



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

North Branford High School

March, 2011

Dear North Branford High Parents,

On behalf of Mr. Welch, interim Assistant Principal, and Mrs. Wootton, Dean of Students, we would like to extend our thanks to the parent community for your continued support during the recent months at NBHS. We have heard from many parents and other community members regarding your interest in North Branford High School and the initiatives taking place currently and planned for the future.

In addition to the current programming and the many forth-coming initiatives, we also remain focused on safety as part of your child's education. We recently hosted an event that included a nationally recognized speaker, Mrs. Ginger Katz, who provided information to parents and students regarding substance abuse prevention. As we know, teenagers are faced with many decisions throughout their high school years – decisions in school and beyond the campus and scheduled school day. With this in mind, the event focused on educating our community on the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse. Mrs. Katz was successful in providing the hundreds of parents and students in attendance with the warning signs of the progression of substance abuse among teens. We hope our students take that evening's information into consideration while making decisions about alcohol and other drugs. We also hope our parents partner with us in our continued efforts to reinforce important messages about teens remaining alcohol and drug free throughout their high school years and beyond.

We also continue our partnership with the North Branford Police Department, consulting and working with the force, on an as needed basis, regarding many issues involving student safety. Our goal when working with the NBPD is to keep students safe and to prevent problems from occurring or worsening. Additionally through these efforts, we hope that students and families recognize the NBPD as a valuable resource and support system.

Another ongoing initiative at NBHS is 'Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports' or PBIS – a nationally recognized framework that we introduced this winter to foster positive student behavior and academic success. Mr. Welch has outlined critical components of this framework within this edition of the newsletter in the 'Parents and Teens' section. Our goal, faculty and students together, is to further develop connections among staff and students so that all students meet behavior expectations in all areas of the building including the café, hallways, classrooms, and buses.

During the month of April, NBHS is hosting the Anti-Defamation League's 'Names Can Really Hurt Us' program. This program focuses on bullying prevention, tolerance and diversity. We originally introduced this program during the 2008-09 school year with great success and look forward to this year's event with high expectations. Students and staff volunteers will be trained for this dynamic program during March leading up to the grade 9 – grade 11 event in April. Parents of students who have volunteered will receive a separate mailing outlining more specific information related to the training sessions and the event. The ADL has also allowed us, one of four schools in the entire state of Connecticut, to participate in a Cybersafety Program that will take place later in the school year.

Our goal is to use multiple resources to provide our students with a safe environment and the knowledge and skills required to make safe, healthy decisions.

Todd Stoeffler, Interim Principal

Format of the Principal's Newsletter

Each issue will include an opening writing, a section compiled by Mrs. Detour and The Guidance Department, a section titled "Happenings at NBHS," and a final segment titled "Parents and Teens."

The opening writing will include relevant and timely information connected to the entire school, the Guidance Department section will outline pertinent information related to their areas of expertise, 'Happenings at NBHS' will mirror the Board of Education Brief that outlines significant events at NBHS, and the 'Parent and Teens' segment will include timely information useful for parents and their teens that could be significant on a local, state, and/or national level.

We are planning on moving to an electronic copy of the Principal's Newsletter on a bi-monthly basis – we will notify all parents of the next newsletter planned for May with a School Messenger telephone call.



Happenings at NBHS

- Sophomores are currently completing CAPT testing throughout the month of March. During CAPT Testing, freshmen participate in CAPT practice activities and will be attending two assemblies, one on internet safety and another on bullying prevention.
- Wednesday February 9th was the annual Eighth Grade Parent Night at NBHS with present grade 8 students and their parents attending the presentation in the auditorium. Course registration, graduation requirements, extra-curricular activities, and new programming at NBHS were focused on by the school administration and the department chairs.
- The NBHS Winter Semi-Formal took place on Friday, February 11th in the high school café. Ms. Byrd and the NBHS Student Council sponsored the event.
- On Friday March 4th, Mr. Fabrizi and his Creative Writing students participated in the ‘Write the Night’ activity held at NBHS from 7pm Friday through 7am Saturday morning.
- Under the direction of club advisor Mrs. Travisano, the NBHS Helping Hands Club prepared and delivered 75 bags of candy to patients at Hospice in Branford CT.
- Mr. Ford and the Kaleidoscope Organization and the Video Game Club hosted our first ‘Game Night’ on Friday March 11th. Games included board games, Wii and X-Box games including family-friendly games such as Mario Kart, Wii Fitness, and Madden Football. Monies raised are being used for the costs associated with the printing of the annual Kaleidoscope publication that includes poetry, short stories, and songs written by NBHS students.
- Coach Artaiz and the NBHS Unified Sports Team participated in basketball games on March 7 at East Haven High School and yesterday, March 16th at Berlin High School. Mr. Altieri volunteered as one of the game officials on March 7th.
- The English Department’s British Literature field trip to Ireland and England took place during February vacation. The group toured the following sites: St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Trinity College, Dublin’s Writer Museum, Caernarfon Castle built by King Edward I, Buckingham Palace, birth place of Shakespeare, Hampton Court, and the National Gallery.



Parents and Teens

Positive Behavior Interventions and Support

As many of you know, North Branford High School is currently in year one of implementation of the PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support) framework developed by Dr. Sugai at the University of Connecticut. PBIS serves as a framework that guides decision making at the high school regarding academic, civic, and social expectations. In conjunction with the design of the program, NBHS has rolled out “Going Full CIRCLE,” which encompasses our character education goals of Citizenship, Integrity, Responsibility, Consideration, Leadership, and Empathy. These expectations are threaded throughout our curricula, social events, and school-related activities and include common areas such as buses, hallways, classrooms, co-curricular activities and the cafeteria. Students are recognized and rewarded for their efforts with these expectations through student of the month awards and bi-monthly prize drawings determined from the number of positive behavior recognition slips that students receive.

Additionally, as you may or may not know, our Advisory Program has expanded this year to include all grade levels. Each grade level has a team of common teachers and an administrative leader. These individuals plan the topics and grade-specific material to be discussed during the common advisory times (bi-monthly Friday homerooms). The advisory sessions are the main vehicle to support implementation of the PBIS framework. During these sessions, expectations are discussed and activities are implemented to ensure that all students understand all behavioral expectations. Students and faculty members also routinely address improvements to the PBIS framework implementation. See the insert of the NBHS PBIS framework and an associated expectation example; these examples will soon be displayed throughout the high school. In an effort to extend the importance of PBIS and a positive school climate, please make an effort to ask your son or daughter about PBIS.



NBHS Drama Club Production Presents *Guys and Dolls* Friday, April 1 and Saturday, April 2 North Branford Auditorium @ 7:00 PM

Guys and Dolls is a musical fable that describes the unlikely romance between a pure-at-heart urban missionary (Sarah Brown) and a slick Broadway gambler (Sky Masterson). The show's second romantic storyline chronicles the fourteen year engagement of Nathan Detroit, who organizes “the oldest established permanent floating crap game in New York”, and Miss Adelaide, the main attraction at the Hot Box nightclub. The musical contains some of the most memorable songs from Broadway including: “Sit Down, You’re Rockin’ the Boat,” “I’ve Never Been in Love Before” and “Luck Be a Lady.”

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

Tickets are available at the Auditorium Box Office on:

Monday, 3/14 - 5:00 - 6:00pm, Friday, 3/18 - 4:00 - 6:00pm,

Monday, 3/21 - 4:00 - 6:00pm, Thursday, 3/24 - 6:00 - 8:00pm,

Monday, 3/28 - 4:00 - 6:00pm, Wednesday 3/30 - 6:00 - 8:00pm, Thursday, 3/31 - 6:00 - 8:00pm

The box office will be open on April 1st & 2nd 5:00– 7:00 pm.

NBHS Guidance Department News and Noteworthy Information

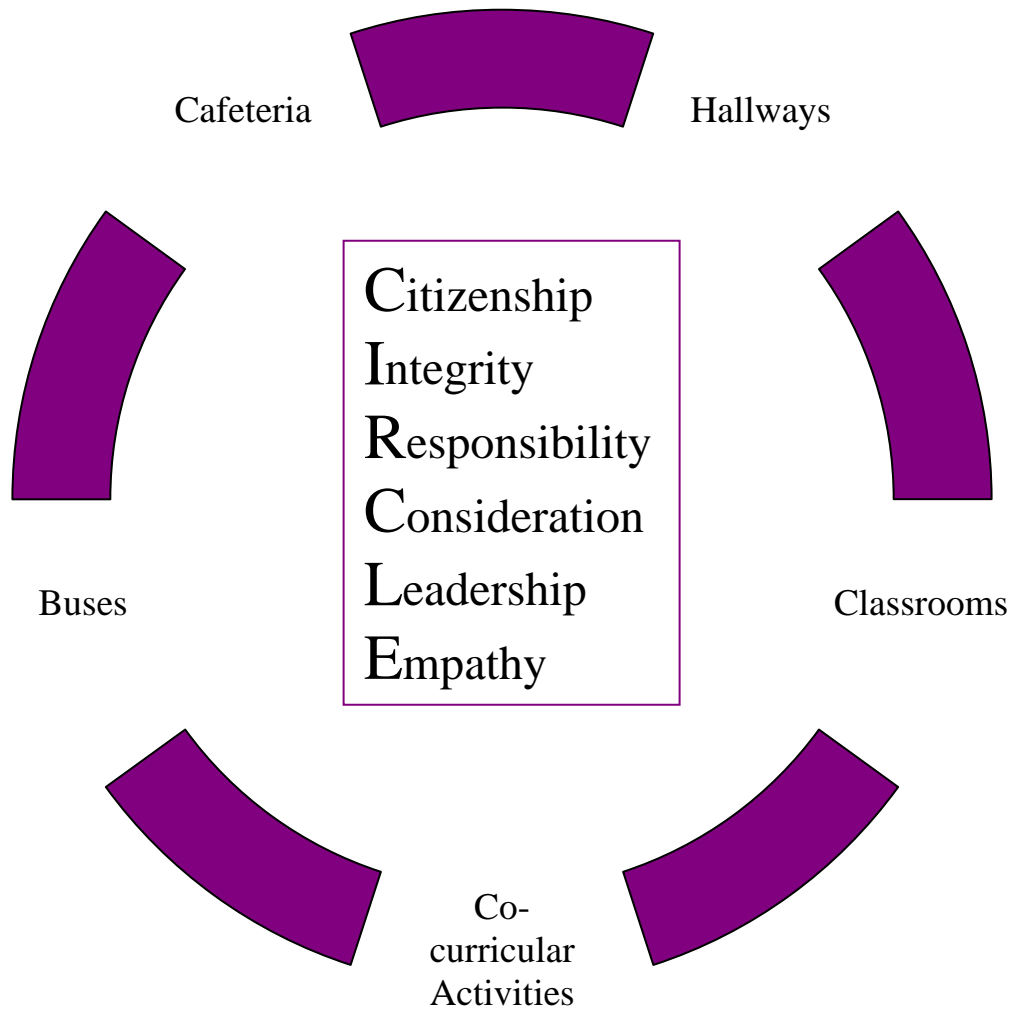
- Seniors are reminded to check the Guidance Department website and lists posted in home-room for scholarships that they may qualify for. The lists are updated as more scholarship announcements are received.
- Juniors are reminded that they should be exploring post-high school opportunities over the summer so they are prepared to begin the application process in the fall.
- Spring SAT test dates are May 7th and June 4th and ACTs are offered on June 11th. All juniors are strongly encouraged to take either the SAT or ACT in the spring. Registration deadlines are approaching; go to www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org to register.
- 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.
- Once again next year, interested students will have the opportunity to take an online course through Virtual High School. Go to www.govhs.org to see a listing of courses that will be offered. An informational session will be offered later this Spring about VHS, how to sign up for a course and student expectations. Keep your eyes out for more information or see Mrs. DeTour in the Guidance Office.
- All students have entered their course requests for the 2011-12 school year and we are beginning the process of building the Master Schedule. Individual student schedules will be mailed home over the summer, but if students or parents have any general questions about schedules or need to make a change to their requests, they are encouraged to contact their school counselor.

**NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
P.O.BOX 129
NORTHFORD, CT 06472**

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NORTH BRANFORD HIGH SCHOOL

“GOING FULL CIRCLE”





North Branford High School
Positive Behavior Interventions and Support

“Going Full CIRCLE”

Expectations	Cafeteria
Citizenship (Making a contribution in a safe and positive way)	Welcome others at your table Leave the cafeteria in better condition than when you arrived Respect the space of others at all times
Integrity (Truthful and reliable)	Be honest Be true to yourself
Responsibility (Self-monitoring words and actions)	Leave no trace Handle food and trash appropriately Follow pass procedures
Consideration (Showing respect)	Be courteous in line Be considerate of cafeteria staff and others Use respectful language at all times
Leadership (Guide others and doing the right thing)	Encourage others to clean up Guide others away from poor choices Model desired expectations
Empathy (Show care and compassion)	Show concern for those in need Make an effort to be understanding of others