



November
2016

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Emergency “Go Home” Drill

Dear Parents and Guardians;

On Tuesday, November 22, an Emergency Go Home Drill will be conducted at every school within our Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES area. New York State Education Law requires that we hold this drill each year at least 15 minutes before the normal dismissal time. The purpose of the drill is to prepare students, staff and parents for an emergency that would require us to immediately send all students home. The fastest way to evacuate the building and safely transport students home (or to an alternate safe location) is via our school buses.

You and your child should have a set plan for a safe drop-off within the school district if we need to send all students home in an emergency. Please talk to your child about your plan before Tuesday, November 22, so that there is no confusion on that afternoon. Also, for grades K-6 students, it is important to send a revised “Emergency School Closing Plan” to school if your emergency drop-off location has changed. **There will be no parent pick-ups from school during this drill.** In a true emergency, parent pick-ups would not be possible in most cases. Below is the schedule for this year’s drill:

1:55 p.m. - Grades 7-12 students and staff will evacuate the building. All grades 7-12 students will board buses at that time. No parent pick-ups will be accommodated on November 22. Students scheduled for after-school activities may **remain on their bus** and will be returned to school after the drill concludes.

2:45 p.m. – Grades K-6 students and staff will evacuate the building. All grades K-6 students will board buses at that time. No parent pick-ups will be accommodated on November 22 and there will be **no K-6 YMCA Child Care Program** that day.

Thank you for your assistance with our annual Emergency Go Home Drill. We anticipate a smooth and speedy dismissal on Tuesday, November 22. Please feel free to call your child’s school office if you have questions or concerns. There will be no school on November 23–25 due to the Thanksgiving break. Enjoy your Thanksgiving holiday!

Sincerely,

Kathy Houghton
Superintendent of Schools

42nd Annual Turkey Trot Saturday, November 19

Please join us for our annual pre-Thanksgiving Turkey Trot. Every finisher receives a ribbon. Thanks to our Optimist Club and our PTSO, there are also prizes awarded to New York Mills School District students and alumni. Refreshments are available as well, for participants and their families. This event will take place regardless of the weather conditions!

- 9:30 a.m. Pick up your running TAG in the school lobby.
- 9:50 a.m. Tots Run (1/4 mile) - A fun-run on the track for any small child who wants to receive a ribbon.
- 10:00 a.m. Elementary Run (1 mile) - open to all elementary students living within the NYM School District as well as children and grandchildren of school staff.
- 10:20 a.m. High School - Old Timers Run (1 mile) - open to all high school students, alumni, school staff, parents, and residents of the district.
- 11:00 a.m. Presentation of Awards in the gym.

We hope to see you there on Saturday, November 19 at 9:30 a.m. to kick off our 2016 holiday season with the New York Mills UFSD Turkey Trot!



Grades 7-11 Students of the Month

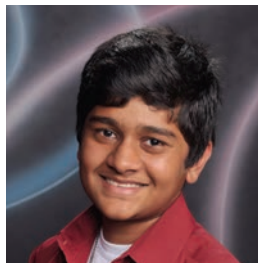
Students are chosen using the following criteria:

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

September 2016



Makenna Taylor-Warren
Grade 11



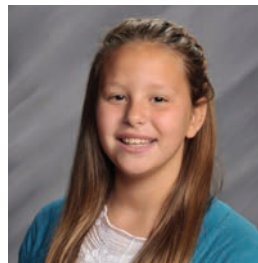
Dhruvkumar Patel
Grade 10



Alexander Hubley
Grade 9

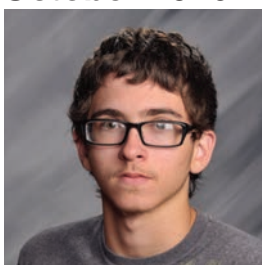


Steven Siriano
Grade 8



Jemma Jordan
Grade 7

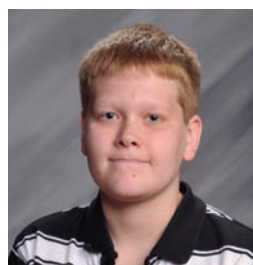
October 2016



Shae Cruikshank
Grade 11



Deanna Vanderwood
Grade 10



Joseph Cornish
Grade 8



Jesse Van Etten
Grade 7

Dear School Community Member,

The New York Mills Union Free School District is undergoing many changes this year; between our capital project, changes in administration, and our school improvement efforts. Even though change is difficult and sometimes painful, there are so many things about this small school district that we can be thankful for and celebrate! During this time of year, it is important to give thanks for the positives:

- **Our Students** – They are a constant source of joy; continually learning and growing right before our eyes. Every day is a new adventure when you work with children.
- **Our Faculty & Staff** – They are knowledgeable and caring professionals with a strong dedication to the education of our K-12 students. The positive influence a great educator has on his or her students' future success in work and life can't be overestimated.
- **Our School Community** – Our parents and community members show their New York Mills pride at school events and activities throughout each year, without fail. We are fortunate to have many very supportive and involved adults that strengthen and enhance our school programs.

This Thanksgiving, please take a moment to be thankful for our wonderful school community, the faculty and staff that educates our children, and our intelligent and talented K-12 students. Together, we are an incredibly powerful team of partners. We are stronger and more effective together than divided. I am truly thankful for our New York Mills pride and I hope that you are as well.

I look forward to our continued collaboration as we work together for the benefit of all children. Happy Thanksgiving Marauders!

Sincerely,

Kathy Houghton
Superintendent of Schools



Optimist Student of the Month

September

Christina Malinowski, a member of the New York Mills Jr/Sr High School Class of 2017, has been named the New York Mills Optimist Youth of the Month for September. Christina is the daughter of Walter and Bernadeta Malinowski of Yorkville.

Christina has participated in a number of school-based activities and athletics and has served a leadership role in many of them. A High Honor Roll student who has been selected as Student of the Month every year since 7th grade, Christina was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society in 8th grade and the National Honor Society in 11th grade. Last spring, she was honored with awards from Elmira College and the University of Rochester.

Within our school, Christina has taken on a number of roles. Christina was elected class vice-president as a freshman and now serves as our Executive Council vice-president and Honor Society co-treasurer. Other activities include co-editor of the yearbook, drummer in our bands, chorus, Colgate Seminar, Varsity Club, and Drama Club, for which she was a lead dancer in many productions. Last year, Christina volunteered for many hours as a math tutor to a 7th grader and throughout our high school in various other activities, for the betterment of our school community. Outside of school, Christina has been actively involved in her church in the role of altar server as well as a participant in a variety of events and fund-raisers. She has been an assistant coach for her brother's AYSO team as well as a volunteer at the annual Turkey Trot.

A Center-State Conference Scholar-Athlete, Christina has been a Varsity Cheerleader since 9th grade, has served as captain of the squad for the past two years and was our only cheerleader to receive an Elite All-American Cheerleading Award. She has also played JV and Varsity Volleyball and plans to play again this year. In addition, she was a member of our Varsity Track team, which in 2015 was named the CSC League Champion and a CSC Division III NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete Team recipient.



Christina Malinowski

Christina aspires to become a surgeon and to that end is looking at a number of colleges where she will pursue a degree in biology or pre-med. This past summer, Christina completed an internship at Omni Surgery Center through the Regional Program for Excellence. Christina has begun to pave a bright future for herself at New York Mills and is sure to continue upon this path to reach her academic and career goals. We look forward to seeing where this road takes her.

Optimist Student of the Month

October

The New York Mills Optimists have named Claudia Spost as the October Youth of the Month. Claudia is a member of the New York Mills Class of 2017 and is the daughter of Michael and Denise Spost of New York Mills.

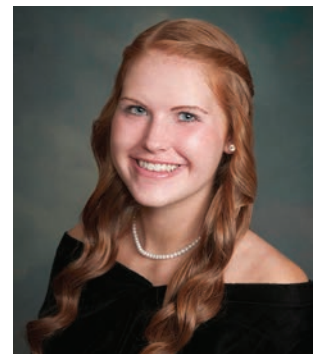
Claudia has been named to High Honor Roll throughout high school, was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society in 8th grade and National Honor Society in 11th grade. In addition, she has been recognized as Student of the Month every year since elementary school. At the conclusion of her junior year, Claudia received awards from Clarkson University and the University of Rochester.

Claudia has been involved in activities in our school and community. Claudia was elected class secretary in grades 9-11 and this year serves as our National Honor Society co-president. In addition, she has played flute in our bands and sung in our chorus since elementary school, and has been a member of our Varsity Club for many years. She has been active in church activities, and has volunteered for community events such as Bells Fest, our annual craft fair, the Turkey Trot and St. Jude's Walk. She currently holds a part-time job at the New York Mills Public Library.

Claudia has also been a member of our varsity softball team since 8th grade for which she earned the All-Star Rookie Award, varsity volleyball since 9th grade, for which she was named to 2nd team All-Star in 10th grade and was a varsity cheerleader as a

freshman. In addition, she served as a mentor to our modified volleyball players. Claudia's academics and athletics resulted in her being named a Scholar-Athlete for every sports season since 9th grade.

Claudia plans to become a radiation therapist and is applying to schools that will allow her to reach her goal. This school year, she is participating in an internship at the Faxton Cancer Center where she is shadowing an oncologist and radiation therapist. Claudia has been a bright light in our school and local community, and while we will certainly miss her after she graduates, we are excited to see what her future holds.



Claudia Spost



NYM Announces New K-12 Principal

The New York Mills Union Free School District Board of Education appointed Brent M. Dodge as the new K-12 principal at their meeting on October 4.

Dodge comes to New York Mills from Perry Jr. High School in New Hartford, N.Y., where he was a school counselor since 2007. He began his duties as K-12 principal on November 7. Let's welcome Mr. Dodge to our school!



Best Wishes, Mr. Spost!

The New York Mills Union Free School District wishes Executive Principal Michael Spost good luck in his future endeavors as he will be leaving the school district on December 2 to begin his new position at Parkway Middle School in Whitesboro. We thank him for his dedication and service to our District over the last 20 years.



Welcome New Employees



Melissa Babula,
6th Grade
Teacher



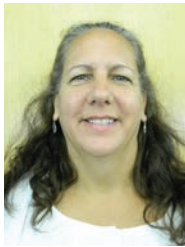
Mandy Bara,
Kindergarten
Teacher



Ellen Diskin,
Teaching
Assistant



Neil Fatata,
Building
Maintenance
Worker



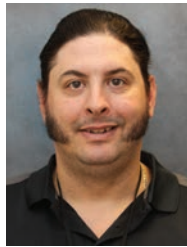
Christine Hurlbut,
Guidance Secretary



Steven Jones,
Science Teacher



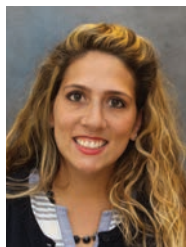
Wendy Luton,
Teaching
Assistant



Marc Pardi,
Bus Driver



Kelly Sanderson,
Mathematics



J'Nai Spaziani,
Social Studies



Edward
Younghanz,
School Monitor

Cafeteria Construction Update

We have recently received several inquiries regarding the completion date of our new cafeteria. The New York Mills Union Free School District began construction on a capital project this summer, with the majority of items substantially completed. One of the contractors on the Project has raised questions about what is required under the contract documents. We are working with the Architect, the Contractor, and the representatives of the various parties to resolve those questions and move forward at the earliest possible time.

We understand the inconvenience created for students and staff as the District, our Architect, and our Contractors work to resolve this concern. The District is committed to providing our students healthy breakfast and lunches in a safe and orderly environment. Our elementary gymnasium is currently being used as our cafeteria, with serving lines and tables from our original cafeteria. We thank our BOCES Food Service staff for their extra efforts to provide the children with nutritious meals throughout our construction project.

PTSO News

The 39th Annual PTSO Holiday Craft Fair will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4. Volunteers and bakers are still needed to help with the event.

PTSO will also be having their Secret Santa Shop the morning of the Turkey Trot on Saturday, November 19, at the Craft Fair on December 3 and 4, and at Student Council's Breakfast With Santa on Saturday, December 10 beginning at 9:00 a.m.



AP Bio Summer Work Showcase

All summer long while their fellow classmates were enjoying the fantastic weather, the students enrolled in Advanced Placement Biology were hard at work engaging in hands-on research projects. On September 16, the second annual AP Bio Summer Work Showcase was held. During this event, nine senior girls presented their summer research work to faculty, staff, and other students. Presentations included:

How Chicken Bone Structure Compares to Human Bone Structure;
Animal Adaption All Around Us;
How Solutions of Salt Water Affect Metal Nails;
and, Whether More Sea Turtles Hatch During a Full Moon or a Non-full Moon.

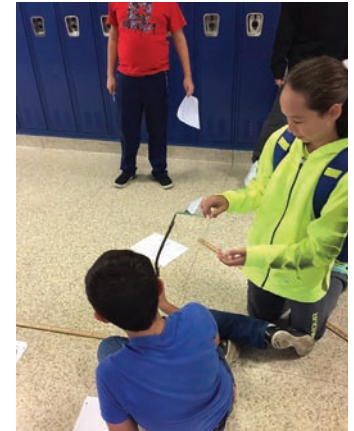


Great Minds Lunch Lecture Series

The Great Minds Lunch Lecture Series is an optional extra credit assignment available to all students taking science grades 9-12. This 15-minute, student-lead presentation is given during a lunch period and is attended by fellow students as well as faculty and staff. This once monthly presentation on a STEM topic is a fantastic way for students to explore different aspects of science outside of the typical classroom. The first lecture was given by our new science teacher, Mr. Jones as an example to the students. On the last Wednesday in September Mr. Jones discussed Stuxnet, a malicious computer worm. The first student lecture was given by senior Rachel Siegel about the Fermi Paradox, the idea that given the size of the universe why haven't we found evidence of life elsewhere. Both students and faculty are looking forward to more great science throughout the year!

Nerf Guns

Why are students spinning and shooting Nerf guns? Why are rubber bands and paper airplanes flying through the hallways? And, who let the flour and water mixture ferment in the back of Room 165 for a week? This fall, 7th graders in Miss Foote's science class have been immersed in learning about lab safety and the scientific method. Students spent time learning about British scientists who designed their own experiments to discover the purpose of sweat in humans and panting in dogs, and then they designed their own experiments. After careful planning and what seemed

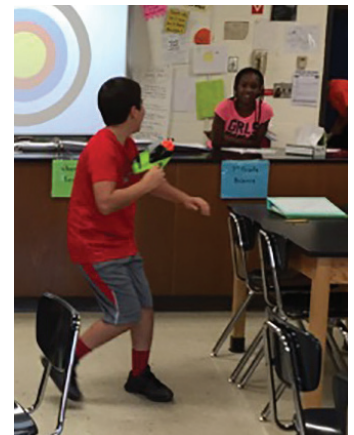


Making Snow



Rocco LaBella and Ryan Connor learning to make artificial snow with Mr. Finnerty

to be too much criticism on their experimental design from Miss Foote, 7th graders carried out their experiments, collected and analyzed their own data, and determined sources of error that would affect their results. Finally, they wrote about their experiments in a formal lab report. Although finding out that a ruler is the best device for shooting a rubber band the farthest is not the most important scientific knowledge, 7th graders can tell you how important it is to have a detailed plan for an experiment and that there are sources of error in every experiment. They can also redesign their protocol to try to avoid some of their errors in the future. These are important skills that every scientist and engineer needs to develop, and our 7th graders are beginning to develop these skills!



Football

The New York Mills Marauders finished the 2016 season with a 0 - 5 record. The Marauders lose five seniors off of this year's team and look forward to a strong 2017 campaign. The Marauders played two close games this season losing to Cooperstown 12 to 0 and to Clinton 12 to 6 in the last game of the season.



Cheerleading

The 2016 cheer season was full of spirit and improvement. The cheerleaders eagerly learned new cheers and routines that they performed to the crowd at both home and away games. At each game the cheerleaders were able to keep the crowd energized and on the edge of their seats. Each cheerleader had her own strengths that were radiated to the rest of the squad. The cheerleaders encouraged one another to learn cheers, build stunts and improve their jumps. This season was amazing because each one of the girls had something that they could improve on and were able to do so by helping each other and staying positive.



Cross Country

Boys and Girls Varsity Invitationals:

Chittenango Invite	Boys 8th place, Girls 1st place
Queensbury Invite	Boys 10th place, Girls 1st place
E.J. Herrman Invite	Boys 9th Place
McDaniel Baxter Invite	Girls 4th Place
Whitesboro Invite	Boys 6th Place
McQuaid Invite	Girls 8th place
VVS Invite	Boys 9th Place, Girls 9th Place
CSC Championship Champs	Boys 3rd place, Girls 1st place League

Boys Division Record 4-2 Overall Record 17-6

Girls Division 6-0 Girls Overall 21-2

The 2016 Cross Country team was young and looks to have a bright future.

The team set many personal records as well as improvements from the beginning of the season.

The Girls were the 2016 CSC Conference Champions. The Girls were also the Overall CSC Champions this was the first time that has ever happened. Jackson Collins, and Cody Simmons earned CSC All-Stars for the boys. For the girls CSC all-stars included Abbey Copperwheat, MaryGrace Kehrli, Grace Reilly, and Sarah Sharpe.

The New York Mills Cross Country teams will perform at the Sectional Meet next. The Sectional will be held November 5 at Chittenango High School.

Thank you to all the seniors and you will be missed. Seniors included Cody Simmons, Katelyn DiViccaro, Marissa Kulesa, and Haley Simon.



Varsity Field Hockey

The New York Mills Varsity Field Hockey team went 6-2 in the CSC West and earned 2nd place out of five teams in the league. We were 9-7 overall and took the #3 seed in sectional play. We traveled to Fayetteville Manlius for the Section 3 Class D semi-finals where we faced the #2 seeded Moravia. The game was 0-0 at the half and Mills scored shortly into the second half. We held the lead for a bit before Moravia tied it up at one a piece. Moravia would score their second goal with around six minutes left to play and then kill time to seal the victory. Despite having a team that was very young, we rarely let it show. The sectional loss was a hard fought game and we had a remarkable season. I am confident in saying that if we didn't make a JV team happen last year, we wouldn't have been as ready as we were to compete at the varsity level, being that we only had 4 returning varsity players from last season to this season. Senior captain was Michaela Marrero accompanied by 3 junior captains, Alyssa Fuccillo, Rachel Beaulieu and Chloe Cattadoris. The team will only be losing one senior this season in Marrero but she is a very big loss! Junior Alyssa Fuccillo led the team with 11 goals this season. Michaela Marrero was behind her with 5 and Rachel Beaulieu and Angela Chen each had 4. Fuccillo also led the team in assists with 9. Karilynn Tramacera was behind her with 5 and then Marrero with 4. Bri Taylor started the season in cage as the goalie for the team. She played goal all 17 games and made quite an impression as a freshman. Taylor brought in 66 saves and recorded 7 shut outs in her first varsity season.

Top picture is after defeating league rival Canastota in the first half of the season.



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.



SEPTEMBER Kids of Character Awards

Grade 3 – Skylar DesMarais and Austin Exton
Grade 4 – Selen Bilal and Valentino Rizzo
Grade 5 – Abigail Evans and Vincent Martell
Grade 6 – Nathan Bristol and Darren Lin



OCTOBER Kids of Character Awards

Grade 3 – Nevaeh Kimble and Liam Mahardy
Grade 4 – Rose Jeff and Jaden Roback
Grade 5 – Jayla Jordan and Krishna Patel
Grade 6 – Mya Hagenbuch and Mason Palmer

Winners of Coloring and Art Contest Announced

Thank you to all that participated in the New York Mills Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary Coloring and Art Contest. We have a lot of talented students! Congratulations to the following winners:

Kindergarten-Meghan Matyjas
Grades 1 and 2 – Molly Jordan
Grades 3 and 4 – Santino DiOrio
Grades 5 and 6 – Julie Roberts
Grades 6 – 12 Alesya Avrusevich





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Jonathan Fiore, Vice President
Steven King
Richard Ross
Richard Surprenant
Traci Welch
Janet Wroblecki

Administration

Kathy Houghton, Superintendent of Schools
Michael Spost, Executive Principal
Brent Dodge, K-12 Principal

Visit us on the Web

<http://www.newyorkmills.org>

BOE Meeting Dates

Tuesday, December 6, 2016
Tuesday, January 3, 2017
Tuesday, February 7, 2017
Tuesday, March 7, 2017 – Budget Workshop
Tuesday, March 21, 2017 – Budget Workshop
Tuesday, April 4, 2017 – Adopt Budget for Vote
Tuesday, April 25, 2017 – Vote for BOCES Budget & Board Members
Tuesday, May 2, 2017 – Public Budget Hearing
Tuesday, May 16, 2017 – Budget Vote and Board Election – Noon – 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 6, 2017



Morning Crossing Guard Wanted

The Village of New York Mills is looking for a morning Crossing Guard for the corner of Burrstone Road and Marauder Blvd. from 7:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. during the school year.

To obtain an application, please go to ocgov.net, Personnel, Application for Employment. Please bring completed application to the Village Clerk's Office located at 1 Maple Street, New York Mills, during regular business hours.

This is a 10 month per year position with a salary of \$1,401.00 per year.



DRAMA CLUB AUDITIONS

The New York Mills drama club will be holding auditions for the March musical on December 8 starting at 2:40 in the auditorium, students in grades 7-12 are invited to come and audition to be part of the long-standing tradition of musical theatre here at New York Mills.

This year, the drama club will present the musical *Once Upon a Mattress*. The musical is a play on the story *The Princess and The Pea* with a comedic twist. Princes and Princesses and a wicked Queen, Ladies in waiting and a ruling that "no one may marry" are a few of the items that will grace the New York Mills stage in March. If you thought you knew the story of *The Princess and the Pea* we are ready to turn it around with some hilarious and raucous, romantic and melodic, side-splitting shenanigans to leave you laughing all night long.

The musical will take place on March 24 and 25 with a senior citizen performance on March 23. The musical will be directed by Teresa Zielinski-Lovecchio, orchestra director Steve Shrey and choreographed by Juliana Murihead.

