

MUSTANG JOURNAL

MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



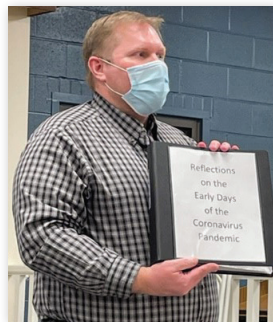
Higher Standards ... Higher Education

Winter 2022

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Medina Teacher Shares Student Reflections on Pandemic with Historical Society



When schools shut down from the COVID pandemic on March 13th, 2020, it was expected to last two weeks. Unfortunately, two weeks turned into the rest of the school year. The loss of in-person teaching for those several months proved detrimental to not only the students, but to teachers as well. Medina High School Social Studies teacher Todd Bensley says he and his fellow teachers struggled to find creative ways to teach students. “Following instructions from the New York State Education Department, the administrators of Medina Central Schools informed teachers that due to inequities in regards to internet access and requirements to follow the Individual Education Plan (IEP) for special education students, we were not allowed to assign new material to students. We could only review what we have covered up to that point in the school year. It was hard to keep covering old material month after month.”

Since Mr. Bensley is the Village of Medina Historian as well, he thought it would be important to document the experiences of students so that future generations could understand what life in the spring of 2020 was like. “I sent out a request to all the teachers in the district to consider giving students an assignment documenting their experiences during the pandemic that would be presented to the Medina Historical Society. Many teachers responded; some assigned writing projects to students, while others recorded their own experiences.”

Many of the district’s students put in a great amount of effort and enjoyed being able to document their experiences. “For some, it was therapeutic to be able to express their thoughts and feelings,” says Mr. Bensley. “For others, it gave them the opportunity to reflect upon what was truly important in life. Still, others were excited to be able to share their experiences with future generations.”

The writings were collected into a binder and presented to the Medina Historical Society at its January 2022 Show and Tell Night at the Lee-Whedon Library. “The members of the Medina Historical Society were very excited to receive the book,” says Mr. Bensley. “Many commented on how important it was to document our experiences on paper, since few people are leaving written records that are not exclusively online.”

Vision Statement

Exemplify excellence in education.

Mission Statement

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



Vocal Warm Ups

The Clifford Wise Intermediate School chorus ran through some pretty vigorous warmup exercises before launching into song.





Payne Named Football Player of the Year



Congratulations to Xander Payne, Medina Football quarterback! He has been named the Football Player of the Year by GNN Sports.

Payne, who is a senior, was honored following a season in which he led the Mustangs to a second consecutive Section VI Class championship. The team had 17 consecutive wins before falling to East Rochester/Gananda in the state quarter finals. Payne's leadership and performance won him the title and led to him being named Captain for the Elite 11 all-star team.

Payne threw for 1,635 yards this year, had 22 touchdowns on 57.9% completions and ranked in the top ten in almost every passing category in Western New York.

Payne, also a talented baseball player, will be attending SUNY Cortland next year. We could not be prouder of him!

Medina Students Embrace Philanthropy for Class Project

Medina High School teacher Krista Lindke was pleasantly surprised at the response she got from her 8th grade High School and Beyond students for a recent class activity. "The activity that I assigned was a philanthropy project about kindness and the spirit of giving. For six days, the class broke into three groups: People, Animals, and the Environment and they had to complete three tasks each and choose an organization to donate to."

The People team collected numerous winter clothing items and delivered them to the Batavia Salvation Army. They made Thanksgiving cards for the residents at Orchard Rehabilitation and Nursing Center and gifted candy to the nursing staff. They also made "Help a Teacher" tickets for the 8th grade teachers.

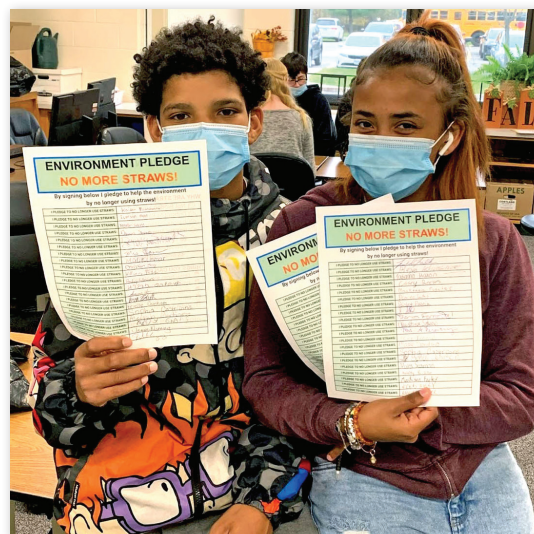
The Animal team collected and donated several cans/boxes of dog and cat food and delivered them to the Niagara County SPCA. They also crafted and delivered dog blankets to the Niagara County SPCA. In addition they constructed a couple feral cat boxes and placed them in the community and dog treats were distributed to the teachers for their pets or their neighbors'.

The Environment team collected over 1,000 can/bottle returns and donated the proceeds to the Nature Conservancy. Birdseed baggies were put together and distributed to the teachers. They had 100 people sign a "No More Straws" pledge sheet and they picked up litter after school.

"This was such an impactful activity for my class," says Mrs. Lindke. "The students really went above and beyond and their kindness was definitely abundant. I am very proud of them! We also could not have done it without the help of the wonderful teachers and staff at MHS!"



Cayden Manners, Madison Farley, Hagen Van Leuven, Allie Smith and Macenzie Sword.



Trevon Shine and Tatianna Maxon.



Robert Lechner, Dominic Waring and Milo Vidovich.



Movember Event Raises Money and Awareness for Mental Health at Medina CSD

Medina High School Social Studies teacher Joe Byrne challenges his male counterparts in the school district to grow some facial hair every November. “If you see some of the gentlemen on staff without their masks on, you will definitely notice an unusual amount of hair on their upper lip,” he jokes. “We all look like a throwback to the seventies.”

Movember brings attention to the growing number of men, around 10.8 million globally, that are facing life with a prostate cancer diagnosis. Globally testicular cancer is the most common cancer among young men. Mr. Byrne says this year the staff decided to bring attention to another health crisis that affects men. “Across the world, one man dies by suicide every minute of every day. Men account for 75% of all suicides. Frankly I was shocked and horrified by that number. I think as men, we have a tendency to not talk about mental health and live with the stigma that tending to our mental health is not manly or macho. This year we decided to make a long-term impact on our community with the endeavor to help change the face of men’s health. We encouraged our staff at Central Office, Transportation Department, Oak Orchard Elementary, Clifford Wise Intermediate and the High School to donate so we could present a check to Orleans County Mental Health to help with their mission.”



Joe Byrne (Social Studies and Medina Teachers’ Association President), Nola Goodrich-Karsesse (Orleans Mental Health), Danielle Figura (Orleans Mental Health) and Medina CSD Superintendent Mark Kruzynski.

On November 30th, Mr. Byrne and Superintendent Mark Kruzynski were honored to present a check for \$750 to Danielle Figura, Director of Community Services/Clinic Coordinator and Nola Goodrich-Karsesse, Orleans County Public Health Officer. “We are very happy to be able to present this money to them,” says Mr. Byrne. “Our goal was \$500 and we more than exceeded that. I am very proud of our staff for their contributions to this important cause.” Ms. Figura and Ms. Goodrich-Karsesse both said they are very grateful for the donation. “This is the first time, to my knowledge, we have ever been approached by an outside source to be considered for a monetary donation,” says Ms. Figura. “This is extremely generous and will benefit the community.”



Front row: Jesse Mankowski, Jeff Dole, Doug Boje, Evan Giacomini and Mike Gray. Back row: Mark Fitzpatrick, Jody Sargent, Eric Gross, Joe Byrne, Jon Sherman and Ed Williams.

The Orleans County Mental Health offers a full range of services designed to meet the mental health needs of area residents. The state-licensed clinic offers comprehensive programs representing a broad range of disciplines including psychiatry, psychology, social work and nursing. Their number is (585) 283-5200.

Ms. Goodrich-Karsesse says the money will be used towards Good Neighbor kits which contains information about mental health resources, coffee, tea and hot cocoa packets. Mr. Byrne is also hoping that the Suicide Prevention Coalition and Orleans Mental Health can partner to provide a workshop on suicide prevention in the community. Superintendent Mr. Kruzynski says he thinks the donation and workshop is a fantastic idea. “The fact that this was staff driven is just amazing. I think we are all aware of the impact that the pandemic has made on mental health and anything we can do at a local level to help is fabulous.”



Medina's Kaylee Lacey Selected As Presidential Scholars Program Nominee

Kaylee Lacey, a senior from Medina High School, is among 25 in New York State to be nominated for the US Presidential Scholars Program. State Education Commissioner, Betty A. Rosa, made the announcement on December 16th.

The recognition is one of our nation's most prestigious honors for high school students. Medina High School Principal Michael Cavanagh says, "We were extremely excited to find out that one of our 12th grade AVID students, Kaylee Lacey, was selected from our district. We know Kaylee has worked extremely hard and definitely deserves this incredible honor, a heartfelt thank you goes out to Director of School Counseling Audralee Doll for nominating her to the state."

Mrs. Doll says, "Kaylee is one of our most outstanding students at Medina High School. Going above and beyond in every way possible, Kaylee is not only salutatorian among her cohort, but she will also graduate with a New York State Honors Regents Diploma with an Advanced Designation in Science – a title so rare that only few have reached this distinction in previous years."

Kaylee will also be presented with two District awards, the James Perry Craft, Sr. School of Mathematics and Science and the John Ryan School of Historical Excellence. Her school activities include Drum Major of the Marching Band, Impact Club, Conservation Club, Swim Team and Softball Team.

After graduation, Kaylee plans to attend school to become a pharmacist.



Holiday Concert

It was great to hear the sweet sounds of our Intermediate School students fill the stage again.

What a great way to kick off the holiday season with a concert!





Medina High School Collects Essential Items For Those in Need

In the past, the Student Association at Medina High School has collected canned goods for those in need in the community and donated them to MAAC (Medina Area Association of Churches). Teacher and Student Association Co-Advisor Sara Cinquino says last year, with the unknowns of COVID transmission, the students took part in a peanut butter and jelly drive instead. "This year we decided we would collect essential items like paper products and hygiene products for MAAC to distribute. We were thrilled to be able to donate 1,971 items through our school drive."



Members of the Medina Fire Department stopped at the school December 8th, where the students helped them load the donations into their ambulances. Sherry Tuohey, a volunteer with MAAC says she is very grateful for the outreach project from the High School. "The students did an outstanding job! I couldn't believe all the personal care and paper products we received. These will be so beneficial to families we are helping this Christmas. I want to thank them for making it such a huge success!"

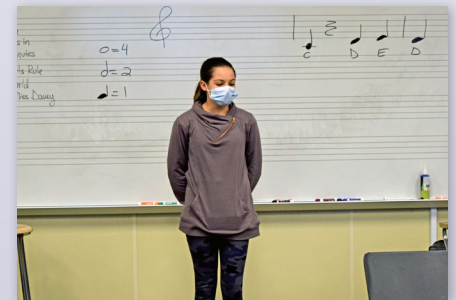


Getting Ready for the Big Show!

Clifford Wise Intermediate School is getting ready to shake off the winter blues with a talent show. Recently, our talented students auditioned for co-Principal Daniel Doctor for a chance to show off their performance skills.



Budding comedians Clayton Wagner and Gavin Hughes.



Singer Rachel Herber.





Celebrating the Students of the Month

The Medina Teachers' Association, the Medina Central School District and the Medina Area Partnership are proud to announce the November and December 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. Business sponsor for the month of November was C&H PC and the month of December was the Author's Note.

Congratulations go to:

November:

- Oak Orchard: Second-grader Henry Dresser, who was nominated by Jamie Brooks and Travis Phillips.
- Wise Intermediate School: Sixth-grader Eleanor Weese, who was nominated by Olivia Zambito and Kari Webster.
- High School: Senior Kristi Oliver, who was nominated Sara Cinquino and Kayla Rosenbeck.



November Students of the Month Photo: (LtoR) MCSD Superintendent Mark Kruzynski, MTA President Joe Byrne, Henry Dresser, Kristi Oliver, Riki Lake, Joseph D'Amore, and Steven Davis.

December:

- Oak Orchard: First-grader Easton Hodgins, who was nominated by Allison Woodburn.
- Wise Intermediate School: Third-grader Jordan Boryzewski, who was nominated by Megan Zambito and Katie Toub.
- High School: Ninth grader Mackenzie Poynter, who was nominated by Kayla Rosenbeck.



December Students of the Month Photo: (LtoR) Julie Berry from the Author's Note, Joe Byrne MTA President, Mackenzie Poynter, Easton Hodgins, and Joel Reed Medina High School Assistant Principal.



Three Medina Students Inducted into National Technical Honor Society

Congratulations to Serenity Baumgart, Brooklyn Garrow, and Karina Rotoli, students who attend the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center. They were recently inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Out of all the high school students in the United States, the National Technical Honor Society students who receive this honor comprise 1.6 percent of that population. For staff at the Orleans/BOCES center, they represent the four pillars of the National Technical Honor Society: scholarship, leadership, service and character.

The students were honored in front of their teachers, families and school district representatives. The students had to maintain an 89.5 grade average in their career and technical education programs and an 84.5 average at their high schools, have superior attendance, exemplary behavior, be a member in good standing with SkillsUSA and have a recommendation from a faculty member.



Serenity Baumgart, Karina Rotoli and Brooklyn Garrow.

Serenity Baumgart is in the Animal Science Program, Brooklyn Garrow takes the Security & Law Enforcement Program and Karina Rotoli is in the Allied Health program.

Medina's Oak Orchard Swears In Safety Patrols

Medina Central School District's SRO (School Resource Officer) Officer Dustin Meredith recently swore in the safety patrols at Oak Orchard Elementary School. Superintendent Mark Kruzynski, Medina Police Department Lieutenant Todd Draper and several staff members were on hand to take part in the ceremony.

Thirteen students have volunteered to help the younger students at the bus loading and unloading zone, hallways and playgrounds to help keep them safe. The students were recommended by staff members for their outstanding behavior and their willingness to help others.

The Medina Police Department donated hot cocoa and doughnut holes to celebrate the students' achievement. We are so proud of these students!



Standing (LtoR): Lieutenant Todd Draper, Dylan Wood, Molly Flansburg, Savannah Finch, Isabella Eaton, Abigail Sutch, Destiny Cherry and Officer Dustin Meredith. Front Row: Jack Smith, Henry Dresser, Kellan Bensley and Logan Bashford. Absent From the picture: Fiona Travis and Juliana Poole.



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Mr. Christopher Hughes
Principal

Mr. Daniel Doctor
Principal / Community Outreach Liaison

OAK ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL (585) 798-2700

Mrs. Jennifer Stearns
Principal

Snowcoming!

Our students and staff had a great time at the annual Snowcoming event! Many of the classrooms had different activities set up for the students to enjoy before the kick off of holiday break.

