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CALLING ALL SCOOPS!

Do you have a story idea for our NMS Dragon's Tale Newsletter? If so, reach out to any one of our Journalism Club student reporters, or Mme Farrell. We are always looking for new content to cover!

NMS Journalism Club members are: Brett Gee, Natalie Iyoha, Emily Lockert, Leah Lockert, Emma Matchett, Jasper Medel, Gavin Nason, Jakob Ryan, Sophia Sharp, Michael Tselichtchev, and cartoonist, Alice Theriault-Parker



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CUSTODIAN

What's the Dirt at NMS?

by Emily Lockert, Leah Lockert and Emma Matchett



Many people might underestimate custodians, but schools, stores and businesses around the world could not run without them. And the custodians themselves know that. When you think of custodians, cleaning probably comes first to mind, but that is definitely not their only task.

“I feel that [without custodians] the school wouldn't be safe for students. There'd be hazardous spots [and] it wouldn't be very clean,” said Cindy Rostad, Nashwaaksis Middle School's head custodian. Not only does she know her job is important, Rostad really cares about NMS and its students. She enjoys coming to work to make the environment a place where everyone feels comfortable and safe.

Custodians come to NMS early most mornings to unlock doors for staff and students, and to make sure exterior doors are secure. Rostad also does a daily supply inventory at that time. In addition to all that, she sometimes helps students with lockers. She says that one time a student's locker would not open, and a custodian had to use pliers to get it unstuck. Custodians also do the shoveling for NMS, staving off wet feet for all school, library, and Field House visitors.

Rostad noted one problem that custodians have: vandalism, especially in washrooms. She feels that some students do not respect the surroundings in those locations and are sometimes careless while in the school washrooms.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

by Kendra Frizzell

Happy Spring to all my dragons. I am so proud of you for always doing your best to make our classroom, school, community and our world a better place to be. Dragons are hilarious and love jokes, but they are also honest, respectful, courageous, forgiving and kind.

Thank-you for doing your best to always follow our code of conduct: good hands, good feet, and good manners. I can always rely on our dragon family to bring out the best in each other.

Of course you know I can't keep all the good jokes just for the announcements...here are some really awesome ones:

What's a snake's favorite subject in school? Hiss-tory.

What kind of tree fits in your hand? A palm tree.

...I could really keep going, but I don't want to "DRAG-ON".



[custodians]

Despite that, she feels respected and appreciated at NMS. “A lot of students say thank you,” Rostad says.

Keegan Dobbelsteyn, the school’s grade 6, 7 and 8 Music teacher, says he tries his best to clean up after himself and thinks many of his students do as well. “Most students are really considerate people, and they always try to clean up,” Dobbelsteyn says.

Dobbelsteyn feels that it would really help NMS custodians if students did not make messes on purpose, which some students have unfortunately done. Obviously, not every mess or spill is preventable, but some are.

It is everyone’s responsibility to do the little things to help keep the school and its surroundings clean. “If you see a piece of paper on the floor, pick it up [and] throw it in the garbage,” Rostad suggests. The little things add up to have a positive impact on NMS’s custodians.

So next time you see a custodian sweeping, shoveling, helping students and staff, or doing anything else they do to keep the school clean and safe, make sure to give them a big smile and say, “Thank you!”

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

by *Cindy Farrell*

Every month, Nashwaaksis Middle School teachers select one student from each class to be awarded "Student of the Month." These students are recognized as outstanding in their class for achievement in interactions, initiative, responsibility, organization, independence or academics.

Here is the list of those who received the Student of the Month Award for March.

Grade 6

- Eric M. (6A)
- Stanley B. (6B)
- Austin G. (6C)
- Brett G. (6D)
- Anton K. (6E)
- Rachel C. (6F)
- Gavin N. (6G)
- Aaron H. (6H)
- Emma S. (6I)
- Leonid B. (6/7 J)

Grade 7

- Savannah F. (7A)
- Max U. (7B)
- Brooklyn B. (7C)
- Kaylee G. (7D)
- Lexie B. (7E)
- Julie C. (7F)
- Logan S. (7G)
- Danielle D. (7H)
- Carter P. (7/8 I)

Grade 8

- Jaxson G. (8A)
- Magenta W. (8C)
- Bara'a B. (8D)
- C.J. Carlisle (8E)
- Ella P. (8F)
- Taylor R. (8G)
- Mackenzie H. (8H)



NMS BASKETBALL TEAM BRINGS HOME THE BANNER

by Brett Gee and Jasper Medel

This year's Grade 6 JV Girls Blue Basketball team won the "Hatheway Orthodontics Middle School Grade 6 Girls District Championship". The team, which was led by head coach Julia Reid and assistant coach Tanya Carr, won the title after a hard-fought season of eight games.

It takes more than hard work to win a banner title. Reid and Carr admit that practicing 1-2 times per week with game-situation drills, along with teamwork, have a huge role to play.

Superstition often plays a role in sports, and Carr agrees that she does always wear a sweater over her main uniform, for luck. Reid mentioned that the team of girls invented a cheer they would say at the start of each game, and again at halftime, to bring even more luck.



Both coaches have played basketball in their younger years as well, which encouraged them to start coaching the NMS girls' team in the first place.

Both Reid and Carr are very proud of how their team performed this year. They were glad that Covid did not impact their ability to finish out the season, so their team could take home the banner.



NMS LOUNGE - PROJECT TAKES OVER SCHOOL LOBBY

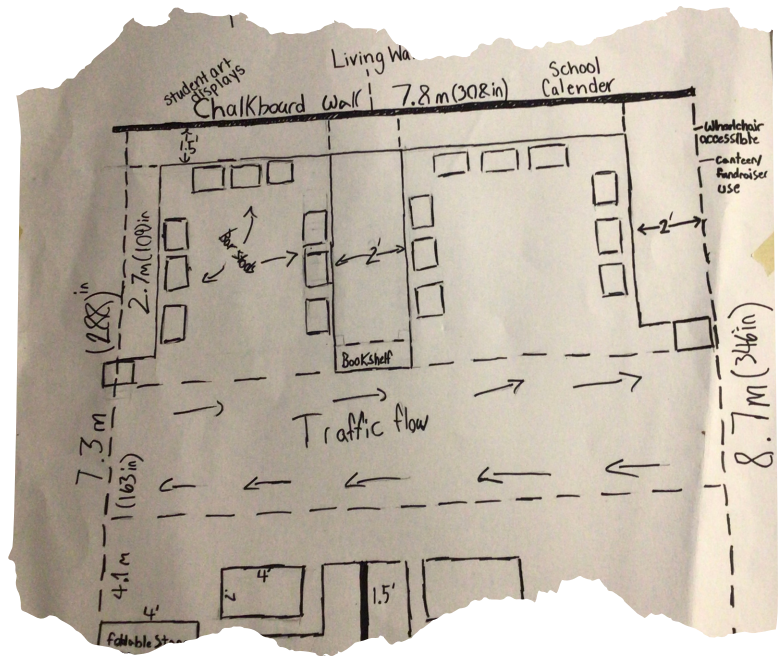
By Jakob Ryan and Michael Tselichtchev

A special and fascinating new build is coming soon to the lobby/cafeteria area of NMS called "The Lounge". Lindsay Perez, a grade 6 Language Arts teacher, and Graham Loughborough, a grade 8 Science teacher, and students from homerooms 6I and 8D, have all teamed up to make this dream a reality.

"It all started with an idea," Perez said, "to have an eco-friendly space in our school, where we could bring nature [and] bring the outdoors indoors." She thought of this idea with her pre-Covid gardening club, to bring a living wall and fresh air in, to relax students. However, when Covid hit, this became a plan for the future. It is now going to be a larger space for students to feel comfortable reading, relaxing and resetting.

Regarding the design of the space, Perez explains that students did some investigating and decided on the current cafeteria/lobby space for their new lounge. The two classes of students came up with the ideas for the lounge design and its contents. They voted on a blue and white colour scheme, and have decided that the space should have lots of plants, rocking chairs, bar stools, tables, a stage, and other unique features.

"The bulk of this money is coming from grants through *Youth Fusion Jeunesse* and *TD Environmental Grants*... students involved right now are [also] doing fundraisers selling popsicles and hot chocolate," Perez says. She also hints that the extra fundraisers will cover costs for surprises that will be added to the lounge, which have not yet been revealed.



Students of 6I have been mostly working on the budgeting, money management and design of the lounge area, while Loughborough and 8D students have been busy working on the physical construction. For Loughborough, this hands-on learning is a personal passion. He sees it as a creative opportunity to work with students on a project that will benefit all school members, with construction and electrical assistance by Shelby Wellwood-Sawatsky, a *Youth Fusion Jeunesse* representative.

"In terms of building, I would say I'm showing them how to do something and then providing a model," Loughborough states, "and then guiding them through the constructing process, where they learn a skill and apply a skill."

With his help, students have already constructed at least six bar stools, with rocking chairs and other furniture items next on the list to create, all from scratch.

Students and staff alike are looking forward to enjoying the new lounge space, which should be finalized by mid-June.

GRADE 6 CHESS CLUB

by Gavin Nason

Would you like to know about a game where pawns can kill kings, knights can destroy castles and bishops can de-throne queens? Welcome to the game of chess.

The NMS Chess Club, led by grade 6 Language Arts teacher, Cindy Farrell, has over 20 members this year, one of the best turnouts in the club's history. Farrell has been a chess coach at every school she's been at since she started teaching, about 10 years ago. Due to Covid restrictions and differing grade level options times, this year the club was only open to Grade 6. Farrell is hopeful the club can open again to all grade levels in the next school year.

When asked about her history with the game, Farrell states, "I used to play a bit when I was a younger, but I never played in any tournaments as a child, and we didn't have a school club... to be honest with you, the person who taught me how to play really well, is my husband."

Farrell knows there are many positive things about coaching students in Chess Club. "I really enjoy getting to meet new students, and getting to teach students how to play something that they've never tried before. I really enjoy watching students when they learn new moves, when they share moves with other students and they coach each other... it's a very quiet game, a polite game that uses problem-solving skills. It teaches people to just slow down and really pay attention."

Dedicated Chess Club member, Jaidyn Jones-Desjardins, who has been playing chess since he was five years old, has a favourite move to help him win games. "My favourite strategy," Jones-Desjardins admits, "is to move the piece that can let the queen and bishop move, so I can easily beat a person that way."

Jones-Desjardins explains that the least amount of moves he has done to win a chess of game was as few as five. He claims that his favourite chess piece is the queen, because of its ability to move forward, backward, diagonal or sideways.

Chess is a game of strategy where anything can happen. The club meets on Mondays during the 11:30 activity period in Room 114, and is open to all Grade 6 students this year.



NMS GUITAR CLUB

by Natalie Iyoha and Sophia Sharp



Keegan Dobbelsteyn is the NMS Music teacher, who also runs the Guitar Club. He wanted to start the Guitar Club in September but, due to Covid restrictions and school closures, he had to wait until the last week of March.

Dobbelsteyn mentioned that his six students are at different levels within the two groups he teaches, which are beginner and intermediate. To be considered an intermediate player, a student would need to have been playing for a bit of time, whereas beginners are just starting out.

He clarified that grade level does not indicate a student's ability to play guitar well. He has some sixth graders who are just as good as his eight-grade students.

When asked about his expectations for students' guitar skills, Dobbelsteyn explains, "For my beginners, I'd be really happy if they were towards the middle of beginner level, but some of them are coming in and never having played before, and some of them are coming in and have played a little bit. With my intermediate players, I ask them specifically what goals they want to accomplish, so I try to help them with those goals. Wherever they want to be with those lessons is where I can go."

Dobbelsteyn went on to explain that the amount of practice time spent outside of the club meetings make a difference in students meeting those goals.

Dobbelsteyn mentioned that he provides a few guitars for members of the club who need them, but some of his students bring guitars from home. He expressed that for those who prefer to bring their own guitar they likely feel that "Every time you pick up the guitar, it feels like home."



Did you know...

First Nations art murals surround the walls in the NMS cafeteria, and the words painted within them are written in Maliseet. This month, we feature this beautiful mural of canoeists on the river, along with the word "*Witapehtuwakon*", which loosely translates to "*friendship*". The original artwork was created in 2017.



TEACHER FEATURE ON...

SCOTT HACHEY



Reporters Emily Lockert, Leah Lockert and Emma Matchett, interviewed Scott Hachey, a grade 7 teacher and Yearbook Coordinator at Nashwaaksis Middle School. Here is their Q & A.

Q: What grade do you teach and how long have you been teaching?

I teach grade 7, all French Immersion Science. This would be year 7 for me.

Q: What is the best thing about your job?

The best thing about my job is being able to see the growth in students from the first day they walk in, in September, until the end of June.

Q: How long does it take to make a lesson plan?

Depends on the type of lesson plan. There's certain lesson plans that last a day, and then there's others that can last a week or two, you know, if it's a project or something of that sort. But a daily lesson plan, anywhere from half an hour to 45 minutes.

Q: What is your best memory of teaching?

I would say, four years ago, we were in a student-teacher basketball game, and in front of the entire student population, I tore my Achilles tendon! So that was super fun, that 600 kids got to watch me squirm on the floor as I was in excruciating pain.

Q: Do you run any clubs or are you a coach?

I used to coach soccer and badminton, but because of Covid, a lot of that stopped. This year, I decided not to coach soccer, but I run the Yearbook Club, so that takes up a good part of my time.

Q: Do you enjoy your job as a teacher? Why or why not?

Yeah, I enjoy my job as a teacher. I think you have to enjoy the job and you have to be patient coming here everyday to a school of 600... but it's very rewarding, like I said, seeing the maturity of the students from start to finish.



Artists of the Month

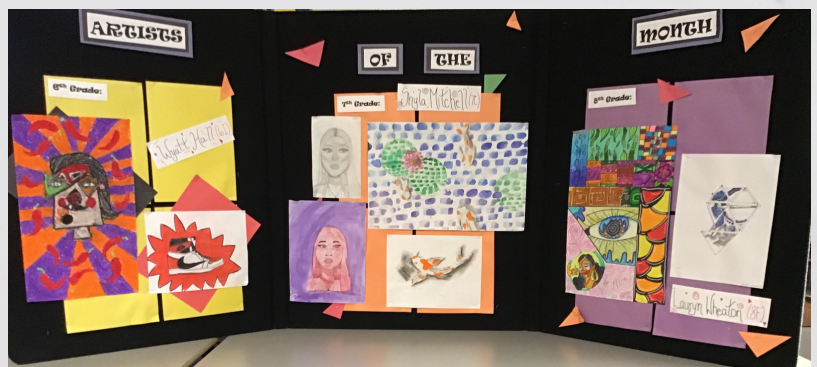
Every month, NMS Art teacher Julia Reid, chooses a celebrated student artist from each grade level.

Here are the "Artists of the Month" for April, along with a picture of their work.

Grade 6: Wyatt H (6I)

Grade 7: Shyla Mitchell (7C)

Grade 8: Lauryn W (8F)



"JARED AND FLUFFY" COMIC BY ALICE THERIAULT-PARKER

Alice is a Grade 7 student of NMS, who will contribute a cartoon in each issue of The Dragon's Tale Newsletter.



Jared & fluffy "fur" Pt 2

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