

NYMILLS

March
2022

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Residents,

I want to start out by thanking all of you for working with us as we navigated (and continue to navigate) this pandemic. Since January, New York State has provided our District with a steady supply of COVID-19 at-home test kits. Please contact the school if you need a test(s) for members of your family. Masks are off for many and it has been so exciting to see the smiles that have been undercover for two years. I remain grateful for all of the effort and hard work from our students, staff and families to make this school year as normal as possible.

With spring comes concerts and the musical, outdoor sports and activities. These activities will be in-person and, at this time, I do not anticipate having to limit attendance for audience members. I know our students have been practicing hard for their concerts and they cannot wait to perform for all of you.

Much of the visible part of our Capital Project is complete. The playground is getting plenty of use and, once the snow melts, our bleachers will begin to get use. Our new marquee will allow us to communicate upcoming events and calendar changes on a regular basis. Stay tuned for April when our old sign comes down!

Again, thank you for all you do to support our District and our students. By working together, we continue to build a strong educational program that meets the needs of all of our students.

Respectfully,

Joanne Shelmidine, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

OUR MISSION

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, and to ignite an attitude of inquiry and enthusiasm for learning that will enable students to become productive, responsible citizens.

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March 24-26

**Don't have
internet access?**

Join our mailing list for paper updates! To sign up, contact District Clerk Stefany Scharf at sscharf@newyorkmills.org or by calling 315-768-8127 (option #2, option #1)

Music News

Elementary Choir: Looking Forward

The Elementary Choir has been hard at work preparing its program for May 12. Our theme, as requested by students, is nature. The fourth through sixth grade choir will be singing about rain, stars and a couple rearranged pieces of music that inspire thoughts of the outdoors! All choir students will be invited to audition in March for one of four solos that will be featured in the May concert.

New York Mills is also proud to be sending two sixth grade students to represent our school at the Oneida County Music Educators' Association All-County festival on April 1 and 2. Students have already been chosen based on their current academic standing, choir and lesson attendance, and teacher referrals as well as their excellent vocal achievements here at school. Their behavior and musical preparedness will be an excellent representation of the wonderful students we have here at New York Mills.

Looking Back

Students are wrapping up their second quarter projects based on pitch and melody. Sixth graders performed their own classroom instrument compositions as small ensembles in front of their classmates and the results were very fun and well done!

Fifth grade is, at long last, getting to play songs on ukuleles using the chords we've been working on together.

The fourth graders have been mapping out major chords and then playing them on the classroom keyboard.

Third graders wrote their own verses to a popular campfire song. We also read the accompanying book with the same story.

Second graders have been enjoying leading dances and learning about Duke Ellington and his popular jazz standard, "Take the A Train".

First graders have been adding essential musical building blocks together with pitch and a staff. They just celebrated their progress by learning the group dance to "Looby Loo" another campfire favorite!

Kindergarteners have been laughing through exploring their high and low voices. This group is especially good at listening for pitch differences.



Student Council celebrated Valentine's Day by giving treats to faculty and sending candy grams to friends.

Multicultural and Debate Team made Valentine's to send to our local nursing homes.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Arianna McClendon ran an impressive 43.9 in the 300 meters at the New York State Qualifier meet held at OCC on February 16, beating her personal best by more than two tenths of a second.

Emma Clements, Kayla Downs and Sam Paparella competed in the exceptional seniors volleyball game on February 16.

The varsity volleyball team finished their regular season with an overall record of 12-6, earning them the fourth seed in the sectional tournament.



RUNNING FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION | What You Need to Know

ELECTION OVERVIEW

The New York Mills Board of Education is made up of seven volunteer citizens who are each elected on the third Tuesday in May each year to serve five-year terms.

A school board member takes on one of the most important citizen responsibilities: overseeing the education of the community's youth. School boards are comprised of volunteers within the community who dedicate their time to better public education. The Board of Education oversees and manages the community's public school system. It ensures the public schools are flexible and responsive to the needs of the community. Election to the Board of Education is an extremely important responsibility.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

- Create a shared vision for the future of education.
- Set the direction of the school district to achieve the highest student performance.
- Provide rigorous accountability for student achievement results.
- Develop a budget and present it to the community, aligning District resources to improve achievement.
- Support a healthy school district culture for work and learning.
- Create strategic partnerships with the community stakeholders.
- Build the District's progress through continuous improvement.
- Adopt and maintain current policies.
- Ratify collective bargaining agreements.
- Maintain strong ethical standards.

Jordan Scores 1,000 Points



Congratulations to Jemma Jordan who scored her 1000th point on February 11.

QUALIFICATIONS

In order to qualify to run for a seat on the New York Mills Board of Education, you must meet the following requirements:

1. Must be able to read and write.
2. Must be a qualified voter of the District:
 - You are a citizen of the United States
 - You are at least 18 years of age
 - You are not adjudged by a Court to be mentally incompetent
 - You are not a convicted felon (Election Law 2012, Section 5-106)
3. Must be and have been a resident of the New York Mills Union Free School District for a continuous and uninterrupted period of at least one year immediately before the election.
4. Must live in the New York Mills Union Free School District.
5. Cannot be employed by the Board on which they will serve or live in the same household with a family member who is also a member of the same school board.

CANDIDATE NOMINATING PETITIONS

Qualified residents who are interested in running for the New York Mills Board of Education in May 2022 may contact the office of the District Clerk Stefany Scharf at sscharf@newyorkmills.org. All school board candidate nominating petitions must be filed with the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 18, 2022.



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Board of Education

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Kristin Hubley, *Vice President*
Alicia Albright
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Kimberly Gyore
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Dr. Joanne Shelmidine, *Superintendent of Schools*
Mary Facci, *K-12 Executive Principal*
Brent Dodge, *K-12 Principal*

Visit us on the Web

<http://www.newyorkmills.org>

"Footloose"



Drama Club Presents:

The New York Mills Drama Club is ready to cut loose, FOOTLOOSE! The 7-12 Drama Club has been dancing, singing, memorizing and learning how to be students of the '80s since December. After waiting for what seems like forever, we are pleased to welcome you back to a live, in-person, on stage performance of "Footloose."

On March 24- 26 at 7:00 p.m., the New York Mills Drama Club will present "Footloose" for three nights of show stopping action. With songs including, "Let's Hear It For The Boy," "Holding Out For a Hero," "Almost Paradise" and many more toe tapping 1980s music hits, the show is sure to get you humming a tune and make you want to get up and dance!

"Footloose" is the story of Ren McCormack, a teenage boy from Chicago. He and his mother move to the small town of Bomont after his father abandons them. Upon arriving, Ren finds himself at odds with most of the town, including the Reverend of Bomont. The Reverend has convinced the town to outlaw dancing, which Ren finds unbelievable. With the help of his new friends, Ren convinces the Reverend to let the teenagers dance, and in the process helps the town to heal from a tragedy that affected them all.

The musical is directed by Teresa Zielinski-Lovecchio, choreographed by Juliana Muirhead and Orchestra direction by Jim Pierce. This year, the musical is assistant directed by a very talented member of the New York Mills drama team who has worked behind the scenes for many years. Isabella Cornish will be working as our stage manager but is also this year's assistant director. Three other seniors will also grace our stage with their talents in this performance of "Footloose." Ariellah Bova will be playing the role of Vi Moore, the Reverend's wife, Sydney Morrock will be playing the role of Lulu Warnicker, Ren's Aunt, and Ethan Hurst will be playing the role of Ren McCormack.

Tickets are available at the school's attendance window for \$9 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors. We look forward to bringing you back to the '80s with three nights of "Footloose," March 24-26.

Students Perform in Jr. High All County Festival

On March 18 and 19, four of our New York Mills chorus members performed in the 2022 Jr. High All-County Festival at Holland Patent School.

Selen Bilal, Hailey Mahardy, Kathryn Williams and Emily Pavlus auditioned in January and were selected to participate in the Jr High All-County Chorus. Students auditioned from all over Oneida County for this wonderful experience.

Congratulations to our talented chorus members from New York Mills!