

NYMILLS

November
2019

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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For the complete District
calendar, schedule of
upcoming events and more
District news

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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."

POSITIVITY PROJECT ARRIVES AT NYM

This year, New York Mills UFSD is very excited to be partnering with The Positivity Project. The Positivity Project (or P2) is a research-based character education program designed to help students build positive relationships, increase empathy and learn the Other People Matter mindset.

Each week we focus on a different character strength; some recent strengths include curiosity, teamwork, open-mindedness, creativity and integrity. In September, we had our P2 kickoff event where we were able to assemble around 540 students into a district-wide photograph in the shape of the P2 shield symbol.



THE
**POSITIVITY
PROJECT**
#otherpeoplematter



Message from the Superintendent _____

Dear Parents, Guardians and School Community Members,

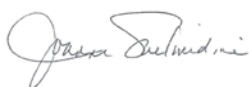
The month of November means that we have passed the first quarter of the year. Our students have acclimated themselves to the rigors of a new grade and courses. This change brings about new challenges and opportunities. With the first 10 weeks in the grade books, I challenge each student to reflect on their efforts and set goals for both the next marking period and the rest of the school year. While the first 10 weeks lay a foundation for the year, it does not define one's year. With each passing week the effort needed must keep up with the increasing rigor and depth of content moving forward. I challenge each student to set their sights on successfully meeting each challenge and achieving the goals they have set.

Soon, as you visit the district, you will see work being done on our security system that was approved with our last budget vote. A "blue light" system will be installed that will be a very visible notification, both inside and out, of an emergency in the building. All of our exterior doors will also be upgraded to a standard locking system. This project is part of the ongoing work of continuing to make our school safer for all of our students and staff.

As hard as it is to believe (given that I am writing this on a beautiful fall day in October), winter will soon be here. I want to take a moment to remind parents to prepare for the challenges winter can bring. Please be sure to have children ready for the bus a little earlier than normal as the impact of the weather can cause some alterations to the timing of our routes. If there is a reason to cancel or delay the start of school, there will be a mass communication notice and local news media will be notified. Each winter we experience extreme temperatures and weather that factors into any decision regarding the operation of school. The rule of thumb is that if we can heat our buildings and operate our buses, we will maintain the normal operation of school. In extreme temperatures, please have your child wait inside until you see the bus approach. This will limit your child's exposure to extreme temperature and allow for the consistent flow of our bus run. Though we are very reluctant to do so, it may be necessary to close school early. We certainly understand the burden that places on you regarding after-school child care. With this possibility, I ask that you generate a plan for your child's after-school care should we ever need to close school early.

It is a pleasure to work with and for such a supportive community and I thank you for your continued support of all of our efforts to prepare our students for the experiences that await them.

Respectfully,



Joanne Shelmidine, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Ability Awareness Day

November 13 will mark the 20th year of Ability Awareness Day, chaired by Special Education Teacher Mrs. Zogby. The Elementary School will have 45-minute workshops about individuals with disabilities, and students in grades 7-12 will be visited by motivational speaker Carrie Berrgeron. Berrgeron will speak about her life experiences growing up with Down Syndrome and overcoming many challenges and obstacles. Carrie has been featured in "The Wall Street Journal," "The View," "20/20" and "The Oprah Winfrey Show"- just to name a few. We are excited to have her as our guest speaker this year!



Proposed Capital Project

What You Need to Know

Dear Community Members:

Every building, just like your home or business, requires upkeep to replace worn out, damaged and outdated items. Our school is no different.

During the last several months we have been meeting to determine and prioritize items in need of replacement, repair or upgrade in our district. After several meetings and discussions, a proposed capital project was developed.

The scope of the project seeks to address the needs of our school community as well as our students. The proposed project incorporates a new playground with space for all of our elementary students, handicapped accessible bleachers with a walkway that would allow all of our community easy access to both the concession stand and the bleachers and a new marquee, or site sign, that will allow us to communicate dates, announcements and student/staff celebrations on an immediate basis. In addition to the external projects listed above, the proposed project also includes some paving around the loading dock and our bus garage, providing a safer surface for our employees to navigate. The proposed project also contains some needed safety enhancements in our school building. The district would be able to limit access to the entire building when we have a program in our gymnasium or the auditorium. The work to our internal doorways and hallways will also allow us to isolate hallways from outside access during a lockout or lockdown scenario. Currently there is no way to separate the elementary hallways from the secondary wings. As we continue to tighten up our security measures, this is a necessary next step.



In an effort to keep our building as safe and conducive to student learning as possible, the Board of Education has decided to proceed with the proposed capital project by seeking public approval. A public vote is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3 from 12:00-9:00 p.m. in the Beekman Gymnasium.

Due to sound fiscal planning by the New York Mills Union Free School District and the benefit of state aid, the proposed \$1,543,750 capital project carries no tax increase. Any local share of the capital project will be offset by using funds already saved in the district's debt reserve fund and the capital reserve fund, allowing for no tax increase.

We will be adding a special section to our website to allow you to learn more about the proposed capital project.

As always, the New York Mills Union Free School District appreciates your support and feedback as we continue to provide a quality program for every child.

**CAPITAL PROJECT
VOTE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3
12:00 - 9:00 P.M.
BEEKMAN GYMNASIUM**



Students of the Month _____

September Optimist Youth of the Month

Nina Fellone has been selected as the New York Mills Optimist Youth of the Month for September. Nina is the daughter of James and Jeanne Fellone of New York Mills and is a member of the New York Mills Class of 2020.

Nina, an honor roll student, received an award for Keuka College last spring. Nina has been a member of student council throughout junior and senior high school, serving as class president for the past six years. She has spent time volunteering in various capacities in the community through both school and her church, including community clean-ups, supporting people with food drives, working a soup kitchen and assisting with blood drives. In addition, she has attended numerous student leadership conferences throughout the state. Nina also spent a large number of hours tutoring and mentoring a middle school student. Nina has sung in our chorus, played field hockey for two years and played on our volleyball teams since junior high school, the latter of which she was recognized as the Most Valuable Player in 2018.



Nina Fellone

Nina's career goal is to become an elementary school teacher and she is exploring college opportunities that will lead to the fulfillment of this goal.

October Optimist Youth of the Month

Kylie Lyons has been named the New York Mills Optimist Youth of the Month for October. Kylie is the daughter of Michael and Kristen Lyons of New York Mills and is a member of the New York Mills Class of 2020.

Kylie is a High Honor Roll student who has been inducted as a member of both National Junior Honor Society and National Honor Society and was recognized as Student of the Month each year since junior high. As a junior, Kylie was granted awards from Clarkson University, RIT and RPI.

Kylie is involved in the school and local communities in several different capacities. Kylie is currently the class secretary and has been elected to the position for the past six years. Through that role, she has participated in a number of service and leadership activities including fall community clean-ups and food collections for community groups. She also has attended several New York State Council on Leadership and School Activities Conferences. Her other activities include membership in the Yearbook, Drama and Technology Clubs and on the Prom Committee. Kylie has also been active on the playing field as she ran Track and Field for one year and has played on our Volleyball and Field Hockey teams since junior high. Her commitment to volunteering also extends to her church, with which she has worked in a few capacities to assist community members in need.



Kylie Lyons

Kylie's goal is to pursue a career in digital forensics/cybersecurity and is looking at several colleges and universities across New York state.

Grades 7-11 Students of the Month

Students are chosen using the following criteria:

1. Academic effort
2. Positive attitude
3. Respectful behavior
4. School involvement
5. Community involvement

September 2019



Isabella Fancher
Grade 11



Ethan Hurst
Grade 10



Antonio DiOrio
Grade 9



Abigail Evans
Grade 8



Rose Jeff
Grade 7



Miss Spaziani's Seventh Grade Social Studies Class Gets Creative

The seventh grade social studies students recently finished their first unit, which was on Native Americans. During the unit, the students completed a WebQuest on different Native American dwellings. They learned that the type of dwelling a tribe chose was dependent on their geography and available resources. With this information, the students were challenged to create a Native American dwelling of their choosing. One of the options the students had to choose from was to create a 3D model. Several of the students used raw materials from outside of their own homes to build the dwellings. The most common dwellings that were created were of the teepees, long houses, brush shelters and igloos. Allowing the students to embrace their creative side in social studies has truly paid off. The amount of time and effort the seventh graders put into their projects was truly remarkable and utterly impressive!



Eighth Grade Social Studies News



Eighth graders started the school year by reading the novel *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson. The main character, Cole Matthews, is forced to come to terms with his actions and ends up creating a totem pole to explain what he has learned about himself. The eighth graders created totem poles about their lives and selected at least two animals that represented their past, present and future to add to their totem poles.

Kids of Character Awards

The following grades 3-6 students were selected as September Kids of Character at New York Mills Elementary School. This award is given for following *The Marauder Way* on a regular basis.

SEPTEMBER Kids of Character Awards

Grade 3 – Vincent Flihan and Anton Donchuk

Grade 5 – Kaylyn Dreidel and Aubrey Salmon

Grade 4 – Adriana Karakalchu and Kyzier Williams

Grade 6 – Skylar DesMarais and Abbey Calhoun



Clubs & Organizations

Battle of the Books

Hello, my name is Jaden Roback and I'm going to tell you about New York Mills' Battle of the Books Club. This is our second year participating in the Battle of the Books. We are a school-wide club with other schools in our area participating as well.

How does the club work? You meet up, read and discuss the books that you are reading and even play games! To be in the club, you have to read at least five out of the 20 books. You will be studying titles and authors for the big competition in March.

What is the battle? After a year of reading and discussing the books, it's time for the big competition. The competition is a bit like Jeopardy; you have the buzzers and a time limit -- it's really cool. Everybody on the team gets to go for a day of fun at Hamilton College where the battle takes place. The questions are quotes and you have to identify which of the 20 book and authors they are from. You also have to pronounce the title and author correctly. We compete against other schools such as Clinton, for example. There will be a local battle that determines who is in the Top 4 and, even if you aren't competing, you still get to come to the competition to cheer and support our team. There are also fun activities to do; last year there were drones and virtual reality. Even if you're not in the Top 4, you are a big part of the team and you help by giving tough competition to the people who want to make the Top 4 during practice battles.

My experiences: I thought this was so much fun last year, and the books are very interesting and fun. I thought it was fun to be on a team. I was in the Top 4 and I can say the competition was a bit scary at first, but it was fun. I thought the drones were cool as well. Last year, during New York Mills' first year of doing the club we came in second place! Maybe we can win first place this year with a lot of effort and determination. This is truly a fun club and I hope to have some new members join. Come stop by the library and see Mrs. Howe for more information.



Student Council Update

On Oct. 19, student council members headed out to clean the yards of senior citizens in our community for the sixth year as part of the Oneida County Youth Bureau initiative!

Additionally, several students will be attending the NYS CLSA State Leadership Conference in Lake Placid in November. Students spend three days and two nights learning and networking with others from across the state. NY Mills' student council has been attending the conference since 2014 and has had many students serve at the state board level. Alumni Jordyn Keeck-Beach, Marisa Kulesa and Kaitlyn Kulawy have helped plan the state conference. This year's board member is Kristen Despins. Student council members are selling Gertrude Hawk chocolate bars to help offset the cost of this year's conference.

The Homecoming Dance was attended by 196 students! The evening prior, the student council hosted its first ever Team Trivia Night that awarded gift card prizes to the winning teams. It was \$5 to play and teams of five who registered early earned a \$5 discount. Student council hopes to host a holiday edition in December!

In November, student council sponsored families through the Emmaus House. Class officers helped facilitate putting together a "dinner basket" so others can also have a nice holiday. This tradition has been going on for many years at New York Mills.



Technology Club

Hacking is all about curiosity, exploration and deeply understanding how something works. Most people who identify as “hackers” are working very hard to protect people and to make technology easier and safer to use. Unfortunately, when most people hear or read about hacking in the news, the story is about people using hacking to do harm; but this couldn’t be further from the truth.

This year, the NYM Technology Club’s goal is to learn more about cybersecurity and ethical hacking. To begin learning, members participated in the picoCTF challenge; learning and perfecting various cybersecurity skills along the way. PicoCTF is a free computer security game targeted at middle and high school students, created by security experts at Carnegie Mellon University. The game consists of a series of challenges centered around a unique storyline where participants must reverse engineer, break, hack, decrypt or do whatever it takes to solve the challenge. The challenges are set up with the intent of being hacked, making it an excellent, legal way to get hands-on experience in cybersecurity and ethical hacking.

The 2019 competition was held between September 27 and October 11. Members could work independently or on a team. NYM Technology Club members Danil Donchuk, Heather Roberts, Julie Roberts, Isabella Cornish and Ethan Hurst formed a team dubbed “The Former Porcupines.” Over the course of the two-week competition, The Former Porcupines solved a total of 48 challenges, earning them a total score of 7,700 points in the competition. They finished the nationwide competition in 381st place out of a total of 5,234 teams. This places them in the top 7 percent of the whole county.

The team, and more importantly all members of the NYM Technology Club, hope to build on their success of the picoCTF challenge. Now that the competition is closed, the NYM Technology Club plans to work with Linux computers; they have repurposed old computers and built their own Linux network. They hope to use this network to learn more about Linux, networking and cyber-security, with an end goal of having their own attack and defend computer network in which students can use commands and skills they have learned throughout the year to attack “evil” computers on their network while defending themselves from the attacks of others.



Model UN Club

The Model UN Club had a great week. On October 22 we went to see the Great Names Series at Hamilton College where we listened to a live interview with Tina Fey. On October 26, five students attended the first MUN conference of the year at Manlius Pebble Hill. It was a great learning experience. Students had to discuss important topics such as the effects of global warming, the military build-up of the Antarctic and the protection of keystone species. We are also starting the sale of chocolate-covered pretzels to help fund our future trip to the United Nations.



Music News

The New York Mills Jazz Band is off to a great start this year! More than a dozen students stay after school for rehearsals on Mondays and Fridays, where they learn exciting music and developed their improvisation skills. The Jazz Band is looking forward to performing at the Winter Concert!

The Jr./Sr. High Concert

Thursday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m.

Elementary Concert

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.



Marauder Photo Gallery



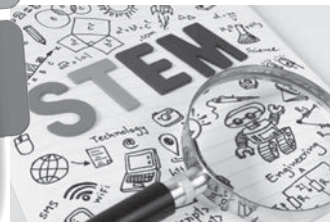
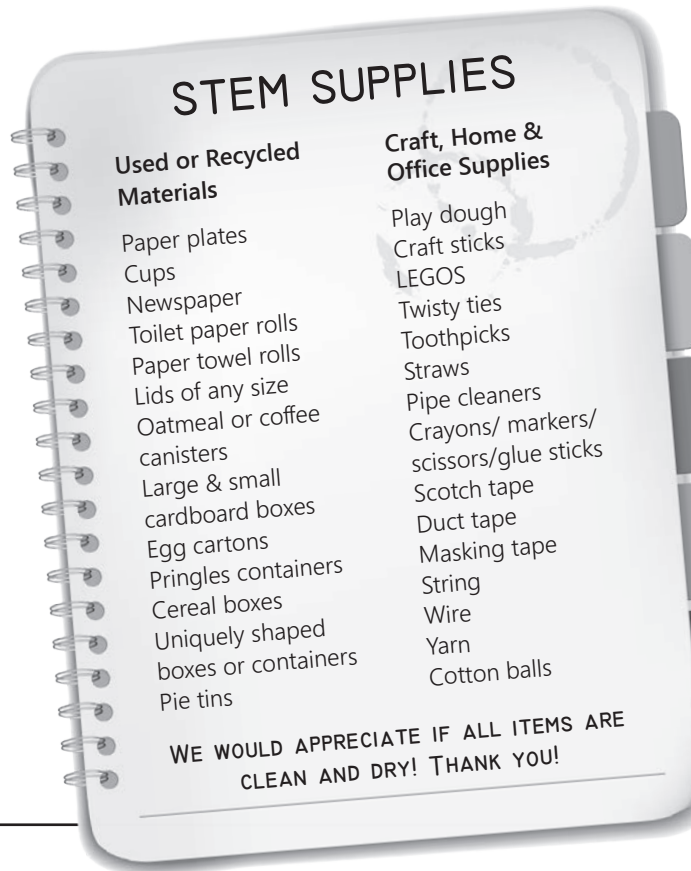
Students Use Common Items in Engineering by Design Course

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are having a great start of the year in our Engineering byDesign/STEM classes. For our projects, we use many common household items. Listed below are some materials that we are using for our activities. We appreciate any donations to help us throughout the year. Thank you so much for your continued support and to those who already donated to our classroom. I look forward to introducing your child to a world of scientific inquiry and discovery.

Warmest regards,

Miss Massoud



Elementary Presents: Junie B. Jones: The Musical



Elementary students debuted their fall show, *Junie B. Jones: The Musical* on Friday, November 8. The show would not have been possible without the hard work of the cast and crew, comprising of 51 students in grades 4-6 along with the help of 11 high schoolers.



Winter Sports Schedules

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

DECEMBER

5	7:00 p.m.	@ Stockbridge Valley
7	1:30 p.m.	@ Frankfort-Schuyler
10	7:00 p.m.	Canastota
17	7:00 p.m.	Morrisville-Eaton
20	7:00 p.m.	Owen D. Young
27	TBD	Tournament @ Richfield Springs
28	TBD	Tournament @ Richfield Springs

JANUARY

3	7:00 p.m.	Remsen
7	7:00 p.m.	@ Town of Webb
10	7:00 p.m.	@ Poland
13	7:00 p.m.	@ Hamilton
16	7:00 p.m.	Oriskany
17	7:00 p.m.	Stockbridge Valley
30	7:00 p.m.	@ Owen D. Young

FEBRUARY

3	7:30 p.m.	@ Remsen
5	7:00 p.m.	Madison
6	7:00 p.m.	Town of Webb
10	7:00 p.m.	Poland
13	7:00 p.m.	Hamilton

BOYS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL

DECEMBER

5	5:30 p.m.	@ Stockbridge Valley
7	12:00 p.m.	@ Frankfort-Schuyler
17	5:30 p.m.	Morrisville-Eaton
20	5:30 p.m.	Owen D. Young
27	TBD	Tournament @ Richfield Springs
28	TBD	Tournament @ Richfield Springs

JANUARY

3	5:30 p.m.	Remsen
7	5:30 p.m.	@ Town of Webb
10	5:30 p.m.	@ Poland
13	5:30 p.m.	@ Hamilton
16	5:30 p.m.	Oriskany
17	5:30 p.m.	Stockbridge Valley
30	5:30 p.m.	@ Owen D. Young

FEBRUARY

3	6:00 p.m.	@ Remsen
5	5:30 p.m.	Madison
6	5:30 p.m.	Town of Webb
10	5:30 p.m.	Poland
13	5:30 p.m.	Hamilton

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

NOVEMBER

27	11:00 a.m.	@ Westmoreland
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DECEMBER

3	7:00 p.m.	South Lewis
7	2:30 p.m.	Canastota
16	7:00 p.m.	@ Hamilton
30	7:30 p.m.	@ South Lewis

JANUARY

6	7:00 p.m.	Poland
9	7:00 p.m.	Morrisville-Eaton
11	2:30 p.m.	@ Canastota
14	7:00 p.m.	@ Oriskany
16	7:00 p.m.	@ Herkimer
24	7:00 p.m.	Herkimer
29	6:00 p.m.	Otselic Valley
31	7:00 p.m.	Hamilton

FEBRUARY

3	TBD	@ Cincinnatus
5	TBD	@ Otselic Valley
7	7:00 p.m.	@ Poland
11	7:00 p.m.	@ Morrisville-Eaton
14	7:00 p.m.	Oriskany

GIRLS JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL

NOVEMBER

27	11:00 a.m.	@ Westmoreland
----	------------	----------------

DECEMBER

3	5:30 p.m.	South Lewis
7	1:00 p.m.	Canastota
9	5:30 p.m.	@ Herkimer
16	5:30 p.m.	@ Hamilton
30	6:00 p.m.	@ South Lewis

JANUARY

6	5:30 p.m.	Poland
9	5:30 p.m.	Morrisville-Eaton
11	1:00 p.m.	Canastota
14	5:30 p.m.	@ Oriskany
24	5:30 p.m.	@ Herkimer
31	5:30 p.m.	Hamilton

FEBRUARY

7	5:30 p.m.	@ Poland
11	5:30 p.m.	@ Morrisville-Eaton
14	5:30 p.m.	Oriskany



GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

DECEMBER

4	6:30 p.m.	@ Westmoreland
6	7:00 p.m.	Waterville
9	6:30 p.m.	Herkimer
11	7:00 p.m.	Remsen
16	7:00 p.m.	Owen D. Young
18	7:00 p.m.	@ Morrisville-Eaton
20	7:00 p.m.	@ Town of Webb

JANUARY

10	6:30 p.m.	Westmoreland
13	7:00 p.m.	@ Waterville
15	6:30 p.m.	@ Herkimer
17	7:00 p.m.	@ Remsen
24	7:00 p.m.	@ Owen D. Young
27	7:00 p.m.	Morrisville-Eaton
29	7:00 p.m.	Town of Webb

GIRLS MODIFIED VOLLEYBALL

NOVEMBER

8	4:30 p.m.	Westmoreland
13	4:30 p.m.	@ Remsen
15	4:30 p.m.	Adirondack
18	4:30 p.m.	Town of Webb
20	4:30 p.m.	@ Clinton
22	4:30 p.m.	@ Holland Patent

DECEMBER

4	4:30 p.m.	@ Westmoreland
6	4:30 p.m.	Remsen
10	4:30 p.m.	@ Adirondack
12	4:30 p.m.	@ Town of Webb
14	9:30 a.m.	Clinton
17	4:30 p.m.	Holland Patent

GIRLS JUNIOR VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

DECEMBER

4	5:30 p.m.	@ Westmoreland
6	5:30 p.m.	@ Waterville
9	5:30 p.m.	Herkimer
11	5:30 p.m.	Remsen
16	5:30 p.m.	Owen D. Young
18	5:30 p.m.	@ Morrisville-Eaton
20	5:30 p.m.	@ Town of Webb

JANUARY

10	5:30 p.m.	Westmoreland
13	5:30 p.m.	@ Waterville
15	5:30 p.m.	@ Herkimer
17	6:00 p.m.	@ Remsen
24	5:30 p.m.	@ Owen D. Young
27	5:30 p.m.	Morrisville-Eaton
29	5:30 p.m.	Town of Webb

BOYS VARSITY BOWLING

DECEMBER

17	4:00 p.m.	Holland Patent
19	4:00 p.m.	@ Adirondack

JANUARY

2	4:00 p.m.	@ Herkimer (F-S/Herkimer)
7	4:00 p.m.	Little Falls
16	4:00 p.m.	@ Holland Patent
21	4:00 p.m.	Adirondack
23	4:00 p.m.	Herkimer (F-S/Herkimer)
28	4:00 p.m.	@ Little Falls

**Please note that these schedules are subject to change.*

For cancellations and schedule changes, please visit www.schedulegalaxy.com/schools/71





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<http://www.newyorkmills.org>

NEW YORK MILLS
42ND ANNUAL

Craft
Show

The craft fair is well-known for having an incredible variety of gourmet foods, jewelry, handcrafted soaps and lotions, pottery, paintings, photography and so much more!

There are more than 100 vendors confirmed so far and lots of new ones on the list. We are always looking for volunteers for this event, so please sign up here if you are interested:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F45A8AB2AAAF49-newyork>

DECEMBER 7 - 8
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
ADMISSION: \$3

The PTSO would like to thank you in advance for your support. The PTSO meets the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30 in the High School Library and we would love to have new members attend.

Other events sponsored by PTSO: Fall Festival, The Positivity Project, Olympic Day, 6th Grade & Senior Graduations, Turkey Trot, Spirit Week, Mills Money Store, Kids of Character, Science Fair, Banana Splits Program and many more.