

# PAL-MAC

# MAGAZINE

FALL 2020



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# PAL-MAC

## MAGAZINE

### **Pal-Mac Magazine**

Fall 2020 Volume 18

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Superintendent of Schools

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### **Cover Photo & Photo To The Right**

Pal-Mac Class of 2020 Graduation





## From the Desk of the Superintendent

Once upon a time, on the evening of Sunday, March 13, 2020, the reality of the State's health emergency hit close to home. Ken Miller, Chairman of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors and Supervisor for the Town of Palmyra, declared a state of emergency for Wayne County. Subsequently, the Palmyra-Macedon Central School District announced a district-wide closure of all schools. And . . . once upon a time, there was a little girl named Goldilocks. She entered the scene at Pal-Mac.

Goldilocks went for a walk in the forest. Pretty soon, she came upon a house. She knocked and, when no one answered, she walked right in.

At the table in the kitchen, there were three bowls of porridge. Goldilocks was hungry. She tasted the porridge from the first bowl.

"This porridge is too hot!" she exclaimed.

So, she tasted the porridge from the second bowl.

"This porridge is too cold," she said.

So, she tasted the last bowl of porridge.

"Ahhh, this porridge is just right," she said happily and she ate it all up.

You know how things went from there. The chair was too small. The bed was too hard.

While some families wanted teachers to provide a specific schedule for each day, others appreciated flexibility. While some wanted books and handouts for kids to complete, others wanted the creativity to explore learning with their children. When we thought we hit our stride, rules were changed at the last minute . . . even on Sundays!

As we were caught between the extremes of the Burger King mindset, "having it your way," of either too much or too little, this beloved fairy tale invoked at the onset

of the emergency remote learning would become "normal" for the next few months. During the closure and into the summer, the District's year-round staff members continued to provide essential services along with several transportation and food service employees who maintained the National School Lunch Program.

Operating under specific state guidelines, the buildings were able to open in July on a limited basis for its extended school year (ESY) programs for students with significant special needs. At the height of summer (July 13), the New York State Department of Health (DOH) issued health and safety guidelines for all NYS school districts with the specific directive to prioritize efforts to return all students to in-person instruction at this time. Four days later, the State Education Department (SED) issued substantial information to guide school reopening plans.

The story of Goldilocks serves as both a theme and reminder to every person impacted by the pandemic that forced school closures. What is "just right?" How do we measure it? Who decides? How do we know?

The tale's theme guides the reopening of the school district. Clearly we are not in a time for a "one size fits all" approach. Finding what is "just right" is no easy task; "just right" is different for every single student and for every single family. It varies for every faculty member and for every school district.

In addition, we have all been in the same position as the bear family! Not everything fits with Goldilocks' expectations. Everyone's personal circumstances (e.g., childcare, internet accessibility, meal availability, health and safety) impacts what is preferred from the school district. And yet, within this realm of public school,

there is a necessary "fit" within the budget approved by the residents of the School District. On top of this, the Governor has begun withholding State revenues to districts with further threats not to fulfill the State's obligations to support local schools in the coming year.

Providing "just right" will continue to change as the circumstances of the State health emergency impact Pal-Mac. Please be ready as challenges are before us.

Despite the constant change, the perseverance of the unknown, and piqued emotions, our community has persisted and ensured results in response to mandates rolled out from Albany.

. . . Just then, Goldilocks woke up and saw the three bears. She screamed, "Help!" And she jumped up and ran out of the room. Goldilocks ran down the stairs, opened the door, and ran away into the forest. And she never returned to the home of the three bears again!

Unlike Goldilocks' reaction to escape when there was no help, we remained focused on serving children in our communities. Neither miracles nor magic were part of any formula to maintain relationships among students, families, and school staff. It all had to do with commitment to leading with heart, compassion, and connection at the forefront of our decision making.

As a community, let's join together in this common bond, making a commitment to positively share in the mission ahead of us.

**GO RED RAIDERS!**



**BOB IKE**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

## Keep alert for signs of illness, stay home when sick

As the Palmyra-Macedon Central School District reopens its schools, it is critically important that parents and guardians play an active role in maintaining a safe environment for students and staff. Of paramount importance is observing signs of illness, and keeping your child home should symptoms of illness be exhibited.

Below, are symptoms as outlined by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), which should help you make this critically important decision. People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus.

### **Do not send children to school when the following symptoms are exhibited:**

- Fever (> 100°F), or chills
- Cough without known allergies
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose without known allergies
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Rash

*\*Please note, this list is not exhaustive*



## Face Coverings Required at Pal-Mac, Face Covering Breaks To Be Provided

All students, staff, and pre-approved visitors must wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect against the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Acceptable face coverings include but are not limited to cloth-based face coverings (e.g., homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana), and surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose.

Parents are encouraged to offer assistance to children who may have difficulty in adapting to wearing a face mask. School staff are prepared to do the same. Parents are encouraged to supply face coverings for their child's use in the school setting.

Employees are encouraged to supply a face covering for their own use. The school will supply a face covering to any student who does not have one. PPE will be available to all staff members. **Students' cloth face coverings should be clearly identified with their names or initials, to avoid confusion or swapping.** Students' face coverings may also be labeled to indicate top/bottom and front/back.

For in-person instruction, students and staff are required to wear face coverings at all times. Students will be required to wear a face covering when riding the bus, and will not be allowed to board without one. Drivers will have face coverings available should a student forget one.

Separated from other people by either 6 feet or a physical barrier is when a student can be afforded breaks from face coverings. Staff members will afford such breaks in accordance with the reopening plan.

Students and staff must be prepared to don a face covering if another person unexpectedly cannot social distance.

Face coverings must always be worn in common areas including entrances/exits, lobbies, and hallways. School staff will don face coverings at all times that they are not separated from other people by either 6 feet or a physical barrier; appropriate breaks and health practices will be applicable including during class instruction and meal times. Face coverings for school staff may be altered to ensure transparency/visualization as approved by a supervisor.

Staff members will remind students about the expectations for the health guidelines. As a school, it is the primary responsibility to teach children the facts about wearing face coverings, the reason for the requirement, and the proper wear of face coverings. A student refusal is considered insubordination which is addressed in the Code of Conduct.

It should be noted that some individuals, however, have authorized accommodations for documented medical necessity to not wear a face covering.



**PLEASE CONSULT MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS SHOULD YOU BELIEVE YOU OR YOUR CHILDREN HAVE COVID-19**  
For more information visit the NYSDOH website, [coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home)



# START TIMES

School start times will be adjusted during the public health emergency to ensure proper social distancing and safety guidelines can be followed with staggered arrival and departure from all district school sites.

## **PAL-MAC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:**

ARRIVAL: 7:45 A.M.  
DISMISSAL: 1:50 P.M.

## **PAL-MAC MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS:**

ARRIVAL: 7:42 A.M.  
DISMISSAL: 1:52 P.M.

## **PAL-MAC INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL STUDENTS:**

ARRIVAL: 8:55 A.M.  
DISMISSAL: 2:50 P.M.

## **PAL-MAC PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS:**

ARRIVAL: 9:05 A.M.  
DISMISSAL: 3:10 P.M.

*Please consult building-level information regarding student drop-off and dismissal procedures.*

# HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

As the district works to keep schools as safe as possible, you can follow several preventive measures to better protect yourself, your children and the Pal-Mac school community. Measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, according to the New York State Department of Health include actions such as:



## **WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN**

Use soap and water for at least 20 seconds.  
If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.



## **AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE**

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.



## **MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE**

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



## **COVER YOUR COUGH OR SNEEZE**

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



## **CLEAN AND DISINFECT**

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



## **WEAR A FACE COVERING**

All students, staff, and approved visitors must wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

*Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this extremely important matter.*

# 2020-21 SCHOOL CALENDAR AVAILABLE

As the 2020-21 Palmyra-Macedon Central School District academic year begins, the district would like to make the Pal-Mac community aware of important dates for the new school year. Due to the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19, the following dates are subject to change.

The first school holiday for the year is Columbus Day, which is set for Monday, October 12. There will be no school on Veterans Day Wednesday, November 11.

The Thanksgiving holiday is set for Wednesday, November 25 – Friday, November 27.

Winter Break will follow and begins on Wednesday, December 23 with school reopening on Monday, January 4.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day will occur on Monday, January 18 with no classes in session on this day. February recess is scheduled for Monday, February 15 – Friday, February 19. In March, there will be a professional development day on Friday, March 12 with no school for students.

Spring Break is set for Monday, March 29 – Friday, April 2. The final holiday for the school year will be Memorial Day

which will be Friday, May 22 – Monday, May 25.

Pal-Mac's Class of 2021 graduation will be on Friday, June 18.

The final day for students will be Thursday, June 24 with the school year concluding on Friday, June 25 with a professional development day.

Print copies of the calendar have been mailed to the primary residence of each Pal-Mac student.

Should calendar changes be necessary, updates will also be posted to the district website, [palmaccsd.org](http://palmaccsd.org).

## DATES TO REMEMBER

*Due to the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19, these dates are subject to change*

### SCHOOL BREAKS

**MON. 10/12**  
COLUMBUS DAY

**WED. 11/11**  
VETERANS DAY

**WED. 11/25 - FRI. 11/27**  
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

**WED. 12/23 - FRI. 1/1/21**  
WINTER BREAK

**MON. 1/18**  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

**MON. 2/15 - FRI. 2/19**  
FEBRUARY RECESS

**FRI. 3/12**  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

**MON. 3/29 - FRI. 4/2**  
SPRING BREAK

**FRI. 5/21 - MON. 5/24**  
MEMORIAL DAY BREAK

### END OF THE YEAR EVENTS

**FRI. 6/18**  
CLASS OF 2021 GRADUATION

**THURS. 6/24**  
FINAL DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

## District Rolling Out New Communication Tool Via ParentSquare App

During these uncertain times, staying connected is more important than ever. The district is excited to announce the implementation of a new tool called ParentSquare to communicate with district families.

By using ParentSquare, you will be able to receive all district, school and classroom communication via email, text or app. ParentSquare provides a simple and safe way for everyone at school to connect. The tool will play a vital role in keeping district families aware of important information, special events, and school closings.

An invitation to access the app has been shared via U.S. mail with families. Once received, please use the information provided to activate your account. It takes less than a minute and can be used on any device. You can download the free mobile app for Android or iOS or you can also use it from a computer at [palmacsd.org/parentsquare](http://palmacsd.org/parentsquare).

The email and/or cell phone number you use to register must match what is currently on file with the district. Should you have any questions regarding contact information updates or to make changes, please contact the main office of the school your child attends.

## Reminder: Keep Your Contact Information Up To Date

During the 2020-21 school year, ensuring contact information on file with the Palmyra-Macedon Central School District is key. The district will utilize its messaging systems to relay important announcements regarding COVID-19 along with other relevant updates.

To ensure announcements and updates are received, the district asks parents and guardians to make sure information within the student information database, SchoolTool, is accurate and up to date. SchoolTool data is used to populate contact lists. The primary contact in SchoolTool is determined by the home residence of the student. The district also maintains emergency contacts, which can include multiple contacts and may be utilized when the primary contact is unreachable.

With the start of the school year,

now is a great time to update contact information. Information can be updated at [palmacsd.org/contactupdate](http://palmacsd.org/contactupdate) or by contacting the main office of the school site of the student(s). Parents and guardians are encouraged to update information immediately following any change in status.

When a situation arises which requires direct notification of a parent or guardian outside of the mass messaging system, the district utilizes the primary contact listed in SchoolTool.

Pal-Mac has students with a wide variety of living situations unique to each family. In having a singular contacting process, it allows the district to have a clear and easily identifiable strategy for all families across the district. The process helps information to be disseminated concisely to the parents and guardians at the home which the student resides. The responsibility and expectation is the primary contact will then serve as a conduit to provide information to those additional parties that may need to be included in the process.

## To Download The ParentSquare App:

Either visit the app store and search for "ParentSquare," or QR codes are provided below for your convenience:

Phone or iPad



Android Phone or Tablet







*Thank You*

**PAL-MAC LIONS AND ROTARY CLUBS**  
FOR ASSISTANCE WITH THE CLASS OF 2020 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY  
*WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!*









# STUDENTS OF THE YEAR HONORED

Despite an unusual end to the 2019-20 school year, Pal-Mac still took time to award Student of the Year honors to a student at each school site. Students were nominated by teachers based on citizenship, commitment and participation in school activities and community involvement. This year, winners were surprised at their homes with the awards.

**Claire Preston**  
Primary School

**Rhett Engels**  
Intermediate School

**Elizabeth Share**  
Middle School

**Emma Brooks**  
High School

**2020  
Students of the  
Year:**





## Pal-Mac Recognized as 2019-20 Scholar-Athlete School of Excellence



The Palmyra-Macedon Athletic Department was honored for its stellar performance in the classroom with 2019-20 Scholar-Athlete School of Excellence Recognition. To earn the School of Excellence Award, 75% of a school's varsity teams must qualify and receive the Scholar-Athlete team award. For the 2019-20 school year the School of Distinction and School of Excellence winners were based on fall 2019 and winter 2020 Scholar-Athlete submissions because the spring 2020 program was cancelled.



### QUINN, SAVAGE NAMED MOST OUTSTANDING RED RAIDERS

Pal-Mac Class of 2020 members Aidan Quinn and Andra Savage received the 2019-20 Most Outstanding Red Raider Awards presented by the Athletic Department. The awards, presented annually, are given to student-athletes that have excelled throughout their careers at Pal-Mac.



## STAY UP TO DATE WITH PAL-MAC THROUGH DIGITAL MEDIA

The Palmyra-Macedon Central School District continues to utilize social media to communicate with its stakeholders.

Social media users can find timely announcements, news and events, along with staff and student achievements on Facebook by searching @PalMac\_CSD as well as Instagram and Twitter by searching the handle @PalMac\_CSD. The district invites its followers to use the hashtag #PalMacProud when commenting and sharing posts.

Links to all district social media channels are available on the district website, [palmaccsd.org](http://palmaccsd.org).

The district website remains a primary and comprehensive source for the latest updates and information. The District News section, found in the quick links area on the left side, features frequent updates on district happenings and important announcements. The district will also continue to send Pal-Mac E-News monthly to email inboxes to highlight district accomplishments and events. *Pal-Mac Magazine*, an in-depth print and digital magazine, is distributed through the United States Postal Service with a digital copy available on the district's website as well.

### CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



#PalMacProud

@PalMac\_CSD

### ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE

[palmaccsd.org](http://palmaccsd.org)

## Three Members Begin Terms

In June, Laura Arrington, Susan Herendeen and Sherry Lambert were elected to the Pal-Mac Board of Education by voters to fill three board vacancies. The appointments were effective July 1, 2020 and will expire June 30, 2023.



Laura Arrington



Susan Herendeen



Sherry Lambert

## Pal-Mac Wins Utica National School Safety Award

For the fourth consecutive year, the Palmyra-Macedon Central School District has been recognized as part of the 17th Annual Utica National School Safety Excellence Program.

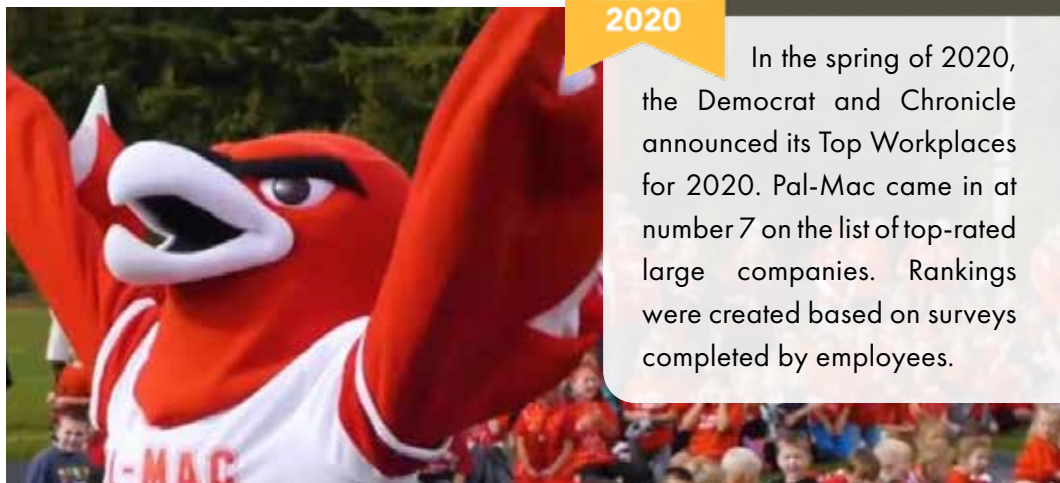
Utica National Insurance Group, the sponsor of the event, awarded various levels of recognition with Pal-Mac achieving one of the highest honors, Titanium with Honors.

According to information provided by Utica National, the award recognizes the "...desire to create a safe and secure learning environment for the children of your district; an enjoyable and productive work environment for your staff; and a comfortable and pleasant experience for visitors to your district."

The award application was submitted by Director of School Safety John Colella. As part of the application process, Colella submitted a variety of district safety policies and procedures ranging from the District Code of Conduct to transportation safety guidelines which were then assessed by Utica National based on a scoring rubric.

"Ensuring our students and staff have an environment in which they can feel safe is a top priority," said Colella. "This award reinforces our commitment to district safety and preparedness."

## PAL-MAC NAMED TOP WORKPLACE



**TOP  
WORK  
PLACES  
2020**

**Democrat & Chronicle**

In the spring of 2020, the Democrat and Chronicle announced its Top Workplaces for 2020. Pal-Mac came in at number 7 on the list of top-rated large companies. Rankings were created based on surveys completed by employees.

## 33RD ANNUAL DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS EVENT HELD VIRTUALLY TO HONOR PAL-MAC CLASS OF 2020

The 33rd Annual Palmyra-Macedon Dollars for Scholars program took on a different format this year as it was held virtually but the purpose remained the same, honoring Pal-Mac seniors. The event was streamed on the district YouTube channel on June 4.

The event was hosted by Chapter President Mike Boesel, Superintendent Bob Ike and high school Principal Andy Wahl. The evening also featured a special guest appearance from Don Alhart, 13 WHAM News anchor.

A total of 75 Pal-Mac students from the Class of 2020 were awarded \$144,100 in scholarships from the Dollars for Scholars program.

The Pal-Mac Dollars for Scholars chapter is part of Scholarship America's national network. The organization is comprised of local volunteers to help students achieve their educational goals by raising scholarship funds, establishing

endowments, providing assistance with college readiness and the financial aid process, and distributing scholarships each year. Since its founding in 1987, the Pal-Mac chapter has distributed more than \$2 million in scholarship funds to over 2,000 deserving students.

In addition to funds awarded directly from the program, several other scholarships were presented from individuals and groups not directly associated with Dollars for Scholars. Additional scholarships awarded totaled \$18,000.

Overall, \$162,100 was awarded to graduating seniors to support future academic endeavors.

"Despite the circumstances, it was very important for us to continue this great tradition and honor our seniors," said Pal-Mac Superintendent Bob Ike. "I would like to thank the Dollars for Scholars program for its continued support of our students."

# Citizenship Extends Beyond The Halls of Pal-Mac, Digital Citizenship Is A Must

As our country continues to be impacted by COVID-19, more interactions than ever are occurring digitally including students of the Palmyra-Macedon Central School District.

The increased reliance on digital provides an excellent opportunity to emphasize the importance of digital citizenship. Simply being behind a keyboard or screen does not exclude one from the responsibility of being kind and respectful to others. Bullying can and does occur digitally, and there is no place for those actions of disrespect.

## Speak To Your Kids About Bullying

Parents are encouraged to speak with their children and emphasize the importance of digital citizenship. School staff members will do the same. It is also important to remember, although bullying may occur online, there are still serious consequences.

In an effort to maintain a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students, the district has a Harassment and Bullying Policy in place. The district prohibits all acts of harassment and bullying by employees, students, or visitors. The same actions occurring off-campus are also prohibited if the action or actions adversely impact the educational process or endangers the health or safety of students.

## What is bullying?

The Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) defines harassment and bullying as the

creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse (including cyberbullying) that has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being; or conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety.

The phrase "threats, intimidation or abuse" includes both verbal and non-verbal actions. In some instances, bullying or harassment may constitute a violation of an individual's civil rights.

Specifically, for digital mediums, cyberbullying means harassment or bullying (as defined above) through electronic communication.

"As we continue to operate in a digital-centric world due to the impacts of COVID-19, we must continue to treat others respectfully," said Superintendent Bob Ike. "Digital citizenship must be displayed by our students and there will be no tolerance for any forms of bullying and disrespect. Our parents and community-at-large must display the same levels of respect we expect from our children."

If you see something, say something. By the actions of each individual, Pal-Mac can be an even better place to grow and learn, digitally or in-person.

## Policy at Pal-Mac

The Harassment and Bullying Policy includes the following information:

- Supplies students and parents with easy-to-follow complaint procedures for reporting harassing conduct
- Provides for immediate and thorough investigations of all complaints
- Provides a means for stopping harassing conduct
- Takes immediate corrective action if harassing conduct is discovered
- Prohibits retaliation against those who make good faith reports of harassing conduct or assist in an investigation concerning harassing conduct.

You can view the full district policy on bullying at [palmaccsd.org](http://palmaccsd.org).





*Middle School Locker Room*



*Tennis Court Construction*

## **FACILITIES PROJECTS UPDATES**

Projects are taking place throughout the district as part of the 2017 voter approved capital project. Projects include renovations of fine arts facilities at the high school and resurfacing of the high school tennis courts. New scoreboards were also installed to athletic facilities on the Hyde Parkway Campus during the spring months.



*Bathroom Upgrades at Hyde Parkway Campus Athletic Facility*



*Scoreboard Installation*

## PAC Closed For 2020-21 School Year Due To Ongoing Facility Upgrades

Short-term inconvenience will result in long-term benefit as the areas surrounding the Performing Arts Center on the campus of Palmyra-Macedon High School undergo major renovations during the 2020-21 school year. The upgrades will result in the closure of the PAC for the entire 2020-21 school year.

"While it creates challenges with our Performing Arts Center being closed for the year, the facility enhancements taking place will benefit students for years to come," said Board of Education President, Sharon Lang.

The areas surrounding the PAC will see a massive overhaul. The area which housed district business and human resources operations (to the left when entering through the current PAC entrance) will be transformed to a lobby entrance to the PAC with the ability to use the space for instruction. New restroom facilities will be added to improve accessibility for those attending events and performances.

Renovations to the space which housed the district office (first right when using the PAC entrance) will transform the area into a

large classroom and flex space along with dressing rooms. The classroom area will be similar in size to the PAC stage to allow rehearsal for a variety of performances. Storage and restrooms will be added in the area as well.

In the coming year, work will also begin on the art classrooms adjacent to the PAC. Renovations to each of the rooms will greatly enhance the learning experience for students.

The early stages of work are now underway with project work to ramp up in the fall. Safety fencing has been added around the area where work extends to the Hyde Parkway facility entrance. **Installation of fencing has resulted in reduced space for cars and buses to drop off students with only one lane of traffic entering the facility for events and drop offs. Please be mindful of this change as it will be present for the 2020-21 school year.**

Employees housed in the impacted areas have been shifted to other spaces located throughout the district.

Work at the PAC and surrounding areas

is taking place as part of the 2017 voter approved capital project.

To accommodate displaced events and performances, the district is in the process of formalizing alternate locations as well as ongoing consideration to the impacts of COVID-19. Groups impacted by the closure should be in close contact with teachers and directors to learn about the location of events and performances as that information becomes available in the coming months.

Doug Blackall, Facilities and Operations Specialist for the Performing Arts, will be available to coordinate sound and lighting needs for events that would have taken place in the PAC.

Contact Doug via email at [douglas.blackall@palmacsd.org](mailto:douglas.blackall@palmacsd.org) or by calling the high school main office and ask for extension 1803.

The district will provide relevant project updates on its digital platforms as work progresses.

Those with questions or wanting to provide feedback regarding facilities may email [facilities@palmacsd.org](mailto:facilities@palmacsd.org).



## PAL-MAC RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC EDUCATION

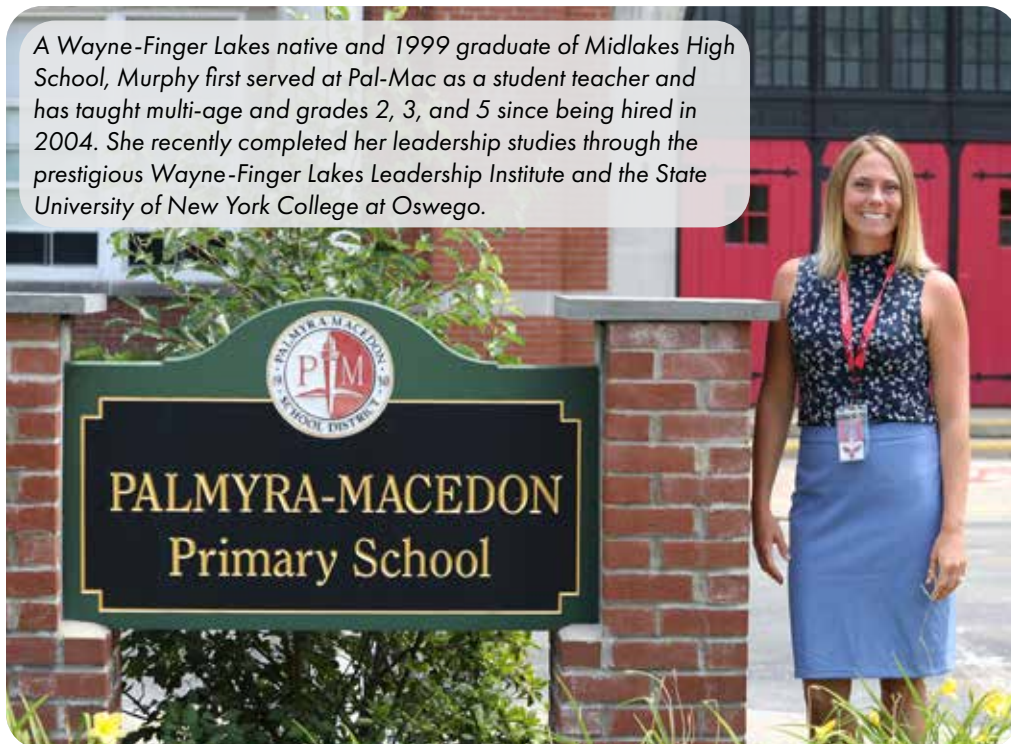
Once again, the district has been recognized for its outstanding musical programs. The honor is given to districts that demonstrate a commitment to excellence and broad access to music education programming.



# MURPHY READY TO LEAD PMP

As the new school year begins, a new face is leading Palmyra-Macedon Primary School. On July 1, Jamie Murphy took the reins from former Principal Brian Brooks who recently transitioned to the role of Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning and Instruction.

*A Wayne-Finger Lakes native and 1999 graduate of Midlakes High School, Murphy first served at Pal-Mac as a student teacher and has taught multi-age and grades 2, 3, and 5 since being hired in 2004. She recently completed her leadership studies through the prestigious Wayne-Finger Lakes Leadership Institute and the State University of New York College at Oswego.*



## What are you most looking forward to as you take on this new challenge?

I am most looking forward to continuing the strong relationships that I have built over my years at Pal-Mac as well as cultivating new relationships with students, families and the community. The people of Palmyra-Macedon have always felt like a family to me. It feels like a gift that I am able to continue my journey as principal in a place that I have loved so much with the people I care deeply about.

## What do you hope to accomplish in your first year?

This year will certainly be a year like no other.

During this year, I hope to ensure that all Pal-Mac Primary students and families feel supported, safe and cared for. I hope this year brings new perspectives and that students and families feel empowered to be problem solvers and communicators in ways that we haven't yet explored. I am certain that even under these unique circumstances, we will prevail with the values and beliefs that make us Pal-Mac Primary.

## PMP is a special place, how do you see yourself building on the

## culture already in place?

Yes, PMP is a very special place! I plan to continue the powerful work that was begun by our current Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning and Instruction, Brian Brooks and our teachers. I am proud to be one of the original contributors to the shared vision of the Primary School. Our vision has driven the work and the philosophies that support the WHOLE child and allow our youngest learners to explore their world in a developmentally-appropriate manner. Building a community where everyone is valued, multiple perspectives are celebrated and children are at the center will continue to be some of our most important work.

## As you look at the education of children, what qualities are most important to you as it pertains to ensuring a well-rounded, enriching educational experience?

For the young child, being able to explore their world through curiosity, exploration and play continue to be vital in contributing to long lasting learning and success for children. We want children to be active learners and drive their own decision making and learning process. Children need to make mistakes and be offered safe spaces to experiment and problem solve with opportunities for feedback and growth. It's also important that we look at each individual child and their own strengths and development. Creating deliberate academic and social opportunities for children to develop as people who are part of a community

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which exhibits the qualities of caring and compassion are significant elements of how we look at education at the Primary School.

**As you begin your new role, it is under different circumstances than normal due to COVID-19. What would you like members of the PMP family to know about your approach to the challenges that may be ahead?**

Many people would have never

dreamed these would be the circumstances we would be facing even as we concluded the 2019-2020 year.

I approach every situation with the human aspect first. Empathy, compassion and flexibility are virtues which will hold greater importance than ever before. I am also a parent and share the emotions that all parents have navigated over the last several months. I engage and interact with the children at Pal-Mac Primary as I would want another caring individual to engage

with my own children. I see myself as an extension of the family a child has at home. This isn't something that has changed due to the pandemic, but a conviction that I have held my entire career.

As families prepare for our return to school, members of the PMP family should know that while there is still uncertainty in our world, things that are certain are that our work will always be to make children feel safe, loved, supported and READY for what the world holds for their future.



## DISTRICT CONTINUES TO EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR INSTALLATION OF FIELD TURF AT HYDE PARKWAY CAMPUS

The Palmyra-Macedon Central School District continues to discuss options for adding multi-purpose field turf on the Hyde Parkway Campus.

In spring of 2019, district leaders along with architects and fiscal advisors shared eight conceptual designs for multi-purpose artificial turf fields of varying scope and cost at a community forum.

Based on input from the community and consultation with advisors, the Board of Education accepted the recommendation to consider artificial field turf for the baseball infield, and the soccer and lacrosse field as part of the scope of the next facility improvement proposal. The district also finalized plans to proceed with construction of a

new softball field as approved by voters in 2017. The field, which is currently under construction (pictured), is located west of the high school parking lot, and artificial turf will be used for the infield only. Work is expected to be completed in the coming months.

The installation of artificial playing surfaces offers district athletes as well as the community an opportunity to better utilize facilities during adverse weather conditions, particularly in the early spring months.

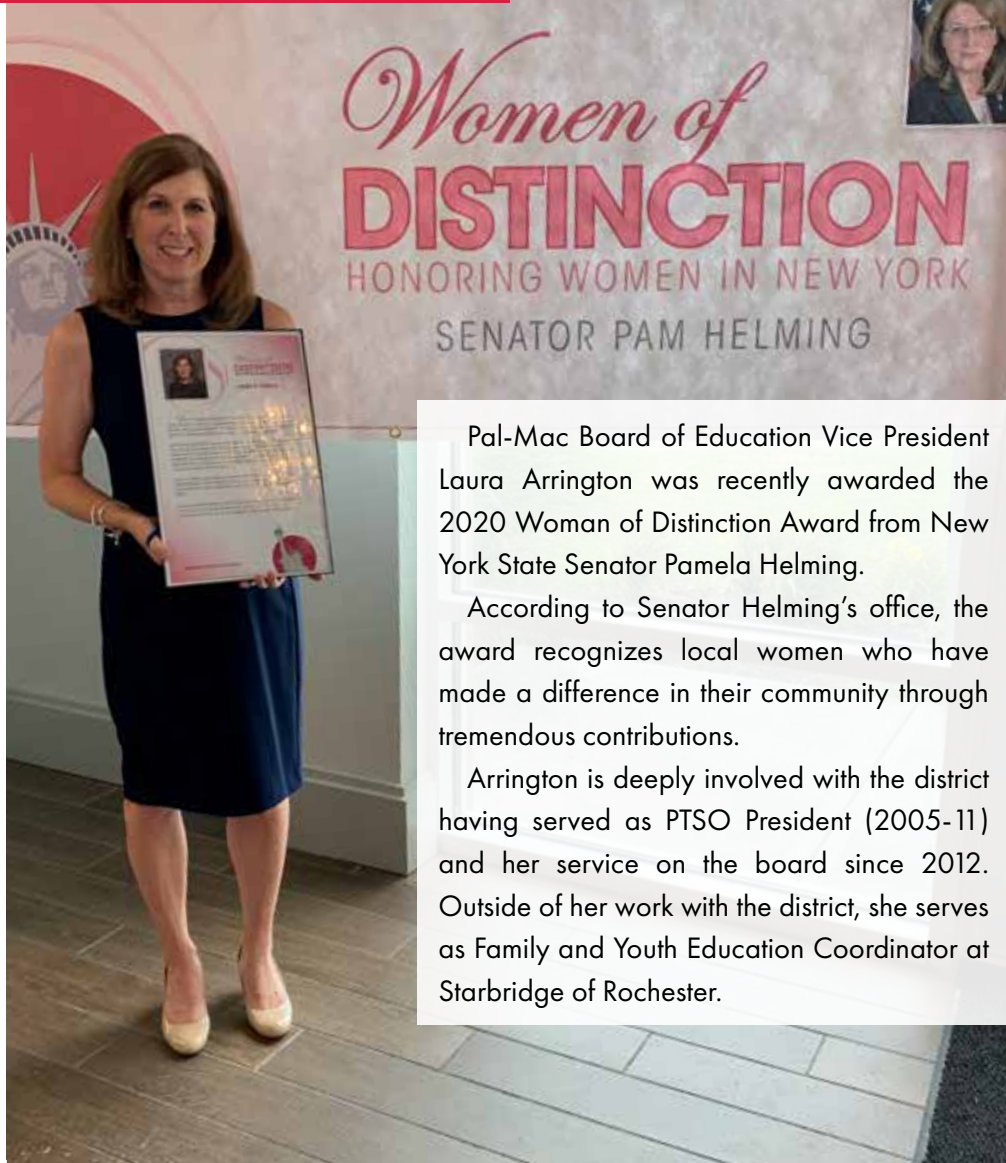
Meanwhile, the district continues to explore ways to enhance land usage on the Hyde Parkway Campus. Approximately 28 of 82 acres (34%) at the Hyde Parkway Campus are not utilized or are underutilized at this

time. Ideas discussed, which prioritize maintaining the beauty and integrity of the property, included adding hiking/mountain biking/cross country trails, outdoor instructional space, spectator seating, roads and parking area(s) closer to athletic fields and improved site drainage.

Discussions on facility improvements and a future referendum will continue at upcoming meetings. At this time, no final decisions have been made regarding the specific plan for athletic facilities. Any decision made would require Board of Education approval and voter approval.

Those with questions or wanting to provide feedback regarding facilities may email [facilities@palmacsd.org](mailto:facilities@palmacsd.org).

## BOE Member Arrington Honored By Senator Helming



Pal-Mac Board of Education Vice President Laura Arrington was recently awarded the 2020 Woman of Distinction Award from New York State Senator Pamela Helming.

According to Senator Helming's office, the award recognizes local women who have made a difference in their community through tremendous contributions.

Arrington is deeply involved with the district having served as PTSO President (2005-11) and her service on the board since 2012. Outside of her work with the district, she serves as Family and Youth Education Coordinator at Starbridge of Rochester.

It is Palmyra-Macedon Central School District's policy to provide for and promote equal opportunity in education and employment. Pal-Mac CSD does not discriminate, in its programs and activities, against: (i) any student or any candidate for admission (or parent of any such student or candidate); (ii) any employee or applicant for employment; or (iii) any third party, on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age; and, it provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Further, Pal-Mac CSD does not discriminate on the basis of religion or creed, religious practice, ethnic group, weight, sexual orientation, gender, military status, genetic status, marital status, domestic violence victim status, criminal arrest or conviction record, or any other basis prohibited by state or federal non-discrimination laws, or unless based upon a bona fide occupational qualification or other exception.

Inquiries regarding Pal-Mac CSD's non-discrimination policies and grievance procedures or Title IX should be directed to:

Palmyra-Macedon Central School District  
151 Hyde Parkway  
Palmyra, NY 14522  
Phone: 315-597-3400

U.S. Department of Education New York Office  
Office for Civil Rights  
32 Old Slip, 26th Floor NY, NY 10005-2500  
Phone: 646-428-3800  
Email: OCR.NewYork@ed.gov



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INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL  
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THE CLASS OF 2020!**

