



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: 19

DATE: 1-17-25

HEADLINES

WEEK AT A GLANCE

CEREAL BOX CHALLENGE

WINTER CONCERT

KINDNESS CORNER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

NMS Yearbook meetings --
[Yearbook Meeting Dates](#)



TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Week at a glance

- **Term II Ends (1/17)** -- Just a reminder, Term II report card grades will be posted to Aspen for parents to review on Friday, January 24th. Parents and students should review the report card together to discuss the student's progress. Grades are a reflection of student achievement in content knowledge and skill development as measured by work accuracy, quality, and timely completion. No matter the grade for the term, students should be reflecting on their strengths and areas for growth.
- **January 20th (Monday) -- No School / MLK Day**
- **Project 351 (1/25)** -- On Saturday, January 25th, Tom Wilson (NMS Project 351 Rep.) will go to Boston with the other representatives across the state to Launch the Service Day. I am thrilled to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Tom on being selected as the Project 351 Ambassador for Norwell Middle School! Each year, one student is chosen from every school district across Massachusetts to participate in this prestigious program.
- **Early Release Day (1/29)** -- On Wednesday, January 29th, NMS has an early release 1/2 Day. We dismiss at 10:58AM.
 - [Early Release Day Bell Schedule](#)



NMS WINTER DANCE

January 24th 6:30 - 8:00 NMS cafeteria

\$5.00

ADMISSION TO DANCE MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.

MONEY WILL BE COLLECTED DURING FLEX ON TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY
AND HOMEROOM ON FRIDAY.

STUDENT NAMES WILL BE PLACED ON A LIST - NO PHYSICAL TICKETS WILL BE HANDED OUT.

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CEREAL BOX CHALLENGE

Thank you to Garrett Rosenzweig, Kameron Leary and Aidan Collins (with support from Mrs. MacDonald too) for bringing this fun challenge to NMS. Rumor has it, Vinal did this Challenge last year and it was a big success. Garrett, Kam and Aidan are hoping to have at least 500 Cereal boxes donated to create a giant domino chain. The boxes will then be brought to the local food pantry. When we reach 500 boxes, Mr. Dupille has generously agreed to allow the school to have a Comfy Cozy Day! Then, if we reach 1,000 boxes we can have Comfy Cozy day every Friday in February! Click on the link below for the flier and video example:

NMS Cereal Box Challenge 2025



Winter Concert

The sixth grade band and chorus and the NMS Jazz Band performed on Thursday night at the NHS auditorium.

Phenomenal performances!

Updates

PTO -- The next PTO meeting is on Friday, February 7th at 9:15AM.

PTO - We are excited to announce our **1st Parent Social of the year!**.... Please join us at ALBA after dropping your students off at the Winter Dance...or please join us even if they aren't going to the dance!

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!!

CALENDAR

January

17 End of Term II

20 No School (MLK)

21 School Council @ 2:10 PM

24 Report Cards Issued

24 Winter Dance 6:30 to 8PM

27 School Committee @ 7PM

29 1/2 Day Early Release @ 10:58 AM

February

1 SEMSBA Auditions

3 Strategic Planning Committee Mtg

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

KINDNESS CORNER

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless. - Mother Theresa

Thank you to Benjamin Cakounes for helping a classmate in Science class and thank you to Heather Milton who is kind and polite to everyone.

Riley Dunigan made a new friend when she offered to partner with someone that she didn't know and that made a difference in both of their lives. And Vanessa Scribner went above and beyond when she sent a Get Well card and package to a sick friend before the break.

[NMS Student Newsletter 1/17/25](#)

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

Calling all eighth graders for the **Yearbook Cover Design Contest**

Here's your chance to leave your mark on this year's yearbook by designing the cover! This year's theme is

Illuminate

Show us your interpretation of this theme with a design that reflects your unique vision and style. Our school name (NMS or Norwell Middle School) and school year (2024-2025) must be incorporated into your design as well as visual and design elements that reflect the theme.

Artwork can be on a letter-sized paper and can be created either by hand or digitally.

So let your imagination shine and be a part of making this yearbook unforgettable!

All designs must be submitted to Mrs. Higgins by Friday, January 17.

If you need art guidance or materials please see Mrs. Finn.

6th Grade Winter Concert



NORWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL **WINTER CONCERT**

January 16, 2025



Norwell High School Auditorium

MUSIC DIRECTOR
Mrs. Mary Jo Running

CONCERT PROGRAM

Jazz Band

James Bond Theme.....arr. Mike Story
Uncle Milo's Side Show.....Dean Sorenson

6th Grade Chorus

Accompanist: Nathan Hu

Wintertide.....arr. Wolfgang Knittel
Yonder Come Day.....arr. Judith Cook Tucker
Risseldy, Rossedly.....arr. Jay Broeker
No School Tomorrow.....Jay Althouse

6th Grade Band

The Sword of Kings.....Robert W. Smith
Blizzard's Fury.....Randall Standridge
Land of Lost Zombies.....Rob Grice



Jazz Band

Trumpet: Ben Allegrini, Izzy Bugaoan, Caden Rodriguez
Trombone: Cece Burke
Baritone: Mason Holmes
Drum Set: Mason Crain, Ryan Goutro, James Mikus
Percussion: Justin Miner

6th Grade Chorus

Reese Barlow	Harken Benoit
Emma Bonica	Harper Boutin
Sophia D'Entremont	Ayla Dobbins
Casey Donahue	Emma Fabiano
Olivia Levesque	Lilly Lima
Evelyn Miller	Bella Nguyen
Eric Santoro	Elsie Spera

THANK YOU

Special thanks to Mr. Matthew Keegan, Mr. James Dupile, Mrs. Ellen Murray, Mrs. Jennifer Burke, 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.

6th Grade Band

Flute: Lilly Brennan, Caleigh Coogan, Ethan Haroutunian, Elyse Thorton

Oboe: Bella Nguyen

Clarinet: Ashley Bears, Bridget Donelan, Cora Greene, Rory Hinchey, Emmet Joyce, Savannah Kulage, Camden Tobias

Alto Saxophone: Riley Bass, Owen Douglas, Chase Emami, Alexis Lee, Erielle Leung, Ryan MacDougall, Finn Moylette, Natasha Parekh, Eric Santoro, Gianna Toohey

Trumpet: Colin Burns, Jonah Chan, Radley Hallman, Colton Holmes, Heather Milton, Felix Morlot, Emma Phan, Brayden Tate, Ceci Wisdom, Cole Wolbach

French Horn: Daniel Burgess

Trombone: Mia Abou Rjeily, Cece Burke, Landon Cleverly, Anderson Harding, Noah Lendler, Ryan Mahoney, Cian Roper

Baritone: Garrett Rosenzweig, Elle Ugarte

Percussion: Eddie Garofolo, Jayden Li, Jordon Li, Justin Miner, Brad Stratford, Ben Van Heuvein

After School Activities



After School Activities



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.



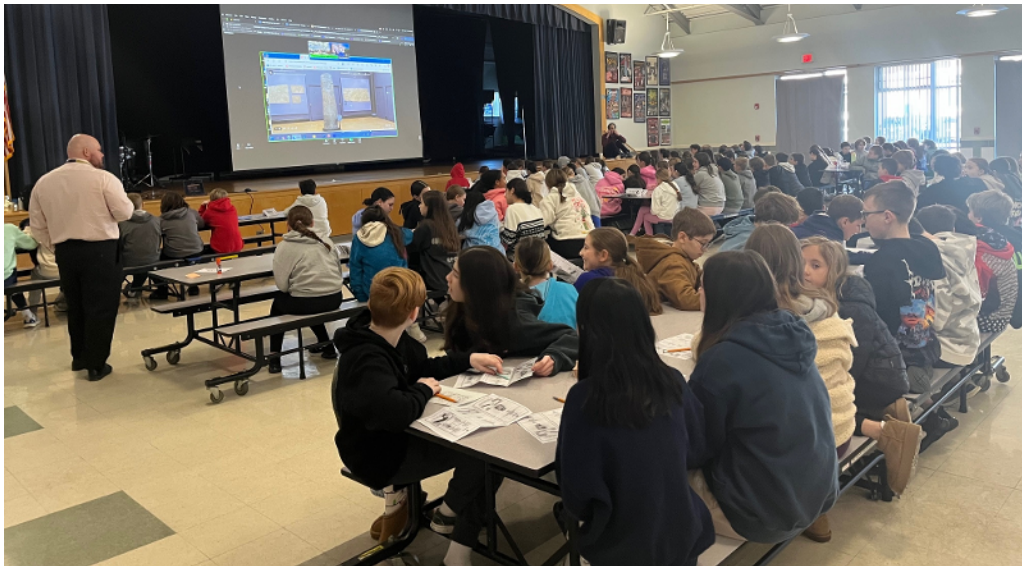
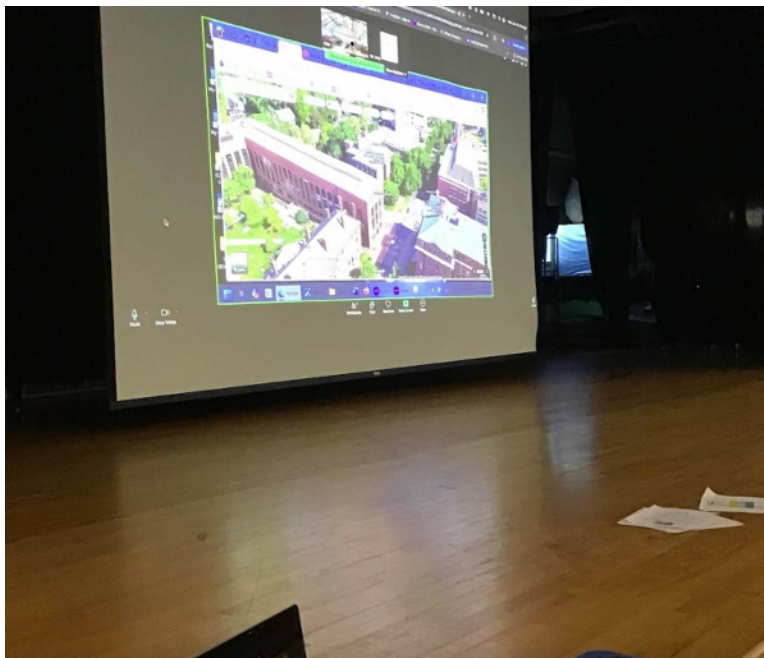
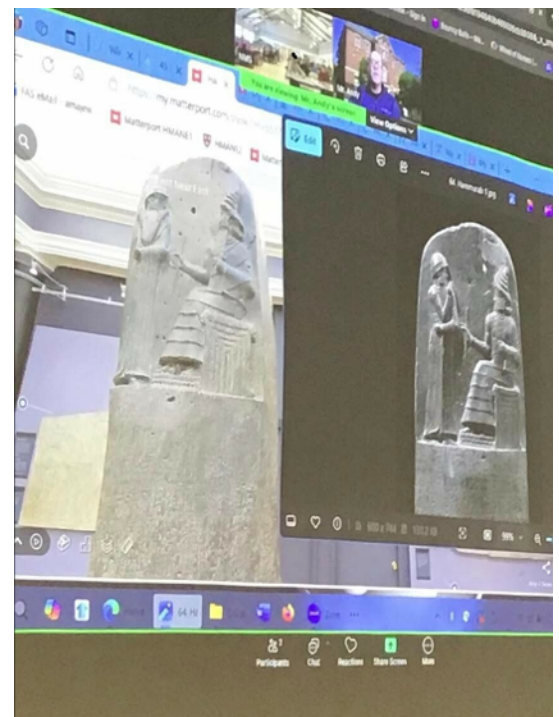
South Shore Regional Vocational Technical High School MSBA Building Project

A Public Forum will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at the Norwell Public Library large meeting room from 6:30pm to 7:30 on the proposed South Shore Regional Vocational Technical School Building Project that will be voted on at the regional election scheduled for January 25, 2025. For more information, please see the Town of Norwell's page

[South Shore Regional Vocational Technical High School MSBA Building Project Information](#)

6th Grade Visits Mesopotamia

NMS Sixth Graders attended a virtual field trip to the Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East today on January 15th! During the presentation of the "Mesopotamian Monuments" program, students embarked on an archaeological tour of primary source stelae and other monuments from ancient Mesopotamia which highlighted the social, cultural, and political achievements of Mesopotamian kings. Students have studied many of these items in detail in their social studies classes and through this event, got the opportunity to look at the real thing! The virtual trip was facilitated by an educator from the museum who is an expert in the field. This was a unique opportunity for our students not only to view these amazing artifacts, but to analyze them like historians and archaeologists. We hope this event will help our mission to interest students in history and archaeology, and perhaps even spark a family visit to one of the amazing museums our region has to offer!





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

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.

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

PTO

The PTO received a very positive response to their feedback survey and in return, will be bringing back the Gift Card Giveaway! If you attend the February 7th PTO meeting in person or online, you'll be entered for a chance to win a \$50 gift card to ALBA! All you have to do is show up or log on! The PTO hopes that parents will continue to provide feedback and ideas to help make the NMS PTO fun, welcoming and inclusive for all! All parents are part of the PTO and we want to hear your ideas!

Geoff Gordon, a local advocate of the message from the, "Anxious Generation" book, will be presenting a few bullet points of the impact of smartphones and social media on our children's mental health and overall development at this meeting as well. There will be a few minutes for parents to voice concerns, discuss, and ask questions... But the goal is to determine if it might make sense to schedule a broader, more lengthy discussion about this topic here at Norwell Middle School.

We are also excited to announce our 1st Parent Social of the year! Please join us at ALBA after dropping your students off at the Winter Dance...or please join us even if they aren't going to the dance!

NMS PARENT SOCIAL

@

ALBA

Friday, January 24th

6:30ish

