

# NYMILLS

November  
2014

## UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



### 41st Annual Turkey Trot

Saturday, November 22

Please join us for our annual Thanksgiving Run. Every finisher receives a ribbon. And, thanks to our Optimist Club and our PTSO, there are many prizes given away. Refreshments will be available. The event will be run 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!



# Students of the Month



The Students of the Month selection for grades 7 - 11 will be continuing this year. We will vote each month, selecting only one winner for each grade level. Other students nominated will be listed on an honorable mention list.

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

## October 2014



**Adriana Perretta**  
Grade 11



**Christina Malinowski**  
Grade 10



**Chloe Cattadoris**  
Grade 9



**Abbey Copperwheat**  
Grade 8



**Alesya Avrusevich**  
Grade 7

## SEPTEMBER Kids of Character Awards

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

**Grade 3** – Abigail Evans and Emily Pavlus

**Grade 4** – Rachel Hartman and Allison Herrman

**Grade 5** – Emma Kistner and Dylan Saunders

**Grade 6** – Maria Maloney and Heather Roberts

## OCTOBER Kids of Character Awards

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

**Grade 3** – Jayla Jordan and Samantha Jordan

**Grade 4** – Hailey Cornish and Antonio DiOrio

**Grade 5** – Noah Diskin and Connor McCarthy

**Grade 6** – Aden Kistner and Steven Siriano

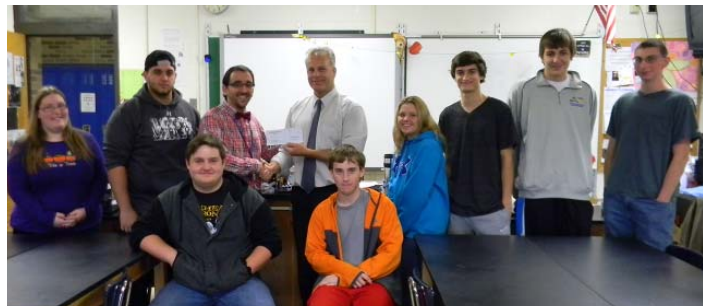
## Having a Plan

Harry K. Wong, educator, educational speaker and author, along with his wife Rosemary Wong were the presenters on August 29, 2014, at the Clinton Central School District. This was a professional development workshop where Harry and his wife stressed the importance of “Having a Plan” for the school year. In addition to his educational philosophies, Harry gave many examples of real life situations he and his wife experienced. Among the New York Mills faculty and staff that attended were: Left to right: Rosemary Wong, Joel Allen, Dr. Rene Wilson, Ava Mas-soud, Jennifer Steffen, Kim Zogby and Harry Wong.



## STEM Teaching Tools

Michael Eramo was the winner of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association STEM Teaching Tools grant. This program provides him with \$1,000 to spend during the 2014-2015 school year. This is his second consecutive year of receiving the award. Last year the money was invested in circuit training kits and lasers. Mr. Eramo is looking forward to using these funds this year to further enhance learning opportunities for students in his class.





## Optimist Student of the Month

Courtney Spost, a member of the New York Mills Jr/Sr High School Class of 2015, has been named the New York Mills Optimist Youth of the Month for September. Courtney is the daughter of Michael and Denise Spost of New York Mills.

Courtney has been a leader in all areas of the school throughout her high school career. She has been named to Honor Roll or High Honor Roll each marking period and was inducted into both the Junior and National Honor Societies. Each year, she has participated in band, for which she plays clarinet, and chorus, and has had a role in the school musical. She plans to audition again this year. In addition, as a sophomore, she represented our school in the Medical Olympiad. She was Class Secretary as a junior, and this year she was elected Student Council President and takes a lead role in this very active organization. Courtney shares the daily responsibility of reading the announcements at the start of each school day. As a junior, Courtney was the recipient of the Clarkson Leadership Award and the University of Rochester Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award.

Courtney has also been a member of many athletic teams. She played JV Field Hockey in 9th grade and JV Volleyball in 9th and 10th grades. She is a 4-year member of our Varsity Softball team, who has earned the titles of League Champions, Center State

Conference Champions and played in Sectionals. During these four years, Courtney was also a member of our Varsity Cheerleading squad, for which she served as captain for the past two years. Courtney's academic and athletic abilities led to her being named a Scholar-Athlete in both 9th and 10th grades.

In addition to school-based activities, Courtney has also been active in the local community including volunteering at her church, the Utica Zoo and a local park. In addition, Courtney spent many hours this summer as a math tutor. Courtney has also worked in the New York Mills library. She is currently participating in an internship at St. Elizabeth's Medical Center through the Regional Program for Excellence. Courtney plans to pursue a degree in nursing and is considering applying to SUNY Poly and MVCC. Courtney is a well-respected member of the New York Mills community and while we will miss her presence in our school, we look forward to the bright future that lies ahead of her.



**Courtney Spost**

## Optimist Student of the Month

The New York Mills Optimists have named Sara Zarnoch as the October Youth of the Month. Sarah is a member of the New York Mills Class of 2015 and is the daughter of Jennien Colozzi Zarnoch of New York Mills.

Sara has been an active member of the school and local communities. She has been named to High Honor Roll each marking period and was inducted into both the Junior and National Honor Societies. Since 9th grade, she has been a member of both our concert and jazz bands, for which she plays the flute, and began participating in All-County Band in 8th grade. Sara served as Class Secretary as a sophomore and, this year, was elected Secretary of Student Council, a group that has implemented many activities for the betterment of our school community. As a junior, Sara was the recipient of the University of Rochester Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award and the Elmira Key Award.

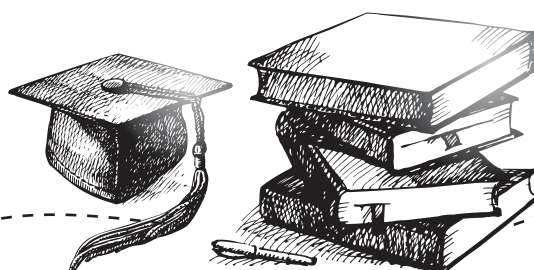
Sara has spent countless hours taking ballet, tap and jazz lessons since she was in kindergarten. She is an accomplished dancer and has participated in many productions in our community, oftentimes

in lead roles. In addition, Sara has volunteered at the Utica Zoo, Spring Farm Cares and for the American Heart Association. This past summer, Sara spent many hours tutoring a student in math. She has also held a part-time job at a local shop since 9th grade.

Sara is undecided on a major at this point and is considering many 4-year colleges and universities. Sara has brought many talents and abilities to our community that will have a positive impact on us long after she has left to pursue the promising future that she will certainly make happen for herself.



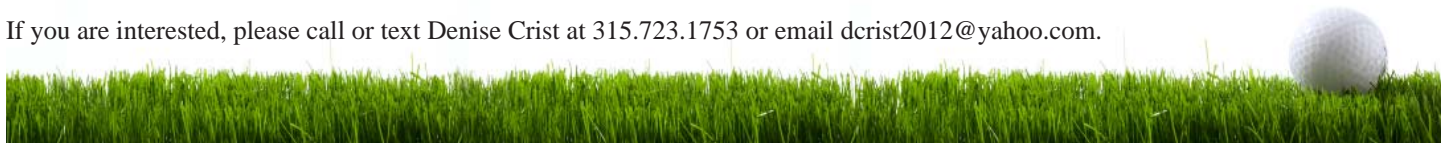
**Sara Zarnoch**



## First Annual Golf Outing

We are now forming a committee to plan the very 1st Annual New York Mills Marauders Golf Tournament! Spread the word! Only 36 team slots of four available! There will be an early sign up available to hold your team's spot! It's going to be GREAT!

If you are interested, please call or text Denise Crist at 315.723.1753 or email [dcrist2012@yahoo.com](mailto:dcrist2012@yahoo.com).



## Senior-Athletes



*Senior-athletes escorted by their families at the Homecoming Football Game.*

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## Cheerleading

It has been a very successful year for the 2014 Football Cheerleading season. Our squad consisted of nine girls and, for the first time ever, one male cheerleader. This season the New York Mills Cheerleading squad worked with Elite Cheerleading Company out of Pennsylvania to advance our stunts and choreography. The three-day camp was very intense but also extremely educational for our team members. The squad has been able to do more advanced stunts and a more difficult routine than in years past. Football Cheerleading Sectionals were held November 8 at Oriskany High School. We wish the best of luck to our three seniors; Courtney Spost, Amanda Giegel, and Jared Hartman. Go Mills!!!





## Varsity Field Hockey

The New York Mills Varsity Field Hockey team went 4-6 in the CSC West (tied for 3rd place) and 4-12 overall. We made it to sectionals but were eliminated in the quarterfinal game by Mount Markham. Senior captains were Makenna Reilly and Sarah McAndrew. The team had nine all-star selections. First team: Brianna Fuccillo, Makenzie Stevens, and Jordyn Keeck-Beach. Second team: Abbey Fitzgerald, Jenna Topa, and Michaela Marrero. Honorable Mention: Alyssa Fuccillo, Makenna Reilly, and Sarah McAndrew. Junior Brianna Fuccillo lead the team in goals with six, Junior Makenzie Stevens tacked on 24 defensive saves in the sweeper position with the assistance of junior goalie Jordyn Keeck-Beach who had 145 saves for the season.

Top photo is the team after their first win of the season over Sauquoit.

Bottom photo is of the team before our "pink game" where we raised awareness and funds for Hodgkins Lymphoma as it was very important to our team. The team, however, wore pink jerseys and superman bands in representation of all types of cancer and the battles that those being affected, face everyday. The team continued to wear their superman bands through the end of the regular season and into sectionals as well.



## Cross Country

Sat. 9/13 Fort Plain Invitational Boys 10th out of 21 Girls 6th out of 21

Sat. 9/20 New Hartford Invitational Boys 4th Girls 4th  
\*\*\*Sarah Sharpe was Small Schools Champion

Sat. 9/27 EJ Hermann Invitational Boys 10th Girls 9th

Sat. 10/13 Grout Invitational Boys 8th Girls 6th

Sat. 10/18 CSC League Meet Boys 1st Girls 2nd

Sat. 11/1 Section 3 Championship Boys 2nd Girls 2nd

Division Record Boys 6-1 Girls 6-1 Overall Boys 14-5 Girls 15-4



The 2014 Cross Country team was young and looks to have a bright future. The boys were the 2014 CSC Conference Champions. Ryan Kulesa, and A.J. Ganim earned CSC All-Stars. Abbey Copperwheat, Katelyn DiViccario, Adriana Perretta, and Sarah Sharpe all earned CSC All-Stars. Thank you to all the seniors. You will be missed. Seniors included Lukas Sunderlin, Mikah Inkawhich, and Katie Morrissey. Congratulations to Sarah Sharpe, who as an eighth grader, qualified for the NYSPHSAA State Championships at SUNY Canton.



### Freshmen Create Personal Coat of Arms

Ms. Viel's ninth grade ELA classes recently completed a creative coat of arms project in conjunction with Edgar Allan Poe's short story, "The Cask of Amontillado." The students worked individually creating shields that depicted their mark of cadency as well as many other symbols that depicted who they are. Additionally, each student had to share a motto or slogan that was personal to him or her. Many of the shields can be seen being displayed outside of the high school office.



### Mr. Marauder Wowed NYM!

In case you missed it in the spring, the NYM Student Council held its first ever Mr. Marauder Pageant – A Gentleman's Contest. Senior males from the Class of 2014 walked the runway for a night of hilarious comedy and surprises. Funds raised from the event were donated to the Utica Veteran's Center and our local Relay for Life chapter. Contestants competed in four categories and answered questions on the spot that related to student life, health and wellness, and manners. They also displayed their wide ranging talents in a segment before modeling their best attire in the formal wear segment. Admission to the event was \$5.

The Masters of Ceremonies were Nathan Edwards and Ronald Humpf. Senior contestants were George Albert, Tevin Pham, Kyle Brittell, Jack Lin, Joseph Topa, Tyler Garcia, Michael Bennett, Zachary Griffith, and Daniel Mitchell. Mr. Marauder 2014 was awarded to Tyler Garcia and Mr. Congeniality was awarded to Tevin Pham. Faculty judges were Mrs. Hartmann, Mr. Aufrey, Mr. Eramo, and Ms. Kinsigner. We even had guest appearances by the Utica Comettes who came to support the show.

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



Photo of our Marauder Eagle with the Utica Comets Cheerleaders

### Meet Beeker – Our Marauder Mascot

Student Council hosted a naming contest this October for our Marauder eagle mascot. Almost 200 students, faculty, and staff voted from several suggested names and chose Beeker! His name was inspired by our beloved Beekman gymnasium, and, of course, because our eagle has a beak!

### First Ever Marauder Mascot Race

A new tradition was born at this year's Homecoming football game – the Marauder Mascot Run. During halftime, local mascots from around the area came to race down the football field against our eagle, Beeker. Excitedly, Beeker won! However, there was a valiant effort from our other competitors: Herkimer College's The General, Sweet Frog's Scoop, Little Caesar's Caesar, and our sumo girls – Natalie Ciaccia and Megan Crist.



### Students Visit Syracuse Stage

Several students in grades nine through 12 took a field trip to the theatre in early October. After hearing a fascinating lecture about the author Anton Checkov's life, students saw Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike by Christopher Durang. The original Broadway cast included Sigourney Weaver, David Hyde Pierce, Kristine Nielsen and Billy Magnussen. It won the Tony in 2013 and many other awards. The comedic play was the first of many shows to be performed there this season. Syracuse Stage offered the students at New York Mills a discounted rate for admission, and we hope to return in the future!





## Fall Community Clean-Up

In conjunction with the Oneida County Youth Bureau and the Oneida County Office for the Aging and Continuing Care, Student Council members participated in The Sixth Annual Inter-generational Fall Clean-Up! On October 25, 2014, students performed general yard clean-up for many of our senior citizens in the community. Clean-up duties included raking, bagging leaves, sweeping driveways and sidewalks, and bringing light refuse to the curb for pickup. New York Mills Junior/Senior High School was represented by youth volunteers Megan Crist, Nina Fellone, Brianna Taylor, Mackenzie Majka, Kiley Lyons, Sarah Sharpe, Abbey Copperwheat, Kaitlyn Carman, Natalie Ciaccia, Nick Acee, Ken Egan, Jacob Vennaro, Cameron Lyons, A.J. Mitchell, Jason Browne, Josh Clarkson, Makenna Reilly, Allison Swider, Sarah McAndrew, Claudia Spost, Madison Cudhea, Andrew Spost, Sara Zarnoch, Maggie Melnikow, Caitlyn Mackay, Mikah Inkawich and Student Council Advisor Aileen Viel. The students will participate in a Spring Clean-Up initiative on Saturday, April 25, 2015.



## Student Council Supports Emmaus House

Over the course of several years, New York Mills' Student Council has supported Emmaus House, which is a Ministry of the Sisters of St. Margaret in Utica. Each November, grades seven through 12 adopt families in need for Thanksgiving. The student council members create baskets of food and gifts to be delivered to families, helping to make everyone's holiday a little bit brighter. Baskets will be delivered on Tuesday before Thanksgiving break!

## Welcome to Our New Staff



Deborah Corsi-Dee,  
School Nurse RN



Joel Allen,  
Secondary Social  
Studies Teacher



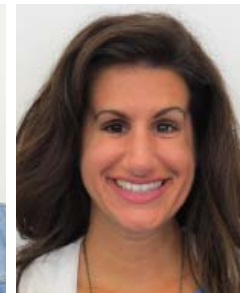
Joyce Kehrli,  
Long Term  
Elem. Sub.



Brittney Millis,  
Teacher Assistant



Melissa Jarosz,  
Teacher Assistant



Amy Pastorella,  
Teacher Assistant



Eleanor Staine,  
New Bus Driver





Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit #566

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Dr. Gary W. Porcelli, Vice President  
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Richard Ross  
Richard Surprenant  
Traci Welch

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Michael Spost, Jr.-Sr. High School Principal  
René Wilson, Elementary School Principal

### Visit us on the Web

<http://www.newyorkmills.org>

## Polar Express Night

All aboard! On Friday, December 12, 2014, Student Council is hosting its first ever *Polar Express* Movie Night. Parents have the option of accompanying their child that evening or allowing high school students to baby-sit. *Polar Express* Night will be from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and will be \$5.00 per child: a great deal for parents who need to go out and do some quick holiday shopping! Milk and cookies will be served following the movie. Presale tickets for the evening can be purchased for a dollar off at the attendance booth or by emailing Ms. Viel at [aviel@newyorkmills.org](mailto:aviel@newyorkmills.org)



## Breakfast with Santa

Santa is stopping by! Mark your calendars for Student Council's Annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 13, 2014. The student council members have already been in contact with the North Pole and are planning on making this year's holiday celebration that much merrier. Breakfast with Santa will be hosted from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in our school's cafeteria. There will be delicious pancakes, French toast sticks, fresh fruit, and sausage to eat, along with lots of fun to satisfy all. Coffee, juice, and desserts will also be served. The elves will be waiting to serve you, and we can't wait to spread holiday cheer! Tickets for children age 12 and are \$5, while a large breakfast portion is \$9. Presale tickets will be sold at future NYM school events and at the attendance booth. Feel free to contact Ms. Viel at [aviel@newyorkmills.org](mailto:aviel@newyorkmills.org) if you have any questions.



## Emergency Go Home Drill

**Tuesday, November 25**

Grades 7-12 will be released at 1:55 p.m.  
Grades K-6 will be released at 2:45 p.m.

Parents will not be able to pick up students at dismissal that day. All students must board buses except high schoolers with driving privileges.