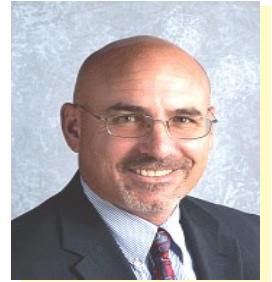




## Special Points of Interest:

- ❖ NMS Drama Production - Page 10
- ❖ NMS Science Fair - Page 11
- ❖ NMS Climbing Club - Page 12-13

April 2019



## Principal's Corner

*A message from Thomas Einhorn, Principal, Newtown Middle School*

Happy Spring!

The birds are singing, the mornings are crisp with hints that the day will be warm and delightful.

This is truly my favorite time of the year, filled with hope and renewal. April will be a busy month with many activities as well as a weeks' vacation. Many of our Grade 8 Students will be traveling to Washington DC. Please be sure to check our "Dates to Remember" page in this newsletter, as we are updating many of the year end events.

The school cancellations due to snow, has pushed our last day of school to Thursday, June 13th. Please join me in hoping for no more snow days!!! Currently we are looking to schedule the Grade 8 Moving Up Ceremony during the week of June 9th. Since we will be holding the ceremony at Newtown High School we need to wait until NHS schedules their Graduation & rehearsal so we will have access to the Gym. Once scheduling is finalized we will send out more details about our Moving Up Ceremony.

Coming up on April 23rd is Newtown Middle School's annual Student Showcase. Please take some time to stop by and see the incredible works of Art, Music and Technology that our students have been working on. Our halls will be adorned with beautiful works of art by our students. This is just a sampling of what will be available at our celebration. There is more information within this newsletter, and you will also receive a special invitation in the mail.

I hope you get the chance to see our school's production of Beauty and the Beast, Jr. This spectacular show is sure to showcase the many hours of hard work our students and staff have put into it! Kudos to Mr. Tammero, our Producer, Mrs. Talluto our Director and Ms. Quinn, our Choreographer for their work with our students. Break a leg!

Tickets are available for purchase at <https://www.showtix4u.com/events/2279>

We hope to see you in a small province in France!

Kindly,

Tom Einhorn

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Assistant Principal News	Pages 2-4
Nurses Office	Pages 6
Student Council	Page 8
PTA News	Pages 9

## Assistant Principal's Corner

*By James Ross, Assistant Principal*

### Newtown Rotary Club Students of the Month



**March 2019**

**Grade 8 - Newtown Middle School  
Joseph C.**

**The 8 Purple Cluster has enthusiastically selected Joseph C. as Rotary Student of the month.**

**Joseph comes to class each day with a smile and a desire to engage in animated, topic related, conversation with his classmates. He is truly kind, honest, and respectful to both peers and school staff.**

**A determined leader on our school's Student Council, Joseph has created opportunities for all students to make meaningful connections with each other and with our staff through games, activities, and events that appeal to a wide range of tastes and interests. His energy and creative thinking, as well as his ability to listen, have allowed this year's Student Council to maintain its role as a visible and influential presence in our school community.**

**Joseph's interests do not end there; he will be featured in this year's spring musical, *Beauty and the Beast Jr.*, where he plays several roles including the sinister Monsieur D'Arque.**

**We are sincerely delighted to see Joseph receive this honor. Congratulations to him.**

## Assistant Principal's Corner

*By James Ross, Assistant Principal*

### Standardized Testing

#### **NWEA Testing:**

Newtown Middle School utilizes NWEA Map testing; research-based computerized assessments that help educators answer a crucial question: Are my students learning? Measures of Academic Progress creates a personalized assessment experience by adapting to each student's learning level precisely measuring student progress and growth for each individual. Teachers will have essential information about what each student knows and is ready to learn within 24 hours. The NWEA test will be administered in the fall and spring of each year to assess reading, writing, & mathematics.

#### **The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS):**

Assessments aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) will be administered to all students in Connecticut at Grades 5, 8 and 11 starting in spring 2019. The tests at each grade assess students' understanding of the NGSS across the corresponding grade band (3-5, 6-8 and high school). Information about the science standards can be found at [www.nextgenscience.org](http://www.nextgenscience.org).

**Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium:** The Smarter Balanced Assessment System will give parents and students more accurate and actionable information about what students are learning. Because these assessments are computer adaptive, they will also provide better information about the needs and successes of individual students. These next-generation assessments are aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English language arts/literacy and mathematics for grades 3-8. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will participate in the SBAC Test.

Parents: To assist your child with the SBAC test, please explore the practice and training tests provided on the SBAC webpage. Copy and paste the URL below into a web browser to access these tests.

[https://login11.cloud1.tds.airast.org/student/V336/Pages/LoginShell.aspx?c=Connecticut\\_PT](https://login11.cloud1.tds.airast.org/student/V336/Pages/LoginShell.aspx?c=Connecticut_PT)

## Assistant Principal's Corner (continued)

*By James Ross, Assistant Principal*

### State Testing Window:

March 25<sup>th</sup> – June 7<sup>th</sup>

NGSS

March 25<sup>th</sup> – June 7<sup>th</sup>

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)

### NMS Testing Dates

April 17<sup>th</sup> – May 21<sup>st</sup>

SBAC & NGSS

Although the NMS test window spans over a period of about a month, the actual number of student test sessions are three for seventh graders and four for eighth graders.

### Testing Tips:

#### Study techniques

Be prepared – if you take control of the studying, you take control of the test.

#### Positive attitude as you study.

Think about doing well, not failing. Think of the test as an opportunity to show how much you have learned.

#### Sleep and eat!

Get enough sleep the night before the test.

Eat a light and nutritious meal before the test – stay away from junk foods.

**We are asking for students to bring in their own headsets, however, the school will provide them to the students if needed. Headsets are only required for the listening portion of the SBAC ELA test.**

## Nurse's Office

Andrea Trager and Jocelyne Taweh

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Washington D.C. Medication Information

If your child is going on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington D.C. in April and will need to take daily medication or need to bring “as needed” over-the-counter medication, it is required that a medication authorization form be completed and signed by the child’s physician and parent. The medication authorization form can be picked up in the health office or downloaded from the school website under “department” then drop down to “health office”. This includes “over the counter” types of medication, such as Claritin, Zyrtec, Benadryl, vitamins, hydrocortisone cream. Controlled medication will need to be kept with the nurse assigned to your child’s cluster and will be administered at the prescribed time. All other daily medication or “as needed” medication will be kept with the nurse as well, unless the physician and parent feel the child can carry their medication and self-medicate, if so, the physician and parent must sign the agreement at the bottom of the medication authorization form.

All medication must be sent in the original container or package and only the amount needed for the duration of the trip should be sent. Parents should administer AM dose on the day of the trip. It is not necessary to send Tylenol, Ibuprofen or Tums if you have already given the health office permission to administer as we will supply those medications. If your child already has medication in the nurse’s office, we will send the medication and the nurse will carry the medication. Remember, medication forms must have both MD and parent signature so it is recommended that enough time is given to complete this process. ***ALL FORMS AND MEDICATION ARE DUE NO LATER THAN APRIL 3, 2019.*** Please call the health office with any questions or concerns so that we can help you and ensure that your child will have a safe and enjoyable trip!

Andrea Trager, RN  
Jocelyne Taweh, RN  
(203)426-7636



# Physical Education Department

*Andrea Trager and Jocelyne Taweh*

The Physical Education Department will be hosting a Family Fitness Fun Night in the A Wing Gymnasium on May 19, 2019 from 6:00-7:00 pm. We will be playing volleyball and encourage parents to join their children in participating in a fun and healthy activity. Please email Michelle Fontaine at [fontainem@newtown.k12.ct.us](mailto:fontainem@newtown.k12.ct.us) and let us know that you plan on attending and how many members of your family will be coming. We look forward to seeing you there!

This night is part of a larger initiative that encourages families to find ways to spend time together while doing something healthy and fun.

## Here are some Tips to Get Moving!

- Take the stairs instead of the elevator.
- Limit TV time and keep the TV out of your child's bedroom.
- Walk around the block after a meal.
- Make a new house rule: No sitting during television commercials.

## Family Fun

- Spend time together with a family park day, swim day, or bike day.
- Involve the whole family in household chores: cleaning, vacuuming, and yard work.
- Issue a family challenge to see who can be the first to achieve a "Presidential Active Lifestyle Award" by committing to physical activity five days a week for six weeks.
- Celebrate special occasions – birthdays, anniversaries – with something active such as a hike, volleyball game, or a Frisbee match.
- Facilitate a safe walk to and from school for the kids in your neighborhood once a week.
- Volunteer to help with after-school physical activity programs or sports teams.



# Student Council News

*Susan Musco and Shari Oliver*

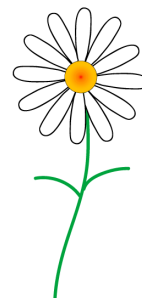
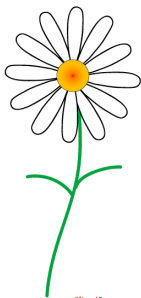
## 8th Grade

### Moving Up Dinner Dance

Student Council is busy planning the Eighth Grade Moving Up Dinner Dance which will be held on Friday, May 31st at Reed Intermediate School. Behind the scenes we are working diligently to make it a memorable and fun filled evening. More info to come soon!!!



Did you know that Student Council members are responsible for the sign in the front of our school? Periodically we brainstorm positive messages to display to our Newtown community. Check out our new display for the Spring!





## PTA NEWS



Happy Spring everyone! I don't know about you all but I'm counting the days until Spring Break!! The NMS PTA held our second Book Fair of the year this March. Hopefully your child brought home a good book (or two!) to read and enjoy. On behalf of the NMS PTA Executive Board, I would like to thank Stephanie Burns for Chairing our Book Fair once again this School year. Stephanie is at the school the entire week of the Book Fair and dedicates many hours at home as well. Our Book Fair is only a success because of you and your committee of volunteers (especially Lynn Edwards who was also there every day!).



This month we met with the Student Council to collaborate on fundraising ideas for a Ben's Bells mural at the Middle School. We are currently the only school in the district that doesn't have a mural. We are excited to work with the students to come up with some fun ways to fundraise for the mural. Also this month the NMS PTA sponsored Mr. Peace, a wonderful motivational speaker, to speak at an assembly. I have heard from many students, Staff and parents who have told me how uplifting and inspiring his message was to our children.

Please feel free to contact the NMS PTA at [newtownmspta@gmail.com](mailto:newtownmspta@gmail.com) if you have any questions or suggestions.

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER - MAKE A DIFFERENCE



The PTA is a tremendous opportunity for parents to get involved in their school. Simply by volunteering at your school you will get to enjoy interacting with the kids, get to know other parents and staff members and accomplish things that truly make a difference. We will be talking about our upcoming budget vote and looking for volunteers needed for next year at our next General Meeting April 11th at 6:30pm. I promise that the time you give to the PTA and the school will be worth your while – and FUN! I hope you all have a wonderful Spring Break!

Best regards, Melissa Beylouni – NMS PTA President NMS PTA Executive Board Kristen Bonacci — First Vice President Beth Hegarty — Second Vice President Jennifer Chaudhary — Treasurer Janet Ziperstein — Secretary



**Newtown Middle School Presents**



**Friday, April 5 | 7:00pm**

**Saturday, April 6 | 2:00pm and 7:00pm**

**Sunday, April 7 | 2:00pm**

**Ticket information:**

<https://www.showtix4u.com/events/2279>

# NMS Science Department



*Congratulations to all our NMS Science Fair participants, everyone did an amazing job. The top 3 winners were:*

*First place winners were from 8 Blue Cluster  
Madi Singlak and Kendyl Morgenstern*

*Second place went to 8 Blue Cluster  
Kate Shirk and Shannon Hegarty*

*Third place went to 8 Purple Cluster  
Connor Dullinger and Saahil Ray*

*Thank you to everyone who participated!*



## Student Based Health Center



### How to make sure your teen is getting enough sleep

*Teens should get 8-9 hours of sleep every night*

- Limit screens in the bedroom. ...
- Exercise for better sleep. ...
- Cut out the caffeine. ...
- Don't binge before bedtime. ...
- Have a good routine...
- Create a sleep-friendly bedroom. ...
- Talk through any problems. ...
- Avoid long weekend lie-ins.





*An exhibition of student talent, creativity and dedication.*

*Poster Artwork by: Alyssa C., Zosia T., Brianna M., Amanda W., Yazmary R.S., Dhilan A.*

**You're Invited...**

**Location:** Newtown Middle School (Main Entrance)

**Date:** Tuesday April 23, 2019

**Time:** 6:00pm

*Come and enjoy some light refreshments while you wander the halls in amazement, fill your ears with musical musings and take pride in your student!*

**Hope to see you there!**



## NMS Art Department

### Coming Soon !

It is that time of year to celebrate the 2018-2019 Opus Optima Award Winning Literary Magazine publication. Mark your calendars!



This art filled, literary wonder showcasing over 80 NMS students, will be on sale for \$20.00 at the Student Showcase on Tuesday, April 23. Cash or checks made out to NMS (with lit mag in memo) are accepted.

The Opus Optima will also be on sale in school, starting Wednesday, April 24, from the faculty advisors:

Miss Coles, Mrs. Colwell, Mrs. Olsen, and Mrs. Ladue.

Don't miss the opportunity to own this year's magazine!  
Check out the list of featured students on the next page!

Abigail M.	Addie S.	Adriana R.	Aeryn C.
Aidan H.	Ainsley M.	Aislynn R.	Alex H.
Alexa M.	Alison P.	Allie K.	Alyssa J.
Andalucia R.	Andrew S.	Angie R.	Anna O.
Anna W.	Annika F.	Ashley H.	Ayla R.
Bella T.	Ben S.	Bennet S.	Bryson L.
Caeley S.	Casey B.	Cate D.	Christian A.
Claire N.	Colby H.	Colette B.	Danielle G.
Elijah W.	Ellia M.	Emily J.	Erin M.
Ethan H.	Eva B.	Eve K.	Faith B.
Gabriella A.	Gillian T.	Giselle M.	Grace L.
Grace H.	Hanna R.	Jason Q.	Jennifer D.
Jessica R.	Joey A.	Joseph C.	Joshua U.T.
Jules K.	Kaelin R.	Katie N.	Kevin M.
Kimora C.	Kirtana K.	Kyle T.	Maren L.
Mark S.	Melissa T.	Nate L.	Nick D.
Noelle F.	Olivia M.	Paige A.	Paige T.
Peter S.	Rebecca M.	Riley B.	Ryan G.
Ryan G.	Ryann H.S.	Sadie G.M.	Savanna R.
Sean K.	Skylar L.	Skyler H.	Stone M.
Tanner L.	Treasa O.	Vivien V.	William E.
Yazmin Y.	Zachary L.		







## Newtown Middle School



Thursday April 11th

7:00—8:00 PM

Newtown Middle School

Auditorium

# Parent Workshop:

**Substance Abuse Prevention: Cultivating healthy choices for middle schoolers.**

Please join us for a panel discussion presented by NMS Staff. We will be covering these important topics:

Substances: Information, Warning Signs, Prevention, Resources for Parents, Question and Answer Session

We hope you can join us for this important workshop.

## Newtown Middle School Climbing Club B-Wing Gym/Outdoor Course

---



**What:** An opportunity for students who are interested in and love climbing to stay after school and engage in a positive and challenging activity.

**When:** Tuesdays 2:40- 3:45. This program begins on April 9<sup>th</sup> and ends on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Why:** The latest research is showing that for your brain to function at its peak, your body needs to move. Climbing improves mood and attention, builds confidence, lowers stress and anxiety and helps students learn better. It is also a blast!

**Where:** N.M.S B-Gym/Outdoor Climbing Course.

**You don't have to come every time to be a part of this program. Come when you can!**

Please have a parent or guardian sign the permission slip on the back of this flyer and return to Ms. Fontaine, Mr. Michaud or any P.E. Teacher.

# *Newtown Middle School Climbing Club*

## *Permission Slip*

---



Newtown Middle School is offering students an opportunity to participate in an after school climbing program. We will be utilizing both indoor and outdoor high and low elements. The club will meet in the B-Wing Gymnasium and the outdoor climbing course.

Please sign below to give permission for your son or daughter to participate in our Climbing Club. The program will run every Tuesday starting on April 9th and ending on May 28th. The hours are from 2:40-3:45.

My child \_\_\_\_\_ has permission to participate in the after school climbing club at Newtown Middle School.

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*We are looking forward to having your child participate in this great program!*

*Michelle Fontaine  
Marc Michaud  
Newtown Middle School*



## PIÑATA CLUB

This year's Piñata Club, offered by Mrs. Steeves, was a great success! The traditions and customs of the Mexican piñata were explored. Seventh and eighth grade students participated and learned how to create and decorate a piñata. The resulting piñatas were all very unique. All students showed extreme dedication throughout the process. A great experience was enjoyed by everyone!



Intramural Floor Hockey will begin in May. Sign ups will be with Mr. Esposito in A-8.





## Dates to Remember

Look for details in the Lion's Roar or on the NMS website <http://nms.newtown.schooldesk.net/>



### **April 3rd**

Washington D.C.  
medication forms due

### **April 5th**

Staff Development Day  
No school for students

### **April 5th-7th**

NMS Drama presents  
Beauty and the Beast

### **April 11th**

Parent Workshop  
Substance Abuse Prevention

### **April 15th-19th**

Spring Break  
No School

### **April 23rd**

Student Showcase

### **April 24th-26th**

8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip



### **May 7th**

Incoming 7th Grade Orientation

### **May 8th**

Incoming 7th Grade Orientation

### **May 9th**

Newtown Night of Jazz

### **May 13th**

7th grade Spring Concert

### **May 14th**

8th grade Spring Concert

### **May 24th**

Staff Development Day  
Early Dismissal  
12:32PM  
Lunch served

### **May 27th**

No School

### **May 31st**

8th Grade Dance



