

PAL-MAC MAGAZINE

WINTER 2021



INSIDE:

- MESSAGES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT AND BOARD
- CAPITAL PROJECT WORK CONTINUES
- PAL-MAC SPIRIT WEAR ONLINE STORE LAUNCHES

PAL-MAC MAGAZINE

Pal-Mac Magazine

Winter 2021 Volume 19

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#PalMacProud



From The Desk of The Superintendent

Hope. When we think of school in upstate New York, hoping for a snow day is deep within us. But how do we learn about this hopefulness?

It makes me think about a snow day in November 2016. My daughter was in Mrs. Mahnke's kindergarten class. Here is the conversation I recall overhearing one morning.

Daughter: Aren't we supposed to be up? I have to go to school.

Mom: It's a snow day! There's no school.

Daughter: How do you know already that it's a snow day?

(Mom and dad give each other the "look" ensuring that our daughter can't see.)

Mom: Let's just say that we know it's a snow day. No school today.

It was not long before my daughter was well aware of how her parents knew about

the snow day! Yes, by the next snow day other kids (and teachers? and parents?) were high-fiving my daughter for having a dad who calls snow days. (And there were the other days when the snow day didn't get called . . . well let's not talk about that.)

The wooden spoons, the pajamas turned inside out, the snow day calculator, and the ice in the toilet ... all rituals of hope that a snow day will be called.

Like snow days, what are those other things for which we hope? When something for which we hoped comes to be, how do we respond? When something happens unexpectedly, what is our reaction?

In the midst of a very challenging time, a global health emergency, we are faced with uncertainty. In the midst of this fog we still have much hope. In this season of hope, what are your "snow days?" In this season of joy, what are your beams

of light to cut through the murky outlook?

American writer Eric Hoffer said "The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings." For the Pal-Mac community, let's get the math right. Let us give thanks for abundance. Let us remember those who have passed on before us. Let us greet each day anew with anticipation.

In this season of gratitude and hope, may our eyes be opened to support those around us and our desires be such that the world is healed.

Blessings and peace to you this season.



BOB IKE

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Happy Holidays

FROM PAL-MAC



Pal-Mac Comes Together, Puts Students First

To say 2020 has been unusual, would be a dramatic understatement. However, despite the tough times many of us have experienced in our personal and professional lives, one thing that continues to stand out to me is the Pal-Mac spirit.

When I say Pal-Mac spirit, I don't just mean students and staff within the district, but each and every person throughout the community. The old adage "it takes a village" has never been more evident than during the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to impact our lives well beyond the halls of Pal-Mac.

As we moved into the summer months after several months of remote learning for our students, we were not sure what to expect for the 2020-21 school year. However, with tremendous work by staff members throughout the district, we were able to offer two learning options to students, full-time in-person learning and full remote learning.

Throughout the start of the school year, roughly 85% of our students have been in-person while the rest attend remotely. Seeing our teachers interact with students, whether in-person or remotely, has brought a smile to the face of many, including myself. In the face of many challenges, Pal-Mac teachers and staff members continue their work of educating with a creative spirit and kind heart.

In addition to providing tailored instruction to our students, our Food Services Department has worked to ensure every student that needs a meal has one. Whether through daily service of some form in the cafeteria or pick-up orders for remote learners, this group has done great work since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March.

The buildings and grounds crew has been instrumental in the successful operation of our schools as well. From the work they did at the beginning of the school year to set up our buildings to allow us to follow social distancing guidelines, to the deep clean of buildings which they conduct each night, we would not be able to do it without them.

To properly follow guidelines and ensure social distancing, our transportation department re-designed our transportation process in a very short time period. The work of our drivers and all in the department does not go unnoticed.

As a board, we understand times are tough. We also understand tough times lie ahead. However, we are confident that together we will continue our focus of providing a great education for our students in as safe of a manner as possible. To help us do this, please continue to follow all COVID-19 guidelines, wear a mask, social distance and wash your hands.

We are #PalMacProud and deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve this great community which we call home.

On behalf of the board, I would like to thank you for your support of our schools and wish you a very happy and healthy holiday season.

GO RED RAIDERS!



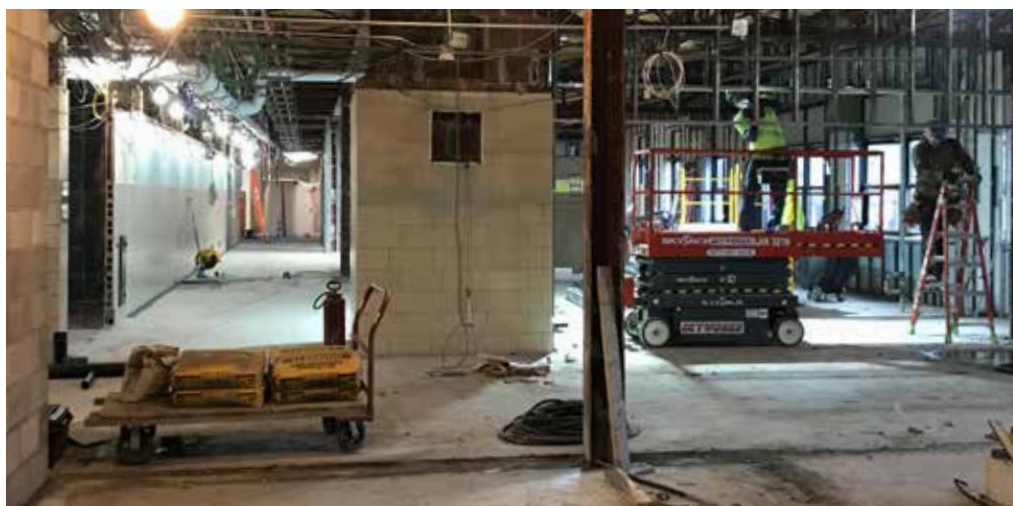
SHARON M. LANG, PRESIDENT
PALMYRA-MACEDON CENTRAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dollars For Scholars Program Gives Back

The Pal-Mac Dollars for Scholars program donated a decorated tree to Family Promise of Wayne County, an organization assisting homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence. The tree was auctioned off to raise funds for FPWC.



ONGOING RENOVATIONS TO BRING LONG-LASTING BENEFITS



The areas surrounding the Performing Arts Center at Palmyra-Macedon High School are in the midst of a massive overhaul. The work will enhance the functionality of the facility and surrounding areas while creating a more inviting space to enjoy performances and events for students and community members.

A key to the success of any performing arts and events space is flexibility. The redesign of the areas surrounding the PAC captures this critical element. The renovated spaces have the potential to serve as classroom space for students and then seamlessly transition to host performances.

Specifically, the area which once housed district business and human resources operations (to the left when entering through the current PAC entrance) is being transformed to a welcoming lobby entrance to the PAC with the ability to be used for instruction for students. New restroom facilities near the lobby will improve accessibility for those attending events and performances.

The former district office (first right when using the PAC entrance) is becoming a large classroom and flex space complete with dressing rooms. The classroom

footprint will be similar in size to the PAC stage. Storage, practice rooms and restrooms will be added in the area as well.

“The creation of these spaces will serve both students and the community for years to come,” said Doug Blackall, a Pal-Mac teacher and Facilities and Operations Specialist for the Performing Arts UPK-12. “The excitement that patrons will feel when they enter the lobby doors will surely

match the outstanding performances and artistic offerings that Pal-Mac consistently offers.”

Additional upgrades incorporated into the project include updated rigging control of lighting instruments on stage, full height mirrors and dance barres for rehearsals, and a classroom “lab” for lighting, sound and scenery. The improvements and updates will serve students involved on the technical side of productions as well as the performers.

“The vision by the Board of Education, Superintendent Bob Ike, building leaders and community contributors aligns seamlessly with the needs of the musical and artistic talent of our students throughout the district,” said Blackall. “Investing in the arts now will provide results beyond measure in the future. Pal-Mac truly will be a center for the arts in this area.”

The ongoing work is part of the capital project approved by Pal-Mac voters in 2017 and is being funded primarily by New York State building aid.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Please Note: This list replaces the printed calendar.

WED. 12/23 - FRI. 1/1
WINTER BREAK
NO SCHOOL

MON. 1/18
MLK JR. DAY
NO SCHOOL

THURS. 1/28
EARLY DISMISSAL DAY
PS IS, & MS

MON. 2/15 - FRI. 2/19
FEBRUARY BREAK
NO SCHOOL

THURS. 3/11
EARLY DISMISSAL DAY
PS, IS, MS, & HS

FRI. 3/12
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY
NO SCHOOL

MON. 3/29 - FRI. 4/2
SPRING BREAK
NO SCHOOL

MON. 5/31
MEMORIAL DAY
NO SCHOOL

FRI. 6/11
EARLY DISMISSAL DAY
PS & IS

FRI. 6/18
EARLY DISMISSAL DAY
PS & IS

THURS. 6/24
EARLY DISMISSAL DAY
PS & IS

FRI. 6/25
NO SCHOOL

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



SIDEWALKS, CURBING UPDATED ON CUYLER STREET

This fall, the Village of Palmyra updated the sidewalks and curbing on Cuyler Street between Main Street and Jackson Street. The district would like to thank the Village and also the Palmyra American Legion for their support of the project.



Process For Weather-Related School Closures

Monitor 13WHAM TV, Spectrum News, WROC TV 8, WHAM AM 1180, WVOR FM 100.5, WHEC TV 10, WACK AM 1420, WARM FM 101.3, ParentSquare and the district website for closure-related information

With the winter season underway, now is a great time to remind the Palmyra-Macedon community about the process for school closures due to inclement weather.

An early dismissal or school closure will apply to in-person and remote learners.

First and foremost, the safety of students and staff is always a top priority when making a decision regarding the closure of school. With safety as a guiding principle, the decision to close school will be made based on numerous factors outlined below:

- Road conditions reports from transportation staff, town/highway personnel, meteorological experts and law enforcement agencies
- Amount of snow and ice accumulation
- Whether or not precipitation is continuing
- Building and parking lot conditions
- Temperature and wind chill
- Forecast predictions

Early dismissal may be necessary if weather conditions warrant, with a goal of ensuring students are home safely prior to conditions worsening.

The ultimate decision to close school is that of the superintendent. The district will make every attempt to make weather-related decisions in a timely manner.

Once an announcement has been made to close school, the decision will be final.

Announcements regarding school closures will be sent out via our messaging system, ParentSquare. Contact information can be updated here: palmaccsd.org/contactupdate.

In addition to ParentSquare, a closure notice will be posted to district social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) and the district website. Local news outlets will be notified of the decision as well. News outlets to monitor for closure-related information include 13WHAM TV, Spectrum News, WROC TV 8, WHAM AM 1180, WVOR FM 100.5, WHEC TV 10, WACK AM 1420 and WARM FM 101.3.

Parents/guardians are advised not to call the district regarding weather-related closures unless it is an emergency.

During the cold days of winter, it is important to remember to bundle up to prepare for being outside for walks to a bus stop or to school. Warm clothing

The decision to close school will be made based on the following factors:

- * **ROAD CONDITION REPORTS**
from transportation staff, town/highway personnel, meteorological experts and law enforcement agencies
- * **AMOUNT OF SNOW AND ICE ACCUMULATION**
- * **WHETHER OR NOT PRECIPITATION IS CONTINUING**
- * **BUILDING AND PARKING LOT CONDITIONS**
- * **TEMPERATURE AND WIND CHILL**
- * **FORECAST PREDICTIONS**

includes jackets, gloves, scarves, and boots. If your family needs assistance in the provision of warm, suitable clothing, please contact the Health Office at your child's school.

The district does not take the decision to close school lightly and carefully examines each decision on a case by case basis. No perfect decision exists and should parents/guardians feel conditions are unsafe, it is advised to exercise best judgement to decide if your student should attend school.



Pal-Mac Grad Serves As Honor Guard For The Late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Pal-Mac Class of 2014 graduate and federal police officer Jacob Habecker was selected for the distinguished honor of serving as a member of the Honor Guard when the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was lying in repose at the Supreme Court. He is pictured (center) during the PBS live stream of the memorial, which took place in late September.



A LITERAL TRANSFORMATION:

PMMS MEDIA CENTER UNDERGOING RENOVATIONS TO ENHANCE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Big changes are coming to the Palmyra-Macedon Middle School media center as the facility is undergoing a complete renovation, which will transform it into a cutting-edge learning hub.

Earlier this year, crews took the space down to its studs to re-imagine the facility. The fresh start will make the facility unrecognizable upon its reopening.

The project includes a digital video production room allowing students to get hands-on experience. At Pal-Mac High School, a TV/video studio currently exists, and the facility at the middle school will allow the district to build on the already established program at the high school.

Also in the works is the addition of a makerspace. By definition, a makerspace is a collaborative work space where students learn, explore and make without high-tech tools. The space will expand students' imaginative qualities and allow them to express themselves in unique ways.

The media center will remain a hub for literacy and the advancement of literary skills, which remain key to the success of students. To help students grow as readers,

a leveled book room will be included. The room will help provide access to reading materials to fit the needs of students reading at various levels.

"The library is the heart of the middle school's program of inquiry; the renovated facility will better support students to expand their 21st-century information skills as well as serve as a source of enjoyment for our entire school community," said PMMS Principal Darcy Smith.

To allow for learning in numerous capacities, the layout of the new facility will have the ability to be adapted and changed as needed. This includes flexible, movable seating along with mobile

bookshelves.

"The new facility, with its makerspace and digital production areas, will inspire imagination and creativity in students and provide resources and collaborative work spaces to positively support student learning related to the MYP (Middle Years Programme) units of study," added Smith.

Education continues to evolve, specifically technology and multi-purpose spaces, and the renovations will keep Pal-Mac at the forefront of this evolution.

The project is being completed and funded in part as a result of the passage of the 2017 voter approved capital project. Work on the media center is expected to continue through the 2020-21 school year.



Halloween Celebrated at PMP and PMI

This year, students at Pal-Mac Primary and Intermediate Schools showed off their Halloween spirit virtually. Families submitted photos and a special virtual costume parade video was assembled. Students had the opportunity to watch the video during class and enjoy a little Halloween fun, even if it was a bit different than typical years.



Pal-Mac Rotary Donates Dictionaries And Thesauruses To PMI Students

In mid-November, the Pal-Mac Rotary Club handed out dictionaries to third-grade students and thesauruses to fourth graders at Pal-Mac Intermediate. The annual event is always looked forward to by staff and students, and a great way to promote literacy. Thanks for your support of our students PM Rotary!



HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

As the district works to keep schools as safe as possible, please 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.



CELEBRATING

RED RIBBON WEEK

Throughout the district students and staff celebrated Red Ribbon Week from Oct. 23- Oct. 31. The week provides a time to put a particular focus on staying drug-free and the adverse impacts drug use can have. A variety of activities took place throughout the district including walks by students at Pal-Mac Primary and Intermediate Schools. Red Ribbon Week began as a tribute to fallen DEA special agent Enrique Camarena in 1985. Pictured is an oversized Red Ribbon prominently displayed in front of PMP.

Vets Honored Virtually at Pal-Mac

Typically, patriotism is on full display in-person throughout the district in honor of the Veterans Day holiday during early November. This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the special events could not take place, forcing the tributes to go virtual. Families and staff at Pal-Mac submitted photos of Veterans close to their hearts with those photos then incorporated into a virtual Veterans Day salute. Pal-Mac would like to extend its deepest gratitude to all of those who have bravely served in the United States Armed Forces.



Concessions Construction

CAPITAL PROJECT WORK OCCURRING THROUGHOUT DISTRICT

Work continues throughout the district as part of the 2017 voter approved capital project. Projects include the construction of a new softball field with a turf infield at the high school and resurfacing of gym floors at Pal-Mac Primary and Intermediate Schools. Work on an updated concession stand and storage facility near the football field is ongoing as well.



Softball Field Construction



Softball Field Logo



PMP Gym

KARNS NAMED COACH OF THE YEAR



Varsity girls soccer coach Mike Karns was named Section V Class B1 Coach of the Year.

.....

SHARE WINS SECTIONAL TITLE



Elizabeth Share won the Section V Title in the 100 butterfly.

.....

JAVOROWSKY SIGNS



In November, Alea Javorowsky signed a National Letter of Intent to play college lacrosse at Division II University of Indianapolis.

PAL-MAC TAKES HOME MULTIPLE LEAGUE TITLES



Luke Photography



PAL-MAC VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER
LEAGUE CHAMPIONS AND UNDEFEATED SEASON



PAL-MAC VARSITY GIRLS SWIMMING
LEAGUE CHAMPIONS



Luke Photography



PAL-MAC VARSITY GIRLS TENNIS
LEAGUE CHAMPIONS



TIME TO GEAR UP

PAL-MAC LAUNCHES ONLINE APPAREL STORE

Looking to show off your Pal-Mac school spirit? You're in luck, the district has launched an online store to meet your Pal-Mac apparel needs.

The store, coined Pal-Mac Spirit Wear, offers a wide range of products at varying price points. From shorts to hoodies and polos, there is now an easy way to show your Pal-Mac spirit. Each product will feature a Red Raider logo which can be placed on the product in various locations. Masks with the Red Raider logo are also available for purchase.

The idea for an online store began during the 2019-20 school year in the business class of high school teacher Joe Hill. Since that time, Mr. Hill has been working with students to bring the concept to reality. Along the way, students have guided the planning process, making decisions on which vendor to use and what merchandise to sell. After examining a variety of options, students with the support of Mr. Hill, elected to launch the store in partnership with a local vendor in Macedon.

"This is great real-world business experience for students and I am proud of the work they have put in to make this happen."

According to Mr. Hill, funds raised through the store will be managed by Pal-Mac Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), and the group plans to donate a portion of proceeds to community groups in need.

"Not only are we excited to make it easier for our community to order Pal-Mac apparel, we are also excited to work with a local vendor and support our business community," he added.

Please note, when ordering, numerical values are required to be placed in the ordering box for selected products. Inserting an "X" will not work.

TO GEAR UP, VISIT:

palmacsd.org/spiritwear

Orders will take roughly 10 business days to be delivered once placed.
Local delivery by FBLA members may also be possible on a case-by-case basis.



Mental Health Supports Remain Available

As is the case with any traumatic event and/or unsettling situation which may occur within the Palmyra-Macedon Central School District, support is often needed to cope with challenging times.

During the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, mental resources have been, and will continue to be, available to help navigate these challenging times.

A key strategy to helping adults and children through stressful times is to create and maintain structure and routines. When many things are uncertain, it is important to have things that are stable and predictable. It is also important to remember that individuals will experience the same stressful event in different ways. Signs of stress and trauma may be cognitive, emotional, behavioral, or physical.

MORE RESOURCES AND INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH:

- The District website, palmacsd.org
- The National Association for School Psychologists (NASP) website, nasponline.org
- The Centers for Disease Control website, cdc.gov

Please contact your child's counselor or building psychologist with any questions about how to best support your child, or to find out more about supports available in the district.



Free Meal Program Continues, Remote Learners Eligible

In a continued effort to assist families during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the free meal program implemented by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has been extended through June 2021.

All students in the Palmyra-Macedon Central School District, including remote learners, are eligible to receive free meals as part of the program. No paperwork or pre-qualification is required.

For remote learners, orders must be placed in advance on the Food Services page at palmacsd.org/remotemeals. Meal service requests received after 7 a.m. on the day of distribution may not be fulfilled until the next meal service day.

Five lunches and five breakfasts per student will be included with each order. Unless otherwise noted, meals will be picked up from 2:15 p.m. until 3 p.m. on Wednesdays in the bus loop in front of the high school. A sign will be positioned to ensure ease of access to the pick-up location. When picking up, you must remain in your vehicle and a

staff member will bring the meals to the vehicle. Home meal delivery is not available.

Meal service will only occur for regularly scheduled school days. Meal service schedules for shortened school weeks will be available on the Food Services page.

To ensure meal distribution operates in an efficient manner, parents who miss two pick-up days will be removed from this list. Should this occur, you must complete the request form again if you wish to be added back to the list.



For assistance, including special dietary needs requests, please call 315-597-3407.



ANNUAL FILL A BUS FOOD DRIVE GIVES BACK TO LOCAL COMMUNITY

Lending a helping hand is more important now than ever. During the month of November, donations of food, toiletries and paper products were collected at schools throughout the district as part of the Fill A Bus Food Drive. On November 24, the donations were then packed into a Pal-Mac bus and donated to the Palmyra and Macedon food pantries.

The annual event was led by several student groups, teams and staff members with Future Business Leaders of America spearheading the effort. Many families throughout the local community will benefit from the drive.



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
127 Cuyler Street
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

**CONNECT WITH US
ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



#PalMacProud

@PalMac_CSD

palmaccsd.org

OUR SCHOOLS

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120 CANANDAIGUA STREET
PALMYRA, NY 14522
315-597-3400

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
4 WEST STREET
MACEDON, NY 14502
315-597-3400

MIDDLE SCHOOL
163 HYDE PARKWAY
PALMYRA, NY 14522
315-597-3400

HIGH SCHOOL
151 HYDE PARKWAY
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