



# PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

North Branford High School

Late Winter, 2010



Over the last several years, schools nationally and across the state, have made many positive efforts toward improving school culture. Most students look forward to coming to NBHS; however, there have been a few incidents each year that show we must do more. Our school's mission defines NBHS as a caring community, so we must continue to strive to make NBHS emotionally and physically safe for students. This includes the implementation of character education in the form of a widely referred to moral code which is embedded in many activities throughout our curriculum and is used to guide our school's discipline practices. We have implemented anti-bullying programs in our freshmen orientation and transition programs and in major school programs with the ADL "Names Can Really Hurt Us" program.

We are in the beginning stages of managing student discipline with a system called Positive Behavior Support, which is research-based and shows some promises for improving our teaching and learning environment.

To be successful, all members of our school community need to be knowledgeable and willing to participate in the effort to make our school the best it can be. To help guide us in understanding what we can do to improve our school culture, I have invited an expert to join us during our next Parent Forum. Joann Freiberg has conducted hundreds of seminars and workshops about school climate improvement and is known for her down-to-earth, practical approach to working successfully with students. I hope you will join me in welcoming Joann Freiberg to our school on Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in the high school library.

## Open Your Heart – Feel How We Roll

On March 26<sup>th</sup> twenty-one students and staff used a wheelchair to roll through their day at NBHS. The purpose of this event was to heighten the school community's awareness of the challenges people with physical handicaps must endure throughout their daily lives. Each student or staff member in a wheelchair was supported by ten team members who collected donations from individuals and area businesses to sponsor a wheelchair team. These donations will be given to the *Open Your Heart Foundation* which supports two proud NBHS graduates; Samantha Bode is from the NBHS class of 2005 and Alexandra Bode is from the NBHS class of 2008. A full school rally pictured below occurred at the end of the day on March 26<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the team's, fundraising accomplishments and to reflect on what was learned from the experience.



## News from the Guidance Department Spring 2010

Phone 203-484-1475

- Juniors are reminded that they should be exploring post-high school opportunities over the summer so they are prepared to begin the application process in the fall.
- There are many educational summer programs available to NBHS students in all grades. Feel free to come to the Guidance Office to see if there are any you may be interested in.
- There are still seats available for students interested in taking a course through Virtual High School next year. You can go online to [www.govhs.org](http://www.govhs.org) to see which classes are available. Please see Mrs. DeTour for more information.
- A reminder that class schedules for 2010 – 2011 will be mailed to students over the summer. Schedules will not be available before then. School counselors will be available to meet with students regarding their schedules at the end of August. If you want to make any changes to the classes that you originally selected, you can email those requests to [adetour@northbranfordschools.org](mailto:adetour@northbranfordschools.org) at any time.

This year the NBHS Mathematics Department was fortunate enough to have the last of its rooms equipped with SMARTBoards. These interactive whiteboards provide touch control of computer applications including SMART-Notebook. SMARTNotebook software is collaborative learning software and content delivery platform that gives teachers and students access to interactive, multimedia content and the tools to edit, save and share that content. The department is also excited to be the first in the high school to utilize SMARTTech's student response system, an integrated assessment system that allows teachers to instantly assess student understanding and provide appropriate feedback to students.

The Health and Physical Education curricula are founded on the premise of wellness, which means to be active in the process of becoming aware of and learning to make healthy choices that lead to a longer and more successful existence. Although conceptual knowledge in the areas of physical, mental, social, and emotional health is a focus of both curricula, skills and behaviors are even more critical for the learner. Some of the skills heavily incorporated in health and physical education are goal setting, decision making, effective communication, advocacy, analyzing influences, accessing information, and self-management.

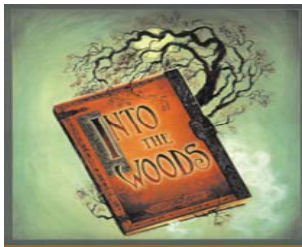


## UNIFIED SPORTS

The Unified Sports team has had a great year so far. They have received two Gold Medals in soccer and two Gold Medals in basketball. In addition, they received a Bronze Medal in basketball.

It is heartwarming to see how many partners and athletes have joined the team. Great friendships and bonds are being made that will last a lifetime.

The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference and Special Olympics of Connecticut will be honoring essayists Taylor Merola and Chelsea Wollman at the Michael's Cup Awards banquet at the Aqua Turf on Monday, May 10, 2010.



## North Branford High School Drama Club Production

Thursday, April 8  
Friday, April 9  
Saturday, April 10

North Branford Auditorium @ 7:00 pm

Tickets \$10 adult, \$8 senior citizens and children under 12.

Tickets are available at the Auditorium Box Office on

Monday, 4/5, Tuesday 4/6 and Wednesday 4/7 from 6:00—8:00 PM

## Parent Forum Wednesday, April 14th

Library Media Center @ 7:00 P.M.

Joann Frielberg, an expert on bullying issues in schools, will speak about how to improve our school climate.

## North Branford Day at the Yale Center for British Art



## NBPS Open Forum Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM N.B. Auditorium

NESDEC will present and discuss options based on findings of the study conducted on enrollment capacity and grade configuration in our district.



In January, Student Council kicked off the “**Big Give,**” a project modeled after the popular reality-based television show produced by Oprah Winfrey. Each member received \$1 and,

working individually or on a team, had one month to make it grow for a charity of their choice. Student Council members worked tirelessly to stretch their dollar by holding bake sales, pancake breakfasts, and other fundraisers, and even staying after school to collect bottles and cans from the classrooms. The charities included March of Dimes, UNICEF, The Heifer Project, Alzheimer’s Association, and Save the Music. On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Student Council members hosted a reception where they unveiled their total amount raised. With the help of generous donations from all North Branford Schools, that total amount was \$10,000. Student Council thanks everyone for their support!

## Dates to Remember

April 8, 9, & 10—Drama Club Play **"Into the Woods"** Auditorium @ 7:00 PM

April 9 — Report Cards Issued

April 13 — NBPS Open Forum—Auditorium @7:00 PM

April 14 — Parent Forum – Library @ 7:00 PM

April 15 — BOE Meeting - TVES @ 7:00 PM

April 19-23 — Spring Recess No School

April 30— Junior Prom - Woodwinds @ 7:00 PM

May 7— Talent Show—Auditorium

May 19— National Honor Society Induction— Auditorium @ 7:00 PM

May 20— BOE Meeting - TVES @ 7:00 PM

May 26— Spring Concert - Auditorium @ 7:00 PM

May 27— Academic Awards - Auditorium @ 12:15 PM

May 28— Senior Prom - Amarante's @ 7:00 PM

May 31— Memorial Day No School

June 4— Senior Picnic

June 4— Kaleidoscope Café

June 8— N. B. Scholarship Awards - Auditorium @ 7:00 PM

June 10— BOE Meeting - TVES @ 7:00 PM

Graduation date will be set at the April 15 Board of Education Meeting

**NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION  
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