



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: 15

DATE: 12-8-23

HEADLINES

WEEK AT A GLANCE

COMMUNITY SERVICE

WINTER CONCERTS

COMPUTER SCIENCE WK

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.

PTO Mtg 12/15 @ 9 AM in the NMS community room

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Week at a glance

- **JR/SE 12/2** -- On Saturday December 2, 7th and 8th Grade Band and Chorus students auditioned for the Southeast District Honor Bands and Choirs. The following students were invited to perform in the festival held March 8th and 9th, 2024. Congratulations to the following students on their successful auditions and acceptance into the SE District Junior Music Festival.

Jazz Band: Nathan Hu-Piano, John Hughan- Trumpet

Concert Band: Ari Davis-Clarinet, Thomas Donovan-French Horn, Andrew Park-Trombone, and Izzy Robertson-Euphonium

Treble Chorus: Sage Dimarzio

- **Disney (Spotlighters) 12/8** -- Spotlighters will perform scenes from "Seussical" in Disney at the Disney Springs Marketplace Waterside Stage on Saturday, December 9th. On Sunday, Spotlighters will take the stage again in a workshop performance @ Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort Performance Hall, working on scenes from "Frozen."
- **Interim Reports 12/8** -- Interim / Progress Reports are being published through the Aspen Portal on Friday, December 8, 2023.
- **Parent Coffee House 12/14 @ 9 AM in the NMS Community Rm** It will be an open dialogue about the school on the following topics: What is important to parents about NMS?, Priorities for NMS?, Feedback on Parent/Teacher Conferences?, NMS school climate, What curriculum changes/adjustments would you like to see?, Would you like additional electives added to our program of studies? Please email me (james.dupille@norwellschools.org), if you would like to join us.
- **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.



Community Service Club

The Community Service Club is teaming up with Brain Williams and his campaign, Think Kindness, to start Operation Amani Christmas at NMS. Please see pages 10,11 and 12 and click on the video linked below for additional information. [Operation Amani Christmas - NMS](#)



TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Winter Concerts

Winter Concert 12/6 -- The Seventh and Eighth Grade Band and Chorus brought the holiday spirit to the HS auditorium on Wednesday night. The students voices and instruments filled the auditorium with our favorite holiday music.



Great performance!

Additional pictures on page 3.
Please click on the video clip below to view one of the performances.

[Winter Concert Video Clip](#)

CALENDAR

December

8 Disney (Spotlighters)
8 Interim Reports
11 School Committee @ 7pm
14 Parent Coffee House @ 9am
15 PTO Mtg @ 9 am
18 Spirit Week (Candy Cane Day)
19 6th Grade Field Trip (Plays)
20 Flannel Day
21 7th Grade Field Trip (Plays)
21 Jolabokaflokkur
22 Comfy Clothes / PJ Day
23 Holiday Break

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



Computer Science Week

(12/4-12/8)

During Computer Science Week we hosted an Hour of Code for students in the STEM Lab on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with Mrs. Marani. Students were excited to interact with various technology during the week!

(Additional pictures on page 4+5)

Students Enjoying the Oculus!



Student Government 12/7 -- Student leaders are busy organizing the staff holiday appreciation, spirit week, and an all school dance on March 15.

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

"Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give."

- Unknown

Katherine and Maureen Murray are two of our student highlights this week because they are consistently kind to their classmates and their teachers. Arianna Dobbins is another student who thanked her teacher for helping on a difficult assignment and she also holds the door for her classmates as they head to the buses. And Nate Conley was spotted giving classmates fist-bumps as they left for the weekend.

[RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS](#)

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

Winter Concert



2023 Winter MS...



NORWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL
WINTER CONCERT
 December 6, 2023



Norwell High School Auditorium

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Mrs. Mary Jo Running
CONCERT PROGRAM

7th and 8th Grade Chorus
Accompanist: Nathan Hu

Carol of the Bells.....arr. Kupferschmid

Beautiful December.....Amy Bernon

Torah, Orah.....arr. Bront Adams

7th and 8th Grade Band Combined

The Forge of Vulcan.....Michael Sweeney

7th Grade Band

A Chanukah Festival.....arr. John O'Reilly

Chanson de Noel.....arr. Larry Neck

8th Grade Band

Four Sides of a Dreydl.....arr. David Marshall

8th Grade Band and Chorus

Holiday Sing-Along.....arr. Moss/Snyder

8th Grade Band

Flute: Catalina Eaton, Molly Marsh, Sophia Mousseau, Eloise Perniola, Briana Yee

Clarinet: Nicholas Boyden, Leah Cleverly, *Arl Davis, Abhin Gallagher

Alto Saxophone: James Bass, Liam Foy, Topher Young

Bari Sax: Luke Bjorlin

Trumpet: Lily Coyle, Tobey Henriksen, *John Hughan, Felix Kue, Blake Linder

French Horn: *Thomas Donovan

Trombone: Ruby Carroll-Millins, *Nathan Hu, *Andrew Park

Baritone: *Izzy Robertson

Percussion: Holden Burns, Caroline DeCoste, Elin Gorman

*Denotes SE District Participants

7th Grade Band

Flute: Norah Cakounes, Nathan Cotter, Anna Forcier, Millie Kue, Gaia Moretti-Fulli, Kaelyn Ouellette

Clarinet: Leo Brenich, Alison Ojanchibi, Kara Tate

Alto Saxophone: Matthew McAlear, Turner McCabe, Marlin O'Donnell, Ryan Palmieri, Tristan Sheridan, Maddie Thomas

Tenor Sax: Tommy Wilson

Trumpet: Izzy Bugaon, Anthony Danais, Andrew Egan, Maya Foy, Alaina Hinchey, Mason Holmes

Trombone: Meredith Eliden, Reid Garland, Charly Ugarte

Tuba: Liam Gallagher

Percussion: Leyland Benoit, Mason Crain, Pranjala Gowdu, Ruoyuan Li, James Mikus, Tyler Perfetuo

7th and 8th Grade Chorus

Hadley Aron	Alexis Andrew
Vivian Ashiku	Naomi Bliss-Chin
Nola Carney	Mia Chan
Lily Carr	Emily Cogan
Josh Connor	Sophie d'Entremont
*Sage Dimarzio	Arianna Dobbins
Thomas Donovan	Catalina Eaton
Abby Gallagher	Avery Gormley
Pranjala Gowdu	Eileen Green
Amy Guman	Josie Haug
Elaina Heavyside	Addie Hobart
Mason Holmes	Mila Hoops
Nathan Hu	Izzy Invernizzi
Faith Kitchin	Brielle Lestage
Blake Linder	Evangeline Lydon
Keira Manning	Molly Marsh
Francesca Mille	Sophia Mousseau
Maddie Murray	Eloise Perniola
Victoria Popova	Emma Ramkissoon
Nour Rbiez	Izzy Robertson
Leela Shankland	Alayna Tewksbury
Lydia Wisdom	Sophia Yahner

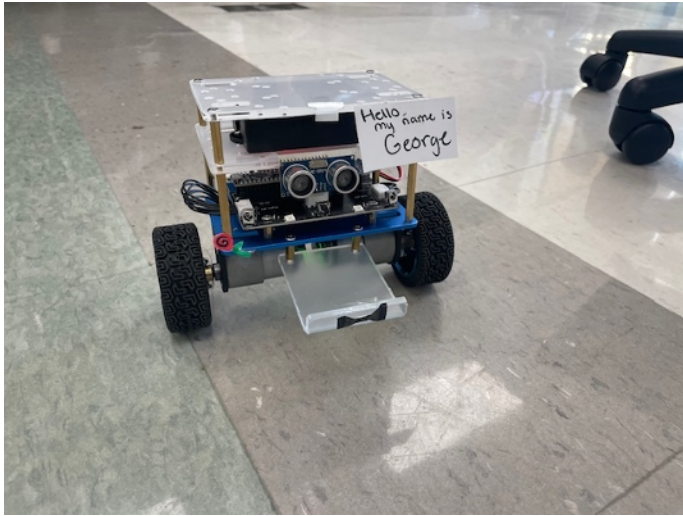
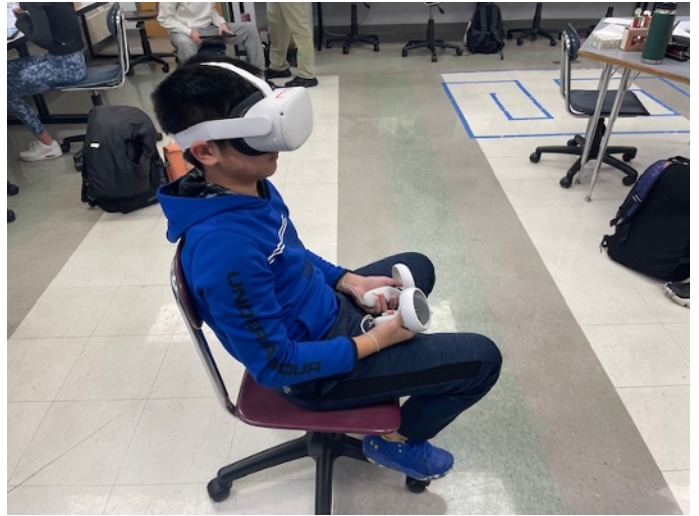
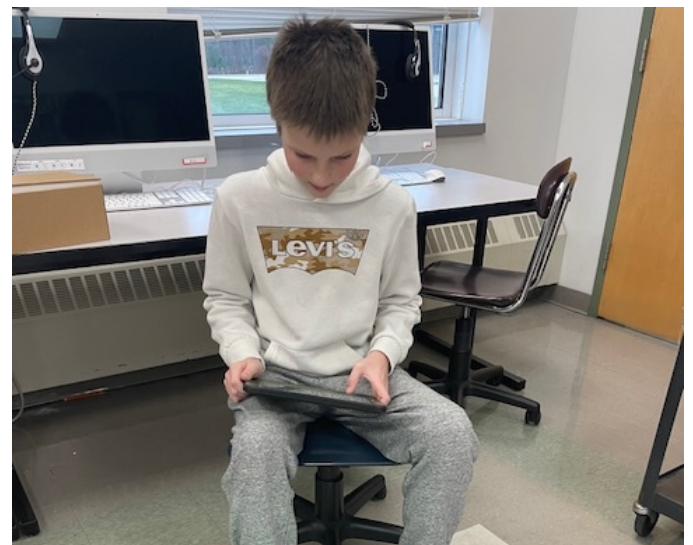
*Denotes SE District Participants

THANK YOU

Special thanks to Mr. Matthew Keegan, Mr. James Dupille, Mrs. Ellen Murray, Mrs. Jennifer Burk, Mrs. Lauren Hess, the Norwell Middle School faculty and staff, the Norwell Public Schools Music Faculty, and, most of all, our unfailingly supportive friends and family.



Computer Science Week



Computer Science Week





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!

Norwell Girls Youth Lacrosse

It is hard to believe, but it is time to sign up for Girls Spring lacrosse! See details below:

Registration: Opens Friday October 27th and closes December 15th- click on this link to register [Norwell Girls Youth Lacrosse | Home \(norwellgirlslacrosse.com\)](http://norwellgirlslacrosse.com)

Grades: 1-2 (Practices on Monday nights); 3-4 (Practices on Tuesday nights); 5-8 (Practices on Thursday nights)

Fee: \$240 for 3rd- 8th and \$155 for 1st/2nd (no refunds)



3rd Annual Teddy Bear Drive

This fall, we will be hosting our 3rd Annual Teddy Bear Drive from November 6th - December 1st. All teddy bears will be donated to the [Wonderfund of Massachusetts](http://wonderfund.org), which works on behalf of 53,000 children engaged with the department of children and families who have been impacted by abuse and neglect. Please help us to provide comfort to these children by donating NEW teddy bears. There are boxes in each school lobby.

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023
NORWELL TOWN HALL, CIRCULAR ENTRANCE
4:30 - 6:00 P.M.



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 displayed 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

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. The books that will be on display for this event will be theirs 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](#)

Thanks for your support of this event!

Nowell Ski Team

The Norwell High School Ski Team can't wait to get back on the slopes for the 23'-24' season! We plan to build upon our very successful season last year! Our 35 student-athletes bring tremendous grit and grace to the mountain, proudly representing our school and our community.

This year, the team takes on an additional challenge: fundraising to offset the tremendous increases in transportation to our race mountain, Ragged Mountain in NH. We've partnered with the NHS Boosters to reach our goal of \$14,000 to defray our costs through sale of merchandise, ski tuning, and finding sponsors for our program. See Mrs. Rodgers for any questions..



Get ready to hit the slopes with
NHS Ski Team Gear!

All items will be embroidered with
N or Norwell Ski Team logo
Adult: XS S M L XL XXL
Sweats available in Youth sizes
(\$5 extra per item for XXL)

Item	Size	Price	#	Total
Stio Vest (M/W)		\$175		
Lined hat	o/s	\$25		
Sweatpants		\$50		
Hoodie		\$60		
Women's Sherpa Shirt		\$100		
Men's Sherpa Shirt		\$115		

Total Due _____

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Orders received by 11/22/23 have target
delivery by 12/20/23

Cash, check, Venmo to NHS-Boosters (add SKI
TEAM in memo)
and credit card through
<https://norwellboosters.org/ski-team-fundraiser/>

Item details



Stio Aurora
Insulated vest navy
with "N"



New Era Flannel
lined hat with "N"



Champion reverse
weave sweatpants,
navy with Norwell Ski
Team "N"



Champion reverse
weave hoodie,
navy with Norwell
Ski Team "N"



LL Bean Sherpa shirt
Black Watch Plaid, with
Norwell Ski Team "N"

Email completed form and
questions to:
Iris Chase
jordan@gsd.com
Kristen Paulin
kristen@searport.com

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 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.

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](#)

Over the next week, students will watch the video to introduce them to the service project that will run over the next couple of weeks. The donations will begin on next week in each student's homeroom and continue until winter break. Each homeroom will be 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
