
The Spirit of the Season in Region 14 includes concerts, meals and drives for the needy

For Immediate Release November 27, 2018 –This week marks the beginning of the Giving and Giving Back Season in Region 14. From music concerts, to holiday luncheons, to food and clothing drives, the students and staff at our four schools are setting the stage for incredible holiday giving.

At Nonnewaug High School, we are celebrating our 10th year hosting the Region 14 Senior Citizen Holiday Meal for area senior citizens on Thursday, November 29th. This year's menu represents our commitment to our new Farm to Table class and the incorporation of many ingredients that our students have grown and produced along with local Connecticut farm products.

The Advanced Culinary Class has written the menu and will prepare and serve the meal complete with fresh produce and herbs provided by the Farm to Table Class. Many other departments at Nonnewaug contribute to this cherished event as well. Floriculture students make the table centerpieces and corsages, the ADL class will assist with greeting our guests and giving them corsages. The Digital Design students designed the menu and our Fine and Performing Arts students will entertain with songs of the season and an art show. Nonnewaug's journalism students will take photos and interviews for the school newspaper and the Video Production students will document the event with a video to be posted on our Region 14 website.

We are also celebrating our 10th anniversary with Labonne's Market who graciously donates all of the turkeys from a local farm for the entree. Watertown Meat Center donates food for the event as well. It is a full NHS event where students and staff come together for our community.

FBLA and FFA have joined forces this year to help those in need with a Holiday Toy Drive. Students and staff can drop off any unwrapped toys in any Agriscience classroom or B14 by December 7th. All donations will be going to support the Community Services Council of Woodbury's Santa Shop.

The Leo Club is also conducting a Winter Clothing and a Food Drive. They are asking for gently used winter coats, hats and mittens as well as non-perishable food items. Boxes are located outside of the nurse's office.

On Saturday, December 1st from 9 am to 3 pm the Woodbury FFA is holding the Holiday Plant Sale and Pet Adoption here at Nonnewaug in the Ag Building. Come and support Woodbury FFA and maybe even adopt a new four-legged friend.

Also during this Giving and Giving Back Season, music students from our four schools are putting on performances over the next several weeks. The schedule of concerts is as follows:

- Wednesday, November 28- Small Ensemble Concert at Woodbury Middle School- 6:30 p.m. This will include students in our 7th grade small ensemble class performing solos, duets, trios and quartets.
- Thursday, November 29- NHS String students and NHS Chamber Singers will be performing at the Senior Luncheon
- Saturday, December 1- WMS & NHS Band and Choir students will be leading the Sing Along for the tree lighting ceremony in Woodbury at 4 p.m.
- Friday, December 7- WMS & NHS Band and Choir students will be leading the sing along for the tree lighting ceremony in Bethlehem at 6 p.m.
- Saturday, December 8- NHS Chamber Singers will be performing at the Bethlehem Christmas Festival at 12:30 p.m. in the Gazebo
- Thursday, December 13- NHS Winter Concert- 6:30 p.m. in the NHS Cafeteria featuring the NHS Chamber Singers, Orchestra, Chorus and Band
- Thursday, January 17- WMS Winter Concert at 6:30 p.m. WMS Gymnasium featuring WMS Band, Chorus and Orchestra

The LEO Club at WMS will be hosting a clothing drive to benefit the Waterbury Youth Services Homeless Youth Resource Center. A donation box is outside the Main Office through December 13. The LEO Club is also teaming up with the Girls Scouts Troop 64023 for a donation drive to benefit the Waterbury Interfaith Ministries. Donations of comfort and personal items as well as baby items are being collected in a box outside the Main Office.

At the elementary schools, the younger students are also involved in Region 14's Giving Season. At Mitchell School, 5th graders are hosting the Annual 5th Grade Give Back. All fifth grade students will collaborate to coordinate a can drive that will benefit the Woodbury Food Bank. Students are in charge of advertising, collecting, as well participating in the reward for the class that donates the most. Bob Taylor of the Community Services Council of Woodbury will also make a visit to the 5th grade classes to educate them on a more in depth level regarding the necessity of the food bank in our community.

At Bethlehem Elementary School, staff has taken on the idea of a Giving Tree to help local families in need during this holiday season. A tree bearing tags of gift requests from BES families adorns the office. During this time of holiday gift giving, families are asked to take the time to help those around us and stop by the office and pick a gift request off our tree. All gifts are for children and families at Bethlehem Elementary.

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