

North Branford Intermediate School
NBIS News – October, 2018

- All NBIS 8th Graders participated in the T-Bird Fair October 4th.
- The Student Government presents the 2nd Annual NBIS Halloween Dance on Friday, October 26th. This event will mark the start of “Spirit Week” at NBIS, and should be spooktacular!
- NBIS will once again host the 29th Annual North Branford Community Round-Up on October 27th.
- NBIS will host the 1st Davis Way Walkathon on Thursday, November 1st. A combined 20% all money raised will be donated to the Alan Davis Memorial Scholarship fund and a charitable organization/endeavor.
- 6th and 7th grade Spanish students are enjoying their first exposure to learning Spanish! Students are learning about various differences between English and Spanish, as well as learning skills necessary to navigate between the two languages. In 8th grade, students are becoming accustomed to the rigors of taking a high school course. Students are reviewing weather and seasons in Spanish and will be working on their own weather forecast in Spanish!
- September/Early October has been a busy time for the NBIS Music Department. All students have been busy with work in sight reading and rhythm reading practice. Chorus and band students have begun work on winter concert repertoire. On September 20th, the 6th grade took a field trip to the US Coast Guard Academy in New London to attend a concert performed by the Coast Guard Band. In other exciting news, NBIS has been named the official host of the 2019 Connecticut Music Educators Association Middle School Southern Regional Festival, which will take place in March. This festival will involve over 500 students from the southern region of Connecticut, with 80 music teachers and administrators in attendance.
- Sixth grade Theatre Arts students are applying the knowledge learned from units on plot structure and performance basics to create their own scripts based on a given set of props. Seventh grade Theatre Arts students are working on a costume design unit, learning the roles and responsibilities of a theatrical costume designer. They are creating their own costume sketches based on an emotion word using watercolor pencils. Eighth grade Theatre Arts students are preparing monologue performances for their unit on auditioning. This unit requires each student to select and prepare a 2-3 minute monologue and present it to the class.
- NBIS Spotlight Players are making preparations for auditions to kick off the production season for Seussical. Meetings have been held to begin design work on costumes, sets, and props. The first meeting for students who wish to audition will be October 18.
- Creative Connections' Art Link program is underway! Seventh grade Social Studies students have been paired with their international art partners. Mrs. Sabetta's students will be exchanging art with students from School 3 in Ryazan, Russia. Ms. Ardine's students will be working with students from Tender Talents School in Kampala, Uganda. Additionally, Ms. Ardine's Social Studies students were honored with a visit from Master Sergeant Darrell Brown. Master Sergeant Brown's presentation, which included photographs and artifacts, discussed life in the military as well as his military role in the aftermath of September 11, 2001.
- Math Team had our first meeting on September 24th.
- The Library hit the ground running in September! Sixth grade orientations are currently underway. Classroom teachers are scheduling class time in the Library space and Media Lab. Circulation has begun, and there are many participants coming to the Library after school on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Our school Picture Day took place in the Library on September 25th, and the annual Fall Scholastic Book Fair is currently running through October 3rd. Even with all this activity going on, the Library was always open for student and faculty use!
- The NBIS Yearbook is in the early planning stages. Our first meeting will be scheduled shortly, and we anticipate a large group of enthusiastic participants. Several of our current students who were members of the Yearbook Club last year have already begun taking pictures for this current Yearbook!
- In Health classes, all three grade levels have been focusing on important topics regarding healthy lifestyle choices. Sixth grade has learned about nutrition and making healthy food choices by being educated on

vitamins and minerals, portion sizes, how to read nutrition labels, and creating their own healthy meals for a day by following the MyPlate guidelines. Sixth grade also started their Fitness unit regarding topics such as the five components of fitness, the differences between aerobic and anaerobic exercise, as well as muscle contractions such as isometric and isokinetic. Seventh grade has been learning about the effects of tobacco through facts and statistics as well as the dangers and effects of E-Cigarettes and Vaping devices. Eighth grade worked on an alcohol unit focusing on the dangers and effects of binge drinking, alcohol poisoning, drunk driving, and the effects it takes on our body and mind. Eighth grade students have just begun working on their CPR/Safety Prevention Unit. Students have been learning the proper techniques and strategies for CPR, as well as using an AED training device in case an emergency ever occurs.

- The NBIS Math Department is working to explore/learn about the Illustrative Math 6-8 Curriculum. The curriculum, written by the same authors as the Common Core standards, is a research-based curriculum that is highly rated and used by several CT school districts.
- Student Council officers met to plan new ideas for Spirit Week for the end of October. Team Representatives were chosen. The student body will wear blue on October 1st to kick off Anti-bullying month. A two-week fall School Spirit Wear Campaign is wrapping up. Student Council helped with PRIDE Activity Night. We are also working on themed decorations for our cafeteria, carrying on the tradition started last year.
- TV Club is up and running at full speed producing daily, live morning announcements and creating anti-bullying campaign with Student Council.
- Highly-regarded Literacy Specialist Kate Roberts will be providing professional development to the NBIS LA Department on October 1st. Kate Roberts has published several influential books, including *Falling in Love with Close Reading*, *DIY Literacy*, and *A Novel Approach*.
- Guidance staff seeks speakers for 8th grade community service program. Guidance groups will start soon.
- Tech Ed began working on implementing a new reading goal in all technology classes. Students will read current event articles about technology and write a summary of what they've read. These will be shared with the class. These articles will be posted on the bulletin board outside the woodshop with the summaries.
- Robotics Club will begin meeting in October.
- In 8th Science, students recently completed a "human timeline" of the Earth where students represented major events in Earth's history. This activity helped students begin to comprehend the enormity of the time that Earth has existed compared to the relatively short time that humanity has been alive.
- 6th grade Art students have been creating clay projects which use coils (snake-like strips of clay) to create a clay heart. We also have just finished our Radial symmetry project that involved using a shortened version of our names or our initials and we are about to start a new project that is Monochromatic and uses atmospheric perspective. 7th grade students have worked to finish three different projects. The first was a print making project that was based on the artist Keith Haring. Students created an image on a plate and created both marker prints and ink prints from their plates. Next students learned about the artist Dean Russo who uses many types of materials in his art which mostly features animals. The students created beautiful tigers using chalk pastels and oil pastels. Finally, the students have constructed their clay projects over the last few days using coils to create small vases. 8th graders are just finishing up a large unit on color theory. The focus of this project has been color mixing the colors of the color wheel from the 3 primary colors (red, yellow and blue). The students have created beautiful line designs using their names and are in the process of painting their projects with the colors they recently learned how to create.
- The NBIS Interact Club began its year coordinating a school wide food drive for the North Branford Food Pantry. Currently, the club is collecting coats throughout the month of October for BHCare Clothing Bank which provides clothing for those in need in North Branford and the surrounding area.
- The NBIS Future Problem Solvers Club recently held their first meeting of the year and is currently learning about the first three steps of the problem solving process to prepare for the Global Problem Solving competition in January which would qualify them for the State conference later this year.