



February
2018

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Superintendent's Message

Dear Resident:

It is hard to believe that we have just started our second semester. The school year is flying by! Our secondary teachers are reviewing the data from their midterms and using that information as they approach this semester. Our elementary teachers have kicked off the second semester with Pick A Reading Partner (PARP) celebration of literacy.

The Board of Regents recently approved a new set of learning standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. The New York State Next Generation ELA and Math Standards were developed to provide better support for teachers and their instructional practice and the work they are doing that allows our students to be critical thinkers and life-long learners. The New York State Education Department learned a lot about the failed roll out of the Common Core Learning Standards and have approached the work with these new standards in a very different way, within a very different time frame. The development of these new learning standards was a much more collaborative process with parents, teachers, and early childhood developmental experts providing input and recommendations.

Changes to the English Language Arts Standards include:

- The merging of the reading for information and the reading for literature standards
- The development of an early learning task force to continue focus on early literacy
- Revision of grade level reading and writing expectations and standards
- Reducing the number of standards
- A recognition that literacy expectations are included in other content areas

Some of the changes to the Mathematics Standards include:

- Moving standards to different grade level in recognition of grade level appropriateness
- Clarification of standards
- To improve coherence: the addition and consolidation of standards
- Clarifying procedural skills and applications

For the next two school years, we will review the standards, and our curriculum, so that any changes can be incorporated. The new standards will not be fully implemented until the 2020-2021 school year. This will allow our teachers to continue to refine our current curriculum maps to reflect any changes in the standards. In addition, the NYS assessments will continue to test the current standards. Assessments that are aligned to the Next Generation Standards will not be implemented until Spring 2021.

As I stated above, the New York State Education Department, under the leadership of Commissioner Elia, has listened to the concerns of parents and teachers regarding the failed roll out of the Common Core Standards. The department is committed to making sure that this roll out is methodical allowing districts to make the necessary changes to curriculum and instructional practices.

I am proud to be part of an educational system with a committed staff, great students, and a supportive community.

Thank you,

Joanne Shelmidine, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools



Grades 7-11 Students of the Month

Students are chosen using using the following criteria:

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

November 2017



Abbey Copperwheat
Grade 11



Holly Simon
Grade 10



Gianna LaBella
Grade 9



Danil Donchuk
Grade 8



Danni Williams
Grade 7

December 2017



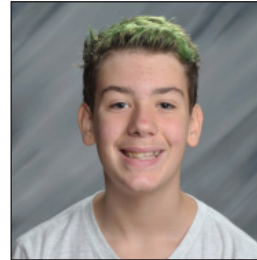
Karilynn Tramacera
Grade 11



Olivia Litzinger
Grade 10



Bianca LoGalbo
Grade 9



Ethan Hurst
Grade 8



Lily Comenale
Grade 7

January 2018



Sarah Sharpe
Grade 11



Judy Chen
Grade 10



Nina Fellone
Grade 9



Isabella Cornish
Grade 8



Isaiah Sobolewski
Grade 7

February 2018



Kaitlyn Kulawy
Grade 11



Tyler Kurgan
Grade 10



Joseph Cornish
Grade 9



Joseph Odarchuk
Grade 8



Mason Palmer
Grade 7



Optimist Student of the Month

November

Chloe Cattadoris has been named the New York Mills Optimists' Youth of the Month for November. Chloe is the daughter of Joseph and Theresa Cattadoris of New York Mills and a member of the New York Mills Class of 2018.

Chloe is a high honor roll student who has been inducted into our chapters of the National Junior Honor Society and National Honor Society, the latter of which she serves as co-president. She has been selected as Student of the Month each year since junior high and was awarded scholarships to RPI, Clarkson University and Rochester Institute of Technology.

Chloe has been involved in a large number of extracurricular activities including tutoring underclassmen, prom committee, varsity club and vice-president of her freshman class. Chloe was elected Student Council Executive Council Treasurer for the current school year. She is also an accomplished athlete who has played Varsity Field Hockey and Softball since 9th grade and Varsity Basketball since 11th grade. Chloe served as captain of the field hockey team for the past two years and had previously been named CSC Second Team All-Star and most valuable defensive player. This past fall she was named a CSC First Team All-Star. Her softball career has been equally successful as she was named MIP freshman year, top offensive player sophomore year and a CSC All-Star Honorable Mention. Chloe's success as a student and athlete resulted in her being named a CSC Scholar Athlete for four years.

In addition to her school-based activities, Chloe has participated in numerous community activities through her church as well as the PTSO annual craft fair. Chloe also babysits and holds a part-time job at her family's business.

Chloe is considering a career in a math-or science-related field and is applying to several colleges and universities throughout New York state. Chloe has a wealth of potential and we are certain that wherever her choices lead her, she will experience success.



Chloe Cattadoris

Optimist Student of the Month

December

The New York Mills Optimist Club has named Shaun Crist as Youth of the Month for December. Shaun is a member of the New York Mills Class of 2018 and is the son of Michael and Denise Crist of New York Mills.

Shaun is a high honor roll student who has been selected as Student of the Month for multiple years. Shaun was inducted into National Honor Society as a junior. Last spring, Shaun was honored with awards from Clarkson University and the University of Rochester and was a recipient of the Oneida-Madison-Herkimer Counties School Board Institute Student Recognition Award.

Shaun has participated in a number of activities including serving as Sophomore Class President, playing trumpet in the school's concert, jazz and marching bands, and tutoring peers. He has also attended the NYSSCLA conference for the past three years. In addition to these activities, Shaun has also been very active in athletics. He played on the junior varsity basketball team as a freshman and the varsity football team in grades 9-11. In addition, Shaun has run on the varsity track team since freshman year and ran on the cross country team this fall. The combination of strong academics and athletics led to Shaun being named a CSC scholar-athlete for the past three years. Outside of school, Shaun has participated in various church and community-based activities including America's Greatest Heart Run and Walk and he has held a part-time job at a local fast-food restaurant.

Shaun plans to pursue a career as a surgeon. To that end, he is participating in an internship with a surgeon at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center through the Regional Program for Excellence. He wishes to begin as a pre-med student in Florida and has applied to colleges in that state. Whatever path Shaun takes and wherever his decisions take him, we are sure it will lead to continued success.



Shaun Crist



School News

Kids of Character Awards

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

OCTOBER

- Grade 3 – Andrew Tallman and Emma Decker
- Grade 4 – Skylar DesMarais and Noah Beckwith
- Grade 5 – Selen Bial and Sean Clifford
- Grade 6 – Dominick Moore and Abigail Evans

NOVEMBER

- Grade 3 – Ethan Stratman and Caleb Miner
- Grade 4 – Asah Bova and Lily Marchese
- Grade 5 – Emily Cognetti and Valentino Rizzo
- Grade 6 – Ryan Connor and Talan Marchese



DECEMBER (pictured below)

- Grade 3 – Haelee Phillips and Julia Phillips
- Grade 4 – Abbey Calhoun and Lindzee Brush
- Grade 5 – Allison Meagher and Arianna Piazza
- Grade 6 – Samantha Jordan and Frank Calhoun



Mr. John Perricone, author of *The Zen of Teaching*, helped us kick off the second semester with an assembly for our grades 7-12 students. The assembly focused on "developing inner strength," and was very well received!



School News

NY Mills Optimist Club Membership Drive

The New York Mills Optimist Club is looking for new members! The Optimist Club is a group of local volunteer men and women dedicated to promoting and serving the youth of the New York Mills community. The Optimists sponsor the High School Senior Youth of the Month program, scholarship awards to graduating seniors, the Thanksgiving Turkey Trot, Bidy Basketball, Essay and Oratorical contests, along with numerous other community and school activities. Please consider joining the Optimists as part of a relaxed, fun group, and donating a little time to our projects. Should you be interested in more information, please send an e-mail to nymopt@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!



November and December Optimist Students of the Month

WILD WEST BOOK FAIR

Our Wild West Book Fair was the ultimate success! After spending countless hours planning and prepping, the fair was finally here and it was truly amazing. Our community showed an amazing outpour of support for our fundraiser. Our true success came at our Family Night, "Bookies & Cookies," which we held for 2 hours in our library. It was wonderful to see parents and students come together, learning can be not only educational but also fun. Our 2017 New York Mill's Scholastic Book Fair was truly memorable! Thank you to all of our administration, volunteers, parents, and students who helped make this unforgettable!



School News

Poe-Tree Slam — The 8th Grade English class completed their Poetry Unit by creating and performing their original poetry for our Poe-Tree Slam.



Career Fair at OHM BOCES



Students attending the annual career fair at OHM BOCES were afforded the opportunity to explore different career paths, and to see what career opportunities exist regionally for their future pursuits.



Music Department News

The music department has been very busy with several other events that have occurred so far this school year including several December concerts, the 7-12 grade chorus spending their afternoon singing for the residents at the St. Luke's nursing home, hallway caroling, singing and playing at the Holiday on Main Street and Auditions for the musical, Junior High All-County and elementary All-County.

Several of our junior high students have been selected to participate, after successful auditions, in a county wide chorus at Junior High All-County on March 17th. Ariellah Bova and Ethan Hurst will represent New York Mills in the chorus and Hannah Mahardy will represent the band. Congratulations to those students for their stellar auditions.

Our elementary school music student will be very busy in the upcoming months preparing for Elementary All-County which takes place on April 14th at Adirondack. The students that were selected to participate in band at the festival are Hailey Mahardy (6th grade, flute) and Zachary Matyjas (5th grade, alto saxophone).

Congratulations to sixth graders Katherine Eliason and Nixie Lorraine for being selected to sing in the all-county elementary chorus. The festival will take place on April 13 & 14 at Adirondack Central School.

Please mark your calendars to come and enjoy the hard-work and superior musicianship of all the musicians here at New York Mills at our Spring Concerts on May 15 at 7 pm for the elementary band and chorus concert and May 17 at 7:30 pm for the Junior/Senior High Concert. Both concerts are at no cost and will leave you with an evening of musical enjoyment. Thank you for your continued support of music in our school.

Music History Students Learn About Pipe Organ

On December 1, the students in Music History attended a trip to learn about and perform on a pipe organ. The students spent the morning learning the origins of the pipe organ, how it works, what it costs to maintain such a massive instrument as well as how to play the instrument. They also had a once in a lifetime opportunity to go inside the pipe organ and get a hands-on experience with one of the oldest instruments in the world. We would like to send a special thank you to Holy Trinity Church and their organist, Stephen Zielinski, for allowing the students such a unique and musical opportunity.



Drama Club Presents *Grease*

The New York Mills Drama Club will present their 2018 musical *Grease* on March 23 and 24 at p.m. in the auditorium. The Cast is in full swing rehearsing to bring you familiar songs such as “*Grease Lightning*”, “*We Go Together*”, “*Hand Jive*” and many others that will transform you to time of the sock hop, greaser jackets and poodle skirts. Tickets will go on sale on March 12 at the high school attendance office at a cost of \$9 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors. There will also be a senior performance open to any senior citizen on March 22 at 4 p.m. Questions about ticket information can be received by calling 315-768-8124.



A preview of the musical will take place on February 17 at the Stanley Theatre in Utica. For ticket and times please see the Stanley's website.

Grease is directed by Teresa Zielinski-Lovecchio, Choreographed by Juliana Muirhead with Orchestral Direction by Keller Shelton.

“*Grease*” is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.





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Visit us on the Web

<http://www.newyorkmills.org>

New York Mills Music Department and Student Council Present:



**Sunday,
April 15**

April 15, the inaugural community wide Color Run will commence with a 1 mile fun run beginning at 8:30 a.m. and a 5K untimed run at 9 a.m. Both runs will take place here at New York Mills School. The run is geared for all ages and fitness abilities. "Rather than sell goods, we want to engage the entire student body in a fitness initiative that aims to encourage a life-long healthy way of living."

Pre-registration (before 3/30/18) \$20

Late registration (after 3/30/18) \$30

Sign up for the run by visiting events.myschoolcolorrun.com and look for New York Mills, or by visiting the New York Mills website for a link directly to the sign up page. Participants who register by 3/30/18 will receive a t-shirt, race bib, and individual color packet.

Questions about the event can be directed to Teresa Lovecchio at tlovecchio@newyorkmills.org or Aileen Viel at aviel@newyorkmills.org.