



Pal-Mac Pulse Pal-Mac Magazine Fall 2023 Volume 27

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Board of Education

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A note from the Board President

Dear families,

The new school year is here and with it comes the promise of growth, learning, and new opportunities for our students and staff.

This year marks the beginning of the future of the Pal-Mac District as we begin the implementation of our brand new Mission, Vision and Core Values (MVCV).

These attributes will serve as the guide in everything the District does to make success possible for our students. They are the cornerstone of our efforts to create an environment that supports our students' personal and academic development.

As a Board, we've continued to support the District by:

- Actively participating in the development of the Mission, Vision and Core Values
- Providing staff with the training and tools they need to create an educational environment dedicated to learning growing and contributing
- Supporting the creation of new opportunities and experiences geared towards students who may choose a path directly in the workforce, military or trade school

While we are proud of our work, it is far from finished. The Board is continuing to serve as a partner in educational leadership with the Superintendent. Our children are our future, and we are committed to supporting their growth and development. We want to empower them to make a positive impact on the world around them.

However, we can't do this work alone. We need to partner with our families.

As we prepare for the 2023-2024 school year, we are filled with excitement for the future of Pal-Mac. Our commitment to student success, combined with our partnership with families and the community. Together, we will help our students embark on a lifelong journey of learning.

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year, and the future of Pal-Mac.

SINCERELY,



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Pal-Mac releases new Mission, Vision, and Core Values video

The Pal-Mac Central School District proudly presented its Mission, Vision, and Core Values (MVCV) in a brandnew video. The video featured students from all four school buildings mixed in with some breath-taking drone footage from above.

The District's MVCV was first approved by the Board of Education in February 2023.

The Board also adopted a Blueprint for Action (2023-2030). The work that must be aligned to our MVCV and identified in the Blueprint will be critical for the future of Pal-Mac's children and the entire community.

The District began the implementation of the Blueprint in July.

Check out the new video by visiting the District YouTube page! (@ Pal-Mac TV)







BOARD OF EDUCATION CORNER

Four re-elected

Susan Herendeen, Sherry Lambert, Laura Arrington, and Sarah Newman were elected by voters to the Pal-Mac Board of Education on May 16. All four retained their seats.

Herendeen, Arrington and Lambert will serve three year terms. Newman will serve a partial term.













Retrement





Robin Bucci Teacher Primary School Years of Service: 12



Linda Christ Senior Clerk Typist Intermediate School Years of Service: 22



Fayette Gibbs-Lioy Special Education Teacher Aide High School Years of Service: 8



Marcia Liberatore Teacher Intermediate School Years of Service: 20



Gary Matteson

Bus Driver

Years of Service: 9



Joe McElroy Head Auto Mechanic Years of Service: 36



Mark Palmer
Bus Driver
Years of Service: 8



Teacher
Primary School
Years of Service: 21



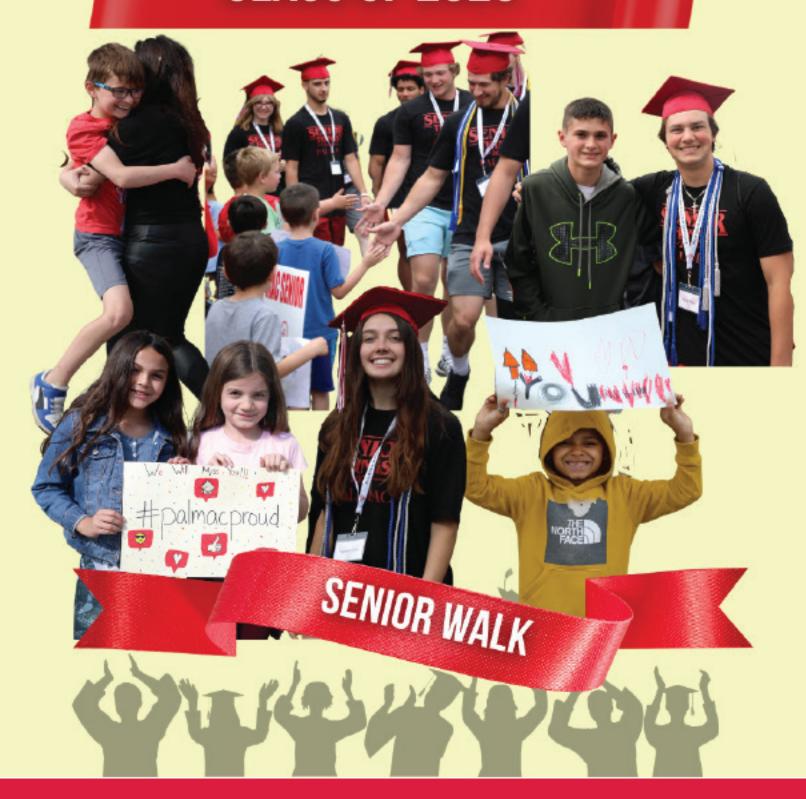
Pam Wagner Teacher High School Years of Service: 23



Renee Williams Teacher Aide Intermediate School Years of Service: 16



CLASS OF 2023











After 20+ years of service and smiles, Senior Clerk Typist at the Pal-Mac Intermediate School Linda Christ is taking on her next journey: Retirement.

Described as "the mother of Pal-Mac Intermediate," Christ is well-known for her signature sunny personality.

At the time of our interview, she had just a week left until she officially retired.

We spoke to her while we sat in the school's cafeteria, as she had a rare free moment to sit down and chat.

For the better part of 20 years, Christ kept herself quite busy between a couple of different roles, all under the same roof. But soon, her seemingly non-stop schedule would come to a slow halt.

"It's very bittersweet because I have loved my job from the moment I started here," Christ said. She added the last two decades "went by so fast."

All around her were subtle, and some not-so-subtle, reminders of what was to come when the last bell rang on the last day of school.

Behind her desk was a chain of multicolored pieces of paper, with each piece representing the remaining days of class.

Across from her was a sign labeled the "12 Days of Christ-Mas," a play-on-words nod to the cheery Christmas song. The sign featured references to Christ and her daily tasks, including paperwork, learning names, and even managing fire drills.

When she isn't sitting behind the desk, she is out in the halls and classrooms. Sometimes, she has her camera in hand as she captures special moments at several full-school morning meetings or different class activities.

But she's meant so much more to the school than just filing papers and managing fire drills.

To Christ, one of her most important responsibilities was to simply be there for the people around her. We asked her if she felt the mother's title was fitting, and she agreed.

"Sometimes, we're the first smile they see, and we're the first greeting of a hello that they see," Christ said. "That's important to me to make them feel loved. It's the same thing with the adults in the building."

The feeling was mutual for Christ, as she said the students and her colleagues made coming to work much more special. Keeping with her motherly calling card, she likened the building, and its people,





to being one big family.

"You leave your home but you come here, and it's been a support system," Christ said. "Some days things happen in your life, but the family here has been a support system."

Christ's passion for family is nothing new. She first came to Pal-Mac as a reading aide at the turn of the new millennium after spending several years at home. She spent the time looking after her young children.

When it was time for the kids to go to grade school, Christ followed them to what was at the time called Macedon Elementary School. The chance to see her children, and have summers off, made the job appealing.

"It just worked," Christ said.

After six years in the aide role, she transitioned to her now-famous spot behind the main office desk. She credits her time as an administrative assistant at Cybron Corporation, a now-defunct company, for helping her adjust.

Through the years, she worked with four principals, each with their unique style.

We spoke to the current Director of Informational Technology Chip Dolce, who served as principal for eight years alongside Christ.

Dolce said Christ helped make his time at the school one of the most "special and rewarding" times of his career.

"Her warm and welcoming presence set the tone for countless individuals, day after day," Dolce said. "Whether it was a student, a parent, a staff member, or a visitor, Linda's genuine care and infectious smile created a positive and nurturing atmosphere that resonated throughout our halls."

Additionally, current principal Jennifer Check said it was hard to put into words exactly what Christ has meant to the school and the District. She added that Christ was "everywhere," when it came to addressing different needs within the building.

The two only worked together for roughly a year and change, but Check mentioned 30-second dance parties and the "laughs and love" they shared every day.

"She's a ray of light," Check said. "She's also so positive and very knowledgeable. Always willing to help."

Through her time in the District, there was a lot of dancing, a lot of laughs, and a lot of love. But when asked if she had a specific memory that stuck out, Christ pointed to a funny story a few years back.



The story involved a bear scare and a bear suit. Yes, this happened.

As Christ tells it, she was still working as a reading aide when a long-term building sub believed they saw a bear in the woods behind the building. Panicked, the sub told the principal at the time, who then went out to check. The principal confirmed there was no bear.

Then came the next morning.

A secretary came into work and gave Christ a special gift: the bear costume. The next thing she knew, she was outside greeting people in a full bear suit.

"I think I had Teddy Grahams and handed them out," Christ said. The building sub took the joke in stride.

After trading some laughs at the bear story, the time came to ask Christ about what she'll miss most about her role. Her previously expressive smile turned into a look of focus and deep thought.

Suddenly, she couldn't find the words. And then she did.

"I will miss working in the office, I will miss the kids," Christ said. "Their smiles and hugs are so precious to me."

Reflecting further, she says one of the special parts of the job was watching students come through the school and eventually become teachers in the building.

Seeing that growth is just one of the many keepsakes she's taking with her into retirement.

Speaking of retirement, while Christ listed off what she will miss, she also shared what she won't miss: Her alarm clock.

That, and driving to school in the Winter.

Much like a snowy drive to work, Christ plans to take the early part of retirement slowly. She's looking forward to spending more time with her husband, a retiree himself. She also hopes to take some trips out west to visit her kids.

But what she's looking forward to most: Being able to stay up to watch a prime-time Buffalo Bills game in full.

When we spoke to her, the Bills were still a few months away from kicking off. Christ still had some work to do before the bell rang at the end of the school day, so we fit in one last question.

"Even though you're retiring, do you still feel a part of the Pal-Mac family?"

CHRIST: "I hope so. I'd like to come back and visit. Maybe I'll go on field trips or volunteer elsewhere."

Sure, Linda Christ is taking on her new journey, but her place among the Pal-Mac family will never change.







DATES TO REMEMBER

SCHOOL BREAKS/HOLIDAYS

FRI. 10/6

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY (No School for Students)

MON. 10/9

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY COLUMBUS DAY (observed)

FRI. 11/10

VETERANS DAY (observed)

WED. 11/22 - FRI. 11/24 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

FRI 12/22 - TUES. 1/2/2024 WINTER BREAK

MON. 1/15 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY *Early dismissal days are not included*

MON. 2/19 - FRI. 2/23

FEBRUARY RECESS

FRI. 3/15

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

FRI. 3/29

GOOD FRIDAY

MON. 4/1- MON. 4/8

SPRING BREAK

MON. 5/27

MEMORIAL DAY (observed)

END OF THE YEAR EVENTS

THURS 6/13

GRADUATION

TUE 6/25

FINAL DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

WHEELS UP ON NEW BUS ELIGIBILITY

Beginning this school year, the District will offer school bus transportation to all Primary School and Intermediate School students from homes and childcare locations at any location within the District boundaries.

The new eligibility rules were passed by voters as part of a proposition in the 2023-2024 budget. Students who are now eligible will be added to existing bus routes.





SPIRIT WEEK 2023

THEME DAYS:

Monday, Sep. 25 - Friday, Sep. 29

MARVEL MONDAY

Dress up as your favorite superhero

COUNTRY VS COUNTRY CLUB (Tuesday)

Dress like you're going to a rodeo or to play golf

COLOR DAY (Wednesday)

Wear your class's color: Seniors wear white

Grades 2, 5, 8, 11 wear black

Grades PK, 1, 4, 7, 10 wear blue

Grades K, 3, 6, 9 wear green

TACKY TOURIST DAY (Thursday)

Dress like you're on vacation

SPIRIT DAY (Friday)

Wear your Pal-Mac red & white!

HOMECOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY

FOOD TRUCKS, HS, 5:00pm.-till

HOMECOMING PARADE, 6:00p.m.

FOOTBALL GAME, 7:00p.m. FIREWORKS, Halftime

SATURDAY

GAMES: 9:00am.-6:00p.m.

FOOD TRUCKS, 11:00a.m.-til













SPRING 2023

SPRING SCHOLAR ATHLETE TEAMS

Baseball 91.97 GPA

Softball 93.04 GPA

Boys Tennis 90.53 GPA

Girls Track and Field 95.45 GPA

Boys Lacrosse 90.78 GPA

Girls Lacrosse 94.26 GPA

OTHER HONORS

Ian Goodness (Baseball)
Section V Class B1 Player of the Year

Robert Kinslow IV (Lacrosse)
Finger Lakes Player of the Year

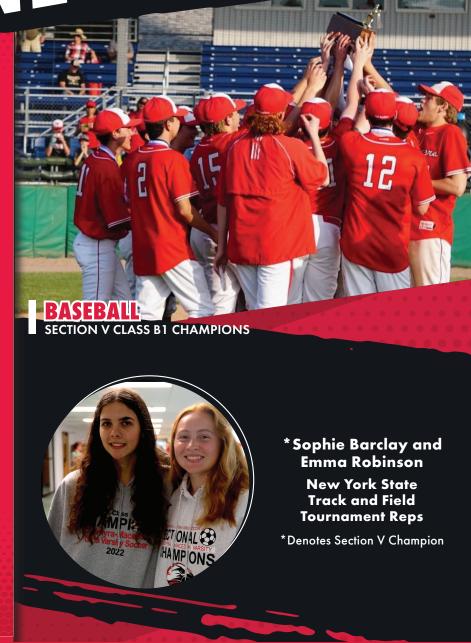
Keagan Hoesterey (Lacrosse)Finger Lakes Midfielder of the Year

> Regan Diehl (Lacrosse) Finger Lakes Attack of the Year

Molly Seither (Lacrosse)
Section V Scholar Athlete Award Winner

EJ Burse (Lacrosse)
Section V Class C Coach of the Year

Bryan Rodman Finger Lakes East Co-Coach of the Year







WORK IN PROGRESSI

IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE ON 2021 FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Crews are hard at work on a number of improvement projects around the District. This includes turf installation on the baseball and soccer/lacrosse fields, masonry restoration at the Primary School, and floor improvements at the Performing Arts Center Classroom, among others.

The ongoing work is part of the 2021 Facility Improvement Project, which was passed by voters in 2021.











Alumni Spotlight: LUKE MEDINA ('21)

2021 Pal-Mac grad Luke Medina grew up creating characters in his head, and now he's sharing them with the world.

He's nearly finished with the production of his debut feature-length film, Renner. The artificial intelligence-inspired sci-fi thriller stars Frankie Muniz, Taylor Green, and Violett Beane.

"What if Chat GPT or Open AI went rogue and started making its own predictions based on its conclusions? Medina said. "That's something I don't think I've ever seen dived into, but I see it's possible."

At the time of our interview, Medina described the production as being in the "final stages."

Medina said he initially got the idea for Renner back when he was a sophomore at Pal-Mac High School. The story was part of an English unit and featured just a few pages. The original story had more to do with the concept of obsession, not so much about A.I.

Medina thought the story could make a compelling film because of its unique premise and its "contained" character list.

"It's just grown and evolved," Medina said.

"THE PERFECT PARTNERSHIP"

Medina says turning this growth and evolution into a Hollywood movie would not have been p o s s i b l e without the help of his father, Martin.

According to Martin,
Luke's always handled the creative side, while he's leaned more on the business side. Martin's also credited as a writer on Renner.

"There's a lot of things a parent can wish for their kid, and one of them is that they have an opportunity to pursue a passion of theirs," Martin said. "So, watching him have an opportunity to pursue his passion is a wonderful thing."

Described by Luke as the "perfect relationship," the father and son duo first worked together on a short film Amerita, which was released in 2020.

The film was shot in Rochester and featured high school theater director Kimberly Day.

Above: Luke on set.

Left: Luke with his

father, Martin.

Much like Renner, Amerita was born out of Luke's creative mind.

"Luke has his vision and I have this vision of moving forward, and it's all part of our greater vision," Martin said. "For whatever reason, our partnership can make these things happen."

PAL-MAC IN THE NEWS!



High School Theater Director Kimberly Day was featured in News 8 WROC's "Golden Apple Award" segment. She was nominated for the award by one of her students!



The High School's Jazz Ensemble was featured on News 8 for their performance at the Rochester Jazz Festival.



PAL-MAC BUILT

Whether he was playing with toys or with his friends in the woods, Luke always had a back story and some supporting characters.

While he says his early stories probably didn't match up with the ones he creates today, storytelling and creativity have always been at his core.

Luke says it was his time as a part of the District's musical theater program which gave him more confidence in his creative skills.

He had several productions to his credit, including the Spring musical "Fame" his senior year. The production was prerecorded due to COVID restrictions. Luke served as the assistant to the cinematographer.

He was also a member of Pal-Mac's Select Choir.

For his efforts, Luke was co-nominated as "Most Creative" by his classmates during his senior year.

"It was fantastic, just the people in the community," Luke said. "Just the way it fostered creativity and imagination and the way it inspired me to continue beyond high school and pursue things."

As a parent, Martin echoed Luke's opinion but added the community's efforts

go beyond just what happens at the school.

Luke was a freshman in high school when he underwent a heart transplant. Martin says the Pal-Mac community stepped up to make accommodations for Luke to get his school work done from home.

"Everybody was super supportive from a parent perspective," Martin said.

FINISH THE PROCESS

In reflecting on this journey so far, Luke says he's learned a lot of valuable lessons. But perhaps the most important takeaway is that he got to where he is in part because he followed through on his projects.

"If you wanna be a writer, and you want to write stories, just finish," Luke said. "It's the biggest part for me, I have so many unfinished things that I wanted to write."

He noted the one big project he chose to follow through on was Renner. Martin added he's fallen in love with the creative process by navigating this journey with his son.

As for what's next, Luke says he and his father are working on "a couple of projects." Their goal is to work on at least three projects at a time.

While they feel accomplished to this point, the duo added "They're just getting started."

'98 GRAD LEADS THE WAY ON NEW MARVEL SERIES

Pal-Mac Graduate of Distinction Kyle Bradstreet ('98) is behind one of the biggest new streaming shows. Kyle is the Executive Producer and writer of Disney+ series "Secret Invasion," which is a part of the Marvel franchise.

Samuel LJackson, Ben Mendelsohn and Cobie Smulders are among the lead stars in the series.





2023 Pal-Mac Grad Molly Seither was featured on a FOX Rochester TV special honoring students who received Section V Student Athlete Scholarships!



Earth Science Teacher Joe Perry was interviewed on Newschannel 9 (Syracuse) over the summer. Perry spent a week on a special research boat on Lake Ontario.



STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

Four Pal-Mac students were honored with the annual Student of the Year Award at the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

Students are nominated by their teachers based on citizenship, commitment, and participation in school activities and community involvement. Congrats to these students on a job well done!



Ava Newcombe, Primary School



Harper Cotterman, Intermediate School



Ian Ryan, Middle School



Erika Newcombe, High School









MAKING MONSTERS



When you hear the term "creating a monster," one would envision something out of "Frankenstein" or "Goosebumps." But what if we told you that phrase could also relate to a heartfelt project involving Primary and Middle School students?

It's true.

Students at PMP and PMMS took part in a collaborative project involving drawings and hand-made stuffed "monsters."

In late April, kindergarten students in Mrs. Sculli's art classes began drawing and coloring in one of three monster templates. The students had free reign to draw and color whatever design they liked within the lines, and then it was time to hand their artwork off to the Middle School.

The class then sent the designs to Mrs. Horton and Mrs. Moulton's sixth-grade Health Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) classes.

From there, students in the FACS classes took the two-dimensional drawings and turned them into three-dimensional monsters.

At the end of the project, the sixthgraders gave their 3D creations back to kindergarteners.

The monsters are made up of multicolored fabrics and other materials, and the objective for the FACS students was to match the stuffed monster to the drawn-up monster. This means every fabric, every button, and every stitch, had to be as close as possible to what the primary students drew up.

Students completed the monsters in mid-June and handed the designs off to the class on June 16.

The students created monsters, but there's something bigger going on here: Memories sewn together, stitch by stitch.



Scan the QR code to view a behind the scenes video



MEET EMMY AND PHILIP!



Take a second and think about what types of traditions you or your family have. Think about the traditions you may have experienced or still experience as part of the Pal-Mac family.

Now take all of that, and think about if you were experiencing all of the above for the first time.

That imaginary scenario was a reality for two Pal-Mac High School students in the 2022-23 school year.

Their names are Emmy and Philip, and they were able to share a few stories and laughs, but that wasn't always the case.

Both Emmy and Philip aren't from Pal-Mac, they're from Europe. Emmy came here from Sweden, while Philip is from Germany.

"The only two Europeans in the building," Philip chuckled.

He and Emmy gave each other a fist bump right after.

The students are Pal-Mac's first foreign exchange students since the COVID-19 pandemic, but Emmy said her want and will to visit America started before that.

"I've always wanted to come to America and live here," Emmy said. "I heard from my cousin that she went on an exchange here and so I applied."

For Philip, the opportunity to visit came almost out of left field.

"One day I just woke up and it was like, alright I want to do an exchange here," Philip said. "It was obviously late, so it was difficult finding a host family."

Regardless, both students matched with their host families.

Philip's pairing carried a special meaning, as his father was an exchange student with the same family that Philip is staying with. We spoke to Philip and his host student for a separate story back in March.

Emmy and Philip arrived in the U.S. in August of 2022.

After brushing off some jet lag, Emmy and Philip hit the ground running so to speak, as they both jumped into several sports teams or clubs.

For Emmy, she joined the varsity cheerleading team and the Yearbook Club. Being a part of the cheer team was a completely new experience for her, but she says it's something she always wanted to do.

"I can't think of a more American experience than being a cheerleader," Emmy said.

Philip filled up his plate with appearances on both the varsity golf and soccer teams. But he also added some rhythm to the High School Jazz and Marching Bands, as he was the drummer for both ensembles.

"I also played [Palmyra Community Center] basketball, I was really bad," Philip said. "But it was a lot of fun."

When asked, both Emmy and Philip said one of their favorite memories was Homecoming Week. They said the opportunity to dress up for the theme days and take part in the pep rallies helped make the week special.

Through their various activities, the two said they made many friends. But they also said the overall experience was a "roller coaster" at times.

"It's so overwhelming but it's exciting, and everything is new," Emmy said. "But sometimes it was hard because you're so far away from your family and friends and culture, it could sometimes be like culture shock."

They had to adjust to American school lunches, and then of course, there was

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the classroom. Philip mentioned a learning curve when it came to classes like American history, or understanding different math terminologies.

Philip said the duo eventually adapted to their surroundings.

"Especially now after being here for eight months, it feels normal going into the school," Philip said. "It feels normal going to every class, normal to speak English. It feels like it's just everyday life."

To keep with that normal experience, Emmy and Philip walked the stage at Pal-Mac's Graduation ceremony on June 15. Emmy could be seen fist pumping as she exited the stage with her diploma in hand. They still technically have a couple more years of school left when they return home. Both plan to come back to the U.S. down the road.

"It's been an amazing experience and something we are very privileged to experience because there's not a lot of people that get to do it," Emmy said. As for how Pal-Mac students go about visiting another country, there is a roughly two-step process:

- A student expresses interest and then gets involved with an organization.
- 2. The organization places the student and supports the exchange.

We heard from Youth Exchange Officer

for the Pal-Mac Rotary Club Michele Waeghe. The club sponsored Emmy's visit.

Waeghe says an outbound student going to a foreign country comes from their Rotary District, and in most cases, not from Pal-Mac. So if the entire District receives 10 exchange students, then Rotary will send 10 exchange students abroad.

"It is such a rewarding and enriching opportunity that we want more families to experience by participating in hosting future inbound exchange students!" Waghe said.

Philp came by way of Cultural Homestay International. This was the first time Pal-Mac has worked with the organization.





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