program is an international grassroots effort to raise both money and awareness in the fight against hunger. Best Buddies will work together to fight hunger in Norwell one "bowl" at a time. (see the attached newspaper link from a few years ago). [Article](#)

(See Page 4)



Spelling Bee

Congratulations to Teddy Bettencourt who finished 10th in the state overall in the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee this month at the Lynn Auditorium. Teddy competed against students from all across the state and successfully made it through several rounds of the bee until he was eliminated by the word, tamworth. Well done Teddy!

PTO

Meeting 4/26 @ 9AM at NMS Superintendent will attend the meeting to review the school budget for 2024-2025.

CALENDAR

March

28 All-Norwell Band Concert @ 7PM

29 No School

April

1 Senior Internship Begins

1 School Committee @ 7PM

5 No HW weekend

5 "Annie" Musical @ NHS

6 "Annie" Musical @ NHS

9 MCAS ELA (all grades)

10 Early Release

10 Parent-Teacher Conf.
(12-2:30PM)

11 MCAS ELA (all grades)

11 Parent-Teacher Conf. (5-7PM)

*"Identify your
problems but give your
power and energy to
solutions."*

KINDNESS CORNER

"We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give." - Winston Churchill

[Random Acts of Kindness & Something Fun!](#)

Thank you to Sam Johnson who always holds the door open for students and staff in the morning during drop off. Also, shout out to Lainey Horowitz who always has a smile on her face and is kind to teachers and classmates.

Congratulations to Nathan Cotter who completed not one, but two very difficult Tangram puzzles! The one that is in the shape of a box has been stumping students and staff all year so way to go Nathan!



Parent/Teacher Conferences

Dear Families,

Spring parent-teacher conferences will be on **Wednesday, April 10th (12 to 2:30pm)** and **Thursday, April 11th (5 to 7pm)**. This year, all conferences will be held in person and will be ten minutes in length. Conferences are scheduled to allow parents to review their child's Semester two progress, and how to best support them moving forward. Please be advised, these conferences are not utilized to review upcoming student placement.

Note: Student placement for our 6th and 7th graders will be reviewed and sent out in May. After placements are sent out, parents are welcome to meet with me to review their child's placement.

Please review the following conference information and procedures for scheduling your appointments:

- "pickAtime" will be used to facilitate the scheduling process
- Conferences are on Wednesday, April 10th from 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm and on Thursday, April 11th from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm (10 minutes in length)
- The system will not allow you to schedule back-to-back appointments as you will not have enough time to travel to your next classroom
- Scheduling will be on a first come first served basis and tend to fill up quickly
- pickAtime will be **open** to select appointments on **Monday, April 1st at 7:00pm**
- Appointment scheduling will close on Sunday, April 8th at 11:00 p.m.
- Once you make your appointments, you will receive a confirmation email that includes a printable schedule
- If there are no available appointment times remaining, please email the teacher directly
- This link will provide detailed [Scheduling Directions](#) and access to the pickAtime site [pickatime link](#)
- <https://pickatime.com/NorwellMS/Spring24NMS>

Please do not hesitate to contact the school with any questions.

Sincerely,

James Dupille

Principal, Norwell Middle School

Best Buddies



Reminders

Absence Reporting

- Please report student absences to the office as soon as possible.
- You can report absences by
 - calling the absence line: 781-659-8814 x1206 and leaving a message.
 - sending an email to the Main Office at nms.mainoffice@norwellschools.org.

Dismissing a Student during the School Day

- Please send a note to the office the morning of the dismissal.
- If there is not a note, parent/guardian will need to enter the building to sign their student out.
- Please provide a written note if somebody other than a parent/guardian is picking up a student during the day for dismissal.

Forgotten Items

- When bringing in a forgotten item for a student, please leave it with a label on the "I Forgot It" table by the front lobby.
- It is a student's responsibility to check the table for the forgotten item.
- If a student does not call home for the item, please do not bring the item to school as they likely do not need it.

Cell Phones

- Students' cell phones should be off and in their locker or bag during the day.
- Parents / guardians should not text or call their students' cell phone during the school day as it disrupts the class. Messages can be left at the office for students.



We are excited to tell you about a school-wide Reading Challenge starting Term 3. For terms 3 and 4, we are encouraging your students to read **more!**

To help them on their way, we are devoting Friday Flextime to independent reading. **They** choose the books or magazines that they want to read.

And we could use your help!

According to [research](#), “effective programs include active parent involvement, partnerships among community institutions, and collaboration among significant adults in students’ lives.” Your help and support at home is a crucial factor in supporting reading development. So how can you help?

1. PUT BOOKS IN THEIR HANDS

Get books, magazines, and graphic novels that match your student’s interests. Head to the library. Hit a bookstore. Buy Lacrosse or Fortnite magazines—*whatever they’ll read!*

2. ENCOURAGE READING IN FLEX TIME

According to the research, reading is positively correlated with [a strong vocabulary](#), [higher math scores](#), [higher science and history scores](#), [strong writing skills](#), [higher scores on standardized tests](#), [reduced levels of stress](#), [increased empathy](#), [more brain connectivity](#), and [even a longer life!](#) Please encourage your student to read during Flex Friday.

3. KEEP IT GOING AT HOME

We know life is busy! We get it! But where could you encourage more reading? Before bed? Before screen time? On a long car ride? Read the same book as your child and watch the movie after finishing the book? Gift a grandparent the same book and do a child-grandparent book-club date? Think creatively to get students engaged with reading more at home!

4. DONATE BOOKS

If you have upper elementary school and/or middle school books and magazines that you are no longer using, we’ll take them! Drop donations in the READING PROGRAM BOX at drop off; we will shelf them around the school for students to use during Flex Friday!



HAVE USED OR UNWANTED MARKERS, PENS WOODEN OR MECHANICAL PENCILS?

Last year the Norwell Recycling and Sustainability Committee successfully initiated a project to recycle crayons and continues to collect used or unwanted crayons. We are now adding markers, pens and wooden and mechanical pencils to our collections for recycling. We are working in partnership with Staples, which has recently added them to their list of materials that can be recycled.

Collection boxes are located at-

Grace Farrar Cole School

William G. Vinal School

Norwell Middle School

Norwell High School

New Nursery School

First Parish PreSchool

Ridge Hill School

Nature Center PreSchool at the South Shore Science Center

Bright Horizons

Norwell Public Library

Norwell Recycling Center

Chess

Open Chess in room 208. Free for all students, every Thursday throughout the school year.

Please see Mr. Fraser if you have any questions.



The NORWELL SOFTBALL SEASON is here!

Please visit the website at www.norwellgirlssoftball.com and follow the link to our registration page. The season runs from early April through mid-June, with girls second grade and older playing 2 games during the week. Divisions are based on the 2023-24 school grade.

For the upcoming 2024 season we will follow the same format as last year. We will be offering a K-1 Program, a Grade 2-3 (Division 1) coach pitch program and a traditional program for grades 4-8 (Grades 4-5 Division 2 & Grades 6-8 Division 3).

K1 Program: (Kindergarten – 1st Grade) - \$95

- Plays Friday evening – starting after April School Vacation
- All games are played in Norwell
- Tee Ball format

Division 1 (2nd Grade - 3rd Grade) - \$165

- Plays Tuesday and Thursday from 6-8 PM
- Games are played in Norwell, Hingham, Cohasset, Scituate, or Hull
- Practice likely to be 1X/week
- Coach Pitch format.

Division 2 (4th Grade - 5th Grade) - \$215

- Plays Monday and Wednesday from 6-8 PM
- Practices are typically held 1-2 day/week and scheduled by coaches
- Games are played in Norwell, Hingham, Cohasset, Scituate, or Hull

Division 3 (6th Grade - 8th Grade) - \$215

- Plays Tuesday and Thursday from 6-8 PM
- Practices are typically held 1-2 days/week and scheduled by coaches
- Games are played in Norwell, Hingham, Cohasset, Scituate, or Hull

Additionally, a \$50 discount will be automatically applied for the third or fourth child registered in the D1-D3 divisions. Please consider registering early so we can get an early read on how many teams we will have for the year to ensure we have enough coaches in place and get our uniform order in.

Thank you!

Norwell Girls Softball



Babe Ruth League, through its national mission statement, is committed to "skills, mental and physical development, a respect for the rules of the game, and basic ideals of sportsmanship and fair play."

Our goal in establishing a Babe Ruth League program in Norwell is to provide a fun, competitive and instructional baseball experience for players age 13-15 so those players may continue to have the ability to participate in a recreational baseball program until they reach high school.

Registration will be closing soon, please login to your account at norwelllittleleague.com.

If you have any questions about Babe Ruth baseball please email norwellbaseball@gmail.com.

THE NHS PTO

MARCH MADNESS RAFFLE

FOUR amazing prizes - PURCHASE as many tickets as you'd like
OPEN to anyone - PICK which prize you'd like to win

1

LET'S PARTY!

Busy Bee Jumpers - \$500 gift card



2

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!

Red Sox Tickets - access to private Royal Rooters Club
Field Box 20, Row D, Seats 1-4 \$800 value



3

SPRING CLEANING TO THE EXTREME!

Troupe Waste

30 yard roll off dumpster delivered - \$900 value



4

SHOPPING SPREE!

Amazon \$1,000 Gift Card



TICKETS: \$10 for 1, \$25 for 3, \$40 for 5!

You can purchase as many entries as you'd like!

ALL are welcome to participate - neighbors, family, friends!

venmo



@NHSPTO

Please put your full name and which prize(s)
you'd like to be entered to win.

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES TO BOOST EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING SKILLS

SPONSORED BY: CANTON PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR STUDENT SERVICES, LUCE CAPT,
WACHUSETT SEPAC, SHARON SEPAC, STOUGHTON SEPAC, MILLIS SEPAC, NORTH READING SEPAC,
NORTH MIDDLESEX SEPAC, NEEDHAM SEPAC, WAYLAND SEPAC, DUXBURY SEPAC, WALTHAM SEPAC,
PEABODY SEPAC, NORTHBORO/SOUTHBORO SEPAC, MANSFIELD SEPAC, STONEHAM SEPAC,
NORTHBRIDGE SEPAC, NORWELL SEPAC, EAST HAMPTON SEPAC, SOMERVILLE SEPAC, FOXBORO SEPAC



WHAT ARE EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING SKILLS?

THEY ENABLE US TO PAY ATTENTION, TO ORGANIZE, AND PLAN TASK AND MATERIALS,
TO STAY FOCUSED ON THEM AND MANAGE EMOTIONS AND BE FLEXIBLE, AND TO KEEP
TRACK OF WHAT WE ARE DOING

LEARN PRACTICAL STRATEGIES TO HELP YOUR CHILD DEVELOP SKILLS AND BECOME
MORE INDEPENDENT

SPEAKER

Sarah Ward

Sarah is an internationally recognized expert on executive function skills and regularly presents seminars and workshops on the programs and strategies she has developed with her Co-Director Kristen Jacobsen. Sarah has co-authored the 360 Thinking Executive program and co-developed the educational products the Academic Planner and Tracknets, as well as the Time Tracker Program and Get Ready *Do*Done instructional approach. Described as 'revolutionary' and 'groundbreaking' their 360 Thinking Program received the Innovative Promising Practices Award from the National Organization CHADD. She has presented to and consulted with over 1600 public and private schools in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, Australia and Africa.



VIRTUAL WORKSHOP
TUESDAY APRIL 23, 2024
6PM

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kNs3z1sfTAGnaQZa3MZ-xQ

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

