



MINUTE

A MINUTE TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING @ NMS

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

VOLUME: 3 / ISSUE: 17

DATE: 12-20-24

HEADLINES

WEEK AT A GLANCE

SPELLING BEE

FOOD DRIVE

KINDNESS CORNER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Just a reminder, students will need to ride their designated bus home in the afternoon (see bus policy).

Only students registered for the bus are allowed to take the regular and late buses, and those students must ride the bus to which they have been assigned. Please do not send your child in with a note about switching buses. This is only allowed in emergency cases and with prior permission.

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Week at a glance

- **Holiday Break (12/23 - 1/1)**
- **Winter After School Activities** -- Before & After School Activity Sign ups will be going home the first week of January.
- **Parent Coffee (1/16)** -- The winter NMS Parent Coffee House is on Thursday, January 16th at 9:30 am in the NMS Community Room. If you are interested in attending the winter parent coffee house, please email me (james.dupille@norwellschools.org) by Wednesday (1/8).
- **Project 351 (1/25)** -- Tom Wilson is our Norwell Middle School representative for 2025. On Saturday, January 25th, Tom Wilson 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! I am thrilled to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Tom on being selected as the Project 351 Ambassador for Norwell Middle School! This is an incredible honor. Each year, one student is chosen from every school district across Massachusetts to participate in this prestigious program. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition.

Spelling Bee (12/20)

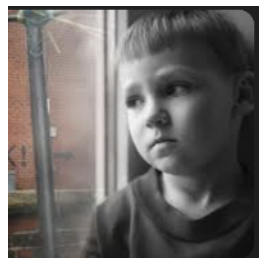
The NMS spelling Bee took center stage this morning with our students watching and cheering them on; the Bee contestants came ready to compete! After 60 minutes, **Kalen LeBlanc** was crowned the **NMS Bee champion** after facing stiff competition from the other competitors. Bee participants were Gr. 8 -- Matthew Adams, Teddy Bettencourt, Kalen LeBlanc (Champion), Leela Shankland, CJ Williams, Gr. 7 -- Owen Dewberry, Maeve Lawson, Daniel Lee, Tim Minihane, Mya Phan, Gr. 6 -- Riley Bass, Will Clark, Radley Hallman, Elyse Thornton, John Troupe. Congratulations to Everyone!



TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Holiday Food Drive

Briana Yee -- "Thank you to all of the students and faculty who helped support and donate to my food drive. Thanks so much for letting me use the middle school as a host site for my fall service. I appreciate the support and I am very grateful for the opportunity to have worked with the town and the other schools on this project. Together as a community we have collected approximately 1,000 pounds of food for local food pantries and counting! It brings me joy knowing we are making a positive impact in peoples' lives. This just goes to show how great a town Norwell is and how we all help and support each other."



CALENDAR

December

23 to 1/1 Winter Break

January

2 Return to school

7 MySAEBRS (Flex)

8 PTO New Year's Luncheon

9 Fastbridge

10 PTO Mtg 9:15AM

13 Strategic Planning Steering Committee @ 5:30PM

15 6th Grade Virtual Field Trip

Spirit Week

Superintendent Keegan joined the fun!



Updates

Substitutes -- We are always looking for substitutes for teachers, aides, and nurses. Substituting offers flexible scheduling, allowing one to work on available days and at selected levels or schools. We even have half day spots to fill! If you or someone you know is interested, please apply at the Norwell Schools [NSD website](#)

PTO -- The next PTO meeting is on Friday, January 10th at 9:15AM. As a parent of a NMS Student, you are automatically part of the NMS PTO. There are many ways to contribute to the PTO including Student Dues (\$40 per student suggested), as well as chaperoning PTO events, helping with Teacher Appreciation breakfasts, lunches and fun events, as well as joining one of our fundraising teams throughout the year. The PTO is made up of Parent Volunteers LIKE YOU!

Together, let's make the NMS experience the best it can be!!

KINDNESS CORNER

Happy Holidays!

In the Spirit of Giving, thank you to Garrett Rosenzweig, Kameron Leary and Aidan Collins for bringing the Cereal Box Challenge to NMS in 2025. Just wait - it's going to be Grrreat!

Also, Nate Bateman found some lost artwork and returned it to Mrs. Finn and Thank You to Liam Corbett, Robbie White and Chael Jones for holding the doors for students as they exit to the buses. Letiana Singleton was extremely helpful to staff with Secret Santa deliveries - Thank you! Today, before the Spelling Bee, Leyland Benoit, Brayden Campanale and Sean Greene helped set up extra chairs for spectators and during lunch, Mac McGuirk sat with a classmate who needed a friend.

And last but not least, don't forget to check out the Student Newsletter by Olivia, Cece, Maddy, Rory & Angelina. **Student Newsletter - Holiday Edition**

It's the little things that help make a big difference. Thank You!

Best Buddies



Spirit Week



6th Grade Skills Stem Project

Students explored the evolution of artificial Christmas trees, followed by reading comprehension activities. They applied their creativity in a STEM project, where they designed their own artificial trees using pipe cleaners (working within specific constraints). Teachers then came in to judge the trees based on creativity and design.

Everyone did an amazing job, and it was a fantastic experience for all involved!



Spelling Bee



Spelling Bee



Holiday Singalong 6th Grade
Eric Santoro sings to his classmates



Holiday Breakfast 7th Grade





Norwell Boosters Fundraiser

DUMP YOUR JUNK

JAN 4, 2025

Clear out all the clutter and make room for a clean 2025!

Stop by NORWELL HIGH SCHOOL and dump your junk. No need to rent a dumpster, we will provide it and you will be donating to a great cause. Start the year off clean!



**BUY NOW OPTION
FOR \$150**

5 spaces only

buy early and don't get
spaced out

Car Load- \$75

SUV- \$85

Pickup- \$100

First come first serve till
it's full

TROUPE
waste & recycling

Restricted Items:

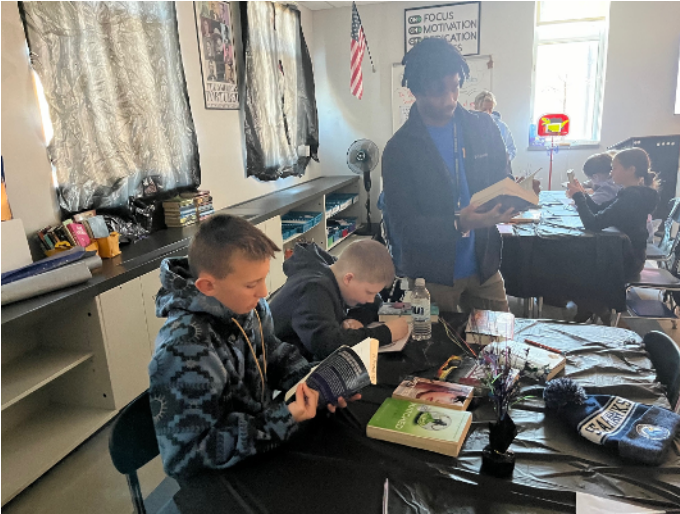
- Consumer electronics, cell/smart phones, DVD/MP# players, pagers, PDAs and other devices
- Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs)-found in TVs, computers, monitors, flat panel screens
- Freon appliances- refrigerator, freezer, air conditioner, and dehumidifiers
- Batteries, Tires, Mattresses, Box Springs, Yard Waste, Paint, and Hazmats
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Non-freon appliances
- Construction/Demolition materials



Noon to 3pm

@Norwell High School

7th Grade ELA (Books come alive!)



SAVE THE DATE
NMS WINTER DANCE
HOSTED BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
JANUARY 24TH
6:30 - 8:00



CHESS CLUB

FREE and OPEN to all students
Thursdays in Room #208

New to the game or closing in on Grand Master status?
All are welcome to join the chess club for fun,
to learn how to play or gain new strategies.

Light hearted game play is the norm and so is the constant banter of the group.
From time to time, so legend says, a Backgammon board is broken out for a
change of pace.



Winter Before & After School Activity Sign ups will
be going home the first week of January.



NORWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL READING CHALLENGE

We are excited to tell you about a school-wide Reading Challenge. Throughout the 2024-25 school year, we are encouraging our 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!

Reminders

Absence Reporting

- Please report student absences to the office as soon as possible.
- You can report absences by
 - calling the absence line: 781-659-8814 x1206 and leaving a message.
 - sending an email to the Main Office at nms.mainoffice@norwellschools.org.

Dismissing a Student during the School Day

- Please send a note to the office the morning of the dismissal.
- If there is not a note, parent/guardian will need to enter the building to sign their student out.
- Please provide a written note if somebody other than a parent/guardian is picking up a student during the day for dismissal.

Forgotten Items

- When bringing in a forgotten item for a student, please leave it with a label on the "I Forgot It" table by the front lobby.
- It is a student's responsibility to check the table for the forgotten item.
- If a student does not call home for the item, please do not bring the item to school as they likely do not need it.

Cell Phones

- Students' cell phones should be off and in their locker or bag during the day.
- Parents / guardians should not text or call their students' cell phone during the school day as it disrupts the class. Messages can be left at the office for students.

New website



We are thrilled to announce that the Norwell Public Schools website has undergone a complete redesign! Our new look has been carefully crafted to enhance your experience, making it easier than ever to access important information and stay connected with our school community.

Turkey Trot

The Turkey Trot just ended, but we are looking for creative designers out there to submit entries for NEXT YEAR'S Turkey Trot T-shirt (Current 5th Graders-8th Graders are eligible!). This year, the design made it to over 350 T-shirts and hoodies...your design could be next!

- The judges will be looking for unique ideas that incorporate Running, Norwell, NMS, Thanksgiving, Fall, Turkey's, etc!
- We do ask that "Norwell Turkey Trot" and the Year 2025 is somewhere in the design.
- The Race Date has already been confirmed to be: Sunday, November 23rd, 2025. We can't wait!

The Design winner will receive a \$25 Gift Card of their Choice and their artwork will be on next year's gear!

The contest is OPEN NOW and the December/Winter Break could be a great time to work on your design! Please submit all questions or entries to: NMSPTO@gmail.com

Current 5th Graders- 8th Graders May Enter

NORWELL TURKEY TROT

2025

T-SHIRT DESIGN

CONTEST

OPEN NOW!!



Must include:

**Norwell Turkey Trot
&
2025**

**Winner
Receives
\$25
Gift Card
Your Choice!**

**Email questions or entries to:
NMSPTO@gmail.com**



Basic Rights: Understanding the IEP A Free Virtual Workshop for Parents and Professionals

This presentation will delve into the Individual Education Program (IEP) document, its development, the breakdown of each section and understanding how the document will support a student.

Workshop Topics:

- *Why the IEP is Important*
- *Who is eligible for an IEP*
- *How the IEP is Developed*
- *Strengths and Concerns*
- *Vision Statements*
- *IEP Sections including PLEP A & B, Annual Goals and Service Delivery Grid*
- *Differences between Accommodations and Modifications*
- *Response, Placement and Consent*
- *Procedural Safeguards and more!*



About Your Host:

The Norwell SEPAC is a group of parents who meet regularly to discuss the needs of our students and improve special education in Norwell. We provide a space for families to content and education on topics relevant to our community. Contact us at TheNorwellSEPAC@gmail.com

Handouts will be provided to registered attendees on the day of the virtual presentation.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Date: January 22, 2025

Time: 6:30-8:30 PM

Registration Link: <https://fcsn.org/event/norwell-understanding-the-iep/>

Registration Link:



For more information about the educational workshops available from
The Federation for Children with Special Needs,
please visit us at fcsn.org/ptic/workshops or email: workshops@fcsn.org

PARENT COFFEE HOUSE (SOCIAL FORUM)



TOPICS

- **What is Important to Parents About NMS?**
- **NMS Priorities (Moving Forward)**
- **Feedback on NMS Events**
- **NMS School Climate**
- **Curriculum Changes or Adjustments**
- **Additional Electives**

WHEN:

Thursday, January 16, 2025

9:30 am

WHERE:

NMS

Community Room

328 Main Street, Norwell