N MINUTE

A MINUTE TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING @ NMS

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

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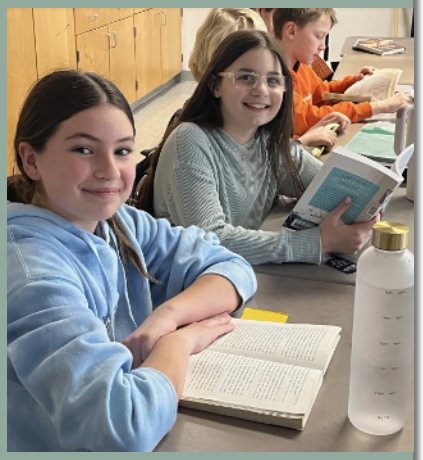
DATE: 2-2-24

HEADLINES

WEEK AT A GLANCE
SPELLING BEE
PLAYBOOK INITIATIVE
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
KINDNESS CORNER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reading Initiative



TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Week at a glance

- **Reading Initiative** -- NMS Reading Challenge began during flex on Friday (1/26). During flex time today, classrooms were busy with books and students focused on reading! Students were eager to share what they were reading, and discuss the highlights of their books with the principal. We are excited to encourage our students to read more!
- **NMS Yearbook** -- Yearbooks: The last day to order a NMS yearbook will be February 29th. The cost of the yearbook is $40 and can be ordered by visiting Josten's Website. Please contact Mrs. Kinsman if you have questions.
- **Math Counts --** On Tuesday, February 6th, NMS students will compete in the Southeast Regional MathCounts Competition in New Bedford. The following are our student math competitors: 8th grade (Ari Davis, Thomas Donovan, Nathan Hu, Felix Kue, Andrew Park and 6th grade (Kellen Blair, Matthew Britton, James Ditzel, Ethan Horowitz, Maddux Maturo, Chase Wolbach, Joseph Yazbeck
- Advisors -- Mrs. Ryan and Mr. Wolbach "Please join us in wishing them success in the competition."
- **Geography Bee** -- The Geography Bee sign up will be on Tuesday, February 6th during flex time in the community room with Mr. Gray for grades 6,7, and 8. The competition will be on February 16th.
- **Comfy Cozy Day** -- On February 16th, join us for the coziest day of the year! Wear your most comfortable clothes of the year! (Student Gov.)
- **Candy Guess Competition** -- From Feb. 12th to Feb 16th, student government will be selling raffle tickets for $1 per guess to win a $25 amazon card. Winner announced on Friday (2/16). (Student Gov.)

Spelling Bee

The NMS spelling bee was center stage in the cafe today, and the Bee contestants came ready to compete! After 60 minutes, Teddy Bettencourt was crowned the Bee champion after facing stiff competition from the competitors and finalist, Elin Gorman. Bee participants were Gr. 8 -- (Elin Gorman, Topher Young, Nicholas Boyden, Daniel Britton, Nicholas Leahy, Thomas Donovan), Gr. 7 (Freddy Anderson, Zack Simo, Teddy Bettencourt, Trystan Sheridan, Tyler Gotta), Gr 6 -- (Finn Thompson, Katie Collins, Adella McInnis, Kellen Blair, Hudson Frenette).

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Playbook Initiative (1/31)

On Wednesday, Ben Nguyen, Amaya Parmar and the other high school students facilitated meaningful activities and discussions with our students to help them navigate situations and difficult issues they may encounter in middle school and beyond. It was inspiring to watch! The Playbook Initiative helps to build a more inclusive community by eliminating hate speech and other acts of discrimination and bias. The goal of these workshops is to empower young people to build more inclusive communities in which everyone feels welcome and celebrated. I would like to thank Ben, Amaya, Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Marani and all the participants for their dynamic and meaningful discussions.

CALENDAR

February

6 Math Team Competition

6 Geo Bee Sign-ups (Flex time)

12 School Committee @ 7PM

14 Valentine's Day

16 Comfy Cozy Day

16 Trailblazer's (Team Breakfast)

16 Geography Bee

17-24 Winter Break

Spelling Bee

Black History Month

To celebrate Black History month, students in the 7th grade are studying Langston Hughes and the impact his poetry had on social change. Students wrote their thoughts on Hughes's poem "Dreams" and how the poem could relate to their world today. Students will be performing poetry recitations of Langston Hughes's poems in class on February 13th. What a great way to celebrate!

PTO

- PLEASE join our Facebook page - to share information on events + opportunities to volunteer PTO Facebook
- Any questions or interest in joining, email us at nmspto@gmail.com

KINDNESS CORNER

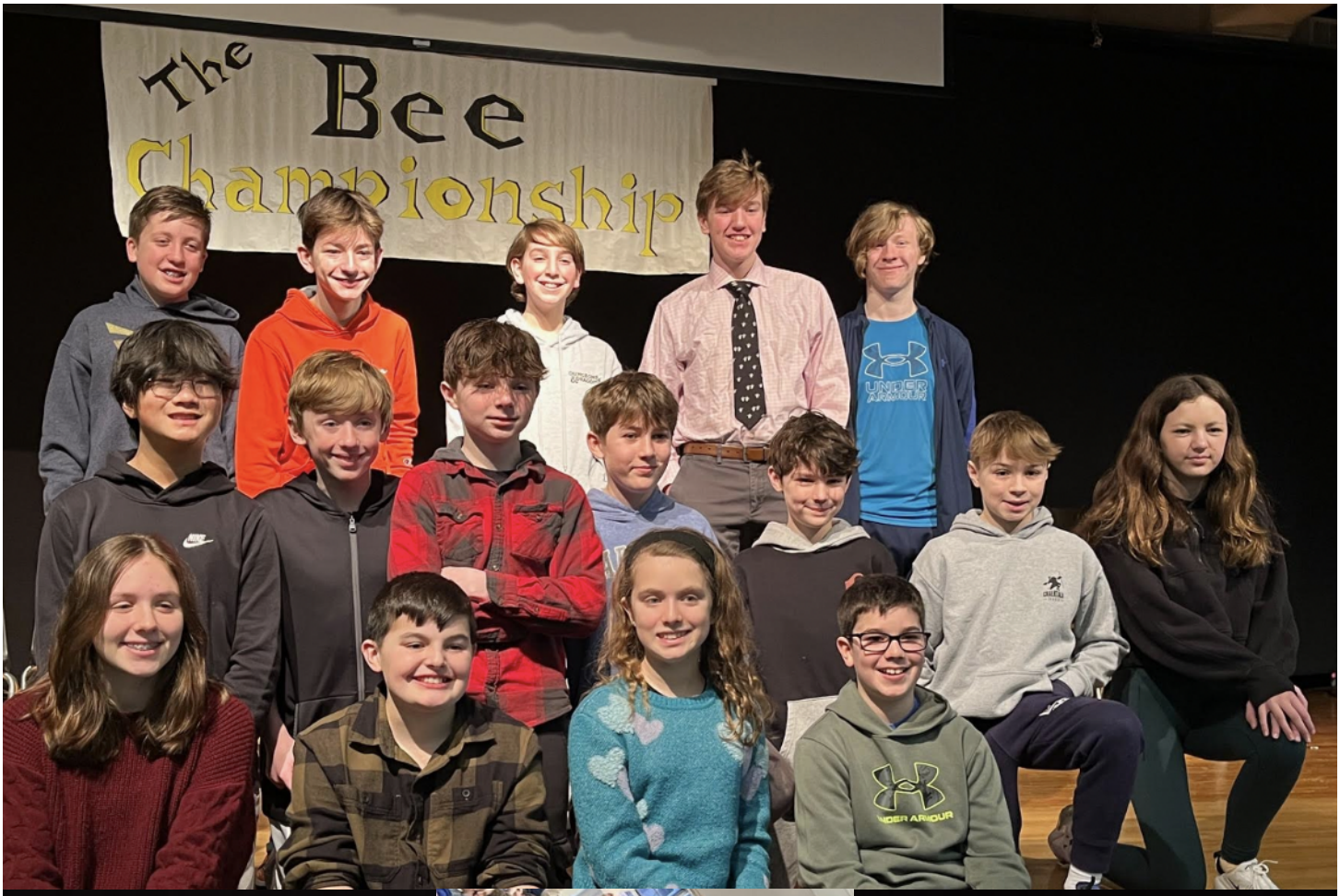
"The longer I live, the more deeply I learn that love - whether we call it friendship or family or romance - is the work of mirroring and magnifying each other's light." - J. Baldwin

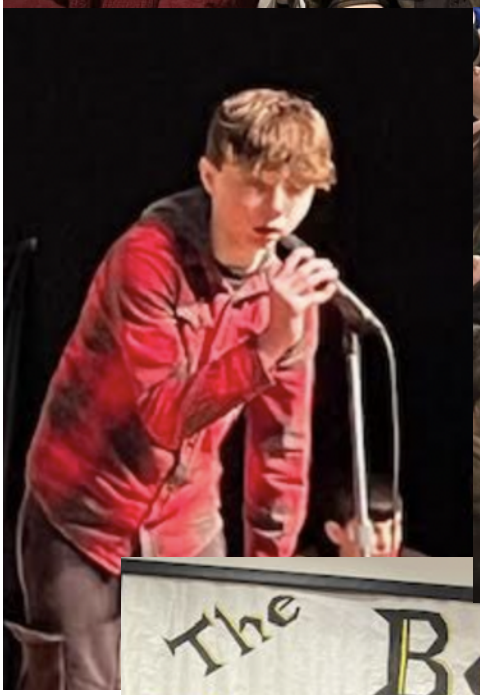
RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Time to give another shout out to the door crew! Not in the photo are Justice Boone & Cameron Davis. This crew makes me smile every afternoon. Great Job!

Every day there are small acts like these that add up to make a big difference. THANK YOU!

Spelling Bee





Reading Initiative

NORWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL
READING CHALLENGE

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.

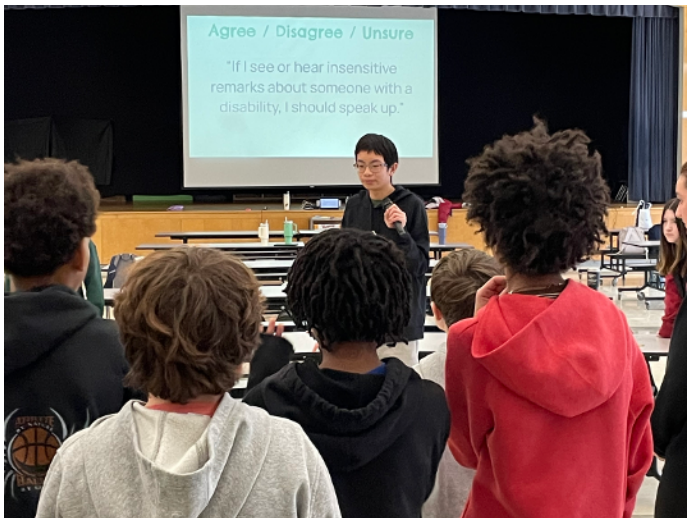
And we could use your help!

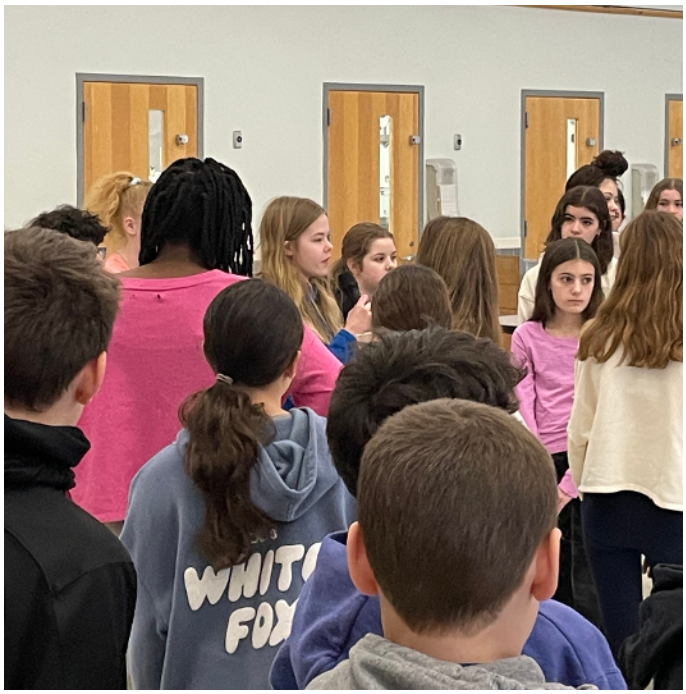
According to research, "effective programs include active parent involvement, partnerships among community institutions, and collaboration among significant adults in students' lives." Your help and support at home is a crucial factor in supporting reading development. So how can you help?

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.

Playbook Initiative





Clubs and Activities

Chess

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

Glow Dance

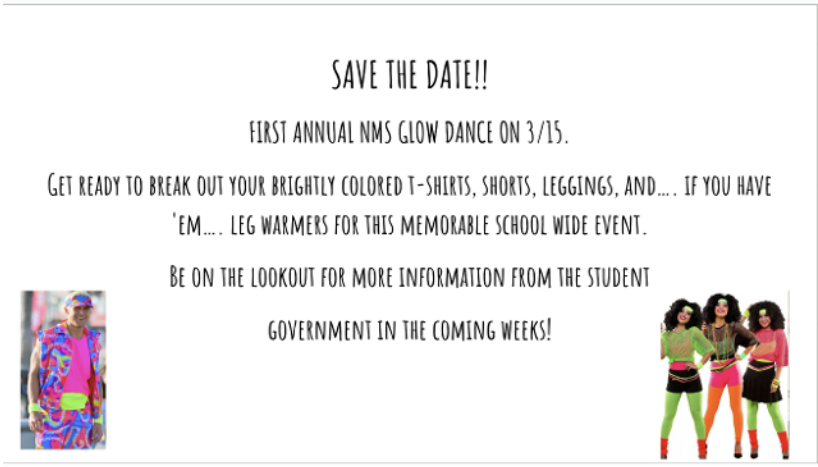
The ALL SCHOOL Neon Dance is only SIX WEEKS away!!!!

Teachers are starting to plan the decor and would gratefully appreciate any Neon /80's / Blacklight decor you might have lying around the house and are willing to part with!!!

Please just drop it off at the front office as soon as possible, so they know what they have to work with!!

The Dance committee is also collecting $5 gift cards to use as Dance Game Prizes During the Dance!

Gift cards can be to any local place that Middle Schoolers like to Frequent (Ryan's amusement, Lil Dukes, Crumbl, Showcase, Cinemas, Cumberland Farms, Chick-fil-A, McDonald's, Sephora, Dunkin' Donuts, Starbucks, The Well... Anything you can think of!). Please drop these off at the front office and label them as "Dj prizes."



The hope is that this dance will become an annual tradition, so any blacklights that you would like to donate to the school would gladly be accepted! We are hesitant to borrow black lights just because we cannot ensure their safe return!

Please reach out to vmaecarney@yahoo.com with any questions!

THURSDAYS IN THE ART ROOM

2:00 TO 2:45 PM

Are you looking for a place where you will be accepted no matter what…
a place where you can safely express your individuality?
If you answered yes, **SAGA** could be the right place for you!
SAGA is a welcoming group, run by students and overseen by teacher mentors, creating a safe space for discussing similarities, differences, and personal well being. **SAGA** is a place that creates a peaceful environment for everybody no matter their identity. **SAGA** is open to all middle school students who are on a journey of self discovery and acceptance.
If you're interested, meet us in the Art Room on Thursdays after school.
Feel free to show up with any questions, no sign up is necessary.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Clothing Drive (Cradles to Crayons)

Briana Yee, this year's Project 351 ambassador, will be leading a clothing drive for Cradles To Crayons to help kids 0-12 with clothing insecurity. The drive will be from March 18th to the 28th. On MLK weekend, Brianna went to Boston with 350 other representatives across the state to engage in a day of service to help and support families in need. Brianna said, "The day brought everyone joy!""People needed help, and we were helping, making a difference in their lives." Brianna worked with Cradles to Crayons. Please help Brianna continue on her path to support families in need, by bringing in clothing, starting on March 18th.

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

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.

A free webinar sponsored by the Falmouth, Hamilton/Wenham, Hingham, North Andover, Northbridge, Northboro/Southboro, and Norwell SEPACs

"Anxiety in Relation to Learning/Developmental Disabilities and How to Address in the IEP"

Join Pediatric Neuropsychologists Dr. Erin Gibbons and Dr. Moira Creedon from NESCA's Plainville and Hingham locations for a free webinar and live Q&A

Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024
Time: 7:00PM - 8:30PM ET

Register: https://nesca-newton.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lttkLAtCTbCe99-KljmcKA

Anxiety disorders are becoming increasingly common among children and adolescents, especially in the wake of the pandemic. Given the rising numbers of affected children and adolescents, it has become increasingly important that a student's emotional health is addressed both at home through private counseling, as well as through the provision of school-based services. When students experience a high level of unmitigated anxiety throughout the day, they are less able to learn and meet their potential. This presentation will discuss the overlap between anxiety and learning challenges and how to seek services for anxiety through the school district.

About the Presenters

Erin Gibbons, Ph.D., Pediatric Neuropsychologist; Plainville Office Director
Dr. Gibbons evaluates children presenting with a range of attentional, learning, and developmental disabilities. She has a particular interest in children with autism spectrum disorders, intellectual disabilities, and those with complex medical histories.

Moira Creedon, Ph.D., Pediatric Neuropsychologist; Hingham Office Director
Dr. Creedon offers her expertise in evaluating children and teens with a variety of presenting issues. She is interested in uncovering an individual's unique pattern of strengths and weaknesses to best formulate a plan for intervention and success. She tailors each assessment to address a range of referral questions, such as developmental disabilities, including Autism Spectrum Disorder, learning disabilities, attention challenges, executive functioning deficits, and social-emotional struggles.

NESCA
www.nesca-newton.com

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

NORWELL WOMEN'S CLUB

SWEETHEART DANCE

A **free** event for the community

FEB 10 | 5-7PM

NORWELL HIGH SCHOOL GYM

Corsages | Boutennieres |
Candygrams | Teddy Bears

purchase here