

Focus on 14

The Region 14 School District Monthly Newsletter

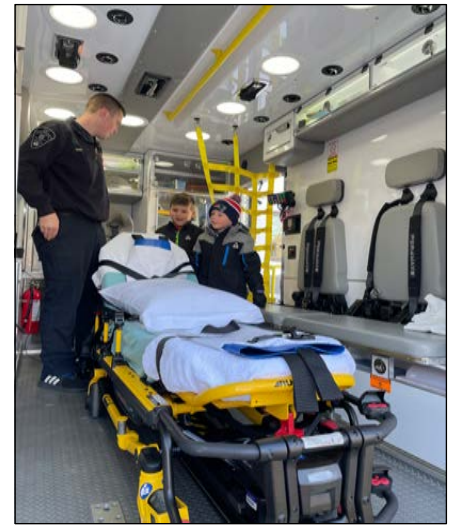
A Successful College and Career Week at Elementary Schools

Mitchell Elementary School fifth grader Tyler Howard said his dream job is an architect and he wanted to showcase a unique project for his peers. Using a variety of resources including popsicle sticks, toothpicks, wood scraps, and glue, Howard designed and built a model house to share with classmates and he said he was hopeful that it inspired others to love designing houses as much as he does.



Howard's wooden house model is one of the many amazing career projects fifth graders presented to their third and fourth grade peers during College and Career Week. Careers students researched included those in many fields like aerospace engineer, horse trainer, coach, architect, lawyer, singer, sports marketing, video broadcasting and more.

College and Career Week at Bethlehem and Mitchell Elementary Schools gave students the opportunity to hear from professionals about their careers, research careers for their own projects, and see first-hand the different vehicles that local professionals use for their jobs. The weeklong events were held in late March and early April at each school.



On Careers on Wheels days, each school welcomed more than a dozen professionals who are recognized by the type of vehicles they use for their job for a special event in the parking lots. Students climbed in the trucks and vehicles and heard from professionals who drive ambulances, fire trucks, bucket trucks, big rigs, tractors, police cars, snowplows, town trucks, and more.

Spring Productions Showcase Student Talent at Nonnewaug and Mitchell Schools

Nonnewaug High School Drama Club’s “The Wizard of Oz”

Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! The Nonnewaug High School Drama Club presented “The Wizard of Oz” for the spring production and audiences loved their unique spin on this wonderful classic.

For three days, cast and crew took audiences on a memorable journey from Kansas to the Emerald City and back with stops along the Yellow Brick Road to a poppy field, Munchkin Land, and the Haunted Forest.

Congratulations to the Drama Club members and their advisor Catherine Peleky for three wonderful performances!



“School House Rock Live, Jr.” at Mitchell Elementary School



Mitchell Elementary School 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders took to the stage for two performances of "School House Rock Live, Jr." last month.

They practiced after school for several months to get ready to share this fun show and sing some iconic favorite songs.

Parents sang along to favorites "A Noun Is a Person, Place or Thing" and "Three Is a Magic Number" and more. Principal Kelly Pinho joined her students on the stage for this entertaining musical.



Region 14 in the Community

Nonnewaug High School Culinary Presents Annual Spring Senior Citizen Luncheon

Advanced Culinary students from Nonnewaug High School gave out 125 boxed meals they prepared in class to senior citizens from Bethlehem and Woodbury at the annual spring Senior Citizen Luncheon.

For the drive-through event, culinary students in John Dominello's classes prepared a marinated spring salad, stuffed shells Al forno with meatballs, and spiced pear, apple, and blueberry pies. The NHS jazz band provided music and the Art department provided a flyer with samples of student work. Students in Digital Design created the box menu label, Agriscience students prepared several flower arrangements, and students from the NHS Chief Advocate interviewed some of the senior citizens about the event.

The annual Spring Luncheon was a successful collaborative project much appreciated by the community's senior citizens.



"Under the Bough" Poetry Contest

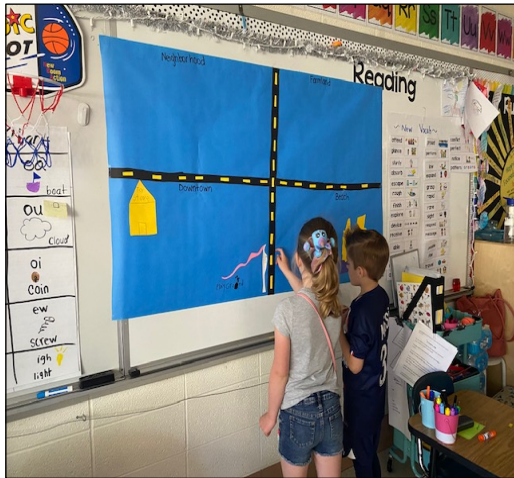
Poems by three Region 14 students were chosen for the first annual "Under the Bough" poetry contest, a joint partnership of Region 14 Schools, Woodbury's Poet Laureate, and the Woodbury Public Library. The winners are Mitchell Elementary School second grader Ella Warren, Thea Oleynikov, a seventh grader at Woodbury Middle School, and Vladyslava Klymenko, a junior at Nonnewaug High School. More than 40 students entered the contest and winners were selected by Poet Laureate Sandy Carlson. The "Under the Bough" celebration on Woodbury's North Green included a dedication of a Shadblow Serviceberry tree in honor of Poetry Month. The tree will be a living representation of the 2023 student poetry contest.



Learning Vowels and Phonics with Vowel Town at Bethlehem Elementary

Bethlehem Elementary School first grade students put their knowledge of vowel teams and phonics to the test and created their own "Vowel Town."

The students drew pictures of the town sites, scenes, and members and gave them labels allowing them to practice writing out words they learned in vowel teams and phonics lessons during class.



Engineering and Design at WMS Gives Students the Creative Edge



From crafting personalized wood pieces and cutting boards in the wood shop to making their own music videos, students in the Engineering and Design classes at Woodbury Middle School have unique opportunities to be creative and hands-on. Recently, students picked out their favorite songs and completed detailed storyboards using the lyrics to give a visual interpretation of the song. They used Google to search for a variety of interesting cover shots and put it all together using Adobe Premiere Pro editing software. In this unit, students get a first-hand glimpse of how different forms of communication can influence people's perceptions. In the Wood Lab, students learn the proper safety precautions for being successful wood workers. Using the available tools and equipment, students cut, sand, and prepare Maple or Black Walnut for their individual projects -- pens, cheese boards and cutting boards, and more. Engineering and Design is one of the Unified Arts classes offered each trimester.

Curriculum Corner

Commemorating Juneteenth in Region 14

For over 150 years Americans have celebrated the events of June 19, 1865 (Juneteenth), the day that Union General Major Gordon Granger informed the enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas of their freedom. Although the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect on January 1, 1863, enslaved people in the areas controlled by confederate troops were not yet released by their enslavers and unaware of the proclamation. Federal troops made their way through these areas proclaiming to all "in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor."

The people of Galveston, Texas were the last to receive this message of independence as they were furthest west which is why June 19th is so significant: it commemorates the day that slavery was truly abolished in the United States.

Juneteenth became a legally recognized state holiday on October 1, 2022. As such, this will be the first year as an official state holiday in CT. We will have school on Juneteenth and, in accordance with state legislation -- "each local and regional board of education that remains open on a legal state holiday must hold a suitable educational program in observance of the holiday"-- students will learn about the importance of this holiday through grade-appropriate lessons developed by Dr. Taryn Fernandez, R14's Director of Teaching and Learning.

State Assessments

During the month of May, students in grades 3-8 and 11 will participate in the annual state assessments. Students in grades 3-8 will be assessed in mathematics and English language arts through the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA). Students in grades 5, 8, and 11 will be assessed in science through the Next Generation Standards Science Assessment (NGSS). The Connecticut Core Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards focus on critical thinking and problem-solving—the real-world skills students need to be successful in college and careers.

The assessments will be administered on computers and are designed to measure these skills through reading comprehension, writing, math, and science questions that require students to demonstrate that they truly understand the content. Additional supports are available for some students with special needs, as determined by an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan.

Results from the state assessments will be made available to school districts in the summer and will be sent home to parents and guardians in early fall.

Spring Happenings Around Region 14



Spring Concert NHS
Orchestra & Concert Choir



Words Matter school climate
Initiative at WMS



Cake Wars in 8th grade
culinary at WMS



Region 14 Transition
Academy graduation



BES Earth Day outdoor
reading classrooms



MES welcomed author
Sarah Albee



World class musicians play for
NHS & WMS music students



Top 10% at NHS recognized at
April banquet



Students in the Agriscience Program at Nonnewaug High School welcomed experts from Fairfield Equine for yearly vaccine and dental check-ups for the horses. Students worked alongside technicians to get some hands-on experience helping to remove some extra plaque on one of their horse's teeth.

Hands-on experiential learning and community partnerships are part of the Agriscience Program experience at Nonnewaug High School



The Woodbury FFA Mechanics CDE Team of Agriscience students took first place in the state competition at SUNY Cobleskill and individually members took four of the top five spots. Members are Devon Zapatka (11), Nathan Hayes (10), Noah Zupan (9), and Noah Blood (9). They will now begin preparation for the National Mechanics CDE at the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis in the fall.



Agriscience students welcomed Naugatuck Police Sgt. Danielle Durette and K9 partner Indy and Bristol Police Officer Alysha Pirog and her K9 partner Frankie to the field behind the Agriscience building. Students met the officers and their police dogs and watched them demonstrate some of their skills.



Members of the Woodbury FFA Timber Team at Nonnewaug High School began practices for their upcoming spring competition. The Timber Team will host the second annual Timber Team Trials on May 7. They will compete against rival high schools Wamogo and Woodland.



Life at the barns continues even when students have break. One of our resident goats, Little Miss Luck gave birth to three baby goats over Spring break. The three kids - one girl and two boys - received a lot of attention from students tending to them over break.

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