



SPRING 2015 ■ VOLUME 7, NUMBER 3

NEHS NEWS

NEHS Chapter Boosts “Dolphin Pride” at Delaware School Newly inducted students learn the value of academic achievement

The students at Brick Mill Elementary School seem to share a lot with their mascot, the dolphin—a creature known for being highly intelligent, agile, and playful. At Brick Mill, the school is busy working with its inaugural group of National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS) students.

It’s big news for this school in budding Middletown, DE, a former farming community of about 15,000 where the first McDonald’s arrived in 1999 and the first Starbucks opened in 2006. In fact, there wasn’t even a grocery store when Michelle Romeo, a fourth grade teacher at Brick Mill, moved to Middletown 15 years ago. In a short period of time, however, Middletown has flourished from a more rural community into a suburban community.

Opened in 2003, Brick Mill will be home to the first NEHS chapter in the district, which now contains seven elementary schools. It is a grade 1–5 school of just under 500 students, where the motto boasts, “a place where young minds grow academically, physically, and socially.”

Romeo, a 10-year teaching veteran, will be the adviser for the new NEHS chapter. She remem-

bers when her own children, now in high school, earned recognition as middle school students in NEHS’s sister program, National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). When her children were tapped for NJHS, Romeo recalls, “They felt validated for their work. It took some talking on my part because they weren’t exactly sure what it was all about. As a teacher, I was able to communicate with them what an honor this was to be recognized at such a young age.”

She believes this truly contributed to their “being able to understand community service and thinking beyond yourself and your own little world. It really helped them appreciate much more about their education and what they had to offer other people.”

At Brick Mill, the inaugural group of students was initiated just before winter break, with their first service project slated for Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday, a day many celebrate as an opportunity for community service. The adviser planned a group volunteer effort for the newly initiated students at a local food bank.

This is something Romeo hopes will really resonate with students at this Title I school, where approxi-

mately 20 percent of the student body is categorized as low income. One might be deceived, she feels, to realize that there is a legitimate level of need in this community when seeing some of the more affluent neighborhoods. Yet, need does exist.

“This school always has been good about supporting food drives,” Romeo explains, but “it’s usually the PTO that organizes it, and we’re hoping to get the kids more involved so that it feels more personal and

(continued on page 2)



MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES

Connect with Other Chapters

Collaborative, interchapter projects are a great way to make connections with other advisers, students, and school leaders to help you achieve new levels of meaningful service. There is a new “Chapter Finder” tool that is available online to help you find other NEHS chapters in your area or state. The tool is found at www.njhs.us/chapter-finder and allows you to search for Honor Society chapters (NEHS, NJHS, and NHS) by location or school name.

Log in using your NEHS adviser login to access the full range of capabilities. While contact information for chapters is not provided, you can use the school name and city/state/zip information to determine contact information for other chapters nearby.

NEHS Chapter Boosts “Dolphin Pride” *(continued from page 1)*

that it’s not just a parent who gave them a canned good to bring to school. We want them to make a personal connection, so they can see how it’s helping their community.”

The chapter, chartered on September 21, 2014, is the result of effort by Romeo’s assistant principal, Roberta Jacobs, who discovered NEHS while attending the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) national conference in the summer.

“We do a lot to recognize positive behavior—we are a Positive Behavioral Support (PBS) school,” Jacobs explains, adding that students earn charms that reward academic, social, and physical achievement through their “Dolphin Pride” program. But, she said, “The principal and I felt there was a need to

extend, encourage, and acknowledge academic achievements.”

The middle and high schools in the district have chapters of the Honor Societies, and Brick Mill wanted to offer something at the elementary level to augment its existing recognition efforts.

Upon returning from the conference, she began the research process by reviewing the NEHS website (www.nehs.org) to learn more about the organization and the affiliation process.

Fast-forward to the present—Brick Mill is anticipating great excitement from its students with the NEHS chapter. Romeo hopes it will inspire a desire on the part of students to achieve more. “I hope it will really help validate them as learners,” she said.

Second Semester Highlights

MARCH

Renewal notices are mailed to all principals in NEHS schools and reminder emails are sent to all chapter advisers.

APRIL 5

Founding Day for NEHS commemorating the birth of NEHS on April 5, 2008.

APRIL 15

The 2015 Advisers’ Online Survey will be available at www.nehs.org.

APRIL 19–25

National Student Leadership Week sponsored by NASSP.

JUNE 30–JULY 2

The National Association of Elementary School Principals Annual Convention in Long Beach, CA. Visit www.naesp-conference.org for details.

For additional dates and calendar resources, log in at www.nehs.org/az and go to the “Dates to Remember” section on the home page of the Adviser Zone.



NEHS on Facebook

Have you visited the official NEHS Facebook page?

Go to www.facebook.com/elementaryhonors for posts about chapter activities and other resources for advisers and students. “Like” the page to become a part of the growing NEHS social media community.



CELEBRATE

National Student Leadership Week

In keeping with the mission of NEHS to recognize and engage students at your school, take time this spring to focus on leadership. April 19–25 is National Student Leadership Week (NSLW) and provides a unique opportunity for schools to turn their attention to leadership and the many roles student leaders play in their school and community. The theme for this year's celebration is "The Power of One" and encourages students to imagine the difference they alone—as an individual or as a group—can make in driving change.

In 1972, the National Association of Student Councils (NASC) held its first National Student Government Day with support from the White House. In the 43 years that have followed, this recognition has evolved into an entire week focusing on the accomplishments and potential of student leaders. Designed primarily for middle level and high school use, NSLW also has the potential to help your school focus on the leadership of your NEHS members and others. Consider the following activities.

Leadership Bulletin Board

Create a bulletin board at school that includes quotations about leadership along with the names and photos of students serving in leadership positions. Each NEHS member can search through the many quotation resources online and pick one leadership quotation that has meaning to him or her. The students' leadership roles can include the head of the Safety Patrol, the student council officers, or even those on the honor roll for their leadership in the classroom. Ask your members what important student leadership roles they see in place at your school.

Teaching Leadership

List the leadership functions from your NEHS chapter activities this year—whether officers, committee chairs, or other contributors. Then encourage all teachers to spend time during NSLW looking at leadership as part of their curriculum, and to highlight how students can be better leaders in class and at school for the future. As an additional resource for your school, your NEHS chapter can also share tips with the student body on how to be a good student leader in the classroom.

Certificates of Appreciation

Create and share certificates of appreciation for the student leaders at your school. Ask teachers from all grades, the administration, and other staff to identify individuals from their classrooms or assignments who have demonstrated meaningful leadership during the year.



Guest Speaker Experiences

If your chapter is having its monthly meeting during NSLW, invite a speaker to attend and talk with your students about leadership. The speaker could be the principal, a school board member, or another community leader with leadership experiences to share. Many schools will also host a service project during this week to focus on servant leadership as an important quality for all chapters.

NSLW Proclamation

Ask the mayor or city council in your community to proclaim NSLW for all to recognize the importance of student leaders. Submit an article about your NSLW celebrations to the superintendent's office, the local newspaper, or a community web page highlighting the leadership roles of your students. A sample proclamation is available for your use at www.njhs.us/nslw.

As NEHS grows, the resources and opportunities for including National Student Leadership Week as part of your annual program of activities will also grow. For now, should you develop some activities for your chapter this year, please share a description and photos of them by emailing nehs@nehs.org. You can visit www.njhs.org/nslw for additional ideas. Best of luck as you celebrate student leadership this April.

GEAR UP FOR EVENTS AND YOUR INDUCTION CEREMONY

Have you visited the NEHS online adviser store? It's where you want to go for the materials you need when planning your activities and induction ceremony.

In the store, you can find items such as certificates, membership pins, podium banners, and so much more. Visit store.nehs.org to browse and place an order.

Just Arrived!

Make sure to visit the store and check out two great new items: the wood display sign and certificate frame. Display the wood sign proudly in your classroom or at events and use the frame to hold your annual affiliation certificate.



Induction Kit Mailing and Discount

In January, all NEHS chapter advisers received the "Induction Kit" mailing from the national office. It contains a poster of featured items and the special code [15IND] to use to secure the 10 percent discount on all online orders placed before March 31, 2015. We hope you received this mailing and will take advantage of the discount as you prepare your orders for spring activities.

CALENDAR REMINDERS

Mark Your Calendar: March–May

These upcoming holidays may be a great opportunity for your chapter to plan its next activity. Visit the National Student Project Database at www.njhs.us/projects to search for project ideas submitted by schools from across the country.

MARCH

Read Across America Day 2015, March 2

Pi Day, March 14

St. Patrick's Day, March 17

Vernal Equinox, March 20

APRIL

Earth Day, April 22

Third Monday: Patriot's Day (in selected states)

MAY

Memorial Day, May 25

THE VALUE OF NEHS

Responding to the 2014 NEHS annual survey, advisers and principals shared the following comments and ideas regarding the value of their NEHS chapter to their students, school, and community. We hope you agree with their assessments.

Bringing NEHS to our school is the best thing that has happened at this school. NEHS has brought a level of excellence to the school that was very much needed. Staff, students, and parents were blown away at what our inductees shared in their induction speeches. Our administration has shared that NEHS was what our school had been missing.

Being able to meet needs in our community as well as support and encourage the educational successes of our students is highly esteemed by our staff, parents, and community.

I enjoy seeing the pride on the members' faces when they are sponsoring a project. They take pride and have ownership in what is happening. This helps teach them about community service, the value in helping others, and the importance of being responsible citizens.

We are celebrating student achievement and success; promoting leadership.

Hosting an NEHS chapter at the school helps build a sense of community in the school and encourages students to be role models and leaders in their school and community.

Community involvement along with bringing parents onboard to help students think more positively about setting goals and achieving them is the greatest value of NEHS for us.

NEHS is a great way for our stars to shine. They love the service they provide and love making our school a better place.

Anything that gets kids excited about learning is a plus in my book. NEHS gives the kids a different way to learn. They are interacting with students from other grades and classes that they might not otherwise have the chance to encounter and this gets them excited about learning!

How is NEHS making a difference at your school? Send your comments to nehs@nehs.org.

3,500+ IDEAS JUST A CLICK

Students themselves—supported by their advisers—often can provide enormous ingenuity, energy, and inspiration for projects to engage your Honor Society students.

Fortunately, as an NEHS adviser, you have at your disposal an invaluable resource offering help from fellow advisers. It's the National Student Project Database, available at www.nehs.org, and it's a virtual treasure trove of ideas submitted by schools nationwide. It has more than 3,500 projects ranging from appreciation activities to community service projects. The entries are sortable by such parameters as school type, size, category, and scope. Some even offer supporting documents and photos.

While the majority of projects have been submitted by middle and high schools, many can be adapted for implementation by elementary students. Once you click into the database from the NEHS home page, you will notice the database is currently housed on the National Junior Honor Society website, but full access is available for all NEHS advisers.

Here's a look inside at an assortment of projects that could work for your NEHS chapter.

THE ULTIMATE COMFORT FOOD (1)

Your students can make somebody's day with a good old-fashioned peanut butter and jelly sandwich!

Wishing to help a local homeless shelter, the student council at Coronado High School in Henderson, NV, led a communitywide PB-and-J-athon. They invited their feeder middle schools and another area high school to come and make sandwiches together. "We also opened this event up to students at our school, and many people came, representing clubs like Key Club and National Honor Society." By the time the event concluded, the students had made more than 1,200 sandwiches. "The students participating were very proud to have given back to their community."



COLLECTIVE SPIRIT (2)

How about having your members roll up their sleeves and help at a donation collection warehouse? Members of the Carmel Christian School Chapter of National Honor Society in Matthews, NC, spent afternoons at a local warehouse painting, cleaning, and sorting donations of furniture, blankets, sheets, pillows, and household items for needy families. NHS members also collected new pillows, sheets, and blankets to donate to the organization.

A CLEAN SWEEP

Help your members show their appreciation for an important part of your school community whose work may be taken for granted—your custodians!



LOG IN TO THE NATIONAL STUDENT DATABASE VIA THE NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY WEBSITE: WWW.NJHS.US/PROJECTS.

AWAY

Student Government Association members at Chantilly High School in suburban Washington, D.C., provided all custodians with a meal, while an entire class pitched in by cleaning the lunchroom during and after all lunches. "We washed tables, swept floors, picked up left over trash, and emptied trash cans. We wanted our custodians to realize that they are appreciated by the Chantilly student body and faculty for all the hard work they do."

"CAN" THE PRINCIPAL

Don't let your food drives get stale! Have fun with it and challenge your students to a canned food drive like the one conducted at Notre Dame High School in St. Louis, MO. There, students collected nonperishable food items and stored them in the principal's office, hoping to collect enough food to force her to move into the hallway. It worked, with the generous student body donating 3,985 cans.

CHALK TALK (3)

Promote civic mindedness with this activity. Students at Charles W. Flanagan High School in Pembroke Pines, FL, wanted to give students an opportunity to express themselves artistically and promote peace. Chalk4Peace did just that. For a \$3 donation, students got chalk to draw inside a giant peace sign, visible to all students in the school. Students also enjoyed music, food, and drinks, with donations from local restaurants and grocers.

You are encouraged to submit your own projects to the database. Join NEHS in making the National Student Project Database the nation's largest collection of student-led projects and a unique resource for schools around the country.

WHEN MEMBERS TRANSFER TO A NEW SCHOOL

The *NEHS Handbook* indicates that members of NEHS, when transferring schools, can have their membership automatically transferred to the chapter at their new school. If you learn of an impending transfer, we encourage you to provide the departing member with a Letter of Transfer noting that the student was a 'member in good standing' and indicate the nature of your standards for selection as a resource for the new adviser.

If you're receiving a new member transfer, we encourage you to warmly welcome them and spend some time orienting the student (and parents) to the projects and obligations associated with your chapter.

Student members who transfer to schools without a chapter are technically still members of NEHS, but they are in an 'inactive status' until a new chapter is formed or they move on to middle school.

One additional recommendation to



the adviser of the student's initial chapter: Take time to annotate your official NEHS membership roster indicating that the member has transferred, with the date of transfer, and, if possible, identifying the name and city/state of the new school. This information will prove particularly helpful should a new NEHS adviser be appointed in the fall and need to identify all of the chapter's active members at the school.

As the number of NEHS chapters continues to grow, helping students get through the transfer to a new school with their NEHS membership in place is likely to be an ongoing concern for many chapter advisers.



NEHS is a program of the National Association of Secondary School Principals in partnership with the NAESP (National Association of Elementary School Principals) Foundation.

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NEHS News is the official newsletter of the National Elementary Honor Society, published four times a year in fall, winter, spring, and summer by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), 1904 Association Drive, Reston, VA 20191-1537. Telephone: 703-860-0200. Website: www.nehs.org. © Copyright 2015 NASSP.

Contact Us

Mail:

NEHS
1904 Association Drive
Reston, VA 20191-1537

Phone:

866-599-6347 (toll free)
or 703-860-0200

Fax:

703-476-5432

Email:

nehs@nehs.org

Online:

www.nehs.org/contactus



1904 Association Drive
Reston, VA 20191

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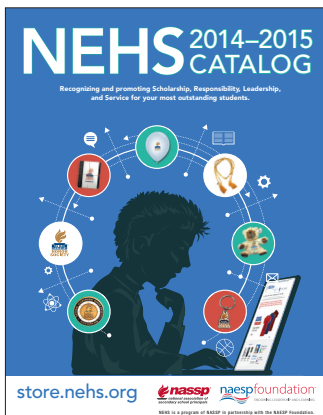
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Misplaced Your Catalog?

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Do you have a resource to share? Books to recommend? Share your ideas with the national staff by emailing nehs@nehs.org.

Where's Watson?

Watson, our official NEHS mascot, has been on vacation for much of the winter, but he already has visits scheduled for this spring. We'll report on his travels on Facebook and in our next edition of *NEHS News*.



“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.”

DR. SEUSS

For more inspirational quotes, "like" the official NEHS Facebook page at www.facebook.com/elementaryhonors.