

# NYS MILLS

July  
2015

## UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

### CLASS OF 2015 *Honor Graduates*



*Allison Swider*  
Valedictorian



*Sara Zarnoch*  
Salutatorian



*Lukas Sunderlin*



*Mikah Inkawhich*



*Samantha Rochon*



*Courtney Spost*

### *Class of 2015*

Matthew Adroved  
Jason Browne  
Madison Burnham  
Anthony Casaletta  
Jason Cattadoris  
Jeffrey Cirusuolo  
Mark Cirusuolo  
Gabrielle Cornish  
Evan Diskin

Danielle Famolaro  
Jesse Felski  
Dylan Fennell  
Colin Garcia  
Amanda Geigel  
Jared Hartman  
Onnayza Henry  
Mikah Inkawhich  
Tyler Kistner

Shawn Larabee  
Dominick Liccardo  
Cameron Lyons  
Ryan Mason  
Sarah McAndrew  
Kathleen McCabe  
Margaret Melnikow  
Morgan Mitchell  
Catherine Morrissey

Corey Pastorelli  
Daniel Prilutsky  
Harley-Jo Quesnelle  
Makenna Reilly  
Mitchell Rochon  
Samantha Rochon  
Devan Rodriguez  
Jordan Romano  
William Rybka

Lianne Sajdzikowski  
Courtney Spost  
Lukas Sunderlin  
Andrew Surprenant  
Allison Swider  
Nicholas Vanderwood  
Tyler Wood  
Sara Zarnoch



# Superintendent's Message

Dear School Community Member,

We are proud to present the 2015 issue of our annual "Awards Winning Newsletter." We hope that you will enjoy reading about the wonderful academic and extra-curricular success of our Elementary and Jr.-Sr. High School students.

Our School District Newsletter is mailed to school district residents and is also available on our school district website at [www.newyorkmills.org](http://www.newyorkmills.org).

The New York Mills school community has every reason to be proud of the outstanding efforts of our K-12 students during the 2015-16 school year. On behalf of our board of education, administration, faculty, and staff, we wish you a restful, safe, and enjoyable summer. We look forward to another productive and activity filled school year in September.

Sincerely,

*Kathy Houghton*

*Superintendent of Schools*

## Happy Retirement!

Mr. Doug Williams has been our trusty school monitor and official greeter since 2004. The students and staff at NYM wish you a relaxing and enjoyable retirement!



Mrs. Anna Grossi is leaving our district after working here since 1997! After serving as a school monitor in the elementary, she and her husband plan on traveling and visiting with their children and grandchildren. Enjoy!

## 5th and 6th Grade Volleyball Club

An opportunity to learn more about the sport of volleyball happened this spring for fifth and sixth grade girls. Volleyball club, presented by New York Mills JV and Varsity players, met each Tuesday for several weeks. Upperclassmen Haley Simon, Juliet Pinkos, Danielle Froio, Samantha Nessia and Sarah Hassan, helped teacher and coach Ms. Viel, educate players on the fundamentals of the sport. The program was a fun and successful event, and it will certainly promote a boost in interest for all modified players next winter.



## Reading Buddies – Second Graders and Seniors Connect

Ms. Viel's Advanced Placement Literature class took time out of their end of the year schedules to go and read to Mrs. Zbytniewski and Mrs. Goodfriend's second graders. Each senior buddied up with various youngsters and read a variety of different books for fun and education. This reading partnership created an exciting bond between the upperclassmen and elementary students where they were able to share their love of reading.



# Student Awards

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## *Junior Class Awards*



**Andrew Albert** — Son of Dr. & Mrs. Waleed Albert has received the **Rochester Institute of Technology Innovation & Creativity Award** which qualifies him for an annual scholarship worth \$7,000. Andrew has also been awarded with The University of Rochester Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award, given in recognition of the achievements of an outstanding science and math student.

**Cassidy Albright** — Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Scott Albright has received the **Sage Colleges Student Sage Award**. Cassidy is guaranteed a minimum of \$5,000 toward tuition at Russell Sage College or Sage College of Albany with a possible total scholarship of \$15,000. This scholarship is available for up to four years of study.

**Stephen Briody** — Son of Christine Lawendowski and Frank Briody has received the **Clarkson Achievement Award** which earns him a scholarship of \$12,000 per year and a total of \$48,000 over four years upon acceptance to Clarkson University.

**Natalie Ciaccia** — Daughter of Mrs. & Mrs. Vincent Ciaccia has been awarded the **Clarkson Leadership Award** for which the recipient earns a scholarship of \$60,000 over four years. In addition Natalie has also been awarded with the **RPI Rensselaer Medal** which is awarded to a secondary student who has distinguished him/herself in mathematics and science.

**Michael Copperwheat** — Son of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Copperwheat II has received the **University of Rochester Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology**. Recognition as a nominee of the Xerox Award is an outstanding opportunity that would be worth at least \$10,000 per year (totaling at least \$40,000 over four years), upon acceptance to the University of Rochester.

**Megan Crist** — Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Crist has been nominated for the **University of Rochester Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award**. This award was named in honor of two of Rochester's most significant pioneers of social justice. Upon application, Megan will be automatically considered for this scholarship, which is worth at least \$10,000 per year (totaling at least \$40,000 over four years.)

**Shawn Essafi** — Son of Mr. & Mrs. Mustapha Essafi has earned the **Elmira College Key Award**. This scholarship, should Shawn apply and is accepted, would award him with \$60,000 over a four-year period.

**Brianna Fuccillo** — daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Todd Fuccillo has been awarded with the **LeMoyne College Heights Award**. LeMoyne College offers the opportunity to receive a \$12,500 annual scholarship, which is renewable for up to four years.

**Caitlyn Mackay** — Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. James Mackay has earned the **Wells College 21st Century Leadership Award** for outstanding contributions she has made as a student and a leader. As a recipient, she is awarded a \$40,000 Scholarship for Leaders (\$10,000 per year) for four years of study at Wells College.

**Adriana Perretta** — Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Rocco Perretta has earned the **Elmira College Key Award** This scholarship, should Adriana apply and is accepted, would award her with \$60,000 over a four-year period. Adriana was also awarded the **Delta Kappa Gamma Society International**. This award is given to a female student who will be pursuing a career in education.

**Courtney Tramacera** — Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Tramacera has been awarded with the **Sage Colleges Student Sage Award**, which guarantees a minimum of \$5,000 toward tuition at Russell Sage College or Sage College of Albany with a possible total scholarship of \$15,000. This scholarship is available for up to four years of study.

**Christian Zampa** — Son of Mr. Adam Zampa (Janice O'Connor) has earned the **University of Rochester George Eastman Young leaders Award**. If Christian applies and is accepted to the University of Rochester, he will be considered for a scholarship worth at least \$10,000 per year (totaling at least \$40,000 over four years).





# Student Awards

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## Senior Class Awards



*These members of the senior class received the following awards.*

### **Jason Browne**

New York Mills Volunteer Fire Department  
June Optimist Youth of Month

### **Madison Burnham**

Utica College Field Work Program  
NY State Corrections Police Benevolent Assoc.  
Whitestown Police Benevolent Association

### **Jason Cattadoris**

New York Mills PTSO  
Marauders Athletic Boosters  
New York Mills Volunteer Fire Department

### **Jeffrey Cirusuolo**

Whitestown Police Benevolent Association

### **Danielle Famolaro**

Harry J. Snyder Memorial Scholarship  
Sherriff Robert Maciol Award

### **Dylan Fennell**

New York Mills Volunteer Fire Dept.

### **Amanda Geigel**

Vital Net Technologies  
Memory of Matthew Larkin

### **Jared Hartman**

Burrstone Bassett Memorial Award

### **Mikah Inkawhich**

Nick Radomski Memorial  
Marauders Athletic Boosters  
Anonymous Athletic Scholarship  
New York Mills Class of 1940  
Harry J. Snyder Memorial Scholarship  
Burrstone Basset Memorial  
January Optimist Youth of Month

### **Cameron Lyons**

Pop Warner Football Award  
Anonymous Athletic Scholarship

### **Ryan Mason**

Margaret M. Connors Theatre & Art Award  
Utica Symphony League  
The American Red Cross

### **Sarah McAndrew**

North Utica Whitestown Rotary Club/  
Jackie Lawler Health Scholarship  
U.S. Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award  
Big Moose Open Casper Chiropractic  
Gary Hadfield Principal Award  
February Optimist Youth of the Month

### **Margaret Melnikow**

John Emmett Memorial Scholarship  
Thelma Russ Memorial Scholarship  
May Optimist Youth of the Month

### **Morgan Mitchell**

Big Moose Open Casper Chiropractic  
St. Louis Gonzaga Maronite Youth Scholarship

### **Catherine Morrissey**

NY Mills Drama Club  
Margaret M. Connors Theatre Arts

### **Corey Pastorelli**

New York Mills Class of 1940  
Family of Matthew Larkin Memorial Scholarship

### **Makenna Reilly**

Utica Dollars for Scholars/Utica Lady Knicks  
New York Mills PTSO  
Marauders Athletic Boosters  
Burrstone Basset Memorial Award  
Cazenovia Leadership Scholarship  
March Optimist Youth of the Month

### **Samantha Rochon**

Mayor John Pietryka Memorial Award  
Burrstone Basset Memorial  
NY Mills Optimist Senior Class Award  
April Optimist Youth of the Month

### **Mitchell Rochon**

Gilroy Kernan & Gilroy, Inc. Award

### **William Rybka**

U. S. Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award

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*New York Mills Graduating Class of 2015*

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# Student Awards

## Senior Class Awards

These members of the senior class received the following awards.

### Courtney Spost

Etude Music Award  
New York Mills Drama Club  
New York Mills PTSO  
Student Council /Dan Everson Award  
Optimist Joseph Schmidt Memorial Scholarship  
Margaret M. Connors Memorial Scholarship for Performing Arts  
Walter Miga Memorial Award  
Kathleen A. Clements SABA Award  
Utica Dollars for Scholars Oneida-Herkimer  
September Optimist Youth of the Month

### Lukas Sunderlin

Gregory P. Roberts AAA Memorial Scholarship  
Utica Symphony League  
New York Mills PTSO  
Zebra Classic Scholarship

### Andrew Surprenant

Friends of Matthew Larkin Memorial Scholarship

### Allison Swider

State Education Academic for Excellence  
New York Mills PTSO  
GPO Federal Credit Union  
U.S. Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award  
December Optimist Youth of the Month

### Nicholas Vanderwood

New York Mills Drama Club Award  
Myrna Black Memorial Award  
Margaret M. Connors Memorial Scholarship for Performing Arts  
New York Mills MAD Boosters Award  
New York Mills PTSO  
November Optimist Youth of the Month

### Sara Zarnoch

State Education Academic for Excellence  
Student Council/Dan Everson Award  
U.S. Marine Corps Semper Fidelis  
New York Mills MAD Boosters Award  
October Optimist Youth of the Month

## Class of 2015 Honor Graduates

### High Honor Graduates (95% - 100%)

*Valedictorian* - Allison Swider  
*Salutatorian* - Sara Zarnoch  
Lukas Sunderlin

### Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation

Madison Burnham  
Evan Diskin  
Amanda Geigel  
Mikah Inkawhich\*  
Kathleen McCabe  
Makenna Reilly  
Samantha Rochon  
Courtney Spost\*  
Lukas Sunderlin\*  
Allison Swider\*  
Sara Zarnoch\*

\* With Honors

### Honor Graduates (90% - 94%)

Mikah Inkawhich  
Samantha Rochon  
Courtney Spost

### Regents Diploma with Honors

Matthew Adroved  
Jason Browne  
Jeffrey Cirasuolo  
Corey Pastorelli



## The Class of 2018 Thanks You!

The Class of 2018 would like to send their heartfelt appreciation to those parents, friends, and community members who attended their pasta dinner fundraiser on March 12, 2015. The event, held in the school's cafeteria, was a great success, and the students enjoyed serving the public. Mark your calendars for the Thursday prior to our school musical next year, so that you can be served by the freshmen class once again.



*New York Mills Graduating Class of 2015*



## January

The Optimist Club of New York Mills named Mikah Inkawich as Youth of the Month for January. Mikah is a member of New York Mills Jr./Sr. High School Class of 2015. She is the daughter of Terrence and Teresa Inkawich of Whitesboro.



**Mikah Inkawich**

Mikah has made a positive impact at school in academics, athletics and extra-curricular activities, as well as within the New York Mills Community. Mikah has been named to Honor Roll consistently throughout high school and has been chosen as Student of the Month each year since 9th grade. She was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society in 8th grade and is a member of the National Honor Society. As a junior, Mikah received awards from both Clarkson University and Wells College.

Mikah has been elected to many leadership positions, including Sophomore Class Treasurer, Junior Class President and National Honor Society President. During the summer prior to her junior year, Mikah attended The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State, which was held at SUNY Brockport. She played on the JV or Varsity basketball team each year since 9th grade and made it to sectionals with her team. The field hockey team on which she participated in grades 9-11 earned the Section Title and was the League Champion. As a member of our Track and Field team, she broke the 4x400 and 4x800 school records and qualified for sectionals. In addition, Mikah participated on our Cross Country team this past fall. Mikah is also a four-year member of our Varsity Club and has served on our Prom Committee.

Mikah has participated in a number of community activities including running in the Color Run for Teen Cancer, volunteering at the Boilermaker Expo, participating in neighborhood clean-up and tutoring students at Jefferson Elementary School in Utica. In addition, Mikah also works at a local sporting goods store.

Mikah plans to pursue a career in Environmental Engineering and has applied to Clarkson University, SUNY Binghamton University, the University of Connecticut and the University of Vermont. Mikah has been a great asset to our school and community and we look with excitement at the bright future that lies ahead of her.

Sarah McAndrew has been named the Optimist Club of New York Mills Youth of the Month for February. Sarah is a member of New York Mills Jr./Sr. High School Class of 2015. She is the daughter of Christopher and Nadine McAndrew of New York Mills.



**Sarah McAndrew**

Sarah has consistently been listed on Honor Roll throughout high school and has been named Student of the Month every year since 9th grade. She was inducted into the Junior National Honor Society in 8th grade and in 11th grade was inducted into the National Honor Society, for which she serves as treasurer. She is also the Junior Class Treasurer and a member of the Yearbook Committee. She played JV field hockey in 9th grade and has been a varsity field hockey team member since 10th grade, she was part of the team that was named League and Section III Champions in 2012. As a senior, she served as team captain. Sarah also participated on our Varsity track and field team and was a member of the relay team that broke our 4x800 school record.

Sarah has participated in the Walk for Breast Cancer for the past four years and has also participated in America's Greatest Heart Walk/Run and the Walk for Down Syndrome. She has also been involved in activities within her church and has held part-time jobs.

Sarah plans to pursue a career in the healthcare field and will be attending Onondaga Community College in the fall. Sarah has been a positive influence on our school campus and is sure to continue to do so at OCC and with the patients with whom she works.

## March

The Optimist Club of New York Mills has named Makenna Reilly as Youth of the Month for March. Makenna is a member of New York Mills Jr./Sr. High School Class of 2015. She is the daughter of Terrence and Kelly Reilly of New York Mills.



**Makenna Reilly**

Makenna has been involved in many activities within our school and community. She has been included on Honor Roll consistently through high school and has been named Student of the Month in every year since 9th grade. In 8th grade, Makenna was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society and in 11th grade into the National Honor Society, for which she is the vice president. She was elected as class secretary in 9th grade and is also a member of our prom and yearbook committees, the latter of which she was elected as president. Makenna has also participated on athletic teams. As a freshman and sophomore, she played on the Varsity basketball team, which made it to sectionals. A four-year member of the Varsity field hockey team, which were sectional and league champions. Makenna is now on the track and field team for the third year and has qualified for sectionals.

Makenna has volunteered her time to many organizations and causes including the New York Mills PTO craft fair and other school events, Relay for Life, America's Greatest Heart Run and Walk, the Buddy Walk and Walk for Breast Cancer. Makenna has also worked part time at the New York Mills Public Library since she was a sophomore.

Makenna is planning a career in fashion merchandising. She plans to attend Cazenovia College in the fall to pursue her degree. Makenna has brought much to the New York Mills Community and is sure to do so at Cazenovia and in her career.





# School News

## Senior Awarded OHM BOCES Kathleen Clements Scholarship

New York Mills Jr./Sr. High School senior Courtney Spost was awarded the seventh annual Kathleen A. Clements Scholarship from the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES School and Business Alliance (SABA) on May 27, 2015.

The \$500 award was given to Spost based on her hard work, participation in the School and Business Alliance program, commitment to learning, letter of recommendation and an ongoing desire to be of help to the community.

Spost, who always had an interest in nursing, volunteered at a local nursing home, but her participation in a SABA career shadow at St. Elizabeth Medical Center confirmed that nursing was the career for her. Later, Spost was able to intern back at St. Elizabeth Medical Center through the Regional Program for Excellence.

“What I learned and experienced as an RPE intern definitely helped me more easily understand the concepts I anticipate learning at SUNY Poly,” said Spost, who will begin to major in nursing at SUNY Polytechnic Institute in the fall of 2015. “The program allowed me to explore what I love to do more than I ever would have expected it to ... it helped me recognize that I would love to become a nurse and help someone every day.”

With her nursing degree, she plans to travel the world helping those in most need. Later, she plans to further her education to become a nurse practitioner specializing in either pediatrics or oncology.

Spost has been a member of the Student Council and is currently the executive president. While in this role, Spost has been able to organize such events as a fall community clean-up day in her neighborhood, create Thanksgiving baskets for the homeless women and children at Emmaus House in Utica, and collect cans for local veterans in February. Her next project is to join the “Thirst Project,” which raises money to drill wells in countries where clean water is not available.

She has also spent time peer-tutoring in math, has been a cheerleader and played softball, was in Drama Club the past two years, was inducted into the National Honor Society this year, was a Youth Ambassador for the Broadway Theater League, and volunteered for the Utica Zoo and the public library. In addition to all of this, Spost has won numerous awards and has maintained a 90+ average.

The Kathleen A. Clements Scholarship was founded in 2008 to honor the memory of Kay Clements, former School and Business Alliance director at the OHM BOCES. Clements served in this position from 1991 through 2008 and dedicated herself to two concepts: showing students they could go further than they originally thought they could, and demonstrating that school and business partnerships are the most effective way to ensure the Mohawk Valley has a talented pool of qualified professionals.



*Pictured from left to right: OHM BOCES District Superintendent Howard D. Mettelman, Philip Williams, SABA board member and president of USC, The Business College; Michael Spost, Courtney Spost's father; Courtney Spost, New York Mills senior and Clements scholarship winner; Denise Spost, Courtney Spost's mother; Elizabeth Fortino, SABA board member and associate attorney at Mental Hygiene Legal Services; and Kathy Houghton, superintendent of the New York Mills Union Free School District.*

## Student Achievement Award Winner

Courtney Tramacera was awarded the Oneida-Madison-Herkimer School Boards Institute Student Achievement Award. Courtney, along with recipients from other school districts, was presented with the award at a dinner on May 14 at the Radisson Hotel. Courtney is a member of the New York Mills Class of 2016 and is the daughter of Anthony and Renee Tramacera.



*Thank You!*

Thank you to all New York Mills students, parents, staff and community members for the support you have shown our son, Robert Murray.

*Lisa Murray*



# School News

## The Second Annual Mr. Marauder Pageant

Senior males from the Class of 2015 walked the runway for a night of hilarious comedy and surprises at The Second Annual Mr. Marauder Pageant. Ten percent of the funds raised from the event were donated to the Utica Veteran's Center, along with a large donation of canned goods that were collected for their pantry. Senior contestants competed in four categories and answered questions on the spot that related to student life, health and wellness, and manners. The gentlemen also displayed their wide ranging talents in a segment before modeling their best attire in the formal wear category. Admission to the event was \$6.00 or \$5.00 with the donation of a canned good.



The Master of Ceremonies was senior Lucas Sunderlin. Mr. Marauder 2015 was awarded to Nick Vanderwood, and Mr. Congeniality was awarded to Cameron Lyons. Other senior contestants were Jason Browne, Jeffrey Cirusuolo, Anthony Casaletta, Ryan Mason, Colin Garcia, Dylan Fennell, and Devan Rodriguez. A special thank you goes out to seniors Katie Morrissey, Courtney Spost and Sara Zarnoch for all their diligent and amazing expertise with the show. There was also a surprise faculty member who danced with the seniors during the gentlemen's group talent! Mr. Eramo dressed in our mascot Beeker's attire and wowed the crowd when removing his disguise in the final moments. Faculty judges were Mr. Auffrey, Mrs. Gates, Mr. Ricco, and Ms. Foote. The special guest judge was WKTV's Meteorologist Jill Reale, who even made sure our show was mentioned on the news at 11:00 p.m. that night!

If you missed the show and would like a DVD copy of the pageant, Student Council is selling copies for 10 dollars each. Please email Ms. Viel at [aviel@newyorkmills.org](mailto:aviel@newyorkmills.org) to order your copy today or pick yours up!

## Music News

The New York Mills Music department has been very busy in the last few months. The drama club presented the musical *Oklahoma* to packed houses on March 13 and 14. The musical received rave reviews and nominations for awards at this year's first annual Landmark High School Theatre Awards ceremony. The cast and crew of the musical attended the awards in Syracuse on May 30. The ceremony showcased and acknowledged the work of all parts of our schools musical as well as rate our school among 23 other schools from all over central New York. A huge THANK YOU goes out to everyone who helped to make this year's musical such a success.



On May 9, 75 members of the New York Mills chorus participated in the Music in the Parks Festival in Six Flags, New England in Massachusetts. The chorus worked for three months preparing two musical selections that were judged and graded by professional musicians. The chorus members were given the opportunity to perform against students from different states and received the highest award that our school has received in several years. After a successful performance the chorus spent the rest of the day enjoying the theme park and all the fun it has to offer.



Other musical events that have happened in our music department include participation in NYSSMA (Janlynn McCoy), Jr. High All-County (Alexandria Thomas and Gretchen Biel), Elementary All-County (Hannah Mahardy on clarinet, Sophia Lyn on flute), the Memorial Day parade, and, of course, the band and chorus concerts for both elementary and high school. Many awards are also given to our senior music students for their continued effort, participation and musicianship over the course of their years here at New York Mills.

The music department would like to thank the community for their continued support of the music program here at New York Mills. We look forward to another busy and successful musical school year in 2015-2016. Have a wonderful, music filled summer!





# School News

## 5th Grade Students Graduate the DARE Program

New York Mills 5th grade DARE students in Mrs. Grogan's and Mrs. Kehrl's classes graduated from the DARE Program April 9, 2015. During this program they learned about the effects of drugs and violence on their life and on their bodies. How stress affects the body, and appropriate ways to deal with it. Bullying and not to be a bystander, but to help stop it or go to your help network to report it so that it can be stopped. They also learned to be confident when talking to anyone and practices how

to say no when asked to do something they felt was uncomfortable.

During DARE we talked about helping kids and in doing this they collected pull tabs for kids their own age who have medical problems. The pull tabs are turned in for the weight of aluminum. Mr. K. Pape and Mr. Sam Trapanick from the Ziyara Shrine spoke to the students and parents at graduation. They told them that the money is then used to purchase items like: computer software for the kids to play on, traction equipment, arts and craft supplies, special splints for arms and legs, just to name a few.



They learned by simply saving one small item, another child will be able to walk, ride a bike, hold a toy or hug a parent.

If you would like to continue this effort, you can save pull tabs from any can and bring them in for next year's 5th grade DARE students. Please drop them off for Deputy Nancy Nicholl.

## Red Cross Blood Drive Success

Student Council, in conjunction with the American Red Cross, hosted its second blood drive this year in June. Students and faculty members had 19 productive units of blood collected! This equates to helping save up to 57 lives. Additionally, due to our partnership with the Red Cross, they generously donate a scholarship to a graduating senior. This year's recipient is Ryan Mason. Ryan always volunteers to donate blood with enthusiasm, often choosing to partake in the double red blood cell donation. His 400 dollar scholarship is directly deposited to his institution of higher learning. Best of luck at SUNY Potsdam this fall, Ryan!

## New Executive Student Council Members for 2015-2016

Next Year's Executive Student Council Officers are President Shawn Essafi, Vice President Brianna Fuccillo, Secretary Madison Cudhea, Treasurer Cassidy Albright, and Historian Jordyn Keeck-Beach.



## Spring Door Decorating Contest

After the success of the holiday door decorating contest in December, Student Council hosted a spring door decorating contest! Mrs. Gate's "Hang in There" design won, but there were many other worthy contenders. Congratulations and thank you to all students who shared their crafty and creative efforts.



# Students of the Month



The students selected as "Students of the Month" will continue to be recognized this year. A vote will take place each month and there will be one winner for each grade level (7-11). Students will be judged on the following:

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

April 2015



**Christian Zampa**  
Grade 11



**Tara Gonzales**  
Grade 10



**Shayla Schmelcher**  
Grade 9



**Sarah Sharpe**  
Grade 8



**Olivia Achen-Tebshery**  
Grade 7

May 2015



**Brandon Ross**  
Grade 11



**Marissa Kulesa**  
Grade 10



**Madison Cudhea**  
Grade 9



**Gretchen Biel**  
Grade 8



**Connor Simmons**  
Grade 7

June 2015



**Dalton Henry**  
Grade 11



**Michaela Marrero**  
Grade 10



**Makenna Donahue**  
Grade 9



**McKenzie Keator**  
Grade 8



**Kiley Lyons**  
Grade 7

## Kids of Character Awards

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

### FEBRUARY Kids of Character Awards

- Grade 3 – David Avrusevich and Victoria Odarchuk
- Grade 4 – Jaydon Dietz and Noah Moore
- Grade 5 – Kara Osika and Caleb Sigal
- Grade 6 – Derek Baur and Anya Prilutskaya

### MARCH Kids of Character Awards

- Grade 3 – Hailey Mahardy and Conner Scharbach
- Grade 4 – Timothy Lavier and Kamryn Williams
- Grade 5 – Isabella Cornish and Kimberly Ralph
- Grade 6 – Brianna Broccoli and Dominique Galante

### APRIL Kids of Character Awards

- Grade 3 – Nixie Lorraine and Vincent Martell
- Grade 4 – Lily Comenale and Danni Williams
- Grade 5 – Ariellah Bova and Nicholas Mitchell
- Grade 6 – McKenzie Brush and Bianca LoGalbo

### MAY Kids of Character Awards

- Grade 3 – Lenna Comenale and Siddalee Daniels
- Grade 4 – Isabella Bascom and Nathan Bristol
- Grade 5 – Jemma Jordan and Bryan Tramacera
- Grade 6 – Kristen Despina and Sydney Maciol

### JUNE Kids of Character Awards

- Grade 3 – Mackenzie Kinville and Ayden Murphy
- Grade 4 – Emily Angell, Joseph Cirusuolo and Maya Robinson
- Grade 5 – Olivia Beaulieu, Ethan Hurst, and Ta'naiya Manolescu
- Grade 6 – Ryan Keenan and Aryana Thomas
- Principal's Choice – Danil Donchuk

*Congratulations!*





# School News

## Student Leaders Make the Magic Happen!

Ten students attended District XI's 20th Annual Student Council Leadership Conference on March 16, 2015, at SUNY Geneseo's campus. The theme of the conference had a Disney-esque feel as the student presenters spoke of the magic and power of being a leader. Those in attendance heard Canadian speaker Andy Thibodeau tell his influential message, "Share Your Care," where he provided personal anecdotes and tools for being a positive mentor among peers in one's school.

Additionally, students attended various workshops designed to encourage school spirit, fundraising, and overall community. The students networked with other leaders from 39 different schools, making new friendships and connections. They shared ideas about homecoming events, dances, and more. Students who attended were Madison Cudhea, Joey Marchese, AJ Mitchell, Adriana Perretta, Caitlyn Mackay, Megan Crist, Natalie Ciaccia, Jordyn Keeck-Beach, Brianna Fuccillo and Shawn Essafi.



## JKB Goes to Albuquerque, New Mexico

Future Senior Jordyn Keeck-Beach attended the National Student Council Leadership Conference in June. She and other student leaders from across New York state met with other students from across the country to share their passion about making a notable change in their schools. As a New York State Student Board Member, Jordyn hopes to bring back many new and exciting ideas from her trip to New Mexico.

## The Thirst Project

Did you know that 70 percent of our planet is water? However, only 2.5 percent of that is freshwater, and that teeny percentage is what is available for the 7 billion people of our planet! That means that a large portion of our world does not have access to clean drinking water – a vital necessity for the health and wellness of all human beings. At the 20th Annual District XI's Leadership Conference, many New York Mills students were exposed to knowledge about the world's water crisis. Upon learning of this dilemma, students invited members of the Thirst Project to come and present at our school.



The Thirst Project is a nonprofit organization that exists to raise awareness of and bring solutions to the global water crisis. They are the world's leading youth water activism organization. In the past six years, students around the country have raised more than 8 million dollars, 100 percent of which has been used to give more than 260,000 people in 12 countries safe, clean water.

Presenters Zachary and Justin shared their personal stories of how they became involved in their endeavor to help the 1 billion people on our planet who do not have access to safe, clean water. Traveling across the country from their headquarters in Los Angeles, California, these gentlemen spoke to students about how they can help make a difference to give people in third world countries access to clean water. Their presentation to the student body will likely be something that student council will work to donate to in the near future, making a positive impact not just locally, but globally as well.

## Spring Community Clean-Up

Various members of Student Council took time out of their busy schedule to go and help senior citizen Irene Green get ready for spring! Council members worked in conjunction with the Oneida County Youth Bureau to help clear leaves and other debris from Ms. Green's yard, who happily treated the students to some delicious candy after all their hard work. Individuals who helped were Holly Simon, Amanda Costello, Nina Fellone, Kiley Lyons, Brianna Taylor, Kaitlyn Carman, Abbey Copperwheat, Sarah Sharpe, Nick Acee, Megan Crist, Natalie Ciaccia, Adrianna Perretta, Sarah McAndrew, Katie Morrissey, Sara Zarnoch, Cameron Lyons, Allison Swider, and Nick Vanderwood. If you are interested in having students come and help with your yard work in the fall, please contact the Oneida County Youth Bureau at 315.798.5027.





## Highest Achiever Students 2014-2015

**2nd Grade:** Emily Cognetti, Sean Clifford, Alexa Grande, Ariana Piazza, Mackenzie Dwyer

**3rd Grade:** Hailey Mahardy, Jayla Jordan, Victoria Odarchuk, Rocco LaBella

**4th Grade:** Allison Herrman, Emily Pollock, Lily Comenale, Sakura Miller

**5th Grade:** Madelyn McCoy, Noah Diskin, Joseph Odarchuk, Ashley Griffith, Francesca Borrometi, Olivia Beaulieu

**6th Grade:** Maria Maloney, Alyssa Alpaugh, Sophia Lin, Dominique Galante, Joseph Cornish



## 2014-15 High Honor Roll Students

The following students were on the High Honor Roll for Quarters 1-3 & will be recognized at the “Success is Sweet” Celebration.

**2nd Grade:** Emily Cognetti, Sean Clifford, Kaylee Frank, Mia Roberts, Andrew Sosa, Kathryn Williams, Alexa Grande, Ariana Piazza, Selen Bilal, Heidi Chilbrith, Gabriella Dietz, Angela Lin, Zachary Matyjas

**3rd Grade:** Hailey Mahardy, Xander McCoy, Victoria Odarchuk, Jayla Jordan, Lauren Kulpa, Emily Pavlus

**4th Grade:** Emily Angell, Kole Bates, Nathan Bristol, Lily Comenale, Hailey Cornish, Rachel Hartman, Noah Moore, Joshua Cook, Allison Herrman, Darren Lin, Emily Pollock, Alex Zayas

**5th Grade:** Isabella Cornish, Noah Diskin, Emma Kistner, Danil Donchuk, Marc Fellows, Ashley Griffith, Jemma Jordan, Olivia Liccardo, Joseph Odarchuk

**6th Grade:** Alyssa Alpaugh, McKenzie Brush, Dustyn Henry, Victor Lee, Sophia Lin, Hannah Mahardy, Kristen Despina, Dominique Galante, Broderic Herrman, Maria Maloney





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**Sixth Grade Special Recognitions**

**National Physical Fitness Award**

Derek Baur  
Allie Catanzaro  
Derek Cieplenski  
Giovanni DiOrio  
Dennis Duymaz  
Michael Fairbrother  
Dominique Galante  
Dylan Isabell  
Ryan Keenan  
Victor Lee  
Hannah Mahardy  
Anya Prilutskaya  
John Rauscher  
Mercedes Williams

**Top Five High Academic Achievers**

Alyssa Alpaugh  
Dominique Galante  
Sophia Lin  
Hannah Mahardy  
Maria Maloney

**Presidential Physical Fitness Award**

McKenzie Brush  
Bianca LoGalbo  
Broderic Herrman  
Nevaeh Zayas

**PTSO Citizenship Award**

Nicholas Ford  
Aden Kistner

**State of New York Office of the State Comptroller**

Brianna Broccoli  
Kristen Despins

**New York State Triple "C" Award**

Steven Siriano  
Mercedes Williams

**CSEA Union Local 1000 Scholarship Award**  
Sydney Maciol



**Success is Sweet**

Learning truly is a "Sweet Success!" Many of our 2nd through 6th grade students were honored at our 1st annual "Success is Sweet" academic celebration. Fifty students that made the High Honor Roll with an overall average between 90 and 100 for three consecutive quarters and twenty-five students with the highest overall academic average were invited to this "sweet" event. Our honored students received a pin in recognition of their hard work and achievement. Immediately following the ceremony, students and their families were invited to enjoy some "sweet" treats. A wonderful night was enjoyed by all. Thank you to faculty, staff, PTSO, and families for making this night a true success!

