



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: 17

DATE: 12-22-23

HEADLINES

WEEK AT A GLANCE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

HOLIDAY BREAKFAST

7TH PLAYS FIELD TRIP

KINDNESS CORNER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Amani Christmas

We are excited to partner with Brian Williams to bring presents to the Amani orphanage in Tanzania (see below for additional information).

Ugly Sweater Winner

Evan McCarthy



TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Week at a glance

- **6th Grade Plays Field Trip Rescheduled (4/23)** -- The 6th grade field trip has been rescheduled (due to the cancellation of school on Tuesday) to April 23rd. All sixth graders will see *TBD* on Tuesday (4/23) at UMASS Dartmouth performed by Zeiterion Performing Arts Group.
- **Holiday Break (12/23)**
- **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!



Happy Holidays

Happy Holidays! I hope everyone has a chance to enjoy time with family and friends over the holidays! I wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!!

We look forward to seeing everyone on the New Year!!!

2024 !!!

7th Grade Holiday Breakfast



TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

7th Grade Plays Field Trip (12/21)

On Thursday, seventh graders saw *The Necklace*, *The Monkey's Paw*, *The Tell Tale Heart*, *The Raven*, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *The Legendary Jumping Frog of Calaveras County* at John Hancock Hall, Boston performed by the Chamber Theatre.



Spirit Week



CALENDAR

December

22 Comfy Clothes / PJ Day

23 Holiday Break to January 1st

January

2 Back to School

4 NHS Winter Band Concert



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

Holiday Support

We recognize that the holidays are a joyful time, but can also be a stressful time for families. If your family is interested in support through the holiday season, please reach out to our School Counselors, Mrs. Siffard and Mrs. Sailer, who can connect you to organizations that provide support to families during this time.

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

"Today is a great day to do something kind." - Anonymous

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

This week we want to give a **special shout out** to three grade six students that have been extremely helpful with a new NMS student. They have made sure that she gets to class on time, knows where the main office, Nurse's office and School Counselor offices are. Thank you to Lucy Barrett, Sofia Mellor and Ava Finn for all that you are doing to help this new student feel welcome. Dean Godin and Angelina Hutchinson were recognized by their teachers as well for helping our new student with technology. Also in the sixth grade, we had four students move their lunch table when theirs was too crowded. **Thank you** to Lucy Harrison, Olivia Hayward, Katie McSweeney & Amelia Curtis.

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

Hi Everyone!

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

Please click on the video linked below for additional information.

[Operation Amani Christmas - NMS](#)

Students watched the video to introduce them to the service project that will run over the next couple of weeks. The donations are in each student's homeroom and continue until winter break. Each homeroom was provided with two small boxes that will be designated for a specific child at the Amani Orphanage. Each box will also include a wish list of items that can be donated. We also are accepting monetary donations to help with the cost of shipping the boxes (See the link below to make a monetary contribution).

[Amani Christmas Donation Page](#)

Documents from Brain Williams about the project and common questions are on the next two pages.

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

**Handmade Friendship Bracelets:**

Colorful and personalized bracelets made with love.

Handwritten Letters or Drawings:

Personal messages of encouragement and positivity. **BONUS:** *Translate into Swahili!*

Small Stuffed Animals:

Hand-sewn fabric animals for companionship.

Personalized Keychain:

Made from beads, fabric, or other materials.

Coloring Books:

Inexpensive coloring books with crayons or colored pencils.

Small Stuffed Animals:

Pocket-sized plush toys for comfort and companionship.

Reusable Water Bottles:

Personalized bottles for staying hydrated. (can include stickers)

Toothbrush and Toothpaste Set:

Dental hygiene essentials.

Playing Cards:

Compact card decks for games and entertainment.

Small Board Games:

Portable games like travel-sized chess or checkers.

Hygiene Kits:

Travel-sized shampoo, conditioner, or soap.

Pillow Case:

More colorful the better.

Photos of you! Family / Pets / Post Cards

Show them a photo of your pets, family or postcards of your local area.

Small Flashlight:

Practical for areas with limited lighting.

Socks:

Warm and cozy socks for comfort.

Mini Soccer Ball:

Lightweight and easy for group play.

School Supplies:

Pencils, erasers, sharpeners, and notebooks.

Educational Books:

Simple books with engaging stories or facts. *Bonus if they are in Swahili!*

Plastic Mirror:

Compact mirrors for personal grooming.

Bar Soap:

Basic hygiene essentials.

Playing Dice:

For simple games and entertainment.

Art Supplies:

Markers, colored pencils, or watercolor sets.

Pocket-sized Notepads:

For jotting down thoughts or drawings.

Frisbee:

Lightweight and great for outdoor play.

Bandanas:

Versatile for various uses, such as headbands or scarves.

T-Shirt

Have a favorite sport team? Cartoon Character? Or just a comfy shirt you know they'd love?

Athletic Shorts

Perfect for those outdoor soccer & days full of playing.

WHAT NOT TO GIVE

Food
Candy
Money
Toy Guns
Nail Polish
Make Up
Medicine
Glue

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.



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!



Fall 23-24 Before and After School Activities (Six Week Activities) are wrapping. The Winter Activities will be coming out in January, keep any eye open for emails about sign ups. Full year activities will continue on, as well as the Service Clubs listed on the website. Click [HERE](#) for more information.



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