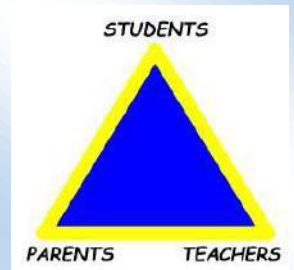


MORAN TRIAD

James H. Moran Middle School
141 Hope Hill Road
Wallingford, CT 06492

Phone: 203-741-2900 Office
203-741-2907 Guidance
Fax: 203-741-2939



1st Trimester Newsletter August 2017 - November 2017

Welcome Note from our Principal Mr. Piacentini:

Welcome to this year's first edition of James H. Moran, Sr. Middle School's Triad. We really hope you enjoy this quick peek into life at Moran. As you will notice from the pictures and articles, there are plenty of fantastic things going on both inside and outside of our classrooms.

Our school year has gotten off to a terrific start. 6th grade students have done a great job transitioning to life at the middle school. 7th grade, which is traditionally a very difficult transition year at the middle school, has been very impressive in their involvement in school activities. As always, Moran's 8th graders always rise to the occasion and become such fantastic peer leaders. I cannot wait to see the growth in all of our students.

Lastly, I would like to encourage all parents/guardians to get involved at the middle school. Chaperone a field trip, volunteer to come in and assist a teacher, work with our PTO, attend PTAC/PTO meetings, enjoy our athletics, drama, music or any other after school activities, or just stop in to say hello to our office or support staff. You are always welcome at Moran Middle School. To keep up with all of the happenings at Moran, here are some additional resources; @JAPiacentini (Twitter Hashtag = #MoranMS), @MoranMustangs, @Dan_Bologna or visit the Moran website - <http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/our-schools/james-h-moran-middle-school>.

Important Dates:

- 9/14-9/22/17- Scholastic Book Fair
- 9/18/17-Evening Conferences 6-8:15pm
- 10/4/17-Fall Picture Day
- 10/9/17-Columbus Day - No School
- 10/25/17-Library Family Night 6-8pm
- 11/6/17- Evening Conferences 5-8pm
- 11/7/17-Election Day - No School
- 11/10/17-Veterans Day - No School
- 11/23-11/24/17-Thanksgiving Break
- 12/4-8/17- Holiday Book Fair-buy one get one free event.

After School Activities

We are excited to announce that the first session of our After-School Activities Program will be starting soon. Our fall 2017 session will be starting the week of October 2nd.

Please see the e-blast that went home to your parents for the list of activities and how to sign up!

Looking forward to some after school fun!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwR1q1a2S8kpREdIMGMxOU p4TWk5dnBPTHZJbzdTZWs0OFJF/view>

Please see our Guidance Department Welcome Newsletter for September and October.

September -

<https://www.smores.com/439zp-counseling-newsletter?ref=email>

October -

<https://www.smores.com/punyb-school-counseling-newsletter?ref=email>

Wallingford Public Schools Community Budget Forum scheduled for Thursday, November 16th, 6:00 p.m. at the Hubcap Wallingford.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zkN2LcSIO Et1y-8clWCKyIK-ljK4FA-sgTdVvyD7I4U/edit?usp=sharing>

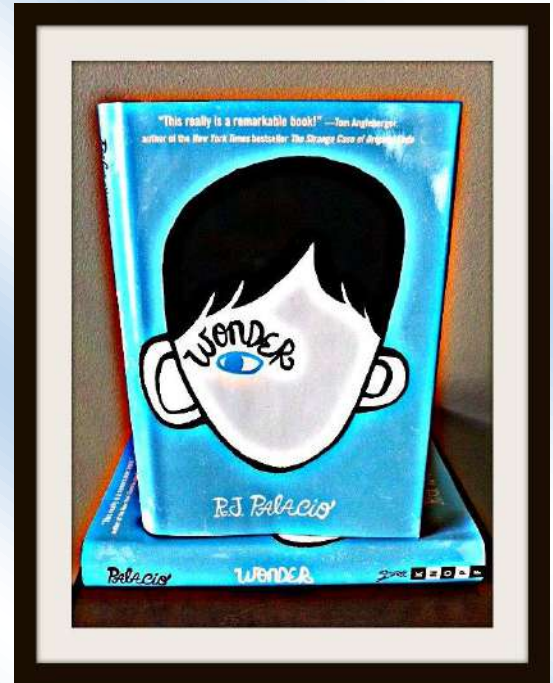
Moran Middle School Presents: Former teacher and current *Executive Director of Changing Perspectives,*

Sam Drazin

When: November 1, 2017 at 6:00 PM

Where: Moran's Library Media Center

BRINGING the book, *WONDER*, TO LIFE...



Have you ever wondered what it's like to live with a facial difference and hearing loss? Sam was born with Treacher Collins syndrome, a craniofacial anomaly which is similar to that of Auggie, the main character of R.J. Palacio's book, *Wonder*. Sam has undergone multiple surgeries and faced the challenges of adolescence while looking a bit different. Growing up with a facial difference and hearing loss, coupled with his experience as a teacher, Sam will take you on a journey, sharing with you the challenges as well as humor in everyday situations. Sam believes awareness is essential to support children and adults in becoming more aware and accepting of all differences.

Come join us for this eye opening event!



What's Happening in the Library

Follow Mrs. Musket on twitter [@Mrs_Musket](#)

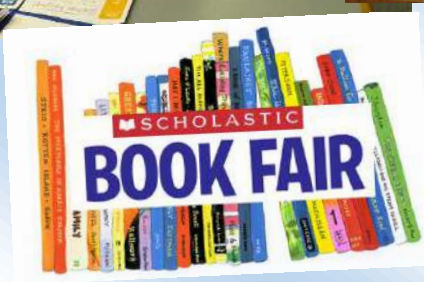
Like [WPS Libraries](#) on Facebook to find out what is happening in Wallingford Public Schools' library media centers.



Promote Reading Club

The Promote Reading Club meets after school on Tuesdays and works to promote reading in the Moran and Wallingford community. Club members are working on books of the day for MVP news, reading challenges and will be walking to Highland Elementary School in November to work with the kindergarten library media classes.

Library Media Night-Wed. Oct. 25, 2017



Moran's First Book Fair was a success!!!!!! Thank you to all that came and purchased items and a huge thanks to all who donated for our 2 schools in Texas. They will be able to purchase new books when they are ready!!!!

We will be having a second Holiday Buy One, Get One Free Book Fair on December 4-8, 2017!!! Thurs. 12/7/17 will be open from 4:30-7pm to all students and families from WPS K-12.

A Word about Capstone from Mrs.Kukta

CAPSTONE...WHAT IS IT?

In CAPSTONE, students are encouraged to think critically, solve challenging problems, and develop skills such as communication, research, media literacy, teamwork, planning, self-sufficiency, and goal setting. The motto of our program is to "BE THAT SOMEBODY". Often times, we can recognize that a problem exists and say..."someone should come up with a way to...." the purpose of our program is to not look to someone else to create the "fix" but to instill the skills students need to be the "fix".

We want students to make "things" better by making better "things".

What is a CAPSTONE project?

A CAPSTONE project is a multifaceted assignment that serves as a culminating academic and intellectual experience for students. Such projects take a wide variety of forms, but most are long term investigative projects that culminate in a final product, presentation, or performance.

For the middle school student, CAPSTONE will be a 3-year process:

YEAR 1 (6th grade) - utilize Design Thinking with Moran Community as focus group

YEAR 2 (7th grade) - utilize Design Thinking with the Wallingford Community as focus group

YEAR 3 (8th grade) - utilize Design Thinking for a community of student's choice

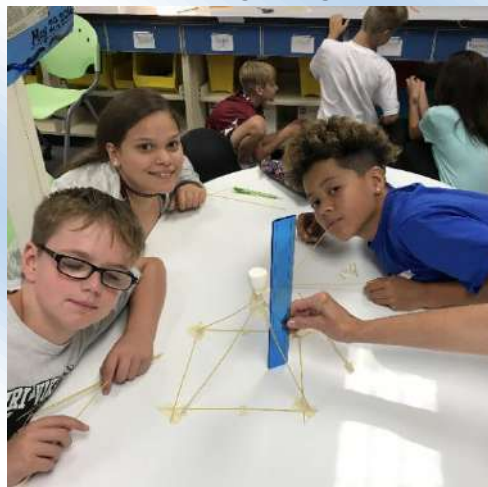
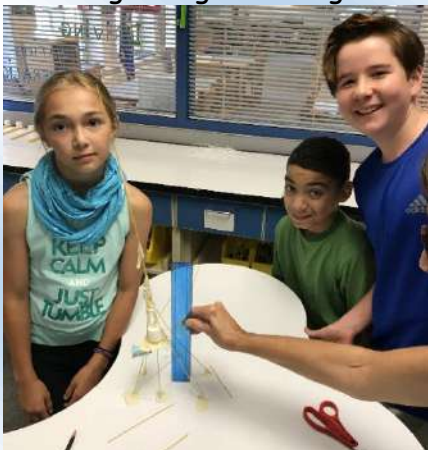
CORE COMPONENTS: (projects need to be school/community based)

- Students strengthen their ethical understanding and awareness for others
- Students engage in a school community building project individually or in small groups
- All students have at least one adult to facilitate and support them through the project

2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR...

We kicked off the trimester trying to save a sloth from a pit of alligators and a disgruntled zookeeper. Students saw the major components of DESIGN THINKING (1. identification of problem/need; 2. Brainstorming solutions; 3. Choosing a solution and developing a prototype; 4. Testing of the prototype and refining; 5. Presentation of solution) through a cartoon and were tasked with coming up with a way to fix the problem. While the story and characters were a bit out of the norm - the process of design thinking was clearly evident. One of the challenges students were tasked with was to build the tallest tower to support a person. In our prototyping - the tower was constructed of uncooked pasta, masking tape, and string and the person was represented by a marshmallow. The students did a great job collaborating and working through this challenge activity.

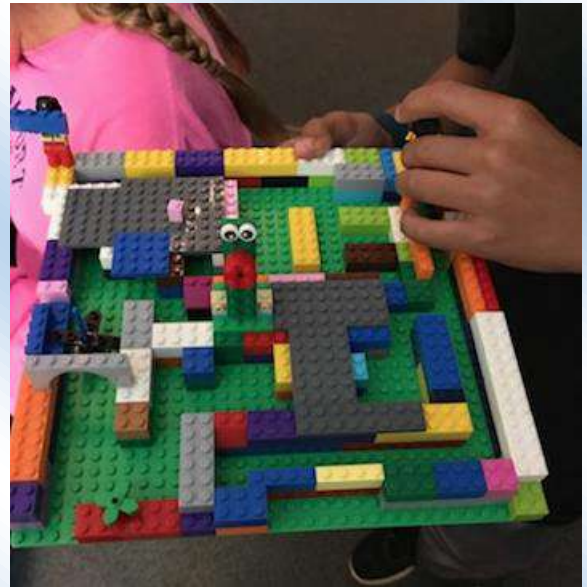
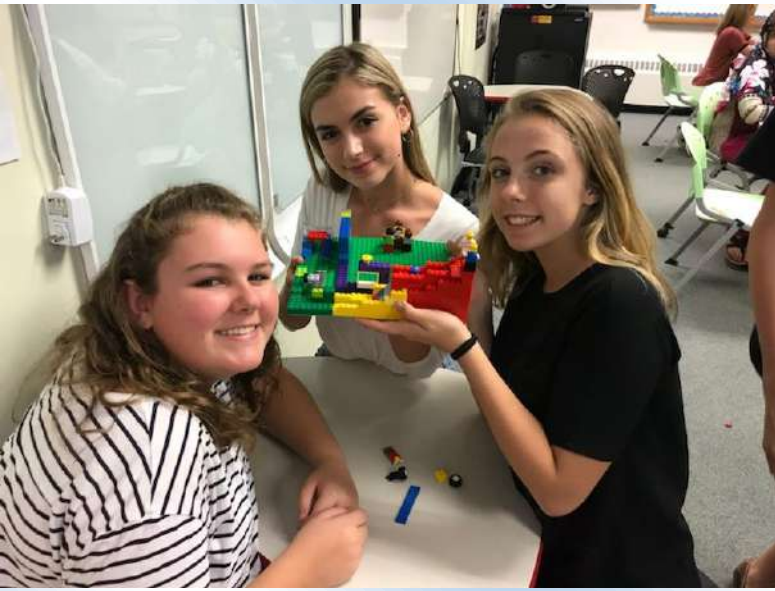
Pictures from the new 6th grade classes 2017/18 doing design thinking/design challenge





Pictures of students design challenge....

Create a marble maze out of Legos that starts in one corner and finishes in the opposite diagonal corner and includes a ramp and spinner.



Team 6-1 Huskies!

In *Science*, students have been continuing to practice the scientific method steps they were introduced to a couple of weeks ago. Students have been practicing with Independent, Dependent and Constant variables as well. Understanding how to write a good hypothesis has been a focus too. **Students will have a quiz on all of these concepts on either Monday (Cores 3,5,6) or Tuesday (Cores 1,7)** Attached please find a few pictures of students working on a hands on lesson using beakers, graduated cylinders and pipettes. Have a wonderful weekend!



Field Trip to Camp Sloper



Team 6-2 Eagles!!!

Welcome to Moran Middle School and Team Eagles! We certainly had a great start to the school year with our new students. We knew students would have many questions about life at Moran, so we used our first days as orientation days. Many students remembered much about the middle school from their visit last spring. While the first few weeks and months of middle school are challenging for students and their families, we believe that all students will be successful.

Students, here are some tried and true tips for preparing for your days in middle school.

- Eat a good breakfast and bring a snack.
- Lockers are not very big (6 inches wide). You need to be able to keep all of your belongings in them, including your backpack. You may not store personal items in the classroom since other classes use our rooms during the day. On the Moran Middle School website, you will find a list of recommended supplies for sixth grade.
- Carry a novel that you enjoy reading with you to each class.
- Leave cell phones turned off in your locker. You may only use them in the cafeteria.

Thank you for reading this letter and for preparing for the new school year.

Mrs. Bohlman (English Language Arts)
Mrs. Maley (Math)
Ms. Simkus (Special Education)

Mrs. Flint (Science)
Mr. Schweighoffer (Social Studies)
Mr. Venezia (Spanish)

Team Eagle News for October:

In October, the eagles' team had their first team meeting. Part of the meeting was to recognize some students for their work in the classroom and on the team in general. The students were Olivia Fritz, Ronan Liu, Paige Duffey, Zoey Carim, Alison Kaiser and Stefan Schweiger. Congratulations to these students!

Team Eagles students received their Team shirts in October. They are so cool!

Some students were so excited, that they put them on over their clothes and wore them the day they got them! The team tested out their first team t-shirt day on Friday, October 20th, and it was great to see so many students wearing the team colors.

On October 16th, Eagles decorated their hallways in Halloween fashion. Their hard work makes the hallway seem scarier than any test the teachers can create.



7th Grade Team 7-1 Rising Stars

_September 2017

<https://www.smore.com/w3c94>

Anne Varrone-Lederle
Team Leader
Spanish

Michelle Wolfrum
Language Arts

Sharon Dooley
Science

Corri Izzo
Math

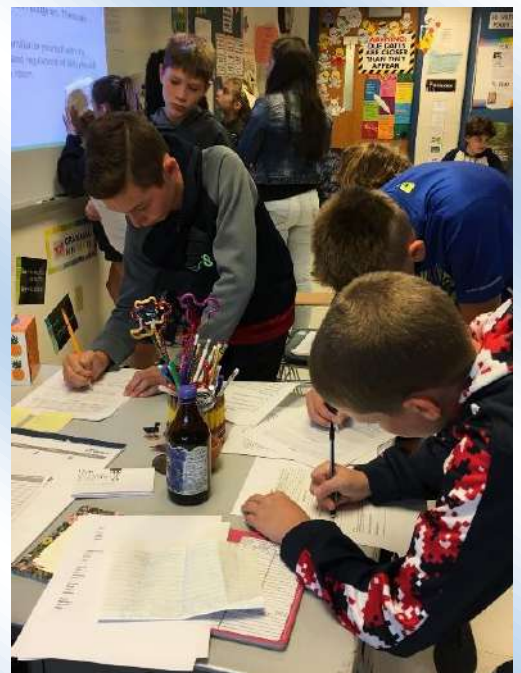
Lauren Sember
Social Studies

Kristen Rosenberry
Special Education

Christine Bee
Team Paraeducator



Back to
School
Activities!



7th Grade Team 7-2 Super Novas

7-2 Science is off to a really good start! We are finishing up with our unit on The Earth which culminates with our field trip to Sleeping Giant. After, we will delve into the exciting world of Waves, where students will get some challenge-based activities to do. It promises to be fun!

Team 7-2 students are incredibly caring and kind! In Social Studies, students have been very moved by the recent weather events in Texas, Florida, and the Caribbean. Core classes have a healthy competition going over which core can bring in the most items to donate to the victims of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. To date, we have collected 5 big boxes of items, including over 100 pounds of rice and over 200 items! These items will be sent to Puerto Rico through the joint effort of Dr. Menzo and SWOL. 7-2 students are a caring, hard-working, impressive bunch! Now that we have wrapped up our review of map skills, students are diving into the study of Canada and the U.S. They will be embarking on some independent learning projects during this unit which will enable them to focus their learning on topics of interest. Finally, we are honoring Wallingford community Veterans! Please ask your child for a special form which will enable us to add your Veterans to our wall of honor!

7-2 World Language students are busy reviewing their whole last year of language learning. They are almost done and will have a project as a culmination of their review, then on to new topics! Next, seventh grade Spanish students will be learning about the house and chores and French students will be learning about foods and dining out. The focus will be on using the language to communicate their thoughts and ideas. Looking forward to some great conversations!

7-2 Math students are really growing their brains. Students are using math stations to practice all of the concepts that are being taught this trimester. They have learned the value of making a mistake and how useful it is to our learning. Students have access to Front Row at home and I would encourage that at least a couple of times a week. I am looking forward to our annual Math and Breakfast on Wednesday, November 22nd at 8:15 a.m. Make plans now to be late to work on that day. It is a lot of fun and all students enjoy beating their parents!!!

Team 7-2 has had an amazing start to the school year in Language Arts! We began the year with a review of important Literary Terms and then moved into our Science-Fiction unit. We have had the pleasure of reading some really interesting (and some really weird) short stories and have just started the process of writing our own Sci-Fi themed short stories. Many students will tell you the best part of Science Fiction was watching the Pixar film Wall-E. Believe it or not, there are so many important themes and messages embedded into this movie - such as the importance of caring for the environment and the dangers of being too reliant on technology. Looking forward to the start of our next unit, which focuses on courage and inner strength!



SLEEPING GIANT FIELD TRIP!!!!



WELCOME

TO TEAM 8-1 AT MORAN MIDDLE SCHOOL!

Welcome to 8th grade and team 8-1! We are excited that we will have the opportunity to work with you this year! The 2016-2017 school year has a landscape of opportunities in and out of the classroom. We wanted to take a moment to introduce ourselves and to give you general information regarding contact information and other items that may be important for us to take note of as we begin our journey into this school year together.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Aug	8/30 First Day of School
September/October	9/5 Labor Day (no school) 9/10 Open House 9/21 Early Release for Students 10/10 Columbus Day (no school) 10/19 Early Release for Students

Team Site:
<https://sites.google.com/a/wallingfordschools.org/moran-team-8-1/>

Daily Homework Site:
<http://goo.gl/y41UPY> This is for you and your child. Please note that this does not take the place of students needing to be responsible and independent when it comes to the recording (or taking pictures of homework boards) and completion of homework.

Team Goal
To have the curriculum challenge you; our insight inspire you; our team environment encourage you; and our daily lessons deliver the motivation you need to be your best.

FAST FACTS:
 Moran Middle School
 141 Hope Hill Road
 #203-741-2900
 Grade 8 Guidance Counselor
 Mrs. Kerri Funaro



MEET THE TEAM



SCIENCE

MRS. MORENO
 "You are going to love science with a vengeance after this year!!"

Contact Information
 Phone: 203-741-2900
 Email: lmoreno@wallingfordschools.org



MATHEMATICS

MRS. CLANCY
 "Any fears you have in math will fly away!"

Contact Information
 Phone: 203-741-2900
 Email: tclancy@Wallingfordschools.org



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

MRS. DELEON
 "You will see how super reading can be!"

Contact Information
 Phone: 203-741-2900
 Email: rdeleon@Wallingfordschools.org



SOCIAL STUDIES

MR. CASELLA
 "Looking into the past will unlock the present!"

Contact Information
 Phone: 203-741-2900
 Email: Scasella@Wallingfordschools.org



WORLD LANGUAGE

MISS SONSTROM
 "We will fight through the difficulties of learning a 2nd language together!"

Contact Information
 Phone: 203-741-2900



SPECIAL EDUCATION

MRS. MAILHOT
 "You will see how helpful my powers are!"

Contact Information
 Phone: 203-741-2900
 Email: tmailhot@Wallingfordschools.org



COURAGE, KINDNESS & YOUR BEST, the ONLY options!

Team 8-2 Welcome!



<https://sites.google.com/a/wallingfordschools.org/mrs-carbone-website/>

Teachers and Email address

Kerri Carbone - Science - kcarbone@wallingfordschools.org

Evelyn Lorenzo - World Language - ELorenzo@wallingfordschools.org

Amy Zolnik - Special Education - azolnik@wallingfordschools.org

John Morrison - Social Studies - jmorrison@wallingfordschools.org

Steve Scursso - Math - sscursso@wallingfordschools.org

Donna Fritz - Para Educator - dfritz@wallingfordschools.org

Moran Sports

A look at some of the Sports for this Trimester!

Cross-Country

<i>James H. Moran Cross-Country</i>				
Season Schedule 2017				
Day	Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Fri	Sept 29th	Dodd MS (Cheshire)	Dodd MS	3:45pm
Thurs	Oct 5th	DePaolo MS (Southington)	DePaolo MS	3:45pm
Thurs	Oct 12th	Kennedy MS (Southington)	Moran MS	3:45pm
Sat	Oct 14th	**McGee Invitational** <i>(course walks start @ 8:00am)</i>	Sage Park (Berlin)	TBA
Tues	Oct 17th	Lincoln MS/Washington MS (Meriden)	Moran MS	3:45pm
Fri	Oct 20th	Ghost Run	Moran MS	7:00pm
Mon	Oct 23rd	**Cheshire Invitational** <i>(course walks start @ 5:00pm)</i>	Cheshire Park	4:00pm
Fri	Oct 27th	Dag Hammarskjold MS	Moran MS	3:45pm
Sat	Nov 4th	**State Championships** <i>(course walks start @ 9:00am)</i> <i>(Select Athletes Only!!)</i>	Wickham Park (Manchester)	TBA

Revised: September 2017

Team Members

Samantha Brown	Max Barrett
Finnian Dubuc	Talan Burr
Paige Duffey	Ryan Carmen
Alison Kaiser	Kyle Frazier
Angelika Kotula	Michael Firtz
Katie Lombino	Adithya Naturai
Hitika Patel	Sal Passante
Maya Wresien	Daniel Phoenix
Arianna Amodio	William Seibt
Jaime Koons	Triston Bonilla
Jayna MacKenzie	Dennis Brunelle
Karly Martino	Travis Karosi
Aubrey Monroe	Noah Koons
Emma Reilly	Aaron Mansfield
Avery Winters	Noah Speeg
	Eamon Burke
	Evan Caines
	John Cotter-Swetz
	Aaron Kaiser
	Jack Milewski
	Stefan Pellerin
	Zachary Zubeckis

Coach Scursso

Managers: Cally Chivuk, Jocelyn Johnson, Kaitlyn Morrill, Madison Rentfro-Longstreet, Keera Reed & Alyssa Werdan



Trophy and Medal winners from the McGee Invitational



Congrats to Moran Cross Country Teams on their performances during the State Championships on Nov. 4, 2017. The boy teams came in 3rd overall. The girls came in 22nd out of 122 schools. Great job by both teams!!! Way to go Mustangs!!!!

Music Department

Chorus & String Ensemble

Laurie Brandl - lbrandl@wallingfordschools.org

Band

Jedd Chlebowski -
jchlebowski@wallingfordschools.org

General Music

Mimi Knibbs - mknibbs@wallingfordschools.org



Upcoming Musical Events

Winter Concerts -

Monday December 18th - Winter Concert (at Sheehan)

5:30-6:15 - 6th Grade Band, Chorus & Strings

6:30-7:15 - 7th Grade Band & Chorus

7:30-8:30 - 7th & 8th Grade String Ensemble, 8th Grade Band & Chorus, Varsity Choir

Seussical JR will be the Musical this year.

Additional School Information!!!

James H. Moran Middle School PTO Home-Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/jh Moran pto/>

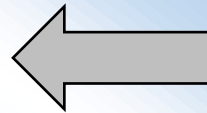
Save the Date: Sheehan Open House for Prospective Families

On Thursday, October 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., Sheehan High School will host an Open House for prospective parents/guardians and students. At this event, families will be introduced to the school's academic offerings and extra-curricular activities. The evening will begin with a formal presentation in the auditorium followed by open sessions with teachers from all departments, along with student representatives from clubs and sports teams. This is a great opportunity to learn about Sheehan's unique programs and vibrant social life. The administration, faculty, and students are looking forward to welcoming eighth grade students and their parents/guardians to Sheehan High School on this night.

DUCT TAPE CHALLENGE

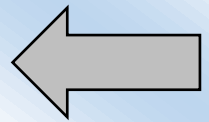
\$500 RAISED FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS.

OUR TEACHERS VOLUNTEERED TO BE TAPED UP FOR A GREAT CAUSE. THANK YOU TO ALL THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS THAT BOTH DONATED AND HELPED WITH THIS GREAT EVENT.



Mr. Piacentini

Mrs. Giangrave



Ms. Wolfrum

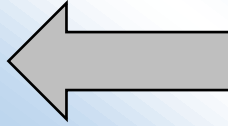


Mr. Baker

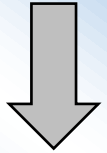




Mr. Devine



Mr. Bologna



Hurricane Harvey
Duct Tape Fundraiser
Let's stick em' to the wall!

Goal →

\$500	
\$400	
\$300	
\$200	
\$100	

Thank you!



October 12, 2017

The Wallingford Health Department, together with our community partners, wants to make a positive and lasting impact to ensure we are truly a "Healthy Wallingford". The Healthy Wallingford steering committee has been working since 2014 to establish community goals focused on improving overall health. As part of this effort, a group of parents and students, met with school officials concerning the underlying theme: EAT- PLAY- UNPLUG. These actions will help everyone to remember to eat healthy, take time to exercise, and make time for personal and family time to "destress and reconnect" without being tethered to electronics.

From this model, we have focused on the need for everyone in our community, to model behavior that will lead to a Healthy Wallingford; one that embraces a personal connection with neighbors, and accepts and welcomes the need for personal time to destress. Our goal is caring community that accepts and embraces ALL people.

This not an "instant success" project, it is a community-wide effort at to achieve a "life time" change. How do we start? We are asking every segment of our community to use the "EAT PLAY UNPLUG" logo in correspondence, as a conversation opener. We're also asking that you accept the notion that we as a community and a society need positive change. We're going to need EVERYONES help to act upon and model a caring behavior, speak by your actions, so that the behavior becomes a norm instead of an exception.

"Choose Kindness". This is our first behavior to transform; what does Kindness look like? It's up to your organization to determine how to "Choose Kindness". A good starting point is to watch and share the 4 minute video link below. Everyone we know is facing their own life stress. We want to be a community that embraces empathy, kindness and a Healthy Wallingford.

Thank you in advance for embracing a healthy Wallingford. We will review "acts of kindness" and any positive changes noted at our next meeting, TBD in January 2018.

[Video: Empathy: The Human Connection \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1eIJxPCDme4\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1eIJxPCDme4)

For additional information, please view our Health Improvement Plan,
http://www.town.wallingford.ct.us/Content/Health_Department

Halloween Happenings at Moran

