N 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: 16
DATE: 12-15-23

HEADLINES

WEEK AT A GLANCE
PARENT COFFEE HOUSE
JOLABOKAFLOD
DISNEY
KINDNESS CORNER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Clubs / Activities

Clubs and activities are in session.

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Week at a glance

- **Spirit Week (12/18 to 12/22)** -- Monday (12/18) is Candy Cane Day (Please dress in Red and White), Wednesday (12/20) is Flannel Day, and Friday (12/22) is PJ Day/Comfy Clothes.
- **6th Grade Plays Field Trip (12/19)** -- All sixth graders will see the *Lightning Thief* on Tuesday (12/19) at UMASS Dartmouth performed by Zeiterion Performing Arts Group.
- **7th Grade Field Trip (12/21)** -- On Thursday, seventh graders will see *The Necklace, The Monkey's Paw, The Tell Tale Heart, The Raven, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and The Legendary Jumping Frog of Calavares County* at John Hancock Hall, Boston performed by the Chamber Theatre.
- **Jolabokaflod (12/21+12/22)** -- Students are once again invited to participate in our 5th annual Jolabokaflod (Yule Book Flood) celebration in the NMS Library. In order to allow access to all interested students, Mrs. Kinsman will be hosting this event on Thursday, December 21st, and Friday, December 22nd. (See page two for additional information)
- **7th Grade Holiday Breakfast (12/22)** -- Both 7th grade teams will have their annual Holiday Breakfast on Friday, December 22nd. It is a great opportunity for each team to come together as a whole team. Students should arrive to school early around 6:45AM on Friday, December 22nd. Students will bring their own food and asked not to share.
- **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!

Parent Coffee House

I would like to thank all the parents for coming to our coffee house this morning and sharing their thoughts and support of our school! It was an open dialogue about the school, what is important about NMS, Parent/Teacher Conferences, and the school's culture and climate. We shared some great ideas on inclusive events, expansion of clubs and activities, and supportive communication. All ideas were grounded on how to continue to make NMS a special place for our children. We will continue the conversation at our next Coffee House in the Spring and look to gain additional parent feedback through a survey.

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Jolabokaflod (12/21+12/22)

The books that will be on display for this event will be for all students to keep. Students are welcome to select a book and return to class, or stay and read for a while. Last year, we introduced picture books and titles for young readers for any students who would like to select a gift for a younger sibling. Students enjoyed this, so we plan to continue to provide that option. Additionally, a gift wrapping station will be available.

The Icelandic tradition of celebrating Jolabokaflod dates back to the second world war. If you are interested in learning more about Jolabokaflod, click the link below;

Jolabokaflod

Disney (Spotlighters) 12/9

Spotlighters performed scenes from "Seussical" in Disney at the Disney Springs Marketplace Waterside Stage on Saturday, December 9th.

Phenomenal performance!

Standing ovation!

(See page 4-6 for additional photos)

CALENDAR

December

18 Spirit Week (Candy Cane Day)

19 6th Grade Field Trip (Plays)

20 Flannel Day

21 7th Grade Field Trip (Plays)

21 Jolabokaflod

22 Comfy Clothes / PJ Day

23 Holiday Break to January 1st

January

2 Back to School

"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. Sifflard 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

"The gift of kindness might not offer a physical reward, but the feeling inside is priceless"

- NMS Gr. 8 Student

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Mr. Ricciarelli gave a shout out to all three grades Thursday at the lunches. The cafeteria was spotless and every student contributed to the positive atmosphere. Maddux Maturo held the door open for teachers that had their hands full entering the building in the morning. Connor Woodland and Gavin Coffey were extremely helpful in their science class when one of the showers went off accidentally. They helped Mrs. Bailey clean up and get back to business.

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 themselves to the service project that will run over the next couple of weeks. The donation boxes are in each student's homeroom and will continue until winter break. Each homeroom was provided with two small boxes that is designated for a specific child at the Amani Orphanage. Each box also included 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

OPERATION AMANI CHRISTMAS

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, 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 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 peak 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

OPERATION AMANI CHRISTMAS

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

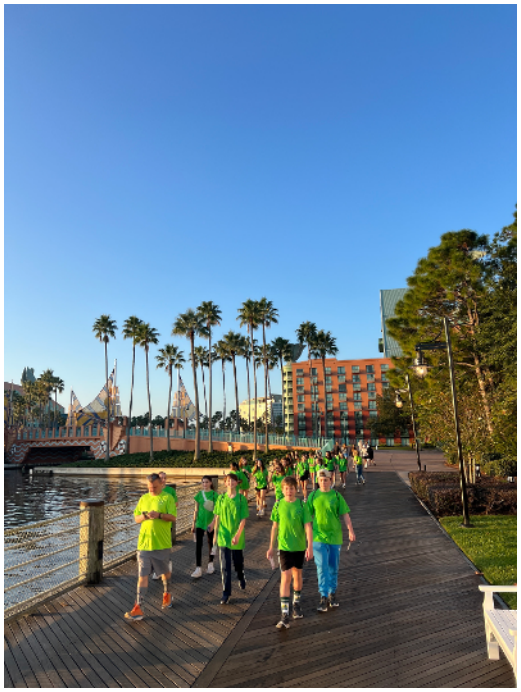
Disney

Disney
IMAGINATION CAMPUS

IMAGINATION CAMPUS

Disney
IMAGINATION CAMPUS

Disney



Disney

Best Buddies

Best Buddies

MADE FOR YOU

SAGA

BE YOUSELF

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!

"SHINE THE LIGHT" LUMINARY EVENT: HONORING OUR LOVED ONES WITH DEMENTIA

Shining our lights together to diminish the darkness and illuminate a path towards a world without dementia.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Each $5 donation provides a luminary bag with your personalized message displaged honoring a loved one with dementia. Please include your name, phone number, the name(s) of you loved one(s) and luminary message.

Checks can be made payable and sent to:
Norwell Council on Aging
P.O. Box 699
Norwell, MA 02061
or dropped off at the Norwell Senior Center at 293 Pine St, by December 18.
For more information, call the Norwell Council on Aging at 781-659-7878

Proceeds support the Forget Me Not Cafe social program for those living with dementia and their care-partner

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.

Jolabokaflod

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Jolabokaflod

Thanks for your support of this event!

This holiday season, recognize a ROCKSTAR educator with a personalized certificate and a beautiful poinsettia flower! The certificate and flower will be hand delivered to your ROCKSTAR educator.**To submit your ROCKSTAR recognition request, fill out the form below and donate a suggested minimum of $50 to the Norwell Education Foundation by visiting** http://www.norwelledfound.org **and clicking on the Donate button at the top of the page.**Each recognition not only uplifts your ROCKSTAR Educator's spirits but donates to the Norwell Education Foundation. Each donation directly impacts the students in the Norwell Public Schools by funding teacher-written grants.

Click here: Rockstar Recognition Form

Norwell Education Foundation

PO Box 711

Norwell, MA 02061

www.norwelledfound.org

info@norwelledfound.org

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Fall 23-24 Before and After School Activities (Six Week Activities) are wrapping. The Winter Activities will be comming 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.