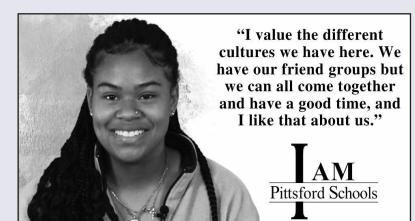


winter 022

A publication for the residents of Pittsford Central School District

Hear from Our Students in New Video about Inclusivity



"I am Pittsford Schools" is the theme of a new video that highlights the diversity of backgrounds and unique stories that make up the student body of Pittsford Schools.

By interviewing students of different ages, races, religions, abilities, gender identities and backgrounds, the video shares, through student voices, what makes Pittsford students both unique and part of a community that strives to be kind and inclusive. "Honoring diversity and inclusivity is

paramount to achieving the District's mission to 'inspire and prepare our students to be their best, do their best and make a difference in the lives of others," said Superintendent Pero. By hearing directly from students, viewers of the video have the opportunity to experience life in Pittsford Schools through the students who are working to achieve respect and equity for all. To view the video, visit the Pittsford Central School District YouTube channel.

Interact Clubs See Record Attendance as Students Demonstrate "Service Above Self"

Mendon and Sutherland high school Interact Clubs experienced record student registrations at this fall's activity fairs and kick-off meetings. Chartered by Rotary International, Interact Clubs provide opportunities for community service, leadership development, friendship and fun. The Interact Clubs are organized by a group of student leaders in partnership with Rotary Club volunteer Pat Mallory who has offered his leadership to PCSD students since 2002.



"Interact Club members have caring hearts and helping hands. They're always willing to help others in need and are living examples of Rotary's motto, 'service above self,'" said Superintendent Pero.

During the fall, Interact Club students demonstrated their commitment to community service though many volunteer activities, including helping out at a food drive, saluting Honor Flight Mission veterans, entertaining elementary students with carnival games at a school's "Welcome Back" picnic, volunteering at an event for epilepsy awareness, and picking up trash and planting flower bulbs along the Erie Canal walking path.

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Board of Education Budget Development Meeting Schedule

The development of a school district's budget is a thoughtful, year-long, multi-faceted process that includes careful long-term planning, budget preparation, presentation, review by the Board of Education and community members, formal budget adoption, further sharing with the community, and Board election. During this process there are a variety of meetings held by the Board of Education including Budget Work Sessions which are used by the Board of Education to gather information and ask questions about particular sections of the budget. The Pittsford Central School District community is invited and encouraged to attend and observe the Budget Work Sessions as they are open to the public. Community members will have the opportunity to comment at the subsequent regular Board of Education meetings, during the time allotted for public comment.

All meetings take place in the Barker Road Middle School McCluski Room.

Tuesday, February 7, 6-7 p.m.

Budget Work Session

Tuesday, February 28, 6-7 p.m.

Budget Work Session

Tuesday, March 14, 6-7 p.m.

Budget Work Session

Tuesday, April 18, 7-9 p.m.*

*Pending NYS Budget

Budget Adoption and Regular Board of Education Meeting. Budget Adoption is placed on the agenda of the regular Board of Education meeting. During this meeting, the Board of Education formally votes to adopt the budget created during the Budget Work Sessions.

Thursday, May 4, 7-9 p.m.

PTSA Meet the Board of Education Candidates Night

Tuesday, May 9, 7-9 p.m.

Budget Hearing and Regular Board of Education Meeting. The Public Budget Hearing is the formal presentation of the Board of Education's adopted budget which will later be voted on by residents at the annual Budget Vote and Board of Education Election.

Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Barker Road Middle School Gymnasium

Budget Vote and Board Election. Voter identification is required.

PCSD is First District in NYS to Offer Best Buddies in All Schools

Pittsford Central School District has been participating in Best Buddies since 2016. Now, it is the first school district in New York State to offer this student activity in every one of its schools. Best Buddies is an international nonprofit dedicated to creating opportunities for meaningful one-to-one friendships and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

"We have had a couple of disrupted years so we are excited to bring this club to all nine schools this year to promote inclusion and friendships!" said Elizabeth Woods, Director of Special Education.



For those with IDD, Best Buddies helps create an inclusive school environment for students early on in their educational journey, and carries on into high school at a time of heightened social and emotional development that can be difficult even for teenagers without IDD. This program also helps grow leadership skills, a better understanding of people with IDD, and helps break through social barriers during an important time in a young person's life. Last year, students at PCSD participated in Best Buddies through activities such as Unified Basketball and Bowling, Friendship Walk, and the Spread the Word to End the Word Campaign.

Academic Rigor and Achievement at Pittsford Schools

The Pittsford Schools community continuously strives to provide academic rigor and high levels of achievement to best prepare students for the future. The District values the intellectual growth and academic achievement of each student as well as their personal and social development. Academic rigor is seen in coursework and classrooms, and the results of that rigor is demonstrated in the District's nearly 100 percent graduation rate and the many national, state and local academic accolades PCSD receives annually. Excellence in the classroom and beyond is a hallmark of Pittsford Schools. Year after year, the District is nationally recognized as one of the best communities for music education, and its athletic teams are consistently named NYS Public High School Athletic Association Scholar Athlete teams, with 700 scholar-athlete recognitions during the 2021-2022 school year. Achievement is also reflected in the numerous Scholastic Art and Writing awards students win, as well as by those who earn the coveted National Merit Scholarships.

A variety of unique offerings, accelerated courses and Advanced Placement college-level courses are available to students and help them to follow their interests and reach their goals.

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Retirement

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Clerical Staff

Paraprofessionals

Custodians-Cleaners

Food Service

Substitutes for Teachers & Paraprofessionals



Pittsford Schools

PittsfordSchools.org/JobOpportunities

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Board of Education Honors Pittsford Pride Recipients

Nine students received the Pittsford Pride Citizenship Recognition Award during the November 8, 2022 Board of Education Meeting for demonstrating excellent citizenship and positive leadership. Congratulations to: **Charles** (**Charlie**) **Archer**, Gr. 5, Thornell Road; **Cornelia Crumley**, Gr. 12, Sutherland High School; **Annabelle (Annie) Lincoln**, Gr. 5, Jefferson Road Elementary School; **Hudson McCutchen**, Gr. 2, Allen Creek Elementary School; **Natalie Murray**, Gr. 7, Barker Road Middle School; **Gianna Petraglia**, Gr. 7, Calkins Road Middle School; **Gianni Roote**, Gr. 5, Park Road Elementary School; **Natalie Soja**, Gr. 3, Mendon Center Elementary School; **Emerson Stamp**, Gr. 12, Mendon High School.



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Interact Clubs See Record Attendance as Students Demonstrate "Service Above Self" Cont.

Through these activities and many more service-related initiatives and events, Pittsford's Interact Clubs rise up to meet one of the District's mission tenets to "make a difference in the lives of others." One of the most notable partnerships has been with the Special Olympics. Students regularly work as event volunteers for athletic competitions and participate in the Special Olympics "Freezin' for a Reason" Polar Plunge fundraiser, for which Pittsford's Interact Clubs have raised more than than \$20,000 for Special Olympics over the past several years.

Interact Club students have also demonstrated their commitment to inclusivity through involvement with the Pittsford Panthers' Unified Basketball and Bowling teams and the lead role they have taken in offering support and creating visibility for these teams.

Pittsford Interact Club goals are to have 100 active members at each school who complete a combined total of 1,500 service hours during the school year. Over the past 20 years, approximately 2,000 Pittsford high school students have shared in the Interact experience, logging more than 22,000 combined hours of community service.

Pittsford Students Participate in Rochester's 3rd Annual Summit to End Hate

Members of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council attended "Brave Spaces 2022: Rochester's Third Annual Summit to End Hate" on Friday, October 21, at the Memorial Art Gallery. Students participated in breakout sessions on "Bullying and Mental Unwellness: Bullying as a Hate Based Practice," and "Implicit Bias and Microaggressions."

The Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester's Levine Center to End Hate hosted the summit which was structured as a half-day, in-person immersive learning experience with multiple speakers and breakout sessions providing a comprehensive look at hate in all its forms and how to find solutions in the Rochester community.



Sources of Strength

Pittsford Mendon and Sutherland high school students and staff members participated in Sources of Strength training this fall to learn how they can be a "source of strength" to others and help connect students to supports they may need. The Sources of Strength program helps to provide a network of caring, connected staff and peers.



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Academic Rigor and Achievement at Pittsford Schools Cont.

High School Courses

At the high school level, a number of courses have been added which reflect student interest as well as relevant and expanding career fields. Some of these courses include Animation, Introduction to Game Development, Cybersecurity, Data Driven Business Analysis, AP Computer Science A and AP Computer Science Principles. Additionally, PCSD offers18 Business Program courses (including NYS-approved Career and Technical Education certification, and dual credit courses with colleges/universities), 18 art courses, and 17 Technology Program courses including Project Lead the Way engineering courses, automotive coursework, construction, production and manufacturing courses.

23 Advanced Placement courses, including courses in the fields of math, science, English, history, world languages, art and music.

Advanced Math course offerings include AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, Multivariable Calculus, AP Statistics, AP Computer Science Principles, AP Computer Science A. In addition, students who have successfully completed Multi-variable Calculus can enroll in Linear Algebra at the University of Rochester at a reduced tuition rate.

Advanced Science course offerings include College Physics (dual credit), AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics C, and AP Environmental Science. In addition, students can explore their interests in the sciences by taking one of our many science electives including Criminalistics, Human and Animal Behavior, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Genetics, Microbiology, Oceanography, and Astronomy.

English 12 provides a variety of course choices that provide students the chance to select an area of interest to focus on in their senior year, including Critical Mass Media, Creative Writing, Film Analysis and Theory, Visibility, British Literature, and AP Literature, among other offerings.

Middle School Courses

Double Accelerated Math: Students are considered for the double accelerated math program by using a criterion-based recommendation into the program. These students participate in a compacted math experience in 6th grade that sets them up for success in Algebra as 7th graders followed by Geometry in 8th grade.

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Gateway Technology instruction provides a strong foundation for further STEM learning in high school and beyond. Through topics like coding and robotics, flight and space, middle school students engage their natural curiosity and imagination in creative problem solving.

Middle School Science: The curriculum was recently revised to align with the NYS P-12 Science Learning Standards. Units are launched through the introduction of a particular phenomenon that students investigate over time. Every unit is framed by cross-cutting scientific concepts and interweaves disciplinary core content with science and engineering practices.

High School Credits: Students can receive up to three high school credits through their studies of World Language, Math and Science

Elementary Level Courses

PCSD elementary school students are engaged in learning that provides a strong foundation for future academic coursework and success.

The Elementary Science curriculum has undergone significant revisions in the last few years to align with the NYS P-12 Science Learning Standards. Students study life cycles and inherited traits by raising monarchs from the caterpillars to butterflies which they tag and release to follow migration patterns to Mexico. They study the concept of the ecosystem, as well as interactions between animal and human behaviors, by looking at the phenomena of wolves being returned to Yellowstone Park and consider the question of whether they should be returned to the Adirondacks as well. In grades 4 and 5 science continues to be taught by dedicated science teachers (rather than the homeroom teacher) allowing for more extensive, hands-on interaction with the appropriate science materials. Pollinator gardens with connections to at least one science unit at every grade level have recently been planted at every elementary school.

Fundations (grades K-2) engages students in a multi-sensory, structured approach that makes learning to read fun, while laying the foundation for life-long literacy. Fundations is aligned with the NYS Next Generation E/LA standards and is designed to be used alongside, and as a complement to, a core literature based language arts program of instruction.

Number Corner Math (grades K-5) is a skill-building program offered in addition to the regular math instructional block. It involves hands-on, spiraled experiences that provide daily practice as well as continual encounters with broader mathematical concepts in 15–20 minutes of engaging instruction.

K-5 Social Studies inquiries are modeled after the College, Career, and Civics (C3) Inquiry arc. The K-5 Social Studies Inquiries engage students, as young as kindergarten, with compelling and supporting questions, using disciplinary content and skills to have students investigate these questions, evaluate sources they use along the way, and take action with their new knowledge. Several of the Inquiries are interdisciplinary in nature, integrating Social Studies and ELA curriculum along with the Social Justice standards.

Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Seeks to Support Peers and Make a Positive Impact

The energy and excitement of being part of something impactful was palpable as new and returning students of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council (SSAC) animatedly greeted each other, snacked on pizza and found themselves effortlessly slipping into conversations about how they want to make things better for their fellow students. During the SSAC's first meeting of the year, on October 25, 16 student members from grades 9-12 met with Superintendent Pero and Equity and Inclusivity Coordinator Vincent French to discuss goals for the year, review committee norms and explore how their work



ties into the District's mission, vision, and values. Members of the SSAC are a diverse group of high school students from Mendon and Sutherland high schools who share a common goal of helping Pittsford Schools achieve its mission to "...make a difference in the lives of others," and its core value of "providing a supportive environment for all."

"It is an honor to collaborate with these 16 incredible students who are willing to volunteer their time and effort to making the Pittsford School District the best it can be," said Superintendent Pero. "The level of empathy they have for their peers and their eagerness to find actionable ways to support the diversity of experiences, individual goals and overall wellbeing of fellow students is a testament to their character and a beacon of hope for the future," he said.

During this first meeting of the year, students participated in activities to get to know one another and talked about what they hope to accomplish this year. SSAC members who attended the October 21 "Brave Spaces 2022: Rochester's Third Annual Summit to End Hate" also shared what they learned at the summit about embracing differences, not making assumptions based on physical appearances and being an upstander to support those experiencing bullying. The meeting concluded with a student-driven discussion about the importance of increasing the visibility of mental health resources available to students at PCSD and normalizing the action of seeking mental wellness supports in the same way people seek supports for their physical wellbeing.

Members of the 2022-23 Superintendent's Student Advisory Council include:

Returning Members: Amani Abu-Baker (Gr. 10 SHS), Annalise Borrelli (Gr. 12 SHS), Campbell Kazacos (Gr. 10 MHS), LeiLani Hernandez (Gr. 12 MHS), Muhammad Mbowe (Gr. 12 MHS), John Nobrega (Gr. 11 MHS), Maricella Rivera (Gr. 11 SHS), Kassidy Sayres (Gr. 12 SHS), Worni Vimika (Gr. 10 MHS), and Langston Woods (Gr. 11 SHS).

New Members: Ty Allyn (Gr. 9 MHS), Noor Bains (Gr. 11 MHS), Carlasia Clark (Gr. 9 SHS), Kevin Curran (Gr. 9 MHS), Alejandra Ochoa (Gr. 9 SHS), and Matthew Xie (Gr. 10 SHS).

Ten Students Selected for 2022 Conference All-State **Performing Ensembles**

The NYS School Music Association (NYSSMA) has selected ten Pittsford students from thousands who auditioned across the state for the honor of participating in the 2022 Conference All-State Performing Ensembles:

Mendon High School

- Dylan Bachmann Cello Symphony Orchestra
- Jared Berger Bass 1 Mixed Chorus
- Peter Foley Double Bass/ Jazz Bass Symphony Orchestra/Alternate Instrumental Jazz

Sutherland High School

- Joshua Jin Viola Symphony Orchestra
- Aiwen Li Violin Symphony Orchestra
- Edward Wu Alto Saxophone Symphonic Band Caroline Bauer – Alto 2 – Alternate Chorus
- Shuwen Ding Cello Alternate Orchestra
- Thomas Raith Jazz Bass Voice Alternate Vocal Jazz
- Lina Yang Flute/ Piccolo Alternate Band

The NYSSMA conference will take place in Rochester on December 1-4, 2022, concluding with a performance at Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre. These students were ranked amongst the highest in the state and at their festival location. Please help us in congratulating our All-State musicians!

Fall Sports Season Wrap-up

Congratulations to our athletes whose hard work and dedication led to these Section V Championship Titles!

Section V Class A2 Champions

Mendon Girls Tennis

Section V Class B Champions

- Sutherland Field Hockey Sutherland Girls Cross Country
- - Individual Champion Reid Smith (Gr. 10)

Section V Class A Champions

- Pittsford Girls Swimming and Diving
- Individual Champion 500 yard freestyle Iala Cropper, MHS (Gr. 12)
- Pittsford Gymnastics
 - Individual Champion Bars, Beam, Floor and All-Around, Elizabeth Power, SHS (Gr. 11)

New Safety Helpline

Pittsford CSD knows that keeping children safe is a top priority for parents/guardians and schools. On November 7, 2022, PCSD introduced the Safe School Helpline®, a service used by school districts nationwide that offers an easy anonymous way for anyone to report information about situations that might affect safety at our schools.

Parents/guardians, students and staff members can make a report at any time of the day or night about unsafe or potentially disruptive activities or situations including threats of violence, depression, drug or alcohol abuse, harassment, or illegal activity that could harm students in our schools. Calls are anonymous and confidential.

To Report a Situation

- Call: (800) 418-6423 ext. 359
- **Text:** (614) 426-0240, then type, TIPS
- **Report online:** www.safeschoolhelpline.com
- Free mobile app: available on Google Play or the App Store

Your message will not be traced and you will not be identified. If you have any questions about the Safe School Helpline, please call your school principal or visit the District website at www.pittsfordschools.com.

As always, 911 is available for immediate emergency situations and 988 for an urgent mental health crises. Remember, if you See Something,

SAFETY is Everyone's Responsibility

THE SAFE SCHOOL HELPLINE It's free and confidential 24/7

web: safeschoolhelpline.com text: 614-426-0240, then type TIPS

Say Something.

800-4-1-VOICE EXT. 359 | 800-418-6423 EXT. 359

Sending Smiles to Ukraine

Mendon Center Elementary School (MCE) students made more than 650 postcards to send to Ukrainian children and their families. They wrote positive messages and designed the cards with sunflowers, a main agricultural crop of Ukraine, which have become the national flower and unofficial symbol of peace. With the help of RocMaidan, a community organization that provides support to Ukraine, the postcards will go into backpacks for children at a school in Ukraine and in supply boxes for medics.





PCSD Earns High Rating from Moody's Investors Service

Fiscal responsibility and stability are top priorities for Pittsford CSD and its commitment to Pittsford taxpayers. The District's ongoing success in maintaining fiscal wellbeing was recognized with an Aa1 credit rating from Moody's Investors Service in October 2022 – a rating PCSD has received for the past 25 years. The Aa1 rating is the second highest rating a school district can attain and reflects strong financial operations supported by conservative budget practices. Similar to a personal credit rating score,

the District's Aa1 rating reflects financial stability and health, and as a result affords the District favorable borrowing terms (including lower interest rates) when PCSD residents vote to approve debt issuance in potential capital projects.

Below are highlights from an October 2022 credit analysis published by Moody's Investors Service:

- The credit position of PCSD is very strong. The Aa1 rating is above the U.S. school district median.
- Key credit factors PCSD demonstrated in order to earn an Aa1 rating included a strong local economy, a healthy reserve position, and very modest fixed costs.

On Stage!

December 15-17

Mendon Drama Club presents: "The Bold, The Young, and the Murdered"

- December 15-17 at 7 p.m.
- MHS Auditorium
- \$10 tickets at the door (cash/checks only)

Written by Don Zolidis, "The Bold, the Young and the Murdered" is a comedy/ mystery that pokes fun at soap operas and their characters. Produced as a play within a play, cast members hilariously interact with one another on and off camera, and audience members will be delighted by an outcome that is sure to surprise even the best mystery sleuths.

March 16-18

Sutherland High School presents:

The Addams Family

- March 16-17 at 7 p.m. March 18 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Tickets: \$10 students/senior

citizens; \$12 regular admission. On sale at www.showtix4u.com beginning Feb. 15 and at the door (cash/check only).

Addams Family is a musical comedy based on the original eccentric family cartoon. The story follows the Addams family as they grapple with the engagement of their daughter, Wednesday, who is normally macabre (wears only black), to her boyfriend, Lucas, who comes from a "respectable" family. When the families gather for dinner at the Addams' home for the young couple to announce their engagement, things don't go quite as planned!

April 14-15

Mendon High School presents:

The Wedding Singer

- April 14 at 7 p.m.
- April 15 at 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
- Tickets: \$10 students/senior citizens; \$12 regular admission. On sale at www.showtix4u.com beginning in March and at the door (cash/check only).

The Wedding Singer takes us back to 1985, a time when hair was big, collars were up and a wedding singer might just be the coolest guy in the room. Rock star wannabe, Robbie Hart, is New Jersey's favorite wedding singer until his own fiancée leaves him at the altar and he decides to make every wedding as disastrous as his own. Everything changes when Robbie needs to pull off the performance of a decade to win the girl of his dreams.

Homecoming Week Recap

Pittsford pride was celebrated throughout the District during Homecoming week October 11-15, 2022. Spirit Week kicked off with schools offering different themed days such as pajama day, jersey day, and anything-but-backpack day. Pittsford Panthers football squared off against Edison Tech under the lights on Friday, October 14 and defeated Edison with a score of 44-12. The week concluded with a parade down Main Street Pittsford on Saturday, October 15. Congratulations to our new Pittsford Athletics Hall of Fame members: Troy Bamann (lacrosse), Andrew Dischinger (swimming), Greg Kidd (football/baseball), Joan LeRoy (golf coach), and Brent Parkhill (football).







Call for Nominations - Pittsford PTSA Life Membership Award

Now is the time to recognize those special individuals (teachers, staff, coaches, parents, community members) who go above and beyond in supporting our students.

The Pittsford PTSA invites you to help honor an individual who makes our school community a better place by nominating them for the 2023 Pittsford PTSA Life Membership Award. The NYS PTA Honorary Life Membership Award acknowledges members of the community who have gone above and beyond normal job or volunteer expectations in serving Pittsford youth.

everychild.one voice.

Recipients are chosen by a committee of PTSA leaders from nominees submitted by the wider Pittsford community. Nominees must have demonstrated dedication to the youth of Pittsford in three categories:

- Volunteer efforts and/or significant contributions above and beyond normal job expectations over an extended period of time.
- Outstanding personal qualities that have enabled the nominee to serve as a role model for youth.
- Ongoing availability and willingness to serve the needs of youth, directly or in an administrative capacity.

To make a nomination and for more information, visit the Pittsford PTSA website at https://www.pittsfordptsa.net/

lifemembershipaward. Nominations are due by February 12, 2023. A ceremony to honor recipients is scheduled for April 24, 2023.

SAVE THE DATE!

Rainbow Classic

Pittsford's 22nd Annual Rainbow Classic Basketball Games to Benefit Golisano Children's Hospital

Thursday, December 22, 2022

Mendon vs. Sutherland Varsity Basketball Teams

> Girls at 6 p.m. Boys at 8 p.m.

University of Rochester Palestra

Pink the Rink

Pittsford's 13th Annual
Pink the Rink Hockey Games
to Benefit the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester

Saturday, January 7, 2023

Pittsford Panthers vs. Fairport

JV at 6 p.m. Varsity at 7:30 p.m.

Bill Grays Regional Ice Plex

The Pittsford Central School District does not discriminate in access, admission, employment, or treatment of participants in any of its programs and activities on the basis of race, religion, age, sex, color, handicapping condition, or ethnic or national origin. This is in compliance with Title IX, OCR Guidelines, and other applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Inquiries regarding compliance issues may be addressed to: Shawn Clark, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, Administration Building, Pittsford Central Schools, 75 Barker Road, Pittsford, New York 14534.

Local and National Award Winning Publication



Pittsford Central Schools

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- 2023-2024 Budget Planning
- Superintendent's Student Advisory Council Seeks to Make a Difference
- New Safety Help Line
- Academic Rigor and Achievement at Pittsford Schools
- PCSD First to Have Best Buddies in All Schools
- Sending Smiles to Ukraine