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Beginning our Bioblitz

NHS strives for our students to feel connected to and value the natural world and to leave our school with the skills, knowledge, and will to care for and protect it. To that end, Middle School Science Teacher Rebecca Jones created our inaugural Bio Blitz! With the help of local and Seacoast Science volunteers, our K-8th grade students used iNaturalist to discover and track the flora and fauna in the mixed woods behind our school. We are excited to gather yearly data on the regrowth and successional transition of this recently forested land! Our habitats consist of wetlands with streams and seasonal vernal pools, upland forest crisscrossed with stone walls and the old Fogg family cemetery.



This year's data included almost 400 observations and a total of 86 different species! Check out our Bio Blitz website at www.inaturalist.org/projects/north-hampton-school-bioblitz.

Hurricane Island

Last week our 8th Grade students experienced their culminating field trip to Hurricane Island. They spent three days and two nights as the only group on this self-sustaining island ten miles offshore from Rockland, ME.

Several students shared with me that, following these days together, they felt closer to their classmates. When asked why, they shared that staying away from technology was key. They also felt that this trip provided them opportunities to connect with students they had not previously gotten to know well.



Students also learned about sustainability practices, composting, and water collection and usage. They saw a demonstration of lobstering and

scallop aquaculture. They also went tide pooling (intertidal zone exploration) and discovered the most amazing large bloodworm that Mrs. Jones had ever seen.

Other favorite activities included rock climbing. Maddie said, “It made us challenge ourselves not just physically, but mentally as well. You had to tell yourself you could do it.” Maddy shared that she enjoyed the lobstering and was proud of herself for holding a lobster that “was not even banded!” The raft challenge also continued to be a favorite activity for students. “I would have liked to spend the whole afternoon on the pond doing different and new challenges on the rafts that we created,” shared Eddie.

ELOs

For the second year, NHS has offered its 7th and 8th Graders extended learning enrichment opportunities (ELOs). These ELOs support students’ progress towards our SAU21 Portrait of a Learner, supporting not only their academics, but their essential life skills, community engagement, and mindsets. Students were challenged this year to support or promote our sense of community in North Hampton School and/or the Town of North Hampton. Projects this year included:

- A senior citizen dance
- The Parent/Student Basketball Game and the Family Fun Night
- A recommendation for student safety on Atlantic Avenue
- An exploration of the benefits of and exemplars for elementary educational poultry programs
- An online resource for families to promote their children’s love of reading
- A map of our school forest



Students are sharing information about their projects with their peers and the Sixth Grade this Thursday. Many thanks to this year’s ELO mentors: Nurse Mara, Ms. Fiore, Ms. DiPietro, Mr. Szeliga, Mr. Pope, Mr. Lukach, and Mrs. Nardone.

Holocaust Education

As part of their humanities study of WWII, the 8th Grade has had several powerful learning experiences focused on the Holocaust. Following the reading of her memoir “Hidden: A True Story of the Holocaust,” NHS hosted Holocaust survivor [Kati Preston](#). Her honest, poignant, and hopeful presentation to the students took them on a journey through history as she recounted the details of her early childhood in Nazi-occupied Hungary. She shared that she is with us today due to the kind and courageous acts of one single person, and her key message to our students was to never underestimate the power of one. She reminded us of the power we each possess to do the right thing and of the importance of acting with compassion to fight against hate, prejudice, and bullying.

Students then traveled to Boston on June 2nd to visit the international exhibition, "Auschwitz. Not Long Ago. Not Far Away." The exhibit features 700 artifacts from the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial, Yad Vashem, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and over 20 other international museums. These artifacts were curated to tell the personal stories of the victims and survivors of the Holocaust.