



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: 20

DATE: 1-19-24

HEADLINES

WEEK AT A GLANCE

PROJECT 351

READING INITIATIVE

LIGHTENING THIEF

KINDNESS CORNER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

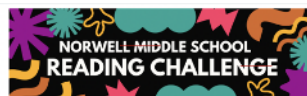


The late buses are on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and arrive at 2:45pm.

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

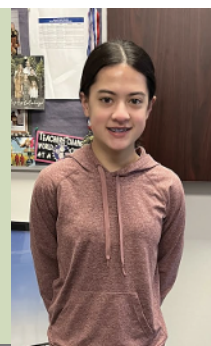
Week at a glance

- **Quarter II Ends** (1/19) -- Just a reminder, quarter II ends on Friday, January 19th. Report cards will be posted in Aspen and emailed home on Friday, January 26th.
- **Reading Initiative** -- NMS Reading Challenge will begin Term 3 (1/22). We are encouraging NMS students to read more!
- [Reading Initiative \(Introductory Video\)](#)
- To help along the way, we will be devoting Friday Flextime to independent reading. Please see additional information on the reading initiative on page 3.
- **NMS Yearbook** -- The NMS yearbook is now on sale and can be ordered using the following link: [NMS YEARBOOK](#). The cost of the yearbook is \$35 until 1/31/24. Sales will still be accepted online after this date, however, no personalization or icons may be purchased after 1/31, and the price to purchase a yearbook will increase after that date. Please contact Mrs. Kinsman if you have questions.
- **Fastbridge** -- We will be administering the Winter cycle of Fastbridge Math and Reading on Tuesday, January 30, 2024. We will have an extended homeroom and utilize Flex time, as we have done in the past. Fastbridge is a screening tool that we administer three times/year to monitor student growth in reading and math.
- **After School Activities** -- We are excited that our after-school offerings for the winter has started. Students can spend their time before and after school playing Jazz, learning about wellness and self-care, creating code, playing cornhole, kickball and more! Please see page 4 for more information.



Project 351

On Saturday, Brianna Yee 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.



TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

NORWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL READING CHALLENGE

On Friday, January 26th, all students will read in Flex Time!

The expectation is that every student will bring an independent book ready to read!

The best option is the book your child will actually read!
A book in a series they enjoy? An ebook? A graphic novel they'd enjoy?

If your student loves the audio version, great!
But students must have the audio and the text to read along with.

According to [research](#), "effective [reading] programs include **active parent involvement**."

So, YOU are a crucial factor in the success of this program.

**So please help us by assisting your student in finding a book
that they'll enjoy during Flex Time!**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

Lightening Thief -- From Greek Mythology (6th Grade)

Percy (Son of Poseidon) explores the importance of trust and collaboration.



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 box is located in front of the NMS main office.

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

Thank you to all of the families that have adjusted to the new drop-off procedures. It has truly helped get our students into the building safely and on time.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Last Friday, the sixth grade met in the cafeteria to listen to the last chapter of The Lightning Thief. One student noticed that his friend was having a tough time, so he made sure that a teacher checked on him. Thank you Nate Bateman for making sure your friend could get the most out of that unique opportunity for the sixth grade.

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

CALENDAR

January

19 Quarter 2 Ends

26 PTO Mtg @ 9AM

26 Flextime Reading

26 Report Cards Posted (Q2)

29 School Committee Meeting

31 Playbook Initiative

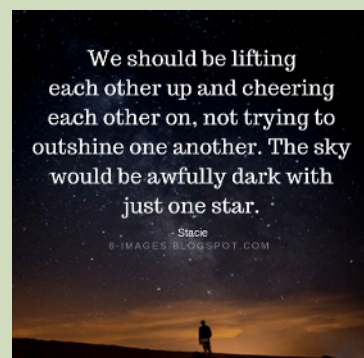
February

6 Math Team Competition

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

We should be lifting
each other up and cheering
each other on, not trying to
outshine one another. The sky
would be awfully dark with
just one star.

Stacie
8-IMAGES.BLOGSPOT.COM





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!





After School Activities

We are excited to present our after-school offerings for the winter. Students can spend their time before and after school playing Jazz, learning about wellness and self-care, creating code, playing cornhole, kickball and more!

To register for one of these exciting programs, simply click on the link below and that will bring you to our [Activities Page](#) on the NMS Website. Use the link to download and print the registration form. Students should then bring the form and payment to the main office no later than January 12, 2024. Some activities fill up quickly, so return your forms as soon as possible. Activities will begin the week of January 17, 2024 (some clubs are still accepting new. **Forms should be turned into the Main Office.**

If you are having any trouble accessing the form or website, feel free to reach out to the main office.

Thank you,

NMS Faculty & Staff

Full year activities will continue on, as well as the Service Clubs listed on the website.



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

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.

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



Please join Norwell SEPAC and The Autism Resource
Center of The Arc of South Shore

Stephen Abreu
DDS South Coast Area Director

You are invited to Norwell Middle School

Stephen Abreu, Department of Developmental Services
Area Director, will discuss DDS, the application process, and
how the transition from school to DDS adult services works.

Plenty of time for Q & A.

Light refreshments will be provided by The Autism Resource
Center of The Arc of the South Shore.

Date: Wednesday, January 24th
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Norwell Middle School 328 Main St.

Google Meet Link for parents who can't attend in-person:

SEPAC DDS Presentation

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 · 6:00 – 8:00pm

Time zone: America/New York

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/erc-tsiy-koe>

Or dial: (US) +1 929-324-2658 PIN: 297 178 881 #

All are welcome! We hope you can join us!

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

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

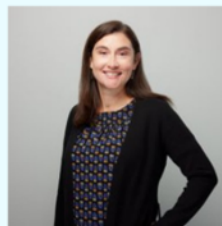
Anxiety disorders are becoming increasingly common among children and adolescents, especially in the wake of the pandemic. Given the rising numbers of affected children and adolescents, it has become increasingly important that a student's emotional health is addressed both at home through private counseling, 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.