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Through combined efforts of students, staff, parents and community members, our mission is to foster the confidence, knowledge, cognition, and character necessary to instill a strong work ethic, to create an environment of tolerance and respect, & to ignite an attitude of inquiry and enthusiasm for learning that will enable students to become productive, responsible citizens.



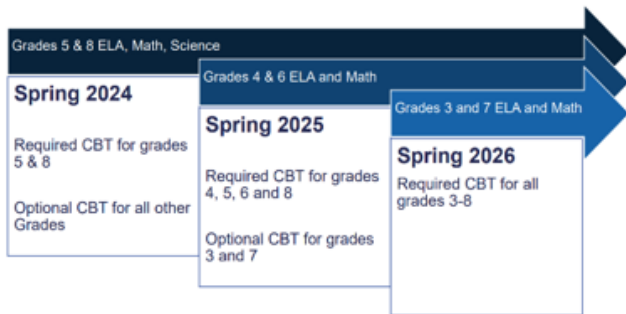
Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members:

This year brings many promises and opportunities for all students as we move beyond the pandemic. Preparing students for their future is our mission. We will continue to layer in supports throughout the school year. Please know that we are committed to success for each child.

Our goal as a District is to increase communications this year. I will continue with Sunday night updates and additional newsletters which will be posted on our website and social media. We have enclosed a communication guide for parents in this newsletter to know the most efficient way to get information. This document will be published later this month.

The New York State Education Department has rolled out the following implementation plan for computer-based testing:

Computer-Based Testing (CBT)



Our staff and administrative team will be working together to plan forward on meeting the benchmarks as outlined by the New York State Education Department. More information will follow as we make the necessary changes.

Smart Schools Funding is still available to the school. This month, we will be surveying the staff to determine needs for classrooms and students. During the pandemic, computers were used extensively. We will be exploring needs, so students continue to have access to school in the event of a school closure.

Governor Hochul announced a goal to electrify all New York school bus fleets by 2035.

A mandate in the state budget passed on April 11, 2022, states that as of 2027, new school buses must be electric, and the entire fleet must be zero emission by 2035. This is another area of review for our school to better understand the fiscal impact involving costs of buses, renovations to lifts, infrastructure, and replacement batteries and training for mechanics. Our Board Facilities Committee will be actively engaged in the analysis of this new mandate.

I have enjoyed working with the students and staff and look forward to helping during this period of change. The following strengths of the school are evident:

- Pride in the District
- Passion for teaching and learning
- Strong understandings of where students are at and collaboration to move them forward
- Teamwork has been evidenced
- A true family feeling

We are here to support your child and look forward to a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Kathleen Davis

Interim Superintendent



Check out some of the cool art experiences our awesome art students are working on in the art studio.



The New York Mills art department is pleased to announce the addition of Mr. Eric Vollmer as the new 7-12 art teacher. Mr. Vollmer has been in education for 20 years and brings his passion of ceramic making to our school. In the first few weeks of school, he brought in his personal pottery wheel and saw the eyes of all of his students light up wanting to learn how to throw on the pottery wheel. Mr. Vollmer is starting a Feats of Clay Club which will compete against 25 other local schools at Onondaga Community College on May 5, 2023. You can find out more about the Feats of Clay Competition at www.featsofclay.org or <https://sites.google.com/phoenixcsd.org/featsofclay/home>.

The students have tried throwing on the pottery wheel, created plaster hand sculptures and made plaster masks. Whole brain development helps create a happy and healthy person who is proud of their accomplishments. Make sure your child signs up for an art class in the future and starts creating on the right side of the brain! Mr. Vollmer cannot wait to see what his students create next!



DISTRICT NEWS

BACK-TO-SCHOOL, BROOKS BBQ & GRADES 3-4 MUSIC



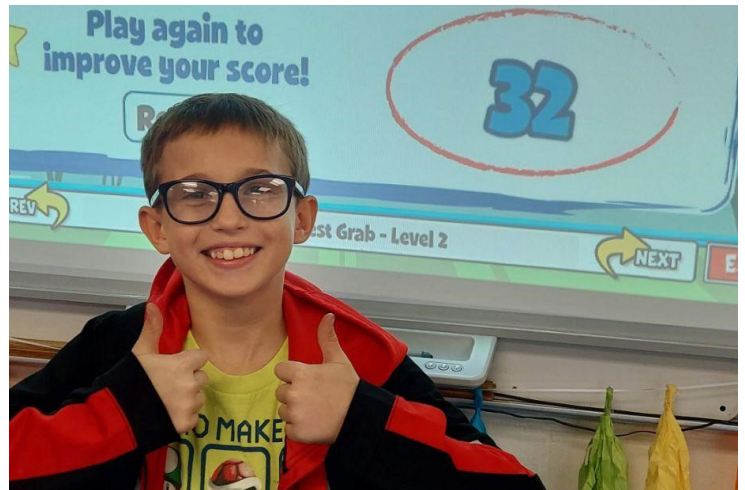
Third Grade Music

Third grade is all about learning triplets! Makaiah leads the class in Quaver's "The Triplet Song" on Crazy Hair Day during Spirit Week!



Fourth Grade Music

Fourth grade is reviewing note values and learning about whole notes and rests. **Ryder scored 32 points in a rhythmic note sorting game!**



Presented by the 7-12 band & chorus

(Funds go toward the Music in the Parks Music Festival in May)

December 2, 2022 | 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Pick-up at the cafeteria, full chicken dinner **\$12**

Tickets available starting **November 21, 2022**

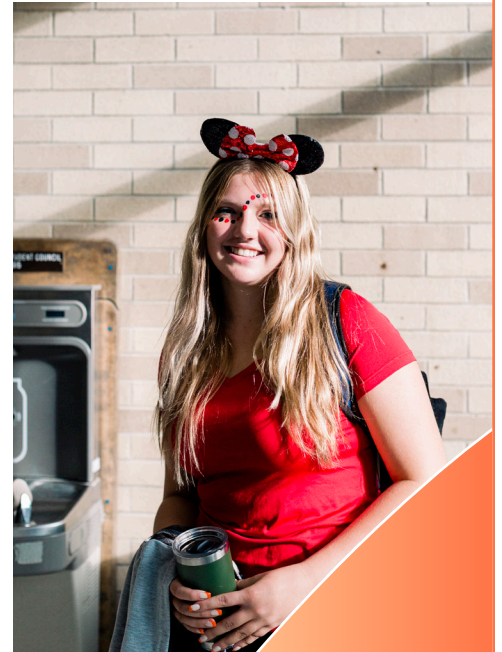
Get your ticket through any band/chorus member, Mr. Pierce, Mrs. Lovecchio or through our attendance office.

TRUNK OR TREAT





Spirit Week



DISTRICT NEWS

MUSIC DEPT. UPCOMING EVENTS & CONTACT SHEET


Music Department Upcoming Events

- 12/02** **Brooks BBQ**, 3:00-6:00p.m. | School Cafe | *Pre-order starting Nov. 21*
- 12/09** **Holiday On Main Street**, Time TBD by the Village | **Jazz Band & 4-12 Chorus** | Pulaski Park
- 12/13** **ES Band/Chorus Winter Concert**, 7:00p.m.
- 12/15** **Jr./Sr. HS Winter Concert**, 7:00p.m.
- 12/20** **K-3 Holiday Concert**, 6:00p.m.
- 12/21** **7-12 Musical Auditions**, 2:40p.m.
- 01/05** **4-12 Chorus** viewing of *"The Little Mermaid Live"*
- 01/11** **Jr. HS All-County Auditions**
- 01/12** **Jr. HS All-County Auditions** (*Snow Date*)

WHEN IN DOUBT ...
WHO TO CONTACT

➔

A GUIDE FOR STAFF, PARENTS
AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS



QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5
MEDICAL CONCERNS	➔ Building Nurse 768-3391	➔ Building Administrator Mary Facci 768-8124 Brent Dodge 768-8129	➔ Director of Athletics (if related to an athletic event only) Marissa Treen 768-8124	➔ Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Davis 768-8127	
SCHOOL DIFFICULTY	➔ Classroom Teacher/ School Counselor	➔ Building Administrator Mary Facci 768-8124 Brent Dodge 768-8129	➔ Executive Principal Mary Facci 768-8124	➔ Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Davis 768-8127	
TRANSPORTATION (pickup route questions)	➔ Director of Transportation Patty Ward 768-7948	➔ Building Administrator Mary Facci 768-8124 Brent Dodge 768-8129	➔ Executive Principal Mary Facci 768-8124	➔ Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Davis 768-8127	
TRANSPORTATION (e.g. student behavior on bus)	➔ Bus Driver	➔ Director of Transportation Patty Ward 768-7948	➔ Building Administrator Mary Facci 768-8124 Brent Dodge 768-8129	➔ Business Official Lisa Stamboly 768-8127	➔ Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Davis 768-8127
BUDGET CONCERNS	➔ Business Official Lisa Stamboly 768-8127	➔ Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Davis 768-8127			
SPECIAL EDUCATION	➔ Special Education Teacher	➔ Director of Student Services/Special Education Heather Gaetano	➔ Building Administrator Mary Facci 768-8124 Brent Dodge 768-8129	➔ Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Davis 768-8127	
CURRICULUM (course) MATERIAL	➔ Classroom Teacher	➔ School Counselor	➔ Building Administrator Mary Facci 768-8124 Brent Dodge 768-8129	➔ Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Davis 768-8127	
ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS	➔ Team Coach	➔ Director of Athletics Marissa Treen 768-8124	➔ Building Administrator Mary Facci 768-8124 Brent Dodge 768-8129	➔ Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Davis 768-8127	
TECHNOLOGY CONCERNS	➔ Classroom Teacher	➔ Building Administrator Mary Facci 768-8124 Brent Dodge 768-8129	➔ Technology Administrator Gary Coufel 768-8124	➔ Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Davis 768-8127	
BUILDING USE REQUEST	➔ Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Davis 768-8127				

AFTER HOURS CONTACT: emergency@newyorkmills.org

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

Post-COVID, much of our focus has been on “getting back to normal.” This fall however, we have been working with secondary students on moving beyond “normal” and shifting our focus back to growth and achievement. One of the main factors that affects growth and achievement is attendance. Nationwide, chronic absenteeism and tardiness is detrimentally impacting student achievement. Check out the statistics in the charts below shared by AttendanceWorks (AttendanceWorks.org), detailing the significance of absenteeism on student success.

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling thats...
1 day every 3 weeks...	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

How about 10 minutes late a day? Surely, that won't affect my child?

They are only missing...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling thats...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
20 minutes per day	1hr 40 mins per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 minutes per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years

HOMECOMING WEEK 2022

Sponsored by Student Council

Spirit week is always a blast! October 18 was Country vs. Country Club day.



PARENTS BILL OF RIGHTS FOR DATA PRIVACY AND SECURITY

The NY Mills UFSD seeks to use current technology, including electronic storage, retrieval, and analysis of information about students' educational experience to enhance the opportunities for learning and to increase efficiency.

The following is the New York Mills Union Free School District's bill of rights for data privacy and security:

1. A student's personally identifiable information (PII) cannot be sold or released by the New York Mills Union Free School for any commercial or marketing purposes.
2. Parents have the right to inspect and review the complete contents of their child's education record including any student data stored or maintained by the New York Mills Union Free School. This right of inspection is consistent with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). In addition to the right of inspection of the educational record, Education Law §2-d provides a specific right for parents to inspect or receive copies of any data in the student's educational record. The New York State Department of Education (NYSED) will develop policies and procedures pertaining to this right.
3. State and federal laws protect the confidentiality of PII, and safeguards associated with industry standards and best practices, including, but not limited to, encryption, firewalls, and password protection, must be in place when data is stored or transferred.
4. A complete list of all student data elements collected by the State is available for public review at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/sirs/documentation/NYSEDstudentData.xlsx>, or you may obtain a copy of this list by writing to the Office of Information & Reporting Services, New York State Education Department, Room 863 EBA, 89 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12234.
5. Parents have the right to file complaints with the New York Mills Union Free School about possible privacy breaches of student data by the New York Mills Union Free School's third-party contractors or their employees, officers, or assignees, or with NYSED. Complaints regarding any student data breaches should be directed to:

Dr. Kathleen Davis, Interim Superintendent
New York Mills Union Free School
1 Marauder Blvd. New York Mills, NY 13417
315.768.8127 | kdavis@newyorkmills.org
6. The exclusive purposes for which the data will be used;
7. How the contractor will ensure that the subcontractors it uses will abide by data protection and security requirements;
8. When the agreement with the third party contractor expires and what happens to the data at that time;
9. If and how an affected party may challenge the accuracy of the data that is collected; and
10. Where the data will be stored and the security protections taken to ensure the data will be protected

All complaints must be accompanied by a Breach or Unauthorized Release of Student Data Complaint Form and submitted in person to the superintendent's office. The form can be found on our website under District>District Procedures & Policies>Breach or Unauthorized Release of Student Data Complaint Form.

A complaint can also be submitted to the New York State Chief Privacy Officer using an online form at: www.nysed.gov/data-privacy-security/report-improper-disclosure.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIRD PARTY CONTRACTS

For purposes of further ensuring confidentiality and security of student data — as well as the security of personally-identifiable teacher or principal data — the Parents' Bill of Rights (above) and the following supplemental information must be included in each contract that this District enters into with a third-party contractor with access to the information listed above (**numbers 6 – 10**).

CODE OF CONDUCT - PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, AND BULLYING IS PROHIBITED AT SCHOOL

You should never feel that it is not safe for you to come to school and participate in all school activities. You should never be prevented from concentrating on your school-work because another student or a school staff member is teasing you, making fun of you, pushing you around, or threatening you in some way, because of your race, color, weight, national origin (where your family comes from), ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex, or any other reason.

You may not act toward another student in a way that reasonably might make them feel threatened or unsafe, or that might reasonably make them unable to concentrate on their school work, because of what you think about their race, color, weight, national origin (where their family comes from), ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex, or any other reason. It is against school rules for you to do this by your physical actions or by your verbal statements, including electronic messages.

When responding to acts of harassment, discrimination, and bullying, the District will take an age appropriate approach to remedy the situation with the goal of prevention and education; as well as, intervention and discipline. We will consider the nature and severity of the conduct, the developmental age of the student engaging in the conduct, the person's prior disciplinary record, and the impact on the student at whom it was directed. School employees who witness conduct that may be harassment, discrimination, or bullying, or who receive a report of such conduct, are required to report that conduct to the Dignity Act Coordinators or the superintendent. This should happen by the end of the following school day.

We look forward to working with you to ensure a safe, harassment free learning environment for all students. The full version of the Code of Conduct is available on our website, or by contacting one of the principals. Please keep us informed and encourage your child to reach out to one of the principals, or another staff member if he or she does not feel safe, or is being bullied.

Respectfully,



Dr. Kathleen Davis
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Should you have a harassment, discrimination, or bullying concern that you wish to report, you may do so to the following Board of Education appointed Dignity Act coordinators:

Mary Facci: 315.768.8124 | Brent Dodge: 315.768.8129





NEW YORK MILLS ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB

The New York Mills Athletic Booster Club would like to welcome students, faculty and staff to the 2022-2023 school year. This past school year, we had our first-ever month-long raffle in March. This was our major fundraiser of the school year, and with the money raised, we were able to give scholarships to graduating senior athletes, purchase Olympic Day t-shirts for ALL students and staff in K-6 and give senior gifts to all seniors from NYM and opposing teams.

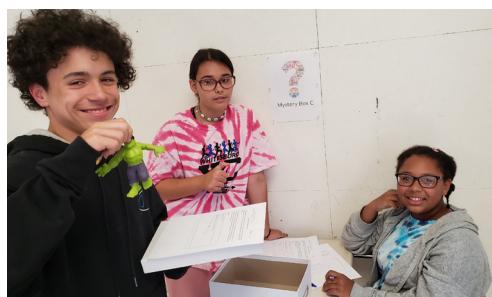
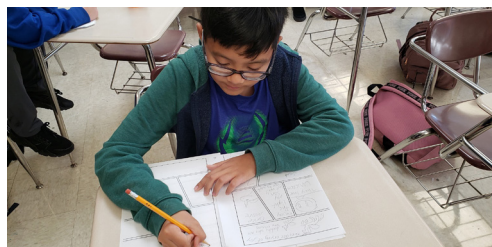
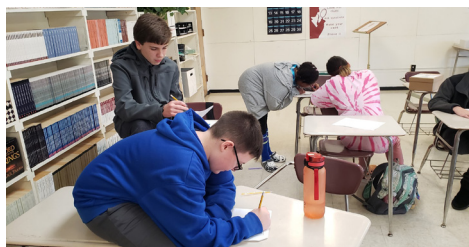
We have some fun activities and events planned for this school year. We started the year off with our NYM special edition t-shirt. We continue to have our apparel available for purchase at Max's Print Shop: www.studentstores.com/maxsprinthop/mps/school-apparel-sites-71/new-york-mills-schools.html. We will be bringing back the Marauder Match-Up with faculty and students – date will be announced soon.

We, along with NYM PTSO, have purchased the "Welcome Back" and "Happy Halloween" yard sign that displayed in the front of school. The concession stand has been open during football games and will be open at basketball games at Beekman Gym.

You can follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/newyorkmillsathleticbooster. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the high school library. If you would like to volunteer at any of our events, please email us at athleticboosters@newyorkmills.org.

Seventh Grade ELA Students Write Flash Fiction Using “Mystery Boxes”

Students in Mr. Klopfanstein’s seventh grade English Language Arts (ELA) class learned about the parts of speech and created original pieces of writing using a “mystery box” exercise. The class was organized into small groups which worked together to describe the contents of each of the five “mystery boxes” in the classroom. In the “mystery boxes” were a plastic unicorn, a stretchable Incredible Hulk toy, a “Baby Yoda” bobble-head figure eating a frog, a sequined dinosaur stuffed toy and a variety of Halloween-themed gummy candy treats in the shape of brains, eyeballs and severed fingers and toes. First, the students described each of the contents’ appearance, taste, smell, range of motion and sound in as much detail as possible. Then, they used their notes to craft a “flash fiction” short story, poem, song, comic strip or panels of a graphic novel with the time remaining in the class period. Students enthusiastically engaged with the lively exercise and crafted imaginative works of fiction that were creative and vividly detailed.



BUY YOUR YEARBOOK

The Neyomian Yearbook Staff is busy preparing the book that will provide students in grades 7-12 with the information and memories that will capture this school year forever. Give your student the gift of a yearbook so they will be able to look back at all of the friends and fun, and remember their own extraordinary experiences of the 2022-2023 school year. Yearbooks are on sale now at www.yearbookordercenter.com and our school’s order number is **2899**.

Purchase an ad for a graduating senior and show your child just how proud you are of them for all of their hard work and incredible accomplishments with an ad in their senior yearbook. You can add personal photos, special memories and a unique message to honor and congratulate them in a way they’ll be able to cherish for years to come. Businesses in the community may create and purchase their ads of support online as well. You can purchase ads here: www.yearbookordercenter.com. Be sure to use the school code **2899**

Look for our yearbook staff at the upcoming PTSO Craft Fair. We will be selling the yearbook, as well as extra copies of years gone by. If you have a reunion coming up, or just have a missing book in your yearbook collection that you want to replace, please stop by our booth and we’d be happy to help you enjoy your memories. If you have any questions, please email: nymyearbook@newyorkmills.org

GRADE 9 BOOK TASTING

On October 15, Mrs. Hartmann’s ninth grade English classes attended a “book tasting” in the high school library. Mrs. Howe meticulously developed and delivered an exceptional “meal” of literature, in which all freshmen sampled five genres of novels, rotating from table to table until finding their perfect free-reading selection.

As they sampled, students rated and analyzed the novels for context, gauging their interest and engagement. All students walked away from the “book tasting” with a book of their choice, and they will continue to engage with the text as they utilize a choice board to create a final project in English class.



The New York Mills PTSO would like to welcome students, faculty and staff to the 2022-2023 school year. The PTSO is looking forward to welcoming new members again this year. We would like to invite you to join the PTSO by either coming to one of our monthly meetings or following our Facebook page (New York Mills PTSO). The PTSO keeps the Facebook page updated with events that take place throughout the year. If you have any questions, you can email us at: ptso@newyorkmills.org.

This year will mark the **43rd Annual PTSO Craft Fair**, which is the primary source of our funding. This year's Craft Fair will be held on December 3 and 4 from 10:00a.m.-4:00p.m. each day.

This past school year, we were able to sponsor many events including the Brad Frankland After-Prom Party, Battle of the Books/Breakout EDU Club, Science Fair, Elementary Trunk or Treat, Kindergarten Orientation/Screening, Mills Money Store, Olympic Day, Principal's Most Improved Awards, senior scholarships and many other wonderful events.

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the high school library. Through your participation, the PTSO is able to provide school activities, supplies and events that are not funded by the school budget for the students and staff. Joining the PTSO is truly a great way to get involved in your child's school, and allows you to get to know other parents and staff involved in our school community. If you would like to volunteer for the PTSO event, please visit this link: [www.signupgenius.com go/10c0e4aa9aa2da2fec43-2022](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4aa9aa2da2fec43-2022).

Utica University & Children's Literature

New York Mills Union Free School District partnered with Utica University to host a children's literature course. Sixteen Utica University undergraduate students are paired with more than 25 New York Mills elementary students to read and discuss countless classics from children's literature. We are very honored to have UU's students on campus working with our students every week!



READING LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Several New York Mills teachers recently attended the Reading League's annual conference to continue their journey into the "Science of Reading." Teachers attended workshops on decoding, dyslexia, scaffolding and RTI interventions. This research continues to fuel and drive instructional strategies and practices.





We would like to extend a very heart-felt and warm thank you to Mastrovito Hyundai who generously donated more than 300 books to all of our students in grades kindergarten through sixth! The Mastrovito Bookmobile was on campus and with every K-6 classroom to present each student with a book. Thank you, Frank, Gina and the whole Mastrovito team!



Seussical Jr. Musical

The Elementary Drama Club presented "Seussical Jr." on November 4 and 5.

This year's cast was made up of 65 fourth, fifth and sixth graders that worked extra hard to showcase their singing, dancing and acting talents on stage. The cast auditioned in September to be a part of the long-standing theater tradition.

"Seussical Jr." is a musical adaptation of the books written by Dr. Seuss. Some of the characters that were seen on stage included Jojo played by Neveah Issac, The Cat in the Hat played by Lukas Dziuba, Horton the Elephant played by Carter Lovecchio, Gertrude McFuzz played by Aaliyah Hollenbeck, Mazie LaBird played by Margaret Kozlowski, Mr. Mayor the mayor of Whoville played by Kaden Miner and Mrs. Mayor played by Alexandria White.

The musical is a silly and heartwarming story about Horton the Elephant and his love for all creatures, large and small. He reminds us all that "a person's a person, no matter how small."

Congratulations to the cast and crew on an amazing performance!



Color Wars



NYM MILLS

UNION FREE SCHOOL
District Office New York Mills, NY 13417

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Utica, NY
Permit #566

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kristin Hubley, President
Kimberly Gyore, Vice-President
Jonathan Fiore
Jacqueline Edwards
Michelle Jordan
Steve King
Robert Mahardy Jr.

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Kathleen Davis, Interim-Superintendent of Schools
Mary Facci, K-12 Executive Principal
Brent Dodge, K-12 Principal

Visit us on the web
www.newyorkmills.org

