STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

The following Natick High School students have been named Commended Students in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program


Bold names pictured below

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2015 competition by taking the 2013 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

"The young men and women being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," commented a spokesperson for NMSC. "These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments; as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."

Well done!
The Massachusetts' accountability system measures each school's progress toward the goal of reducing proficiency gaps by half between the 2010-11 and 2016-17 school years. Massachusetts uses the Progress and Performance Index (PPI) and school percentiles to classify schools into one of five accountability and assistance levels. Individual schools are placed into one of five levels, level 1 indicating the most advancement of reducing the proficiency gap, and level 5 the least advancement of reducing the achievement gap. The PPI combines information about narrowing proficiency gaps, dropout rates and growth and graduation.

The Progress and Performance Index designation has been assigned for the 2015 spring MCAS results and Natick High students' scores achieved a Level 1 designation. Congratulations to the staff and students for a job well done!!!

THE NATICK CONGLOMERATION

Do you want to read some captivating student writing on current events, health advice, fashion advice, and more? Take a look at Natick Conglomeration's December issue!

The Natick Conglomeration is Natick's student-run newspaper and literary magazine. We write, edit, and publish monthly issues for the Natick community. If you would like to join the newspaper, please contact our advisor, Mrs. Histen, at SHisten@natickps.org or come to our weekly meetings after school in room 344.

Like what you read? Bookmark our site! Our next issue will be out in January.

FROM THE NHS HEALTH CLINIC

Cold and flu season has begun and we thought we would send some reminders to keep our community as healthy as possible.

Please remember to keep your student home until he or she has been fever free (temperature less than 99.6) off of all fever reducing medications. Click here for some guidelines to help differentiate between cold and flu symptoms as well as when your student may return to school.
SUPPORT AFTER PROM PARTY 2016

There's still time to purchase the After Prom Party PRIZE CALENDAR! Win prizes while helping us raise funds for this awesome event!

How does it work?
> Contest will run March-May 2016
> Each calendar is uniquely numbered
> Winning numbers will be determined using the first 3 numbers from the evening MA Lottery Daily Number
> You keep the same number throughout the contest, allowing for multiple chances to win
> Each calendar is just $20! Get one for yourself; give them as gifts!

Click here to learn more and to print an order form. Questions? Email bill.marston@verizon.net

They're selling like hotcakes... Order yours today!

FROM THE NHS LIBRARY

Read the latest from the Library! Click here

ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION & ESSAY CONTEST

Hosted by Natick Clergy Association & Natick Public Schools
Monday, January 18, 2016
11:00 a.m. at Wilson Middle School
22 Rutledge Rd., Natick

Natick middle and high school students are invited to submit an essay, poem, creative writing piece, or a performance piece to their school. Each school will select their winning entries to represent the school at the celebration.

A $100 prize will be awarded to the finalists!

Please click here to learn more!

ATTENTION JUNIORS AND SENIORS

College Freshmen Student Panel Presentation & Discussion For Current NHS Seniors, Juniors, and their Parents/Guardians
Thursday, January 7, 2016
7:00-9:00 p.m. @ NHS Auditorium
This dynamic program is geared towards juniors and seniors in high school and their parents. The panel will consist of NHS Alumni, who are currently college freshmen. We also plan to share information on taking a gap year.

Each member of the panel will give a short talk about their experiences.

Topics may include academic work load, seeking help, getting involved in extracurricular activities, Greek life, sports commitments, managing roommates and living away from home, family and friends, advantages of big or small schools, and other information they choose to mention with members of the audience who are either preparing for college or are in the process of looking.

We will also have three parent panelists who will talk about the process from a parent's perspective. Presentations will be followed by an informal question and answer session. The evening will conclude with time for more conversation where guests may talk to and mingle with the panelists individually.

**FROM THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT**

**The Parent's Guide to Completing the FAFSA From Start to Finish**

Although a student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) is the student's responsibility, parents take a large role in the process when a student is determined to be dependent. [Click here](#) to learn more.

**College Admissions Test Update**

All sophomore and junior students and parents are invited to attend an evening program offered by Kaplan that will offer insight and information regarding the recent changes to the PSAT and SAT score report process.

**Wednesday, January 20th**

7:00 p.m. @ NHS

More information can be found [here](#).

**Test Prep Opportunities**

Please visit the Guidance Department website under [Test Prep Programs](#) for a list of opportunities for students to prepare for the SAT and/or ACT.

**REDAHAWK RECOGNITION**

Natick High Connections recently held their first annual Holiday Party. The group hosted the party for approximately 30 students. They enjoyed decorating gingerbread cookies, building gingerbread houses, dancing, and playing games. Everyone is looking forward to more activities after the new year.
**Back row:** Pearl Dalla, Sam Brown, Esther Levit, Connor Reardon, Dylan LaVallee, Chiwuzie Odunukwe, Ms. Michelson; **Middle Row:** Kevin Murphy, Izabella Diruscio, Maggie Luan, Elena Babson, Sam Popp, Max Belyea, Kayla Morton, Ms. Karian; **Front Row:** Joyce Libbin, Maggie Cusack, Armineh Abelyan, Hadley Browning, Wepare Abbey-Achindiba, Maggie Moores, Ryan McNeill

**REDHAWK RECOGNITION**

Senior **Jessica Bost** has been recognized by an independent selection committee of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States as the first prize winner in their 2016 Brotherhood Program "Classmates Today - Neighbors Tomorrow". As the recipient Jessica also has been awarded a $1,000 scholarship.

**REDHAWK RECOGNITION**

A Redhawk shout-out to several NHS students for their recent volunteer work with the Department of Children and Families... they helped with organizing, checking in, and transporting an incredible haul of donated gifts which were delivered to children separated from their families and living in foster care. Their assistance helped make it possible for several foster children to have a brighter holiday.
REDHAWK RECOGNITION

Congratulations to Kiana Harper ’16!

She was selected to represent Natick High School as a speaker at the TEDxNatick event coming up next month.

Click here to learn more about this exciting event coming to Natick!

REDHAWK RECOGNITION

Kudos to Ayesha’s Angels! This NHS student-run philanthropic club makes handmade bracelets to sell at various events to help raise money to benefit children fighting cancer at Massachusetts General Hospital and through The Jimmy Fund. They recently sold nearly 30 bracelets at an event at Dhayan Yoga, bringing in over $350 for their cause! Club President Krishan Chauhan would especially like to thank club members Bradley Palmer and Jason Siegel for helping out at that event.

Anyone interested in purchasing a bracelet or learning more about the club, please email Krishan at krchauhan@students.natickps.org

REDHAWK RECOGNITION

The NHS Speech Team recently welcomed hundreds of guests to the 55th Annual Holly Speech Festival held at Natick High School. The highly respected Holly Speech Festival is known as the largest and most complex one-day high school speech tournament in the Northeast. With close to 800 student entries and over 150 judges, this year’s Holly Festival was an amazing example of a community coming together in a spirited and fun way to compete for our coveted nutcracker trophies, but more importantly, to share their ideas,
In addition to being terrific hosts, the Natick team performed incredibly well. Competing in a total of 181 rounds, including 13 final rounds, Natick placed 4th overall (out of 30 schools). Finalists include Christina Monnen, Connor Shea, Emma Foley, Julianne Kelleher, Stephanie Chamberlain, Kiana Harper, Elizabeth Bettuelli, Molly Raddant, Jacob Rosen and Charlie Gagnon. Champions include Luke Vrotsos in Student Congress and the Multiple Reading team of Emma Foley, Alex Grace, Scotia Hille, Alexeya O'Brien, Molly Raddant and Connor Shea for their performance of Humans of New York.

Congratulations to the entire Natick Team!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

From the NHS Administration, Faculty, and Staff!
See our rendition of "Frosty the Snowman" here!
CONING UP NEXT WEEK

Winter Break -- enjoy the time off!
Return to school on Monday, January 4, 2016.
Our next eBlast will be sent on
Friday, January 8, 2016.