

MUSTANG JOURNAL

MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Exemplify Excellence in Education.

Fall 2022

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A Message from your Superintendent

Thank you for an excellent start to the school year! It is tough to believe that we have already passed the Thanksgiving Recess. The Medina CSD continues its focus on reading instruction across the district through our continued partnership with Reading League, a professional organization based out of Syracuse that works with teachers on how to improve reading instruction. I would like to take time in this column to stress the importance of reading at home.

There has been plenty of research completed on how students learn. Children are far more interested in learning from their parents and in receiving their parents' approval than any other person in their childhood. The parent is the child's first and most important teacher.

Above all else, the most important thing a parent can do is read to their children. This will help a child in the development of language skills and will help them understand the world around them. Additionally, reading helps children develop an interest in learning.

As students progress throughout their careers, teachers are aware that high achieving students are often the same students whose parents have been involved in their growth and development at school. Parents play a critical role in developing personal responsibility, which is important in school success. It is important that parents work together with teachers to support their child's education. Please maintain the lines of communication with your child's teachers so that we can all work together to help your child succeed in school and life.

Thank you for being your child's most important teacher and for supporting our schools.

Sincerely,
Mark B. Kruzynski, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Dr. Mark Kruzynski
Superintendent

Vision Statement

Exemplify excellence in education.

Mission Statement

Educate to inspire all to reach beyond the expected and positively impact their communities.



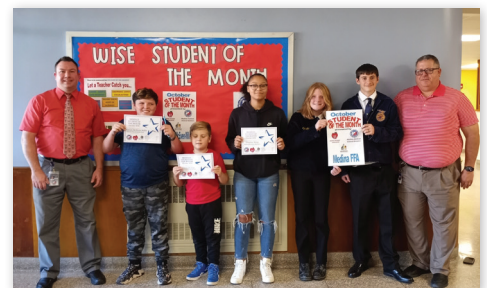
Students of the Month

The Medina Teachers Association, the Medina CSD and the Medina Area Partnership are proud to announce the October selections for Students of the Month. This award is a joint effort between the organizations to recognize students who go above and beyond to help teachers and fellow students succeed and enjoy school.

This month's business sponsor is Medina FFA. The winners were:

- Oak Orchard: second-grader Vincent Moriarty, nominated by Sara Kyle.
- Wise Intermediate School: fifth-grader Kaisen McEwen-Miller, nominated by Leah Gates.
- Junior - Senior High School: twelfth grader Tatyana Baity, nominated by Samantha Rennie.

Congratulations to all our winners!



(LtoR) MTA President Joe Byrne, Kaisen McEwen Miller, Vincent Moriarty, Tatyana Baity, FFA member Iyla Lilleby, FFA member Mason Eick, and MCS D Superintendent Dr. Mark Kruzynski.



Honoring Our Veterans



On November 10th, Medina High School students hosted a dinner for 73 people for their annual Veterans Day dinner.

The event was a way to thank those who served our country. The choir performed before the dinner and our Mustang Marching Band played in the auditorium after dinner. It was an amazing event!



Oak Orchard Primary Kicks Off New School Year

Medina Central School District's Superintendent Dr. Mark Kruzynski, Oak Orchard Primary School Principal Jennifer Stearns and her staff greeted students and their families on the opening day of the school year on Wednesday, September 7th.

Three hundred and sixty-six students came through the doors (UPK through second grade) of the school with 74 of them being Universal Pre-K students. "So much planning and preparation went into this," says Mrs. Stearns. "We hired new staff, trained teachers and administration with an Early Learning Specialist from BOCES and did curriculum writing all focused around play-based learning."

Students were excited to enter the building, and even those who were hesitant to leave their parents, were smiling in no time as they made new friends and met their teachers. By the time the morning announcements began, everyone was happy to be starting a new school year. "I really can't thank the staff and families for helping us have such a successful first day," says Mrs. Stearns.

The Oak Orchard staff says they are looking forward to an exciting school year that will include new clubs like Glee Club, STEM and Upstanders. They also have Art Club and Student Council in place. "We are hoping to bring back family nights, more field trips and other fun activities for our students and families," says Mrs. Stearns.



Courtney and Dr. Aaron Slack with their son Brendan as he starts his first day in UPK.



Superintendent Dr. Kruzynski assists students to find their homerooms.



Oak Orchard Principal Jennifer Stearns and clerical staff Heidi Albone get ready to greet students and their families.



Students enjoying the balloons on the front lawn of Oak Orchard.



Medina Marching Band Wins Third at NYS Championship in Syracuse

The Medina band finished third in October in the Small School 1 (SS1) class at the championships for New York State Field Band Conference. Medina's score of 90.0 was bested by Mineola in 1st at 93.67 and New Hartford in 2nd at 93.15. There were nine schools in the SS1 class.

The New York State Field Band Conference celebrated its 50th anniversary on October 30th with the championships at the JMA Dome (formerly the Syracuse Carrier Dome).

A total of 53 schools participated from around all of NYS including Northwestern from Pennsylvania. The show in its entirety ran from 8 a.m. and concluded at 10:30 p.m.

In addition to the competing bands, the UB Thunder of the East and Syracuse's Pride of the Orange gave exemplary performances to entertain the crowd and show students that their marching band career doesn't have to end after high school.

The National Class consisted of nine competitors with Cicero-North Syracuse earning 1st place with a score of 96.80. Other winners were Division Ave in SS3 with 88.40; Roslyn in SS2 with 89.07; Sachem in LS3 with 86.15 and Hicksville in LS2 with 89.45.

It was a busy week for the Medina students with lots of practices, a Senior Recognition ceremony at the High School on that Wednesday, topped off with a Dome breakfast on Sunday morning as a form of pep rally.

Director Matthew Jaeger addressed his students beforehand with words of encouragement reminding them of their accomplishments from the start of band camp in August to their performance at the Dome.

Their success for the season isn't measured just by their standing at the Dome, but by their overall growth in the season and how they represent the school and the Medina community. They have much to be proud of. That sentiment was expressed by a number of people who were not from Medina, but commented how much they've enjoyed Medina's shows over the years.





GLOW With Your Hands

Medina High School students recently participated in the GLOW (Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming) With Your Hands event. The hands-on career exploration event highlighted high-growth and high-demand careers in Agriculture, Manufacturing and Skilled Trades.

The students participated in activities like welding, bricklaying, electrical wiring, heavy equipment operation and mechatronics. Students enjoyed their day at the Genesee County Fairgrounds with over 1,000 students from 28 school districts spending the day. Over 65 businesses were on hand to provide hands-on activities and simulations and gave students the opportunity to explore various career opportunities. Business teacher Krista Duhow says the students enjoyed exploring careers and had a great time.



Medina High School Hosts Community Service Fair

Community Service at Medina High School is part of the tradition of Participation in Government classes, taught by Todd Bensley and Jennifer Ossont. Students are required to do ten hours of community service with one organization so they can get a good understanding of what these organizations do and hopefully kindle the love of serving the community that will carry into their adult years. Once their service is completed, students will prepare a presentation of their experiences. On Wednesday, September 28th, a Community Service Fair was held in the high school cafeteria for students to learn more about the organizations that they can volunteer for. "It is great that we have been able to bring back the community service fair after a two year hiatus," says Mr. Bensley. "It means a lot to the organizations to connect with potential volunteers and it is important for the students to see the various opportunities to give back to the community through volunteering."



(LtoR) Sara Swart, Marissa Brigham, Haley Marciniak, Rachel Hill, Aries McMurray, Ashleigh Mowatt, Rylee VanNostrand, Ryan Geiger, Gabriella Flores Medina, and Kiana Cleveland.



Medina HS Library Hosts Author Keely Hutton



Keely Hutton discusses her story with two students Chyanni and Shyanna Williams.

Medina Junior-Senior High School recently played host to Keely Hutton. Mrs. Hutton, a children's book author and former English teacher, has written three books: *Soldier Boy*, *Secret Soldiers* and *Don't Look Back*.

School librarian Jennifer O'Toole invited middle school and high schools students to hear Mrs. Hutton talk about her new book, *Don't Look Back* and to discuss her writing process. *Don't Look Back* was written with Achut Deng and is her real-life story about surviving war, living in a refugee camp from the age of six to sixteen and her journey from South Sudan to America. Hutton and Deng spent many hours every week for 18 months talking over the phone for the memoir. Hutton lives in the Rochester area and Deng lives in South Dakota where she works in human resources at a meat-packing plant. The final product is a powerful story about the ugliness and beauty of humanity and the message about not giving up no matter what the obstacles.

Deng's story was first mentioned in a 2020 New York Times article. Her emotional story about her flight from Sudan, immigrating to the US as part of the Lost Boys program and being the single mom of three boys caught everyone's attention. Macmillan Publishers optioned her story and had Deng interview potential authors to work with. She chose Hutton to collaborate with. Hutton told students that she had to research Sudan and the period of time that her subject lived there. She also filled several notebooks from her Zoom calls and interviews with Deng. It was then she was able to get to the heart of the story and began writing.

Mrs. Hutton told students that all her books are based on the real lives of her subjects. She said that even though she did not have the same experiences as they did, she does experience the same emotions which helps her write from their point of view. "Looking for shared, universal emotions helps me to build an emotional bridge for me and my readers. If you want to write, think back to your own experiences and connect those emotions to your subject."

Mrs. O'Toole also invited another guest Julie Berry, owner of the Author's Note Bookstore in Medina. Mrs. Berry helped to facilitate Mrs. Hutton's visit to the high school. She hosted a book signing for *Don't Look Back* in October for Mrs. Hutton.

Some Real Angels



At Clifford Wise Intermediate School is School Counselor Morgan Brower receiving the funds from Medina Teacher Aide Treasurer Pam Canham and Medina Teacher Aide President Gary Scholes.

A special thank you to our teacher aides who are making sure that some of the children in our district are going to have a wonderful Christmas.

Every year since 2005, the Medina Teacher Aides donate \$250 to each of our three schools to help students and families in need be part of the Angel Tree Program. The Salvation Army Angel Tree Program helps provide Christmas gifts for hundreds of thousands of children around the country each year. Once a child has been registered and accepted as an "angel" their Christmas wish list is shared with donors in their community who purchase gifts of new clothing and toys. The gifts are then distributed to the family to place under the family Christmas tree. Medina Teacher Aide Association President Gary Scholes says, "We were seeing and hearing that students were only receiving a few presents for Christmas. We love our kids and want them to be happy and excited on Christmas morning. This makes us all feel great. Even though we're not there, it's just a little way we try to make a difference on Christmas Day!"

This beautiful tradition touches all of us and we are grateful for our teacher aides' generosity!



Mustang Spirit

Our Mustangs had a great time during Homecoming Week (October 3rd - 7th)! It is always a highlight for the school year. We had our first ever Powder Puff flag football game! And our Mustang Football team scored an impressive 65-0 victory over Springville!







Medina Tech Students Help Out Local Chocolate Shop

Della's Chocolates, on Main Street in Medina, has been searching for years to find a mustang mold to celebrate Medina Central School District's mascot. Owner Susan Fuller says it has been frustrating to say the least.

The Medina Parents Athletics Club asked Technology and Engineering teacher Mike Lepkyj if there was any way he could task his students with the project of making a chocolate mold so it could be used for fundraising. Mr. Lepkyj brainstormed with his students on how to go about the challenge. "We made some wood cutouts of the mustang and used our new resin 3D printer to create the chocolate mold," he says. "We realized pretty quickly, through trial and error, that it was too shallow to create the 1.5 ounce mold they needed."

Tenth grade student Abigayle Wright suggested that they place two of the wood cutouts on top of each other to create more depth for the required size. "It just was not working and I thought we need to stack these. It was a fun project that required some problem solving, which is something I enjoy. I really have loved all my Technology classes here." Classmate Seth Micalizio says he really enjoyed the task as well. It was a lot of fun and the chocolate was delicious."

Mr. Lepkyj says it was a great opportunity for the students to learn the new equipment. "After two years of not really being able to interact because of the pandemic, it was great teaching this new technology. The students were fascinated by how the 3D printer heats up liquid to make the mold. They also got a little lesson in chocolate making to figure out how the bar will come out of the mold. It was a real world project that the students really embraced and did a fantastic job with."

Mrs. Fuller says she was very pleased with the mold when it was presented to her. "It worked out wonderfully," she says. "I made 120 bars with it and they are all gone. I will be making more in the future. It was a great opportunity to work with the students and Mr. Lepkyj and just a great collaboration that will benefit us all."

The project seems to have sparked more ideas in the students and Mr. Lepkyj says the Technology and Engineering class is looking into more ways to use the technology he has purchased. "We have been making Buffalo Bills signs to raise money and donate to worthy causes and pretty soon we will start a unit on t-shirt making for all our students here. It is great to see the enthusiasm that the students have."



Seth Micalizio and Abigayle Wright



(LtoR) Abigayle Wright, Riley Tompkins, Seth Micalizio, Gordon Young, Rodrick Griffin, Braden Silker, Keneth Tireman and Mr. Lepkyj



Costume Contest Brings Out the Thrills and Chills

Our High School students had a blast at the school's Halloween costume contest. There were so many great costumes in the group and individual categories, it was hard to pick the top three!

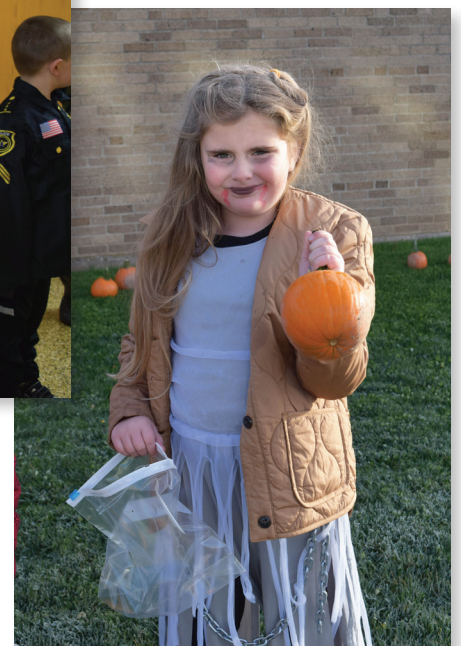
Our students really outdid themselves!



Halloween Parade

Our Oak Orchard students and staff had a great time dressing in their Halloween finest and parading in the hallways of the school!

They also got a chance to pick a pumpkin from the patch outside the school. Principal Jenn Stearns says thanks to the Student Activity fund, all students got a pumpkin and face stickers to decorate them before they brought them home.





Medina Duo Makes All-League Field Hockey Team

Congratulations to Medina Field Hockey players Lyla Lilleby and Penelope Schalck who have made the Niagara-Orleans All-League field hockey team!

The team placed third (8-4) this year thanks to the efforts of these two athletes. Junior, Lilleby is a repeat selection and contributed 24 goals and 10 assists and freshman, Schalck made 14 goals and had 13 assists.

Lydia Fox, Adeline Castricone and Baileigh McAdoo received an honorable mention.



Sports Roundup

Congratulations to senior Aiden Paul, who took first place honors in the All-League Golf Tournament. He is an amazing athlete!

The football team won their 3rd straight league championship, and were the #1 seed entering sectionals.





Medina's first team C North Division All-Stars on offense are: (LtoR) Roosevelt Mitchell, Noah Skinner and Cole Callard.

Medina Has Seven First Team C North All Stars

Story Courtesy of the Orleans Hub
 By Mike Wertman
 Photos by Cheryl Wertman

Champion Medina has placed seven players on the first team of the C North Division All-Star Football squad. Senior running back Noah Skinner, who was named C North Player of the Year, and senior lineman Chris Johnson, who was named Defensive Player of the Year, head Medina's contingent.

The Mustangs first team honorees also include senior defensive backs Cayden Lilleby and Aiden Pitts, senior defensive end Ollie Wilson, junior offensive lineman Roosevelt Mitchell and sophomore placekicker Cole Callard. Skinner rushed for 1,470 yards and 27 touchdowns and caught 8 passes for 160 yards and a TD. On defense, he had a team leading 61 tackles, including 47 solo, and 2 sacks. Johnson had 46 tackles, including 31

solo, and 1 sack; Mitchell 36 tackles, including 26 solo and 1 sack and Wilson 29 tackles, including 16 solo, and 4 sacks.

The Mustangs starting quarterback, Pitts completed 54 of 90 passes for 882 yards and 8 touchdowns and rushed for 410 yards and 4 TDs. On defense, he had 3 interceptions and a fumble recovery. Lilleby rushed for 304 yards and 5 touchdowns and caught 13 passes for 175 yards and 3 TDs. Defensively, he had 30 tackles, including 22 solo. Callard made good on 34 of 37 extra point attempts and also handled the Mustangs punting and kickoff duties. Medina also had five second team honorees including senior tight end Josh Wilson, junior offensive lineman Xavier King, junior running back Amari Soule and junior defensive backs Noah Cudzilo and Kaedon Cleveland.

The Mustangs also had junior lineman

Sawyer Kingsbury and junior defensive back Logan Gray receive Honorable Mention. Akron senior quarterback Chris Bergman was named C North Offensive Player of the Year. He passed for 1,753 yards and 15 touchdowns and rushed for 999 yards and 19 TDs. His favorite receiver, senior Donny Kreher, who also earned first team honors, caught 49 passes for 1,026 yards and 11 TDs. Akron's first team honors also included senior offensive lineman Jack Pazderski and senior defensive end Zander Borten.

Newfane's first team honorees included quarterback Nate Snow, wide receiver Ben Dickenson and offensive lineman Jonny Beter, all juniors. Snow passed for 1,172 yards and 11 touchdowns and rushed for 390 yards and 6 TDs. Dickenson caught 51 passes for 694 yards and 5 TDs.



Medina's first team defensive All-Stars include (LtoR) Chris Johnson, Cayden Lilleby, Aiden Pitts and Ollie Wilson.



Medina CSD Welcome Back Picnic Huge Success

Medina Central School District's Oak Orchard Primary and Clifford Wise Intermediate staff had a great time greeting students and their parents for their welcome back picnic on August 24th.

Students got a chance to meet their new teachers, say hello to their old teachers and bring in their supplies to kick off the new school year. Oak Orchard Primary Principal Jennifer Stearns says that students, at both schools who did not attend, will receive their assignment in the mail.

Mrs. Stearns says she and Clifford Wise Intermediate Principals Daniel Doctor and Chris Hughes were pleased with the turnout and very grateful to community organizations: Cornell Cooperative Extension (4H/Digital Literacy), the Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts, Medina Fire Department, Medina Police Department, Orleans County Mental Health, Medina Memorial Hospital, YMCA, MAAC, Lions Club, the Public Library, OCALS and Head Start for taking time out to talk to the parents and students.

MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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