



MINUTE

A MINUTE TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING @ NMS

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

VOLUME: 4/ ISSUE: 17

DATE: 12-12-25

HEADLINES

WEEK AT A GLANCE

WINTER CONCERT

UPDATES

KINDNESS CORNER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holiday Spirit Week

MONDAY- DECEMBER 22
CANDY CANE DAY
(DRESS IN RED AND WHITE)

TUESDAY-DECEMBER 23
COMFY COZY DAY
(DRESS IN YOUR COZIEST ATTIRE)

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Week at a Glance

Playbook Initiative (12/19) -- Norwell Middle School has been chosen for the fourth year to partner with the Boston Celtics, Project 351, and NMS alumni Amaya Parmar and Briana Yee in a program called the [Playbook Initiative](#). The Playbook Initiative seeks to build more inclusive communities by eliminating hate speech and other acts of discrimination and bias by bringing together groups of students to engage in workshops related to race, ethnicity, gender, religion, culture, disability and orientation. The goal of these workshops is to empower young people to build more inclusive communities in which everyone feels welcome and celebrated. Students will engage in lessons, activities and discussion designed by students to help them navigate difficult issues they may encounter in middle school and beyond. We are beyond excited to continue this meaningful initiative at Norwell Middle School. And, thank you to Mrs. Marani, Mrs. Borchert, and Mr. Brust for helping to facilitate this event.

Early Release (12/23) (G Day / Blue)

		Blue	Gold	Blue	Gold	Blue	Gold	Blue
TIME		A Day	B Day	C Day	D Day	E Day	F Day	G Day
7:25 - 7:27		Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom	Homeroom
7:31 - 7:58	1st	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
8:01 - 8:28	2nd	B	C	D	E	F	G	A
8:31 - 8:58	3rd	C	D	E	F	G	A	B
9:01 - 9:28	4th	D	E	F	G	A	B	C
9:31 - 9:58	5th	E	F	G	A	B	C	D
10:01 - 10:28	6th	F	G	A	B	C	D	E
10:31 - 10:58	7th	G	A	B	C	D	E	F

Coats for Kids

The community service club is collecting coats for the foundation, Coats for Kids and Families. The coats can be all sizes. New OR used coats are accepted. The foundation that we are working with is sponsored by Jordan's Furniture. Jordan's Furniture is offering a \$2,000 dollar prize for the school district that collects the most coats. If we win the 2,000 dollars, it will be used to support our after-school and sports programs! Please donate coats from December 3rd through January 9th! Remember, we are Serving Our Community One Coat At A Time! Donate today!



TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Winter Concert (12/11) -- On December 11th, the Seventh- and Eighth-Grade band and chorus performed in front of a crowded house. The music resonated throughout the auditorium as students presented a program featuring holiday favorites along with selections from a variety of other genres. It was great to see our students shine!



Winter Concert



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 16th in the NMS cafeteria.

Author Visit, Kwame Alexander (Thursday 12/11)



CALENDAR

December

15 School Council Mtg.

16 REI Meeting @ 2PM

19 Playbook Initiative

23 Early Release

24 to Jan. 2nd - Holiday Break

January

5 Staff Meeting



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

"...Perhaps we all need some measure of unmerited grace" - Bryan Stevenson

KINDNESS CORNER

We had a number of kind "shout-out's" on our Kindness Form. Elizabeth Shaw is recognized for putting a smile on people's faces and holding the door for staff and students. Annabelle Lee Burns helped a friend with their my work that they were struggling to understand. Cora Kulage also got a nice shout out by a friend who is grateful for her humor and kindness. Maresa Weikum and Cora Collins helped a classmate pick up their belongings in the hallway. And Gia Striano is a good, kind friend. **Thank you!**

CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW TO FILL OUT THE NMS ACTS OF KINDNESS FORM:

[NMS ACTS OF KINDNESS](#)

Winter Concert



Jack Trompetter

Jack Trompetter (12/11) -- Holocaust speaker, Jack Trompetter, spoke to the 8th grade on Thursday (12/11). Jack is an 83-year-old Holocaust Survivor, who was born in 1942 and spent the first three years of his life in hiding. During this time, Trompetter lived with an aunt, then in an orphanage, and finally at a farm in eastern Holland with a Christian couple, while his parents hid in the south. He and his family were not reunited until the war's end in 1945, at which point, Jack's story had really only begun. The 8th grade is currently finishing the Anne Frank & Holocaust Unit.



Kwame Alexander

Virtual Author Visit (12/11) -- (3rd Author visit) NMS has five virtual author visits hosted by Kwame Alexander (author of *The Crossover*) for the 6th grade. They read *The Crossover* this fall with our ELA classes, so this is pretty exciting!

Author Study with Kwame Alexander is an interactive, virtual author visit series that brings Kwame Alexander and other notable authors into classrooms. And while it's fun for students, Author Study supports literacy learning goals. Most important, it celebrates the power of words and individual expression. Research shows that interaction with authors boosts students' motivation to read and write on their own. And agentive reading and writing leads to higher literacy achievement across subject areas.



Best Buddies



Best Buddies



Best Buddies



White Table -- 6th Grade students set the White Table in honor of our Veterans! After reading [America's White Table](#), 6th grade students participate in setting the white table in the cafe in remembrance to our POWs & MIAs. "Missing Man Table" The table is round to show everlasting concern and the tablecloth is white to show the purity of their motives. Click on the link to learn more -- [White Table](#)

RESPECT, EQUITY & INCLUSION @ NMS: The Respect, Equity and Inclusion Committee will meet again on Tuesday, Dec. 16. Thank you to all that are involved. This summer the Committee created a folder of resources and we will share them weekly in the newsletter. Below is a short video to help students and families discuss the impact of microaggressions:

[Teenagers Discuss Microaggressions and Racism](#)

Please reach out if you have any questions about or suggestions for resources



The 6 week Before and After School activities have concluded. Be on the lookout for the Winter Sign ups that will be sent home via email, this newsletter and posted to the website on or around December 19th.



Our school is a registered collection partner with Coats for Kids & Families!

DONATE COATS

December 3 – January 9th

Donate warm winter coats for children and adults at
NORWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Coats only, please. All sizes welcome!

New and gently used coats will be accepted.
Coats will generously be cleaned by Anton's Cleaners.



With your help, we could win up to
\$2,000 in School Rewards donated
by Jordan's Furniture!

Promotional Partner



A NOTE FROM THE NURSE

From: Nurse Young

Head Lice is a common concern of childhood that occurs every year to millions of children across the United States.

The school follows The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), CDC and MDPH whom all advocate for the following practices to be **discontinued** in school:

- whole classroom screening
- exclusion for nits or live lice
- notification to others, except for parents/guardians of students with head lice infestations

That being said, it can never hurt to check your child's hair if they are complaining of it being itchy or if you are notified of a close friend or classmate who has had it. Lice move by crawling; they cannot hop or fly making it more likely that cases occur outside of school for example, when friends share brushes, hats or have close contact in sports and extracurricular activities. If you ever have any further questions, please reach out.



This holiday season, **show your appreciation for our amazing teachers and staff in the Norwell Public Schools** by donating to the Norwell Education Foundation's "[Good Tidings for Teachers](https://secure.givelively.org/donate/norwell-education-foundation/good-tidings-for-teachers)" fundraiser. **For a minimum donation of \$25**, the teacher or staff member of your choice will receive a beautiful poinsettia plant and a personalized note from you, a great opportunity to spread your good tidings for comfort and joy! Feel free to donate multiple times to support all of your favorite educators and staff (art teachers, school secretaries, the nurse!!!) while increasing your contribution to the enrichment of academic experiences at our Norwell schools. **The fundraiser runs from December 1st to December 12th**, so don't miss your opportunity to help the [NEF](#) fulfill its mission to provide educational activities and programs that encourage academic excellence to the students in all four Norwell public schools. Click here to get started: <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/norwell-education-foundation/good-tidings-for-teachers>

Norwell Girls Youth Lacrosse

Lacrosse Registration for the 2026 season is upon us! See details below:

Registration link-[Registration for the 2026 Norwell Lacrosse season](#)

Registration will be open from October 15th through December 15th. The registration fee for players in grades 5th—8th is \$350, and for players in grades 1st—4th, it is \$260. The league also imposes a \$50 late fee per player for registrations filed after December 15th. Please register soon to avoid any late penalties. Given league restrictions, we maintain a no-refunds policy.

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HAVE USED OR UNWANTED MARKERS, PENS

WOODEN OR MECHANICAL PENCILS?

The Norwell Recycling and Sustainability Committee sponsors a project to recycle used or unwanted crayons, markers, pens and wooden, colored and mechanical pencils. We are working in partnership with Staples, as these materials are part of their extensive list of materials that can be dropped off at their stores for recycling.

Collection boxes are located at-

Grace Farrar Cole School

William G. Vinal School

Norwell Middle School

The Accord School

First Parish PreSchool

Ridge Hill School

Norwell Public Library

Norwell Council on Aging

Private School Application Process

Norwell Middle School counselors and staff are happy and willing to assist families and students who wish to submit applications to private school. In order to best assist families and manage the great volume of information that must be shared as part of this process, Norwell Middle School has instituted a standardized process for requesting school records and recommendations. We encourage families to communicate their intention to complete private school applications as early as possible. Please do not wait until the last minute to send out your recommendation requests as they may be submitted after deadlines have passed. We look forward to working with families through this process.

The process is as follows:

1. Families should notify NMS counselors and any teacher who will be asked to complete recommendations of intent to submit private school applications, in writing, as soon as possible or at least three weeks prior to the first deadline.
2. Students should speak to any teacher or send them a personal email prior to the teacher getting a request from the online portal. This gives the teacher an opportunity to speak with the student in an effort to provide a more personalized recommendation.
3. Families should complete and submit the signed Records Release Form to the assigned school counselor at least three school weeks prior to the first deadline.

Click [HERE](#) for access to the release.

1. Students should complete and submit the Private School Student Questionnaire (click [HERE](#) for access to the questionnaire) to their school counselor and all teachers completing recommendations at least three school weeks prior to the first deadline.
2. If you have questions about a recommendation and/or its status, please contact the teacher or private school directly.

Rush: students whose last names begin with A-J

Sailer: students whose last names begin with K-Z

Hey Parents!!!

Flex Friday

Reading Initiative

Every
Friday

Remind your student to pack a book for Flex Friday. During Flex Block, kids read a book they enjoy.

How else can I help?

1. Bring your student to the local library or go online to help them download high interest books and audiobooks.
2. Keep it going at home. Encourage reading as a daily habit.