

MUSTANG JOURNAL

MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Higher Standards ... Higher Education

Fall 2021

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Vision Statement

Exemplify excellence in education.

Mission Statement

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



A Message from your Superintendent

It seems like it was just yesterday that we welcomed all of our students back to school to 100% in-person learning. It is tough to believe that we have passed the Thanksgiving Recess. This year, the Medina CSD is partnered with the 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 talk about 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 educational careers, teachers are very 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 the development of personal responsibility, which is so important in success at school. 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 be successful in school, and in life.

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

Mark B. Kruzynski
Superintendent



Mr. Mark Kruzynski
Superintendent

Elementary School Students Learn About Fire Safety

Thanks to the Medina Fire Department who brought the Orleans County Fire Safety Trailer to Oak Orchard Primary School for Fire Safety Week. Members of the Fire Department also gave a fire prevention presentation to each of the classrooms.

It was a great way to showcase what the Fire Department does to keep our community safe and the students found it fun and informative with the life saving tips.



Mrs. Katie Toub's 3rd grade class with members of the Medina Fire Department – Adam Fisher and Donato Rosario.



FACS Class Makes Treats Inspired by Fall Favorite



The Family and Consumer Science (FACS) students at Clifford Wise Intermediate School were inspired by a fall favorite: pumpkin! Teacher Kristen Armenia had her sixth graders participate in a pumpkin baking project. "We baked sweet sugar pie pumpkins and used the puree to make pumpkin spiced muffins, with chocolate chips of course!"

The class also baked and seasoned the seeds for a healthy snack.



FFA Takes Part in Alpaca Farm Trail Days

Medina Central School District Agricultural Education teacher Todd Eick and his FFA students recently took part in an Alpaca Farm Trail Days the weekend of September 25-26th. The model farm at the High School became a destination stop along with three other farms including Ladue Alpacas (Brockport), Mayfield's Equestrian and Alpacas (Albion) and Stoney Meadow Alpacas (Holley). "We were invited to join the other farms based on our previous work and experience with Stoney Meadow Alpacas from Holley," explains Mr. Eick.

The twenty students, who took part, had a great time meeting with members of the community (estimated to be over 300) and educating them about their animals and the products they make along with some demonstrations. Brooke Moden, the FFA Chapter Reporter says, "For the first year doing this, we had a great turnout and our FFA team had a great time interacting with the community and telling them what our AgEd program is all about. We loved educating our visitors about the animals and we allowed them to walk them and get super close to them. We have much planned for our farm and we hope for it to grow bigger and better as the years come."

Mr. Eick says he got nothing but positive feedback about the weekend. "Most attendees were surprised and amazed that Medina CSD supported a real working farm on campus as a hands-on opportunity for students. A few had commented how much they learned from the students and found it fascinating to see how engaged, professional and knowledgeable our AgEd students are."



Freshman Tyler Allen and Fiesta the llama.



Sophomore Iyla Lilleby demonstrating one of the FFA's knitting machines.



Oak Orchard Students Engage in Enrichment Opportunities



At Oak Orchard, Exploration Time is for 1st and 2nd graders. “Students participate in a 12 school day rotation where they visit one of 13 different offerings from teachers,” explains Principal Jennifer Stearns. “The offerings are meant to enrich student’s life experiences outside of school and support building their background knowledge.”

Offerings range from yoga, snack making, beekeeping, STEAM/STEM, exotic sports, Legos, board games, and on. Our goal is to determine areas of interest to help us expand our extracurricular offerings at the primary level in the future.





Mustang Marching Band Falls Back Into Step After Canceled 2020 Season

The Mustang Marching Band has been a source of pride for many years in Medina Central School District. Last year, due to the pandemic, marching bands across the state had to cancel their competition season. For many it has not been an easy way back to the field. Band Director Jimmy Steele says that although the high school and intermediate school students were still able to get individual lessons virtually or hybrid last school year, it was unclear how they would all come together. "In 2019, we were New York State Champions and now we have to work our way back with losing about 20% of the band because of graduations. We really didn't do a lot of recruiting. Unfortunately, the new norm for many of our students is staying at home, watching TV and being with their families only. Many of them did not pick up their instruments for a couple of years and many felt reluctant to get together with other students so we didn't get the normal amount of new members. We usually have 10% of the school participate in band and most of students are from 7th to 9th grade, this year most are in 10th to 12th grade."



Mr. Steele says even though they are down to 87 students as opposed to the normal 100-105, they are still the third largest in the state. "We are lucky, many of the schools are facing challenges in getting enough members and some are not even participating in the season this year. We have a good core group of students and it is going well. Our new show is entitled "Together Again" and it plays off of our past shows, "Together As One" and "Walk the Path". It is a true celebration of being back after the pandemic."

This season, students are readjusting to a normal season and getting their marching fundamentals back in sync. They seem to enjoy coming together and creating the magic again. "Their dedication is amazing and we are looking forward to a safe and enjoyable competition season," says Mr. Steele.

The Mustang Marching Band Wins Championship

The Medina Marching Band won the championship during the New York State Field Band Championships at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse.

Medina had the highest score, 94.75, among the nine bands in the Small School 1 Division.

Medina's performed a program called "Together Again" in a return to competition after the 2020 season was wiped out due to Covid-19. Medina also won the title in 2019.



Medina's score on Sunday topped New Hartford at 92.40; Mineola at 92.25; Malvern at 90.60; East Syracuse-Minoa at 89.65; East Irondequoit at 88.45; Central Square at 87.50; Oswego at 87.10; and Mohonasen at 82.70.

Sunday's event also included the induction of retired Medina Marching Band Director Joseph McKain into the 2021 NYS Field Band Conference Hall of Fame. McKain led the marching band in Medina from 1970 to 1999.



Jackson Tuohey's School Spirit Makes Mark on Medina Football

Medina Football Head Coach Eric Valley calls Jackson Tuohey the team's one-man cheering crew. "Jackson is the team's manager and their biggest hype man. The players and students love to give him high fives and everyone remembers him even if they graduated seven years ago."

Jackson has special needs and as he continues his education at the high school, he is actively involved in unified basketball and bowling and attends every sporting event he can. He joined the football team seven years ago at the urging of his parents and Coach Valley, who thought it would be a great way to get him involved in the athletic program. Coach Valley's support and encouragement of Jackson's love of Mustang sports means a lot to his family and they, along with the rest of fans, love watching Jackson's enthusiasm at all the games.

At football practice, Jackson stretches with the team, assists in coaching and helps out wherever he can. "Medina means a lot to me," he says. "I love Medina so much." Valley says Jackson will always have a place with the team. "As long as he's willing to come to our practices, we're willing to have him. I would never say no to him whether he was 14 or 40 years old. He brings such a great energy to our program."



Trick or Treat!

The Clifford Wise Intermediate School students and staff got into the Halloween spirit with some great costumes!





Students of the Month

Congratulations to our October Students of the Month Peyton Kennedy and Avery Crooks!



(LtoR) Zach Fike and Joe Cecchini from the Medina FFA, Peyton Kennedy, Avery Crooks, MTA President Joe Byrne, and MCS D Superintendent Mark Kruzynski.

Clifford Wise Students Visit US Landmarks Virtually

Students in Mollie Mark's third grade class have been learning about various landmarks across the United States along with a geography lesson.

Recently they strapped on their VR headsets and visited the Statue of Liberty, the Lincoln Memorial, the Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Park. The kids had a blast!





The World is My Pumpkin?

Tiffany Cree's third, fourth and sixth grade World Culture classes were inspired by the fall weather when they made world globes in class. "The students painted pumpkins prior to Halloween to resemble a globe," she explains. "We first painted them blue and then labeled all the continents and oceans before bring them home to share with their families."

The students have been focusing on a geography unit and getting comfortable with the locations of the continents and oceans. "We are also learning about the celebration of Dia de los Muertos within the Mexican culture," says Ms. Cree.





Homecoming 2021: Boundless Biomes!

Our High School students and staff had a blast during homecoming week! They really got creative with their costumes for the various theme days! The Student-Staff Swap Day seemed very popular!

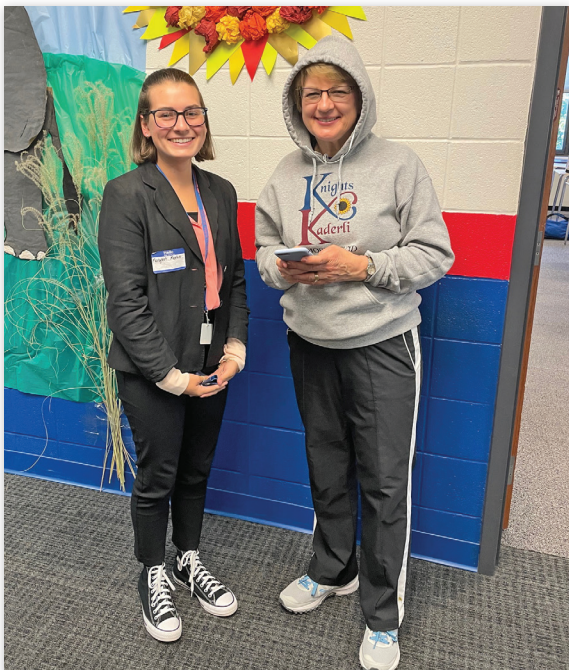
Student Staff Swap Day



(LtoR) Student Justin McAdoo and Counselor Audralee Doll.



Teachers (LtoR): Jennifer Ossont, Todd Bensley, Margaret Martin and PJ Bell.



(LtoR) Student Bailey McAdoo and teacher Margaret Martin

Biomes



Teacher Michele Crandall and student Noah Skinner



Mustangs Impress with Football Playoff Debut

Story by Mike Wertman, Sports Writer for Orleans Hub,
Photos by Cheryl Wertman, Orleans Hub

Venturing into uncharted waters, Medina made its state football playoff debut on November 13th as the Mustangs took on East Rochester/Gananda in the Class C Far West Regional contest at noon at Williamsville South High School.

Although it did not turn out as they hoped, the team still put on an impressive showing with a 26-24 decision that saw the East Rochester/Gananda take home the Class C Far West Regional Championship. "It's huge," said Medina Coach Eric Valley of advancing to the state playoffs. "Just to have a chance to win a state title. I'm just super glad for the kids to have this opportunity."

Fresh from capturing sectional championships both the Mustangs and Bombers brought 11-0 records into the state playoffs.

Medina romped to a very snowy 48-6 win over Fredonia to claim a second straight Section VI Class C title while East Rochester/Gananda outlasted Bath Haverling 18-12 in double overtime to earn the Section V Class C crown.

"We just didn't get enough opportunities and that is much to their credit," says Valley of the Bombers ability to control the ball.

We just want to say how proud we are of our amazing football team and what a great showing with an 11-1 record!





Homecoming Celebration



Medina Central School District





MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Principal

Medina Primary and Intermediate Schools Hosted Welcome Back Picnic for Students

Oak Orchard Primary School Principal Jenn Stearns and Clifford Wise Intermediate Co-Principals Daniel Doctor and Chris Hughes got the new school year off to a good start with a meet and greet with students and their families.

On Monday, August 30th, the two schools hosted a welcome back picnic. "We felt this was a good head start to the new school year and it was nice to see the kids and their parents," says Mr. Hughes. "Also since we now have the third grade at the Intermediate school and it gave the students and their parents a chance to get comfortable with that."

Mrs. Stearns says the get together achieved many goals. "It was an opportunity to visit the campus before the start of school, meet some of the staff, allow the students to catch up with friends and for us to get everyone's paperwork before school actually starts. For some of our students, they have not been in class for over a year and a half. We wanted to ease any fears they have about coming back and get them excited."

It was great seeing so many students and families!

