



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

North Branford High School

May, 2011

Dear North Branford High Parents,

Reflections of 2010-11 while looking to 2011-12.....

On behalf of Mr. Welch and Mrs. Wootton, we would like to extend our thanks to the parent community and faculty for your continued support during the last several months at NBHS. We are currently in the process of planning for a successful close to the 2010-11 school year while looking eagerly to the 2011-12 school year with many initiatives currently underway to continue through the summer and upcoming school year. I would like to express my appreciation for Superintendent Schoonmaker's support and the support of the North Branford Board Education.

As we prepare for graduation with our senior class, we have many events occurring during the months of May and June. The NBHS National Honor Society hosted their annual induction ceremony on May 18th with 29 students being inducted. The Senior Prom is being held at Aqua Turf in Southington on May 27th, while our school-wide Field Day is on Friday, June 10th, where yearbooks will be distributed in the afternoon. Our NBHS Greenhouse is very active, with a harvest taking place this spring along with students completing Individual Performance Projects (IPP), participating in various tasks while managing the greenhouse after school. Our Interact Club will also be moving plants from the greenhouse to our plot of land along Mill Road. The Interact Club will continue to manage the crops in the plot of land during the summer time with harvests occurring in the summer and early fall. Vegetables grown in the NBHS Greenhouse and at the plot will be used in the high school café and donated to the North Branford Food Bank. The Construction class at NBHS has completed the walkways in the NBHS Courtyard with plans underway to utilize grant monies to complete plantings. Each quad of the courtyard will have a different theme - a plan provided by Natureworks of Northford has been provided to us and planting will occur during May and June.

Another ongoing initiative at NBHS that we introduced this winter is 'Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports' or PBIS. Students and staff have responded positively to this framework that reinforces positive student behaviors by strengthening rapport between students and staff. This framework will continue to develop during the next school year with a strong connection to an event we hosted in April - "Names Can Really Hurt Us" that was sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League. This program focused upon bullying prevention and respect.

Two programs beginning next year are Project Lead the Way, a pre-engineering program/course that is currently being offered in 50 schools across Connecticut. Students completing the introductory course will be provided an opportunity to complete additional courses at the high school level with this curricular focus in the future. Introduction to Automotive Technology will also be a new course that returns to NBHS after being absent for over a decade. We continue to offer students opportunities to complete virtual classes online for any courses not offered at NBHS and we look to add course offerings at Yale University for students who have been identified as gifted and talented.

As you can see, we are excited about initiatives started this year that continue into the upcoming year. We will continue to explore ways to improve our school within the means of the economic times.

Todd Stoeffler, NBHS Principal

Closing Out 2010-11.....Exams and Graduation Information.....

The 2011 NBHS exam schedule is posted on our website with dates, times, and order of periods listed.

A few reminders regarding exams.....

- *If students are ill on exam days, parents must notify the main office on the day of the exam and the student is to return with a note verifying the illness.*
- *Students who miss an exam(s) due to a verified illness are to make arrangements with their teacher regarding a make up date and time.*
- *Students are encouraged to begin to prepare for exams prior to the evening before the exam; typically, even the strongest academic students score slightly below their averages due to the challenge of exams covering an entire semester or year.*

The NBHS Graduation information has been sent via mail to all senior parents. This letter outlines critical information regarding the graduation rehearsal, events on the day of graduation, and the graduation ceremony including tickets, parking, and attire. It is imperative that all parents review this information with their son/daughter.

Project Graduation is held the night of graduation at the high school and is organized by the NB Project Graduation Parent Committee. The Project Graduation Committee has provided each senior with an overview sheet outlining the event and a parent's permission slip. Permission slips are to be turned in to the main office at NBHS by June 10th. Seniors must have submitted a permission slip by 6/10 in order to attend. Permission slips are NOT accepted the night of the event.

NBHS Guidance Department News

- There are many educational summer programs available to NBHS students in all grades. Students are welcome to come to the Guidance Office to see if there are any they may be interested in.
- All students are required to complete summer reading for their English classes. Summer reading lists can be viewed on the North Branford Public Schools website and copies will be available at the town libraries and in the NBHS guidance office.
- There are still plenty of seats available for students interested in taking a course through Virtual High School next year. You can go online to www.govhs.org to see which classes are available. Please see Mrs. DeTour for more information and an application.
- A reminder that class schedules for 2011 – 2012 will be mailed to students over the summer in mid-August. Schedules will not be available before then. Parents and students will also be able to view their 2011-12 class schedule through Power-School as of August 22nd. School counselors will be available to meet with students regarding their schedules at the end of August. Further information about scheduling an appointment with your counselor in August will be included with student schedules. Prior to August, any questions regarding schedules can be emailed to Mrs. DeTour (adetour@northbranfordschools.org) at any time.



Happenings at NBHS



- The NBHS Drama Club Production of ‘Guys and Dolls’ took place on Friday April 1st and Saturday April 2nd. Under the direction of Mrs. Genzano, students provided a wonderful production with many graduates and staff members in attendance during the performances.
- Students in Advanced Placement Classes completed AP testing over the last two weeks with tests occurring on: 5/2 - AP Environmental Science and AP Psychology, 5/3 - AP Spanish, 5/4 - AP Calculus, 5/6 - AP US History, 5/9 - AP Biology and AP Physics, & 5/11 - AP Language and Composition.
- The NBHS Band and Chorus completed a busy and successful trip to Washington DC – April 28th thru May 1st. The group included sixty five NBHS students who toured the historical area and participated in the ‘Festival of Music’ with chorus receiving two ratings of ‘Excellent’ and the band receiving a rating of ‘Good’. The entire NBHS group also received the one and only ‘Esprit De Corps’ plaque that is awarded to the school who participates with dignity and honor named in the memory of a US Marine Corp Band Director, Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser.
- During the May 2nd NBHS Faculty Meeting, Mrs. Nicole LaCroix was announced as the NBHS ‘Teacher of the Year.’ Ms. LaCroix teaches Health Education, is the faculty advisor for GSA and SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions, formerly Students Against Drinking and Driving) and is always involved with a number of school-wide events.
- Mr. Robert Anastas, the founder of SADD, addressed the juniors and seniors during an assembly on 5/4. Mr. Anastas is a former school administrator, teacher, high school coach, collegiate athlete, and now travels throughout the entire country speaking in 150 high schools per year regarding the dangers of substance abuse. Students shared positive comments regarding Mr. Anastas’ powerful address.
- Thirty two NBHS students have been scheduled to complete their Individual Performance Project Presentations. The IPP presentations are the final step in students completing their project. Students have completed IPP projects (school year or summer time) at TVES, Yale-New Haven Hospital, ACES - Special Olympics, The National Student Leadership Conference, Guilford Rehab and Nursing Home, and Youth Mission Trips sponsored by the NB Congregational Church. Current Juniors and Sophomores are signing up this month for next year’s IPP Projects.
- During our “Names Can Really Hurt Us” program in April, AT&T and the Anti-Defamation League announced that North Branford High School would be the first of only four schools in the state to participate in a new program named CyberALLY. The program is a grant-funded training model for middle and high school students that increases awareness about the unique features and impact of cyberbullying, provides strategies for students to respond effectively to cyberbullying and fosters an increased culture of e-safety and respect for differences among youth. On May 5th over twenty-five students and faculty advisors Mr. Robert Ford and Mrs. Tracy Wootton participated in a full-day training that provided practical information and skill-building opportunities. The group has already begun to plan activities for the 2011-2012 school year that will enable them to share their CyberALLY experience while educating other students on how to prevent, protect against, and take responsible action against cyberbullying and social cruelty in technological forums.