

NYMILLS

March
2015

UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Capital Project Update

Thank you again to the voters of our New York Mills Union Free School District for your November 18, 2014, approval of both propositions associated with our proposed capital improvement project. We continue to work closely with Hunt-EAS (Engineers, Architects & Surveyors) in order to complete the architectural plans for the upcoming project. This includes extensive walk-throughs of our buildings and grounds, as well as meetings with architects and consultants regarding specific components of the project. Our completed capital project plans will be submitted to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) by Hunt-EAS this spring. We are hopeful that we will receive NYSED approval during the winter. This will enable us to bid the project in early spring of 2016 and begin construction that summer.

In the meantime, you may have heard about several legacy items that will need to be moved in order to provide the necessary space in front of the building for our cafeteria expansion: a stone placed by the class of 1988 in memory of New York Mills student, Tracey A. Ouimette; a 20 year-old oak tree planted on July 8, 1995, as a gift from the Class of 1940; and a 30 year-old maple tree planted by the class of 1981 in memory of New York Mills student Julie Baron 4/15/63 – 12/6/78. After consulting with an arborist, the families involved, and the class of 1940; we collectively made the decision to move the stone and the 30-year old maple to other locations on school district grounds. However, the oak tree planted as a gift from the Class of 1940 is too large to be moved. Members of the class living in this area are working with the school district to plan a new oak tree planting to coincide with the annual kindergarten tree planting to take place on Arbor Day, April 24. Wood from the original Class of 1940 tree will be used as part of our new recycling center that will be located in the newly enlarged cafeteria. If you would like to learn more about the capital project, please visit www.newyorkmills.org and click on the Capital Project link under "Latest News."

Board of Education Approves Veteran's Exemption

The New York Mills Union Free School District Board of Education recently approved a resolution to adopt an Adjusted Alternative Veteran's Exemption in accordance with Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law. The maximum exemptions allowable are as follows:

- \$6,000 dollars for veterans who served during a period of war, or that amount multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit, or in the case of a special assessing unit, the latest class ratio, whichever is less;
- \$4,000 dollars for veterans who served in a combat zone, or that amount multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit, or in the case of a special assessing unit, the latest class ratio, whichever is less; and
- \$20,000 dollars for disabled veterans, or that amount multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit, or in the case of a special assessing unit, the latest class ratio, whichever is less.

The Board of Education also extended this exemption to the primary residence of a Gold Star Parent. A Gold Star Parent is the parent of a child who died in the line of duty while serving in the United States Armed Forces during a period of war. Thank you to our New York Mills school community veterans for your dedicated service to our country.

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S
Oklahoma!

On March 13 and 14, the New York Mills Drama Club will present the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *OKLAHOMA!* This year's musical is a rip roaring flashback to the old west when times were simpler and going to a barn dance was the big event of the year. Yee Haw! The drama club has been working since December with their director Teresa Lovecchio, their choreographer Juliana Muirhead and their orchestra director Steve Shrey to put together an evening of singing, acting and dancing to entertain y'all. Please join the drama club for a trip to *OKLAHOMA!* Again, the musical is taking place on March 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets will be available starting on March 2: Adults-\$8; Students and Seniors-\$6. Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling the high school office.

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

January 2015



Megan Crist
Grade 11



Rachel Siegel
Grade 10



Rachel Beaulieu
Grade 9



Robert Maciol
Grade 8



Rachel Downs
Grade 7

February 2015



Courtney Tramacera
Grade 11



Kellie Beasock
Grade 10



Christine Zampa
Grade 9



Angela Chen
Grade 8



Robert Murray
Grade 7

DECEMBER Kids of Character Awards

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

Grade 3 – Alivia Rizzo and Chloe Thien

Grade 4 – Benjamin Boccoardo and Sakura Miller

Grade 5 – Francesca Borrometi and Emma Clements

Grade 6 – Sophia Lin and Mercedes Williams

JANUARY Kids of Character Awards

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

Grade 3 – Lauren Kulpa and Talan Marchese

Grade 4 – Emily Pollock and Sophia VanDusen

Grade 5 – Jack Edwards and Jesse VanEtten

Grade 6 – Nicholas Ford and Joseph Spinella

Kindergarten Registration

The New York Mills Union Free School District's Kindergarten registration for 2015-2016 has already taken place. If you have not registered your child, please call the elementary school at 768-8129. It is very important that you contact the school, please don't wait until summer to register your child.

To be eligible for kindergarten in New York Mills, a child must be five years of age by December 1, 2015. Birth certificates, proof of immunizations and two proofs of residency (driver's license,

gas and electric, phone bill, etc.) must be submitted prior to the start of the school year in September.

One dose of MMR, four doses of polio and diphtheria, three doses of hepatitis B vaccine and two doses of varicella are required. Kindergarten screening for all registered students will take place in April. A Kindergarten Orientation is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2015, at 6:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please call the elementary school at 768-8129.



Optimist Student of the Month

Nicholas Vanderwood has been named the New York Mills Optimist Student of the Month for the month of November. Nicholas, who will be graduating in June, is the son of Bernard and Michelle Vanderwood of New York Mills.

Nicholas, an honor roll student, has previously been named a student of the month. In 8th grade, he was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society and in 11th grade he was inducted into the National Honor Society. During his junior year, he also received honors from Elmira College and RIT.

While in high school, Nick has participated in numerous extracurricular activities. From 9th grade to 11th grade, he served as Vice President of his class. This year, he was elected Student Council Vice President. In the past, Nick has served as a mentor for a younger student and tutored many other students in math. In addition to his stout academic résumé, Nick is athletic, having played on the JV Basketball and Varsity Baseball teams.

With that said, Nick's true passion lies in the arts. Since elementary school, he has played the drums in the school band and has been a member of the chorus. Nick, who's also known for giving great band lessons, has landed the lead role in multiple school musicals and is currently the Vice President of Drama Club.

Outside of school, Nick is a member of the Sweet Vendetta Band and the Glen Street Original Band. The bands have performed at dozens

of benefits for organizations such as Toys for Tots, the Stevens-Swan Humane Society and Stand Against Suicide. He has even performed at ten Saranac Thursdays and has recorded a single.

As for his vocal talents, Nick sang the national anthem at two New York Mills basketball games, six Utica College hockey games and four Boston Celtics games. Other community activities include operating a camera at the Cooperstown Dream Park, participating in a community cleanup at the Utica Zoo, painting a mural for ACE Taxi Company and conducting social media networking for an oil company (Nick proudly sold the company's first product). Nick is also a member of the Utica Rotary Club and helped produce a video for the club.

Nick is currently in the Regional Program for Excellence and interns at Big Frog Radio Station with Keith James. He plans on attending a 4-year college/university and is currently considering many options.

November



Nicholas Vanderwood

Optimist Student of the Month

Allison Swider has been named the New York Mills Optimist Student of the Month for the month of December. Allison, who will be graduating in June, is the daughter of Daniel and Theresa Swider of New Hartford.

Throughout her high school career, Allison has consistently appeared on the high honor roll. She has also been selected as a student of the month every year since 9th grade. Because of her academic success, she was inducted into both the National Junior Honor Society and the National Honor Society, for which she was elected co-president. At the conclusion of her junior year, she was awarded the LeMoyne College Heights Award and the RIT Computing Medal.

Allison is involved in many activities, both in school and out of school. In 9th and 11th grade, Allison served as secretary of her class and, this year, she is serving as Student Council Treasurer. Allison is also a member of the prom committee and is secretary of the yearbook committee.

Outside of school, Allison is an accomplished ballerina. She studies at Utica Dance, which is the former Munson-Williams-Proctor

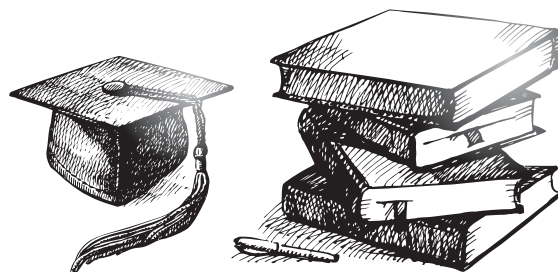
Art Institute, and spends countless hours practicing her craft. The hard work has led to leading roles, such as the Sugar Plum Fairy in the Nutcracker. On top of working part-time, Allison also volunteers at the Utica Zoo, American Heart Association and her church.

Allison is looking at several colleges and universities throughout the northeast, including Ithaca College, the University of Rochester, Duke, and Providence. She is still undecided on a major.

December



Allison Swider



NYM Volleyball Loves the Turkey Trot

New York Mills' 41st Annual Turkey Trot has sparked a new tradition for the Marauder Volleyball program. All three teams - - Modified, JV and Varsity - - ran the trot this past November. It was a stellar team building experience for the girls who ran, supporting the school custom. All of the coaches - - Holly Blair, Lauren Heiman and Aileen Viel - - ran alongside their players to show support.



“Not only do the girls get to make a great memory by participating in the event, but they also get the shared camaraderie of cheering each other on and encouraging each other to run their best,” said Coach Viel.

The entire volleyball program plans on running the Turkey Trot again next November.



Holiday Door Decorating Contest

To encourage students to “get in the holiday spirit,” Student Council held a holiday door decorating contest. The contest was open to any class, club, or sport that wanted to create a fun and spirited door depicting anything merry and bright! The following participants competed for a gift certificate to Pizza Boys: Mrs. Carpenter’s “Gee, I’m a Tree!” (Geometry) door, Mr. Papienuk’s Snowman door, Mrs. Hartmann’s Holiday Helper door, Coach Keating and Coach Dziekan’s Grinch door, Mrs. Davis’ Global Holiday door, Ms. Viel’s Ethan Frome door, Mrs. Zogby’s Rudolph door, and Mrs. Ellis’ Reindeer door. After a very stiff competition and voting input from many sources, Mrs. Hartmann’s Holiday Helpers clinched the win! Student Council looks forward to hosting a spring door decorating contest.



Winter Ball Masquerade

Student Council hosted the Winter Ball on January 10, 2015, for students in grades 9-12. This year's theme was masquerade, with students donning masks to match their dressed up attire. Students decorated the lobby, hallway and cafeteria in a color scheme of pink, black, white and silver. In addition to the decorations, photos were taken on the stage in the auditorium. Food and beverages were provided for students as a part of the admission fee to the dance and included: tomato pie, fresh fruit, veggies, chips, dip and various types of soda and water. Overall, 109 students attended the masquerade.



1st Annual Caps for Kids Fundraiser!

On February 11, our school participated in a fundraiser to benefit the Caps for Kids organization. Caps for Kids is a national non-profit organization dedicated to giving caps signed by athletes and celebrities to children battling cancer. Launched in 2004, Cap Day is a nationwide initiative dedicated to raising awareness and support for children being treated for cancer. Students and faculty were able to wear their favorite "cap" in exchange for a one dollar donation. Through many generous donations, our school raised approximately \$350 for this great organization! Thank you to all students, faculty and staff for making our 1st annual Caps for Kids day a success.



Festive Sweater Friday!



The week before holiday vacation, Student Council hosted a day prompting students in grades 7-12 to wear festive holiday attire. The students really rallied in sporting their best seasonal sweaters featuring Christmas trees, reindeers and more! Check out the featured photos.



The Red Carpet of Leadership – “Lights, Camera, Lead!”

This year’s junior class officers attended The 27th Annual New York State Council on Leadership and Student Activities (NYS CLSA). This year’s conference, held every year in various parts of the state, took place in our capital – Albany, N.Y. Lasting three days, the students networked and learned all about being leaders in their own district. They came home excited to share the new ideas that they learned for improving our school and community. The ladies also presented to other students in the state about our own council activities here at New York Mills. They presented a roundtable discussion on hosting a variety show like our very own Mr. Marauder.

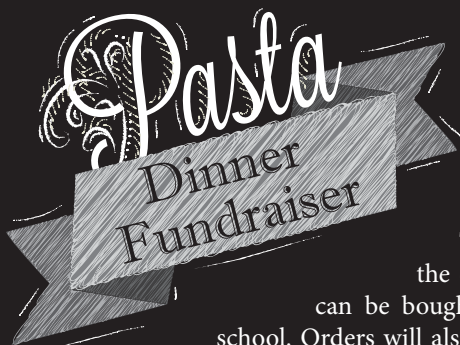
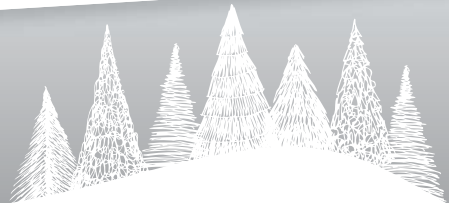
In addition to their sessions on leadership, the girls toured the state capital building and heard from several inspirational speakers, such as Crystal L. Jackson, Ted Wiese and Eldridge “El” Broussard. The juniors who attended were President Megan Crist, Vice President Natalie Ciaccia, Secretary Adriana Perretta, Treasurer Caitlyn Makay and Representative Jordyn Keek-Beach.

Jordyn was elected to the state board of student council for next year. She and other students from across the state will be responsible for planning the 2015-2016 conference on November 22-24, 2015, in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Student Council Advisor Ms. Viel was also elected to the state board for advisors. Together, they will represent District Eight, which encompasses six different counties – Chenango, Delaware, Herkimer, Madison, Oneida and Otsego. Next year’s theme is “The Power of Leadership,” and Ms. Viel hopes to bring many more students to the conference to share in the awesome experience of learning about leadership.



Breakfast with Santa Success

On December 13, 2014, Santa made an appearance at New York Mills High School. Student Council hosted breakfast from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the school's cafeteria. There were delicious pancakes, french toast sticks, fresh fruit and sausage for all attendees. Thank you to all of the community members who came and supported this endeavor. We hope to continue this fun tradition for many more years and keep the holiday spirit alive!



It's a Spicy Meatball!

The Class of 2018 will be hosting a pasta dinner fundraiser on March 12, in the New York Mills Cafeteria. Tickets will be sold prior to the event by freshmen students or can be bought in the attendance booth at school. Orders will also be taken at the door on that day. Dinners will be \$8.00 and will include salad, pasta, sausage, meatballs and bread, along with a beverage. Patrons will have the option to dine in or take out. Mark your calendars and let the students make you dinner for an evening! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact class advisor Ms. Viel at aviel@newyorkmills.org

Student Council's March Madness Milkshake Sale



It's our 2nd annual March Madness Milkshake sale! Every Monday during the month of March, Student Council is selling milkshakes during lunch. Each week, a different flavor of milkshake will be offered for \$2.00. Half of the proceeds from the sale will go towards a community or school-related event. Stay tuned to hear of our success!





UNION FREE SCHOOL
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<http://www.newyorkmills.org>

Volley for a Cure

The New York Mills JV/Varsity Volleyball Team held a “Volley for the Cure” Cancer Awareness Match versus Waterville on January 30, 2015. The gymnasium was decorated in colored balloons to promote the fight against various types of cancer. The team dedicated that evening’s match in memory of player Kellie Beasock’s mother, Susan Beasock, who passed away from pancreatic cancer. The program that evening featured the names of friends and family members, who are currently fighting cancer, are in remission, or who have lost the battle with the disease. In addition to paying homage to loved ones, seniors Onnazya Henry and Amanda Geigel were honored for their dedication to the sport this season. As a result of the team’s efforts, the girls raised and donated more than \$400 to the American Cancer Society.



The 2nd Annual SOUP-ER Bowl Challenge

In a traditional battle of the classes, the SOUP-ER Bowl Challenge asked each grade level to donate canned goods to the Thea Bowman House of Utica. Sponsored by Student Council, the Soup-er Bowl challenge took place during the weeks leading up to this year’s NFL Super Bowl between the New England Patriots and the Seattle Seahawks. Unlike the actual game, where it went down to the end of the fourth quarter to see who would win, the Junior class easily clinched victory by donating more than 200 cans alone! Overall, 364 cans were counted and collected for donation.

