

FOCUS ON 14

The monthly newsletter of Region 14 Schools
October 2024



NHS ATHLETES COUNCIL ATTEND CIAC SPORTSMANSHIP CONFERENCE

Each fall the CIAC hosts a Sportsmanship Conference where students from member schools can connect with one another in a non-competitive arena. This year in October, Nonnewaug High School sent eight senior student-athletes to spend the day with other student-athletes across the state at an all-day conference at the Aqua Turf about topics relevant to their athletic programs at their schools.

The Sportsmanship Conference is a way for students to also hear from each other on areas important to their school sports programs, creating a positive school spirit community, treating officials respectfully, and being all-around leaders in their school athletic communities.

Attendees heard from speakers about building a positive sports culture and learned ideas to promote sportsmanship and community at Nonnewaug and within the region. Speakers included Hall of Fame basketball player and 2000 Olympic gold medalist Kara Wolters.



SECOND GRADE LESSON ON COMMUNITY SPARKS A SUCCESSFUL LOCAL FOOD DRIVE AT BES

Caring For Bethlehem volunteers Rick Wood and Vera Rosa stopped by Bethlehem Elementary School this month to speak to the second-grade classes about their organization and how it helps the community – and to pick up 7 boxes of food donations collected by second graders in Marcy Molzon and Kate VonDuntz's classes.

The students learned about the different people, places, and activities that make up a community in a recent social studies unit. Students learned that an important part of being in the community is when neighbors help neighbors. They organized a Community Food Drive to help stock the shelves for Caring For Bethlehem. Wood and Rosa thanked the students and were thrilled to talk to them about the food bank, volunteering, and good citizenship.



NHS BOOK BARN IS A PASSION PROJECT FOR THE BOOK CLUB



The Nonnewaug High School Book Club members are excited to share their passion for books with community members. The Book Club members officially installed and filled their little blue Book Barn in October with various books for all ages. The Book Barn, located at the top of the stairs to the NHS athletic fields, is the Book Club community service project. Members wanted to provide free quality reading materials to students, parents, and other community members who spend time at NHS. The Book Barn is a free resource and the public is invited to take any book. Members will be monitoring the box to make sure that it is full and properly maintained and will accept book donations at any time.

WMS TECH ED LESSON LAUNCHES STUDENT IMAGINATION

Using a handful of popsicle sticks, paper clips, rubber bands, and a plastic propeller, sixth graders in Will Michael's Tech Ed class at Woodbury Middle School explored the aerospace concept of thrust.

Students created these mini propulsion engines to measure how far and fast they would travel loosely on twine. They wound up the propellor and let them fly -- with some going the length of the Tech Ed workshop! This mini-aerospace lesson is in advance of the visit by a Goodwin University educator later this fall. WMS and Goodwin University have partnered to bring advanced manufacturing elements to students in Tech Ed throughout the year.



K-9 POLICE DOG VISIT FOR MES SECOND GRADERS



Mitchell Elementary School second graders got a special visit from Connecticut State Trooper Aaron Matthew and his K-9 partner "Izzy", a six-year-old Bloodhound trained in human tracking. Trooper Matthew spoke to students about how he and Izzy help in the community. Second graders are learning about community in their classrooms. Trooper Matthew talked about their important role in the community and the different aspects of their work together. Izzy is one of 5 CT State Police Bloodhounds.

FFA NATIONAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

The 97th annual FFA Convention in Indianapolis was a terrific experience for our students. They put their leadership into action -- meeting, networking, and competing against top FFA programs from across the country.

They also participated in the National Days of Service projects throughout the week like planting bulbs at an Indianapolis art museum and creating pot holders for local food banks.

Students also bring home medals each year. This year, winning teams include Floriculture, Horse Evaluation, Parliamentary Procedure, and Quiz Bowl.



WMS ALLIANCE GROUP IS A MODEL FOR PEER LEADERSHIP

The Woodbury Middle School Alliance group members headed to Camp Mattatuck in Plymouth in October for a team-building field trip. The students faced challenges that required communication, leadership, and teamwork. They were also able to test their archery skills.

The WMS Alliance Group works throughout the school year to bring the student body together for events in the school. The group also takes a leadership role in the Superbowl Pancake Breakfast, Open House, and positive school climate initiatives throughout the year.



REGION 14 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



Kindness is contagious! Agriscience students in Eric Birkenberger's Floriculture class at Nonnewaug High School surprised many local residents with two bouquets of flowers to mark "Petal it Forward" day in Woodbury and Bethlehem this month. The students gave out bouquets and carnations to surprised and happy customers at local businesses, including Dottie's Diner, Ayla's Bagels, and Nick's Kitchen "just because" and encouraged them to share one of the two they received with others. Students also surprised staff members at NHS with bouquets. Petal it Forward is a national campaign organized by the Society of American Florists. The agriscience students have participated in this event every fall for the past nine years.

Members of the Bethlehem and Woodbury Volunteer Fire Departments visited the elementary schools in October to mark Fire Safety Week.

Students got an up-close look at various equipment and safety gear that firefighters use for their jobs. Students asked questions and climbed on the fire trucks. Students look forward to this presentation every October.



Nonnewaug High School students won the Woodbury Democratic Town Committee 2nd Annual High School Photo Contest and were honored at a celebration at the Woodbury Public Library in October. The students are 1st place Gemma Hedrei, 2nd place Claire Rogers, 3rd place Lila Rogers and Morgan Willis. The assignment was to submit photos that portray what Freedom means to them.

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