



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: 18

DATE: 1-5-24

HEADLINES

WEEK AT A GLANCE

READING CHALLENGE

AMANI CHRISTMAS

YEARBOOK

KINDNESS CORNER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

Clubs / Activities

Clubs and activities for the Winter Session are now available for sign-up.

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Week at a glance

- **Project 351 (1/13)** -- Brianna Yee is our Norwell Middle School representative for 2024. On Saturday, January 13th, Brianna Yee will gather in Boston with the other representatives across the state to Launch the Service Day in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King!
- **Washington DC trip** -- Registration for Washington DC is due by Monday, January 8th. They will not be accepting registrations after Jan. 8th. If you have not registered your child, but are planning on having them participate on this trip, please visit the NMS web page and click on Activities & Clubs, then click 8th grade DC trip to find the registration information.
- **Teacher Appreciation Luncheon** (1/9) -- The PTO will have their annual teacher appreciation luncheon on January 9th.
- **Early Release** (1/10) -- On Wednesday, the Norwell School District has an early release. The dismissal time for NMS is at 10:58 am.
- **6th Grade Winter Concert** (1/11) -- The sixth Grade Band and Chorus and the NMS Jazz Band have been working hard in preparation for our Concert on January 11th at 7pm at the HS Auditorium. We hope to see you there!
- **6th Grade Movie** (1/12) -- Lightning Thief -- From Greek Mythology, Percy (Son of Poseidon) explores the importance of trust and collaboration. Percy makes decisions throughout the story to either choose to trust others or keep things to himself. He ultimately decides it is better to trust, despite the number of times his trust is betrayed by characters in the story.
- **Reading Initiative** -- NMS Reading Challenge will begin Term 3 (1/22). We are encouraging NMS students to read more! 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.



TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Amani Christmas

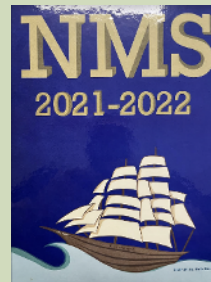
Thank you to everyone who helped make Operation Amani Christmas a huge success. We met our goal and raised over \$1,200 to pay to ship the over 60 gift boxes to Tanzania. We also received many generous donations and are able to fill all the gift boxes for all the orphans at the Amani home. Students have also created handmade cards and bracelets that we know the children will love. The Community Service Club is now packaging the boxes and getting them ready to be shipped. Thank you again for all your support to help spread kindness around the world!



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.



CALENDAR

January

- 9 PTO -- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- 10 Early Release / PD Day
- 11 6th Grade Winter Concert @ NHS Auditorium
- 12 6th Grade Movie in the cafe
- 15 No School MLK
- 17 Best Buddies Mtg
- 19 Quarter 2 Ends
- 19 PTO Mtg @ 9AM

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

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!

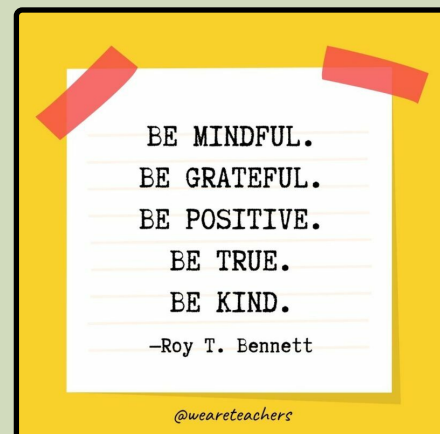
To register for one of these exciting programs, simply click on the link below and that will bring you to our [Activities Page](#) on the NMS Website. Use the link to download and print the registration form. Students should then bring the form and payment to the main office no later than January 12,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

KINDNESS CORNER

[RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS](#)

This week we want to give a shout out to **Kalen LeBlanc** who made sure that her sister felt special on her birthday.

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



@weareteachers



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!





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

Thank you,

NMS Faculty & Staf

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



Starting Thursday, November 30th Open Chess in room 208. Free for all students, every Thursday throughout the school year.

Hi Everyone!

The Community Service Club is teaming up with Brain Williams and his campaign, Think Kindness, Operation Amani Christmas at NMS.

Please click on the video linked below for additional information.

[Operation Amani Christmas - NMS](#)

We appreciate all your support and participation in this project. We will be getting a video back of the kids opening their boxes once they are delivered. We are so excited for our students and staff to spread kindness around the world. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Mrs. Borchert, Mrs. Whitt and
the Community Service Club





Hello Teachers,

We are super excited to partner with Norwell Middle School this holiday season to bring Kindness around the world!!!

We know students will have questions – so here are some answers to the main ones:

Where will the boxes be going?

They will be going to Amani Children's Home in Moshi, Tanzania.

How many kids are at Amani?

The numbers are not consistent, but typically around 60-80 kids at the home and over 600 within the village that they provide food, shelter and education for.

Will we see the picture of who gets our box?

Yes, we will do our *very* best to take a photo of each box recipient. They will be excited and may open them quicker than we can snap a photo of each child. But we will 100% get photos of the children receiving the boxes and gifts.

Do we need to wrap the box?

Please do not wrap or seal the boxes. You may decorate the box, but please do not seal the box. This will help make customs happy as they can peek inside if needed.

Can you take check donations?

Yes, checks can be made out to Think Kindness. Be sure to put Amani Gift Donation in the memo line.

Are there items we should not give?

Yes, food, candy, any form of money, toy guns, nail polish, make-up, medicine or glue.

Are they on Instagram?

Yes, they sure are: @amani_kids

Thank you so much for your support in this amazing act of kindness. It truly will have a tremendous impact on the children at Amani Children's Home.

With Kindness,

Brian Williams
Founder, Think Kindness

Absences

Let the office know of the absence as soon as possible. The office handles all reporting of absences (students can be in contact with their teacher for work and let teachers know about an absence, **but absences should be reported to the office, not each individual teacher**).

We have 3 different ways to report absences, use the platform you prefer.

1. You can call the absence line @ 781-659-8814 ext. 1206 and leave a message.
2. Send an email to the main office nms.mainoffice@norwellschools.org
3. You can send in an email via the [website Absence / Dismissal link](#) to NMS Office email, (see below)



Dismissals

We would appreciate knowing about any dismissals prior to the time of dismissal in written form.

- You can send in a note with your student and have them drop it at the office first thing in the morning
 - Upon arrival to dismiss your student, please come to the door or call and we will send your student out to you if you have provided a note beforehand. If we do not have a note, we will need you to come into the office to sign out your student. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.
- Students CANNOT be dismissed early from school to another family or sibling without written permission from the parents.

