

BLAZER BULLETIN



A Publication of the Millbrook Central School District

February - March 2022



Hello Millbrook families!

While the weather has been anything but warm, we here in Millbrook are already looking forward to our 2022 spring sports season! FamilyID Registration is closing. If you missed the deadline please contact Athletic Director, Al Hammell. Can't wait to cheer on the Blazers in the spring!

We continue to develop our strategic direction for the next five years, building upon our great foundation. Thank you to all who shared their vision for where you want Millbrook schools to be five years from now. It is critical to our mission. We love our students. I thank you for the trust you demonstrate by allowing us to share in their pre-K – 12th grade journey.

Laura, Your Proud Superintendent of Schools



BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

The library at Alden Place took on a different tone in February as buzzers buzzed and students spoke loudly as they answered the 5th grade Battle of the Books questions.

Teacher Erin Hicks coordinated the program, which began in November and ended with a mid-January Family Feud-style competition. After reading five books, which Library Media Specialist Ellen Bosan obtained through the Millbrook Public Library, eight teams competed.

"The kids have choices - they have to become an expert in two books, but many read all the books because the more they read, the better they'd be in the competition," Hicks said.

Bosan taught students about each author and pointed out most books were based on the author's experiences. As they read, students wrote questions for the competition.

Logan Kozera, part of the first place Cookie Monsters, said "It was really fun because it was interesting to watch the whole team go in and click the button."

He became an expert in "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane" by Kate DiCamillo and "Replay" by Sharon Creech.

Mia Sullivan, from Hicks' class, was team captain of The Raging Readers. While the books chosen weren't her favorites, she enjoyed the program.



"It was fun to read and make questions," she said, adding, "I learned that even when it is something you don't like, you can still get something out of it. It was really fun."

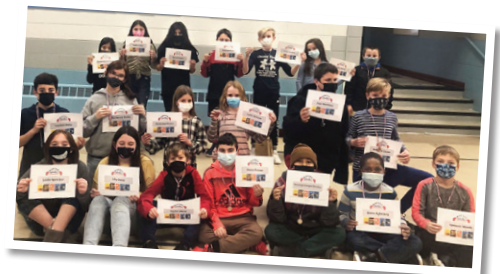
Competition was fierce: three teams were eliminated in the first round. The finalists were: Cookie Monsters (1st), Crazy Readers (2nd), Team Books (3rd), Raging Readers (4th) and Romans (5th).

"The final battle was intense," Hicks said. "We had to have two tie breakers - a tie breaker to get to first and a tie breaker to get to third place."

Ximena Hurtado-Mendez from the Cookie Monsters, saw a benefit to the program.

"I really enjoyed reading the books, and it has improved my reading level. I would like to have another battle in the future to see if we can keep our first place title."

In addition to encouraging reading, the program helps students socialize and learn teamwork.



Donations to PTO help support Millbrook students

Ruge's Chevrolet is helping the Millbrook PTO provide enrichment opportunities for students through its Chevy Back to School Event donation of \$1,000. Last year, the PTO funded the following with donations it received:

- 2020 National Junior Honor Society lawn signs
- 2020 MHS graduate signs
- 2020 masks for graduates
- 2020-21 Ultimate Discount card for all Millbrook families
- 2020 Moving Up certificates to Roller Magic
- 2021 Distributed books to students for author visits funded by Scholastic Book Fair Dollars
- Annual high school scholarships
- Staff appreciation lunches, flowers and thank yous

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Thanks to Ruge's generosity and other continued support, the PTO is able to assist schools with a variety of programs. Your membership is part of that. If you'd like to join, visit millbrookschools.org/page/321 and click on the 'Become a Member' link.

Our next meetings are April 7 and June 6, 7 p.m. at Alden Place Elementary. Cancellations will be posted on the PTO Facebook page. Prior to arrival, please fill out the MCSD Visitor Screener at <https://apps.edvistas.com/forms/formEntry.aspx?formid=4401>.

Membership is only \$30 per family. This funding helps support the following programs:

- High School
One or two \$1,000 Scholarships
- Each school is allocated monies toward programming (author visits, assemblies, speakers, etc.)
- Field Trip assistance – all schools
- Teacher reimbursements for members in good standing – all schools
- 2nd grade
Luau – Elm Drive
- 6th grade
Orientation – Middle School
- 8th grade Graduation – Middle School
- Moving Up and Award ceremonies during the year – all schools



Millbrook PTO would like to extend a big thank you to Ruge's Chevrolet for their generous support.

President recognizes Millbrook Middle School teacher

Hail to the chief, more like hail to one dedicated teacher.

In February, Millbrook Middle School math teacher Leslie Anson was named a recipient of the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, or PAEMST. They are the nation's highest honors for science, technology, engineering, mathematics and computer science teachers. Anson was previously named a finalist in the 2020 PAEMST awards.

"Leslie Anson represents the most outstanding teachers America has to offer and serves as both a model and an inspiration to students and fellow teachers," according to a statement from PAEMST.

Anson, who has taught at Millbrook for 10 years, was surprised, but happy to receive the award.

"It's nice to have the outcome that I have," she said. "To be accepted into this prestigious group is an honor and a highlight to my career."

While Anson received congratulations from her students and colleagues, she does not let the recognition go to her head.

"I prefer to go under the radar," Anson said with a laugh. "I don't really do my job to be recognized."



Congratulations, Millbrook Middle School sixth grade teacher Leslie Anson, seen above celebrating Twos Day (2/22/22) with her class and at right.

Recipients of the award join a prestigious cadre of more than 5,100 teacher-alumni nationwide. They will receive a certificate signed by President Joe Biden, a future trip to Washington, D.C. to celebrate their accomplishments and \$10,000 from the National Science Foundation. Anson will use the money for her program. The award ceremony was held virtually this year and can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XDUi0iOnRI>

"The reward is great, but being able to enhance my program and help students

is even better," Anson said. "That's why I do what I do."

Anson engages students, inside and outside the classroom using real-world mathematics. She created Math Night where students go to Marona's Market and apply math skills to their daily lives.

She is also a Millbrook Educational Foundation trustee and a member on the Village Board of Trustees, acting as a liaison between the village and school district.



District launches social media platforms to keep you informed

Millbrook Central School District now has a presence on Facebook ([@MillbrookCSD](https://www.facebook.com/MillbrookCSD)), Instagram ([@millbrookcsd](https://www.instagram.com/millbrookcsd)) and Twitter ([@MillbrookCSD_NY](https://twitter.com/MillbrookCSD_NY)). Follow us to get the latest districtwide news - including school closures and delays, COVID-19 updates and events that may be of interest.

We'll also highlight some of the great things happening in our schools. Of course, we'll still post content via all our usual channels including our website and email and, we'll share interesting content we find that relates to education. We'll also post a link to the latest Blazer Bulletin when it becomes available.

