

CONNECTIONS



Together our students achieve the extraordinary.

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Connections is the Official Newsletter of Milford School District that aims to provide parents, staff, and students highlights and news from across the district. For questions related to this publication, please contact maria.marien@milfordk12.org.



I want to take this opportunity to wish all our Jacques Memorial families a happy and healthy new year. I hope your holiday break was relaxing and filled with memories to cherish with family and friends. Our students have transitioned back into their academic routines, and believe it or not, the end of the second marking period is quickly approaching. The end of the marking period is February 21st and report cards will go home with students on March $6^{\rm th}$.

WINTER BENCHMARKING

Our Winter Benchmark assessments will be administered to all students beginning January 28th through February 10th. During this time frame, students will be given a series of assessments. These include the NWEA (1st grade only) and Acadience. These assessments help us to measure academic growth in reading and math throughout the year. The NWEA assessment is untimed, taken on a computer, and adapts to be appropriate for each child's level of learning. As a result, each child has the same opportunity to experience success and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. A report of your child's performance and

growth from these assessments will be included with your child's second trimester report card.

TRAUMA INFORMED SCHOOL

We have made progress towards our goal to become a trauma informed school. On January 23, 2020, we held a parent forum to update parents and community members of our progress. Topics included childhood stress and its impact on learning and behavior. We also shared some of the new trauma informed practices that have been adopted school wide such as the Zones of Regulation Program, Cognitive Behavioral Approaches, calming and planning corners and centers. We are planning on hosting another parent forum and update in the spring.

WEATHER

Don't be fooled by the mild weather we have had in December. Winter will hit and we go out for recess in the cold and snowy weather. Again, we would like to remind parents to help your children make appropriate choices for school attire.

Students should come to school prepared to go outdoors. Only a temperature of 15 degrees or lower will keep us inside. In order for students to play in the snow, students must be dressed head-to-toe. This means hat, gloves, snow pants, jacket and boots. Weather can change drastically throughout the day. Make sure your child is prepared. In addition, please remember to label all clothing with your child's name and encourage your child to visit the lost and found if they have misplaced any winter attire.



GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE

During the week of January 27th through January 31st, students and staff will engage in the Great Kindness Challenge. During this week, students will be celebrating kindness- of course we celebrate kindness each and every day, but this week is extra special as we teach others what it means to be kind. Students and staff are given a list of over twenty-five different ways that they can be kind at school and at home. Classrooms are encouraged to try to complete the entire list as a group by doing acts of kindness every day! We are also accepting donations for the Humane Society on January 31st. These donations will be presented at the culminating assembly where we will watch a slideshow of students performing kind acts.

MORNING ARRIVAL

I apologize if I sound like a broken record player, but I would like to remind you that students may not be dropped off before 8:15 AM. Staff members are not available prior to that time to provide supervision

due to morning commitments at school. Students are considered tardy after 8:25 AM. If you arrive after that time, we ask that you please bring your child to the office.

THANK YOU

I enjoy the energy that a new year brings as well as a year filled with a growth, learning, and resiliency. We continue to strive to work in partnership with you to make learning a successful and rewarding experience. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself regarding concerns and/or questions. On behalf of the staff, I would like to wish all of our families a healthy and prosperous New Year. - Mr. Tim O'Connell, *Principal*



Inside Milford High



ATC At Work

Construction Technology students are building small garden sheds. These sheds will be for sale to the Milford Community, with proceeds going toward the Student Enrichment and Activities Fund in order to benefit our Construction Program, showing students the real-world value of producing quality items for a profit.

MHS WELLNESS TEAM

The MHS Wellness Team has been busy spreading joy and wellness messages to our staff and student body! During finals week, they gave out "*Encourge-Mints*" to the students as they headed off to their exams.

Here's their January message to MHS, which is useful to everyone!

Did you make a New Year's resolution? Most people give up on good intentions and fall back into old habits by January 17th, however it takes 66 days to form a new habit. Stick with it for a little over two months and your new healthy habit will become automatic!





We the People

Led by David Alcox, the We the People team took second place at the state competition. We are incredibly proud of all that this hard-working group of young people accomplished, and we are grateful for their advisor's endless energy and dedication to the program.







Ugly Sweater Contests

December at MHS was quite festive as students and staff alike anticipated the holiday break. On Thursday, December 19th, competition for the "ugliest sweater" was fierce!







Holiday Concerts

In a long-standing tradition, the Milford High School Band, Jazz band, Chorus and West Street Beat performed their annual Holiday Concert on December 16. It was held in the High School cafeteria stage. Joined by alumni, the music groups shared beautiful numbers. Concert band played a fun medley of holiday tunes and "Russian Christmas Music" while West Street Beat performed "White Winter Hymnal" (Pentatonix) and the 1960's hit "Please Come Home for Christmas."

Chorus sang the Mariah Carey favorite "All I Want for Christmas Is You" and a great





version of "fingle Bell Rock." Under the direction of music teachers Jennifer Erdody and Brad Smith, the ensembles had a blast performing for the school, and celebrated with a cookie exchange in the music room after the concert, a much anticipated yearly tradition!

[See more Music news on page 9]



The **FBLA-PBL club** at Milford High School is an active group of future-minded students.

FBLA-PBL inspires and prepares students to become community-minded business leaders in a global society through relevant career preparation and leadership experiences. They are a group of students that participate and compete in business and technological activities that help us out no matter the career that they want to go into. No matter the career, the skills and abilities, like public speaking, presentation abilities, fundraising and professional writing and communications, those skills will transfer over. FBLA-PBL meets on Tuesdays after school with meetings usually lasting around 30 minutes. Their advisors are Mr. Laird, and Mrs. Owens. The group would love to have new members to help to fundraise and compete at New Hampshire's State Leadership Conference.

Re-Imaging the MHS School Store

Students in the Business, Accounting and Marketing classes spent 3 blocks researching and preparing a presentation based around our re-imagining of the school store and what the store could look like and how it could operate during the school day.

Out of the twenty-six

teams, six teams moved forward to share their





presentations to the administrators at the high school. The program teachers and administration will have a debriefing on the next steps in moving forward with the ideas presented by the students.

Career Focus Internship Project

On Wednesday, January 15th, nineteen students presented on their unique career experiences. Finance, law enforcement, architecture, veterinary medicine, costume design, and politics is just a small sampling of the many careers the students explored. In exciting ways, they were able to engage meaningfully with their mentors while getting insight into a possible career and gaining valuable on-the-job experience. Thank you, *Ms. Jenn DiMaria* for making such excellent connections for our students and for encouraging them along the way to make the most of their internship opportunity!

CFI feature:

Sofia Gutierrez is planning to attend Johnson and Wales next year. She had a paid internship to learn about a career as an *Executive Pastry Chef* at the **Buckley's Bakery & Cafe** in Merrimack. She has decided to continue as a part-time employee.







MarketReach was a one time shadow on Nov. 4th. CFI students were paired with experts in their field of interest to learn about project management and client relations.

Windows on West Street wowed us this year with the quality of their holiday catering, and boxed specialty cookies and especially the magnificent brunch that included omelets made to order, carving station, blueberry french toast and a large variety of baked goods.

Manufacturing Exploration & Externship students completed their last week on sites. Over the course of this semester, students were introduced to advanced manufacturing and real-world skills. Our next group will start their externships later this month.

On January 15th, **Video Production I students** in both A and D blocks went to Boston, MA to capture specific "street" and candid scenes around the areas of the North End and Faneuil Hall Marketplace as part of their class requirements.



This year's **Graphic Art Independent Study** *Cassidy Alves* designed many projects for the school, including the Machining Shirts, Science Olympiad Shirts, the cover of the program of studies, Toy Drive Poster, Christmas Stamps, Read Posters, ATC logos, and Sock Drive Poster, just to name a few!









Marketing II students held their Market Day on January 15th & 16th in the MHS Cafeteria during all lunches. Market Day is a capstone project where students take all that they have learned and apply it to the actual development and marketing of a product.

Students in **Accounting I** are learning about how a company processes payroll and how the payroll taxes are calculated. Students can now look at their own paychecks and know the process for determining their net pay. **Accounting II** students are learning about accruals and deferrals, and how businesses process prepayments, or adjust accounts for money earned but not collected or paid.

Microbiology students are learning about how microbial and viral infections impact the human body and how the immune system works to battle the

infection. Students have all chosen either a bacterial or viral disease and are preparing presentations to educate their classmates about the sources of infection, symptoms, treatments, morbidity, and ways to prevent infection.

Business students have liquidated their companies and the profits made between both business classes totaled \$629.31 which will be used to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Personal Finance students just finished a unit on insurance and now understand its implications to a company's financial health.

Computer Science students are exploring and creating performance tasks for the College Board and reviewing material for their AP exam.



Teaching and Learning in SAU 40 Schools

Milford School District Participates in an "Hour of Code"

Students of all grade levels participated in an Hour of Code during the annual Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 9-15th). Computer Science nurtures problem solving skills, logic, and creativity. Did you know that participation by female students in computer science is only 20-25% in high school and college courses, and the workforce? (Code.org). Try your own Hour of Code activity by clicking here https://hourofcode.com/se/en/learn.

At Milford High School, students throughout the building were invited to the library during the week of December 9-13th to participate in the annual Hour of Code. Classes signed up to participate in coding games on the Hour of Code website and students chose their own level of difficulty. Ms. Andrew's computer science students provided support to students who had difficulties. Every student who participated was entered into a raffle for various prizes. This was a great way for students to be exposed to the universal language of the planet. A special thanks to *Kim Palmer* and *Tammy Andrew* for all of their work and excitement!

EL Education: Elementary Literacy Program Highlights

Check out these highlights from grades K-1 implementing the Open Up Literacy curriculum resources in their classrooms this year.

- **Kindergarten:** English Language Arts and Science concepts come together this month as Kindergarten students study *Weather* and how animals change the environment around them to survive.
- **First Grade:** What's Up in the Sky? Students are learning about the sun, moon and stars. Students are engaged in various narrative texts and poetry. Students are focused on the science concepts of the sun, moon, and stars.

Jill Syvret, from EL Education, visited Jacques and Heron Pond on January 8th to observe and provide coaching to classroom teachers regarding the implementation of the new literacy resources. During a debriefing session in the afternoon, Ms. Syvret delved into EL's Read-Think-Talk-Write framework to assist teachers with lesson and unit planning. Additionally, teachers were able to review some protocols that support the Read-Think-Talk-Write framework.

Grade 3 Studies Immigration

Milford third grade students have started their annual unit on *Immigration*. The students enjoy learning about our country's vast history of immigration, their own family's immigration story, and their classmates' ancestry. We are all looking forward to our Ellis Island Day celebration on February 20th!

Meal Ready-To-Eat Chopped Challenge

Milford High School Photography and Culinary students recently participated in the MRE (Meal Ready to Eat) Chopped Challenge. The students photographed the event, and were tasked with creating and submitting a 30-second promotional video. Milford's video is one of two TOP finalists. Congratulations students and teachers!

Mid-Year Assessment Allows Educators to Monitor Student Progress

Milford School District students in grades K-8 will participate this month is mid-year benchmark assessments. The NWEA and Acadience Literary assessments allow educators to monitor student progress toward grade level skills and concepts, and to make informed instructional decisions to support students' needs for support or enrichment. Milford educators have been working hard in their monthly PLC collaborative groups to review curriculum standards, identify content and skills to focus on through their analysis of student assessment data and classroom work, and to plan lessons that personalize instruction for students based on their unique needs.

English Language Learners

Milford School District's community of English learners continues to grow, as we welcome new children this month. Our English learner program currently supports 41 children across our five schools.

EL teachers ensure that each child's language abilities are sufficient for their academic success, and also that they have access to all the experiences and supports available. English learners play sports, take Honors classes, go to clubs, attend dances, and share in other enrichments. Along with an EL teacher, they may also work with a Title I teacher, a gifted and talented teacher, or other supportive educator - regardless of their English proficiency. Parents should expect that all opportunities are open to their children. Language diversity is a positive contribution to the school community, not an obstacle to participation.



On Saturday, January 25 fourteen students from Milford High School (see photo) traveled to Keene High School to participate in the

Monadnock Valley Music

Festival. This honor band festival provides a large group experience to over one hundred talented musicians from twelve different area



high schools. This year's festival was led by *Charles Peltz*, conductor of the *New England Conservatory Wind Ensemble.* Students were nominated and selected based on musical experience.

The next performance from the **MHS concert band** will come in the form of a chamber music recital. Students will form small groups (trios, quartets, etc.) and perform standard wind literature from the 19th and 20th centuries. The recital will take place in the **lecture hall** at **6 pm** on **Thursday, February 20.**



It is hard to believe it that it is the end of first semester. It has been a busy semester at Project DRIVE both with academics and the increased focus on community service and career exploration.

In the past month, Project DRIVE students have had career based tours and the opportunity to explore two separate locations. The Department of Public Works provided a presentation to the students about the responsibilities of the DPW along with what they look for in potential employees and the responsibilities of employees. Examples of each of their vehicles was on display and they allowed the students to explore the machines.

The students also had the chance to visit *Monadnock Mountain Water Spring Tour*, which is a family owned business. The owners of the business spent time with the students describing how the business began and what they look for in an employee. The students were engaged and asked



questions and were enthusiastic at each of the sites. There are several more trips scheduled in the upcoming months. There are currently several students from Project DRIVE who are participating in internships in the community developing the soft skills that will help them in any industry after graduation.

The students have also participated in regular community service projects including the preparation of Share dinners. The students improved their culinary skills while also working to help those in need in the community. They have also increased their participation in supporting meals for seniors in the community.

Our Licensed Mental Health Counselor, *Lisa Girouard*, has continued with the weekly Talk Circles: one for Middle School and one for the High School. The students have become increasingly more engaged in the process and the strength of the circles and community of the building has continued to improve. The students are learning skills to mediate conflict, develop intrapersonal skills and understand emotions in others and learn empathy and negotiation skills.

- Hilary Laquerre, Special Services Coordinator

Thoughts from the Superintendent

Thank you for your continued support in moving our Strategic Plan forward.

Dear Milford Community:

We are mid-way through the School Year 2019-20, and we continue to celebrate the fantastic work and accomplishments of our students and staff. As we enter into Deliberative and the tail end of this budget cycle in preparation for the next School Year, I'd like to take a moment to say *Thank You* to everyone for their continued support in moving our Strategic Plan forward.



We have been diligently working under a strategy that seeks to strengthen curriculum and instruction, increase supports for students, teachers, and families, invest in ongoing professional development, and ensure greater access and innovation at every level. A great deal of our focus has been on strengthening our elementary program to build a strong foundation for our Middle and High School students.

In the new year, our work continues to expand upon and improve literacy instruction and increase inclusionary practices for students. We have rolled out new programs at all levels to widen opportunities for choice and innovation throughout our district. Middle School students now have access to High School credit, and High School students have access to new programs such as our externship program partnership with Hitchiner and Spray Systems.

Moving into School Year 2020-21, our budget requests will continue to expand upon the tremendous work we have already started to accomplish. We will be increasing access to technology with the purchase of new chromebooks, addressing some much-needed infrastructure upgrades, adding an additional support at Jacques Memorial, an additional elementary teacher, providing more ATC program enhancements, improving our social and emotional learning systems, increasing music, health and wellness, and nursing support, to name a few. We are also excited for our continued growth and development of our Early Childhood programming, and work on coming into alignment with the Next Generation Science Standards across the district.

On behalf of the entire administrative team, we thank you in advance for your continued support of our School District, and all of the incredible work our staff does on a daily basis. It's only in partnership with the community that we will make the Vision and Mission of the Milford School District become a reality.

Best Regards, Jessica Huizenga

... FOCUS ON... Milford Middle School

- * In the month of January we have much to celebrate! Two very exciting contests held at the middle school. The Scripps Spelling Bee and the National Geographic Geography Bee.
- *The MMS Spelling Bee was held on January 22nd. Ms. Traci Lane was the pronouncer for the event. 7th grader, Anya Zoltko was the finalist of the contest and 8th grader, Daniel Sixon was the runner up. Both finalists were awarded a year subscription to the online Encyclopedia Britannica. Anya from the school wide spelling bee will then participate in the regional bee on March 7th at the Silver Center for the Arts at Plymouth State University.

*** The MMS National** Geographic Geography Bee was held on Friday, January 17th. Dr. Jeff Frenkiewich was the MC for the event. The entire 6th grade came to cheer the contestants on and they had the chance to answer questions to help warm up the crowd. The top finalist was 8th grader, Morgan **Peterson.** She has taken the National Geographic GeoBee online qualifying test and her test will be scored and ranked among others that have taken the test throughout the state. The top finalists will then attend proceed to the state Geography Bee will be held on



March 27th.

* Calling all musicians, artists, actors, singers, dancers and creative thinkers! We have a new after-school program that is sure to engage and innovate. We invite anyone interested in a new and innovative program that will allow students to create, refine, rehearse and perform new, original work at the Performance Cafe held on May 15th. The first informational meeting of the Performing Arts Club will be meeting Tuesday, February 4th from 2:30 - 4:00 in Mrs. Galaster's Room. Come... learn more and innovate with us!

- Ms. Beth Gibney
Curriculum Coordinator

* The middle school developed an Action Plan for 2019-2021

which is aligned with the school district's Strategic Plan. The plan was written in collaboration with staff during the Summer of 2019 and presented to the School Board at the start of the 2019-2020 school year. Our Action Plan can be found on the middle school's website (mms.milfordk12.org) under the "ABOUT US" heading at the top of the page.

One of the goals of the Action Plan is to place an emphasis on creating positive relationships with parents and with the community of Milford. I spoke to the middle school's PTO parents to get discussion topics that they might like to see over the course of the school year. Once we had a direction from the PTO on topics, we reached out to Community Action for Safe Teens (CAST) to assist us in developing these topics for parent discussion groups.

*To date we have held two presentations based upon these requests. In October 2019, we held a discussion group on the new *Responsive Advisory program* that has been implemented this year. This month, at the beginning of January, along with the *MMS PTO*, we sponsored a presentation by *Breathe NH* called *Vaping Unveiled*. That presentation was followed by a panel lead question and answer period.

* In the coming months we will be holding four more **parent groups** in the middle school's library & media center presented by the *New Hampshire Teen Institute*.

* February 13, 2020: 6:30PM to 8PM: Understanding Adolescence: A presentation for parents on the amazing changes that young adolescents are experiencing physically, socially, and emotionally. The talk will focus on the unique developmental needs of adolescents and how to help them (and us) through this time in their lives.

* March 12, 2020: 6:30PM to 8:00PM: Communication with Preteens and Teens: This discussion will focus on positive communication between parents and Tweens. The presentation will focus on strategies to communicate with adolescents so that they and you feel supported.

* April 2, 2020: 6:30PM to 8:00PM:

Empowering Teens and Giving a Voice: Sharing

Power: This presentation will provide talking points on how best to cope with young adolescents as they begin their journey to find out who they are. This talk will provide ways to approach situations which may arise as our children begin to find their own independence, while still being a part of the family.

* May 7, 2020: 6:30PM to 8:00PM:
Prevention at Home: This
workshop will look at what helps

young people navigate a tricky time of development most successfully and how parents can play a positive role.

- **Mr. Tony DeMarco** Principal

* Grade 7 students created posters based on the theme: "Journey of Peace". Each poster was judged on originality, artistic merit and expression of the theme.

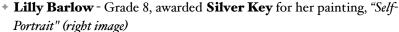
The top 3 winners above: **Jasmine Blay** (left) - 3rd Place and winning

\$50, **Rosalie Crosby** (middle) - 2nd Place and winning \$75 and **Johnny Sherman** (right) - 1st Place winning \$100 and going on the division level.

5 Honorable Mentions:

- + Sophia Bilodeau
- + Jordan Gebro
- + Izzy Silva
- + Kate Seale
- + Zack Zaremba
- * Congratulations to our NH Scholastic Art Award Winners:
 - + Maddy Arseneau -

Grade 8, awarded **Silver Key** for her Drawing, "Life and Death" (left image)



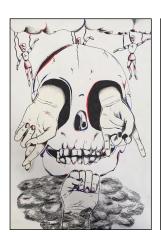
- * Morgan Peterson Grade 8, awarded Honorable Mention for her drawing, "Infinite Possibilities"
- * Logan Woods Grade 8, awarded Honorable Mention for his photo, "Centennial Flower"

This is a state award with about 25% of middle entries having their work selected for awards. Miss Dine and Mrs. V-P selected their top art for this competition so all that were selected, even if they didn't earn an award were significant for this competition. Congratulations to all who were chosen!

- **Ms. Diane Varney-Parker**Art Teacher











Helping Hands-Winners 1/17/20





Congratulations to: Autumn, Piper, Tariq, Kiernan, Mrs. Russell

notes from the

The cold & flu season is still upon us and we have had a few cases of strep throat and the flu. As a reminder, please be aware of the following

signs/symptoms that might indicate an illness in your child. If your child is experiencing any of these symptoms it is recommended that you consider calling your pediatrician or physician.

The signs & symptoms of strep throat are: a sore throat, which may be accompanied by a fever, tender swollen neck glands, headache and stomach ache. The signs & symptoms of the flu are: fever (though not everyone with flu will have a fever), cough, chills, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headache, fatigue (very tired), and in some people vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children. The flu is not the same as a cold and some typical differences are the body aches and extreme fatigue. The State of NH also requires that any student showing signs & symptoms of flu/fever (100 degrees or higher) must be sent home and, may not return to school for a minimum of 24 hours. The child may return when they have been free of fever (under 100 degrees) for at least a 24 our period without the use of fever reducing medicines such as Acetaminophen (Tylenol) or Ibuprofen (Advil) or any products containing it. Thank you in advance for your efforts to help keep Heron Pond healthy. The attachments below were recommended by the Infectious Disease Bureau of the NHDHHS for distribution to the school community and will hopefully answer any additional questions that you may have.

The Flu: A Guide for Parents:

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/family/flu-guide-for-parents-2018.pdf

Preventing the Flu: Good Health Habits Can Help Stop Germs:

 $\underline{https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/actions-prevent-flu.htm}$

Cleaning to Prevent the Flu:

https://www.cdc.gov/flu/resource-center/images/multi-language-pdfs/contamination cleaning english 508.pdf

Vex Robotics Team

Our Heron Pond Vex Robotics team recently competed in the Robotics Winter Qualifier in January. They earned the Judges Award and are awaiting word on whether they have qualified for the state championship! Congratulations on a job well done to team members James, Ryder, Luke, Annika, Natalie, Eli, Ella, and Coach Mrs. Schedin!





POSITIVE SELF TALK

Positive self-talk means coaching yourself through a problem. Here are some steps to help you use positive self-talk.

- I. Say "I think I can" just like The Little Engine that Could to get over the mountain.
- 2. Use positive self-talk to get through difficult situations simply by thinking encouraging thoughts to yourself.
- 3. Tell yourself: "I can do it", "I will be fine", "Don't give up", "I've got this", or create your own encouraging thoughts.
- 4. Believe in yourself. The more you use positive self-talk the easier this will be.

Verne Orlosk is our

current Artist in Residence working with all Heron Pond students and staff on a glass relief sculpture. The glass HERON relief sculpture, will have his wings open wide,

welcoming all who enter our Heron Pond lobby.

The Heron, for centuries symbolized stillness and tranquility, and how these two things are needed to recognize opportunities.

ARTIST in Residence

It also signifies **determination**, because there "will be plenty of marshes and ponds that one will wade through in life."

The meaning of the heron speaks to a sense of **persistence**, **independence** and also the **need for inter-dependency**.

The concept for the piece is a **communally created relief sculpture** that will function as a **focal point in the lobby** and also serve to fulfill one of our **District Goals**,

"Communication and Community Engagement"Provide proactive communication which meets the needs and expectations of internal and external stakeholders. Engage internal and external stakeholders in multiple ways to increase participation within the Milford School Community.

Winter Fun for Health & Wellness

The weather might be cold but that doesn't mean you should stop being active. **Physical activity** can improve blood flow to the brain, improve mood, decrease stress, and improve overall health among other benefits. So what are you waiting for? Here are some things you can do during the winter months.

- * Go for a walk
- + Cross country or downhill ski
- * Sled
- Jumping jacks
- + Jump rope
- * Snow shoe
- + Follow an exercise video
- + Ice skate



CONNECT WITH US

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