

North Branford Intermediate School
NBIS News – November, 2018

- The NBIS Student Council sponsored a school spirit week that was kicked off with a Halloween Dance and Community Round Up. Other activities included a Jersey Day, Wear Pink Day for breast cancer awareness, Halloween Costume Contest, The Davis Way Walkathon and Twin Day.
- Language Arts teachers Joe Daley, Lauren Goldstein, Mark Torrente, and Christine Noonan volunteered to receive training in Fountas & Pinnell's Literacy Program in order to provide before and after school literacy opportunities for NBIS students.
- The week of October 29th concludes the first quarter for students. Students will be moving on to their next quarter Unified Art class beginning on November 2nd.
- Band and Chorus classes are working on their music for their upcoming December concert. On October 26th, the Grade 8 Band went to East Haven High School to view the Co-op Marching Band's Field Show. On October 26th, the NBIS Jazz Band played with the high school Pep Band for the NBHS football game. On October 27th, 13 singers from NBIS participated in the Connecticut ACDA Middle School Honor Choir.
- In Health class, Sixth grade learned about different mental and emotional disorders along with information on mental health in our Body and Mind Unit. Seventh grade has been learning about the dangers and effects that drugs have on the human body, both mentally and physically, as well as how it affects people around those who are drug users. Eighth grade learned about the importance of positive communication, treating people kindly, and resolving conflicts in a positive way, as well as discussing different types of personalities.
- This past month, sixth and seventh grade students have been continuing to learn conversational vocabulary to foster building of conversations in Spanish. Students spent time exploring Day of the Dead, including the history and significance of this holiday, as well as exploring the differences and similarities between Day of the Dead and Halloween.
- The NBIS Newspaper Club has been meeting weekly since September 20. It's been decided to use Google Sites as a platform for layout and electronic publication.
- In Theatre Arts, sixth graders have completed a unit on mysteries where they write and perform their own original multiple-scene plays based on a variety of props. Seventh graders are completing a unit on costume design where they design original fashion sketches based on an emotion word. Eighth graders have just completed their unit on audition techniques and monologues.
- Rehearsals for Seussical have begun! Students have received their scripts, and will begin vocal and choreography rehearsals later this week.
- The NBIS Math Department (along with members of Special Education and NBHS math) is participating in a 2-day professional development workshop on Illustrative Math in November. Participants will learn about and work with the features of the Illustrative Math curriculum.
- Based on her success in using the Stock Market Game to teach financial literacy, Team 8-1 Math teacher, Mary Ann Valentino, and her students were asked to submit a short video to the SIFMA Foundation in New York City, to celebrate the Stock Market Game's 40th birthday. The SIFMA Foundation sponsors the program and their goal was to promote and showcase the reach of the program.
- Robotics Club began meeting and training the new sixth graders to go to JHS to teach the second graders Robotics.
- The Scholastic Book Fair was held in the Library from September 26th through October 3rd. We were able to add over 90 new titles to our Library collection!
- The Yearbook Committee has begun photographing events at NBIS, particularly during the exciting events of Spirit Week!
- The NBIS Interact Club collected over 20 coats for BHCare Clothing Bank during our October Coat Drive. The club is planning a community-wide Coat Drive in January. During the month of November, we will be doing our Holiday-in-a-Shoobox project to benefit needy families over the holidays through New Reach.
- Eric Bickelhaupt and Kathleen Granfield have recently begun PD with the Next Generation Science Exemplar System (NGSX). This intensive 5-day PD opportunity will reinforce understanding in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) which are the new science standards being implemented in the district. The major shifts represented in the NGSS have the potential to revolutionize science education at all grade levels.