

# MUSTANG JOURNAL

MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Higher Standards ... Higher Expectations

Winter 2018



**Mark B. Kruzynski**  
Superintendent

## 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

During the last several years, there have been many complaints from parents and teachers about the New York State Assessments. The complaints argued that the tests were too long, too difficult, developed by companies that have never been inside of a school classroom, and that the results of those tests were not used to help students, but instead used to punish teachers. Those complaints have led to NYS Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia to conduct a review of the entire testing program. The Commissioner heard the complaints, and listened to parents, teachers, and students from across New York State. Beginning this year, the New York State Education Department has implemented the following changes to the New York State Testing Program:

- Testing will last no longer than one hour and fifteen minutes on any given day. However, students will have unlimited time to complete the test, should they desire the time.
- Testing will be no more than 2 days per subject
- Tests will have fewer questions
- Tests will be created by a team of teachers and other educational professionals
- The testing contract with Pearson Education has been thrown out
- The results of these tests will be held against students, and will not be used to punish students
- The results of these tests will be shared with teachers, who can use these results to improve instruction
- Our curriculum will continually change and improve as a result of these tests.
- The results of these tests will no longer be used to punish teachers

As an educator, I have much more confidence in the NYS Testing Program today. I commend our Commissioner for listening to parents and teachers and adjusting the state assessments. I encourage all parents to allow their children to take these upcoming state assessments. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Kruzynski  
Superintendent of Schools

## FFA Students Make Gift for Those Who Support Citrus Sale

The FFA students were hard at work making useful, organic dryer balls out of the wool from their farm's llamas and alpacas. The dryer balls reduce drying time by absorbing the moisture from laundry and are a natural alternative to chemical filled dryer sheets and softener.

FFA advisor, Todd Eick, "We harvested the fiber here, we dry-felted it, use pantyhose to help keep the shape and put in the washing machine and they are ready to use in place of dryer sheets. People can even put essential oils on them to fragrance their laundry. They last indefinitely and will absorb the moisture out of the clothes and help your dryer run better. We put them in our sampler box from our citrus sale, so anyone who ordered one got a pair as one of the items. It was a time consuming process, but it's pretty cool for the kids to make."

Mr. Eick said once the students saw the finished project, they were excited and came right into class and got started immediately. The students hope that everyone enjoyed their natural, earth-friendly, handmade gift.



(LtoR): Shianne Sullinger, Madison Bielak, George Schlegel, Alden Cayea, and Alexandra White



**Michael Cavanagh**  
Medina High School  
Principal

## High School Students Say WE READ

Dozens of high school students volunteered their time to come and read to kindergarten classes and first grade students at Oak Orchard as part of the WE READ program.



Here is Christian Hahn, who shares a story with some kindergarten students.



## Medina High School Students Help Feed Area Families

Once again the Medina Student Association came to the aid of local families who might not have enough to eat over the holidays.

The students held a canned food drive to benefit the MAAC (Medina Area Association of Churches) Christmas Program. At the high school, over 2,500 items were collected for families in need.

Great job everyone!



## FFA Says The Holidays Are Going to the Dogs!

Members of the High School's FFA made sure that pets got into the action when it came to talking to Santa about what they wanted for Christmas. The students spent a Saturday at Tractor Supply before the holidays with Santa and Mrs. Clause (Tom and Kim Fuller). Pictures were free for all that came, but donations were accepted. Over 50 pets, kids, and families took home an early holiday gift from the FFA and Tractor Supply.







## Music Teacher Lisa Roeseler Ends Career on a High Note



Medina High School Music teacher, Lisa Roeseler is ending an over three decade career in June of 2018. "I started at Towne Elementary School in September of 1986," she says. "I came to the High School in September of 1987. I actually ended up teaching at every school because I was a traveling teacher for a part of my career."

She says there were many highlights in her career like having her choir sing at Kleinhan's Music Hall twice. One of those times was working with Grammy and Emmy winning music director and composer John McDaniel. "He was working as the Music Director at The Rosie O'Donnell Show and he was the guest conductor with the BPO that year," she remembers. "He had tears in his eyes because he was so moved by our choir." She also said that her A'Cappella Select Ensemble singing backup for the group Foreigner at Art Park was a big deal. "We performed I Want to Know What Love Is with them. That was June of 2012, ten thousand people in the crowd. It was fabulous. It was an awesome experience." She also point to her choirs getting A+ ratings at level six at the NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) competitions. "I wanted to build the choir back up to where Mr. Connor left it."

Mr. Connor was her choir teacher when she attended Medina High School. "I have so many fond memories of being in the choir. He did a lot of great things and taught so many people, myself included. It was a great honor when he attended our St. Mary's concert right before he passed away. He always supported me in my career."



She says it has been wonderful to work at the district that she graduated from and that her mother and father worked at. "I am so grateful to Mr. Snyder, the Principal at the time, for taking a chance on me. I was a trumpet player and intended to be an instrumental band director. He interviewed me and gave me the job as high school choir director. When I began teaching at the high school, there was just one big choir."

Right away, she split the group into two choirs, just as Mr. Connor had. "And so, I began with 17 in Mixed Chorus and 43 in A'Capella. The program began to grow throughout my career and A'Capella now averages 92 to 100 and Mixed Chorus 85 to 90. I am very happy that the Medina community continues to embrace the choirs. I really hope the tradition of the A'Capella Choir continues after my retirement because that is part of Medina, when I think of it."

The irony of her career is that she never intended to be a music teacher. "I started out in music therapy at Slippery Rock. My first calling was to be a nurse, but I was afraid of the needles and blood," she laughs. "Then I thought, music therapy is kind of medical. Back in the day, they didn't really exist though except for jobs out in California. I thought I better find another career and a friend of mine



was studying music education at Mansfield University and suggested it to me, so I transferred."

When asked what she would tell current students about being a music educator she says, "It is a grueling program. It should be a six year program. I would only encourage a select few of my students to go into it. What it really boils down to is personality. If you don't have the personality to snatch those kids and grow your program it won't fly no matter how good of a musician you are. You do what you have to do to get out of them what you need to. You have to be committed."

She says Christmas time is hard for any music teacher, but to her, the Community Christmas Concert at St. Mary's is too much of a tradition to let go. "We started out at the Presbyterian Church where Mr. Connor had it, but we simply outgrew that church. I was the organist at St. Mary's, so I asked the rectory if we could move it there. We've held it there ever since. I have been asked why I don't have this particular concert at the High School. I never wanted to, because it then becomes a high school concert. It is for the community, so I wanted to keep it in the community. It is a lot of stress every year, wondering if the A'Capella Choir can learn the 14 songs, and if they're going to be ready for the concert. They always pull through with flying colors! I am fortunate enough that my husband and sons have been so supportive of me through the years. My husband is the founding (and only) member of my booster club," she laughs. "He has been there for me for 27 years to help set up and tear down at every community concert. He has been a saint."

Looking back, she says she had wished she knew the first few years teaching were probably her greatest. "A lot of my students back then are now teachers, like Mrs. Woodruff, Mrs. Jones and Mr. Eick, just to name a few. They were my first students. We laughed a lot and it was just a simpler time. I have a lot of great memories, but it is time for me to move on. I just want to tend to my lawn and work in our vegetable gardens. Maybe take a part-time job at a local store or be a receptionist in a medical office. All I can say is that it has been a wonderful, wonderful career here. I hope whoever takes over continues with our traditions. I think the A'Capella Choir is one of Medina's best kept secrets. I get emotional when I look at my choirs and I see the smorgasbord of students from athletes, the highly academic, and the kids who just go home after school and watch TV. It's a melting pot, but when you get them together for the purpose of expressing themselves through singing, they just shine. When that happens, I feel like I have succeeded."

Superintendent Mark Kruzynski says that Mrs. Roeseler is a true treasure for the Medina Central School District. "One of the highlights every year is watching her choirs perform, both at St. Mary's and in the school. Personally, I am really going to miss working with Lisa. I would like to wish her all of the best for a long and happy retirement. It is going to be impossible to replace her."





## Medina High School Celebrates Snowcoming!

Students and staff at the High School got into the holiday spirit with their annual Snowcoming. The weeklong event is a lot of fun for the students as they engage in traditional winter activities and various theme days. It's a great way to bond before the winter break!

A special thank you to our Board of Education President Dave Sevenski who donated the tree for the high school.



Left to right: Xander Payne and Isaac Pace



Left to Right: Robert Vidovich, Dan Squires, Jose Negron-Gonzalez, Robert Morehouse



Alissa Blount and Sarah Cochran



(RtoL) Christian Hahn and Toby Kiebala with Sarah Cochran on the bottom.



Alyssa Beyer, teacher Gianna Sargent, Shelby Green, Madison Kenward, Kristi Oliver, Gianna Greco and Lilly Carpenter



Mug Painting (Paint your own pottery with Brushstrokes studios). Left to right: Allie Schlegel, Shianne Sullinger, Emily Metz



Shelby Green, Kevin Lasky (Assistant Principal), Dave Sevenski (BOE President)



Back Left to right: Todd Bensley-teacher, Shelby Green, Christian Hahn, Pierson Bell-teacher. Front Madison Kenward and Hannah Sones.





## Clifford Wise Middle School FFA Gathers Donations for Angel Tree Families

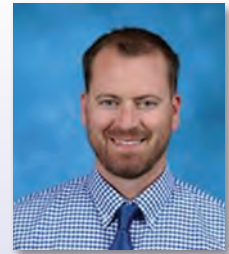
Every year, staff at Clifford Wise Middle/Intermediate School donates gifts for their Angel Tree that benefits several families with children in the Medina School District.

This year the Jr. FFA decided to help out. With the guidance of their advisor, Kristen Armenia, they wrote to the makers of some of their favorite products. "In addition to those presents we like to send home hygiene products to the families. The students wrote letters to the companies that manufacture hygiene products, and asked them for donations. They were so excited when they received toothbrushes, toothpaste, lotion, body wash and body cream donated."

She says it was a good learning experience for the students to write letters and help out others in their community.



*(LtoR) Marah Ritzenhaler, Camryn Eick and Kristen Armenia.*



**Christopher Hughes**  
*Clifford Wise Intermediate/  
Middle School Principal*

## Clifford Wise Students Share Artwork to Encourage Relaxation

As many of us know, the holiday season can be a stressful time. Recently 6th and 7th graders created a relaxing and inviting space at Clifford Wise Intermediate/Middle School. Art teacher, Judy Light, says to meet the national standards that were adopted for the arts in New York State, the students completed a 10 week class to create a Relax and Refresh Gallery in the art room hallway. "This helped to teach students about all the process and choices made in presenting a finished work," said Mrs. Light. "This quarter our gallery offered up 6th grade marker mandalas and 7th grade patterned animal designs. In addition, each student selected a quote from a famous person they admire."



*6th graders from (LtoR) Baleigh McAdoo, Xavier Bloom, Ethan Page and Courtney Cabcic*

The quotes had to relate to Wise's Mustang Mission of working hard to achieve their goals with the four pillars of: Respect, Responsibility, Honesty and Kindness. Students chose quotes from authors, athletes, performers, scientists and politicians and hung them next to their artwork. An invite was sent out to staff, students and visitors to come and see the gallery and take time to relax, reflect and refresh while viewing the display and words of wisdom.

The students' designs were also copied and shared with 4th and 5th grade art classes as a peaceful coloring activity.





## Music in the Air



To kick off their winter recess, the Clifford Wise Middle School students were treated to a holiday concert by their very own band. The musicians, under the direction of music teacher Mrs. Botsford, played a festive program to the delight of their schoolmates.

*Fifth grade teacher Jason Klein and student Makenzie McGrath get into the holiday spirit.*



## Middle School Students Use Creative Skills To Promote Peace

Congratulations to our students who won the Lions International Peace Poster contest through the local Medina Lions Branch, Elaina Huntington took first place and Katelyn Hilobuk was runner up. They were recognized on January 9th at a dinner at the Medina Lions Club and awarded cash prizes.

"This is an international contest about Peace for middle school students that runs annually," says Art teacher Judy Light. "Using no words, students are asked to create an image of peace. I run the poster contest in my Art 6 classrooms and offer participation to and 6th, 7th or 8th graders that are interested. We had 28 entries this year. A message of the need for peace seemed even more timely this year with the mass shootings and terrorism that is happening throughout the world."



*Lions Club member Jim Hancock (Project Chairman), Elaina Huntington (6th grade student/ 1st place winner) and Lions Club Vice President Billy Roman.*



*Jim Hancock, Katelyn Hilobuk (6th grade student/ Runner up) and Billy Roman.*





## Holiday Gift Shop Gives Students A Chance to Shop

Thanks to the generosity of Oak Orchard parents and volunteers, every child was able to have a present for their family members.

Every year, Oak Orchard opens up their holiday store with a bounty of beautiful and thoughtful gifts that children can pick from to gift their loved ones. The children love being able to select the perfect present for their parents and siblings and staff and volunteers help them to wrap them so they can take them home for holidays.



*Leah Sones shops for her family with the assistance of Mrs. Benthin.*



**Julie Webber**  
Oak Orchard Elementary School  
Principal



## Red Cross Donation

Thanks to all the Oak Orchard students who donated their spare change for victims of the hurricanes. The Student Council made a \$200 donation to the American Red Cross with all the money they collected at lunch. Well done!

## Safety Patrol Thanked For Hard Work

The Safety Patrol, along with advisor Jeffrey Annable, were recently treated to some hot chocolate and doughnuts for braving the elements and doing a great job.



## Jumping for a Good Cause

The students at Oak Orchard Elementary raised \$3,900 for the American Heart



*Third grader  
Angelina Adkins.*

Association's Jump Rope for Heart campaign! Principal Julie Webber wants to thank all the school's friends and families who donated for this very worthy cause.





# Oak Orchard Elementary School

## The Stars Come Out for Oak Orchard Family Fun Night

The stars of Medina High School made a special appearance for their recent Family Fun Night. The theme was "Happiness is Being a Shining Star".

The "stars" signed autographs, including school mascot, Maverick, and spent some time with students telling them that they are stars too!



*Maverick and the rest of the High School stars sign autographs.*



*Third grader Addison Carr.*



# Medina Central School District

## Medina School Students of the Month

### November

The Medina Teachers Association, the Medina School District and the Medina Business Association are proud to announce the November selections for Students of the Month. This award is a combined 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 My Cowboy Transportation.

The winners are:

- Oak Orchard: second grader- Payton Denniston -nominated by Mrs. Jennings
- Wise Middle School: sixth-grader- Kaedon Cleveland -nominated by Mrs. Zambito
- High School: post-graduate student- Shianne Sullinger -nominated by Mrs. Rutledge

### December

The Medina Teachers Association, the Medina School District and the Medina Business Association are proud to announce the December selections for Students of the Month. This award is a combined 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 Filomena's Favorites.

The winners are:

- Oak Orchard: first grader- Jude Lacy -nominated by Mrs. Woodburn
- Wise Middle School: sixth grader- Roosevelt Mitchell -nominated by Mr. Haak, Mrs. Jaekle, Mrs. Webster, and Mrs. Leathers
- High School: eighth grader- Isaac Pace -nominated by Mr. Byrne and Mrs. Darnell Gray

### January

The Medina Teachers Association, the Medina Central School District and the Medina Business Association are proud to announce the January 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 The English Rose Tea Shoppe.

The winners are:

- Oak Orchard: third grader Dominic Amrhein -nominated by Katie Toub
- Wise Middle School: seventh grader Bailey Clare -nominated by Jessica Catalano McCloskey
- High School: tenth grader Jelia Howard, nominated by Margaret Martin and Kelly Gates

*Congratulations to all our winners!*



*Superintendent Mark Kruzynski, Shianne Sullinger, Kaedon Cleveland, Payton Denniston, and MTA President Joe Byrne.*



*(LtoR) Superintendent Mark Kruzynski, Isaac Pace, Filomena's Favorites owner Danette Oakes, Jude Lacy, Roosevelt Mitchell, and MTA President Joe Byrne.*



*Superintendent Mark Kruzynski, Rebecca Robinson from English Rose Tea Shoppe, Jelia Howard, Bailey Clare, and MTA President Joe Byrne.*





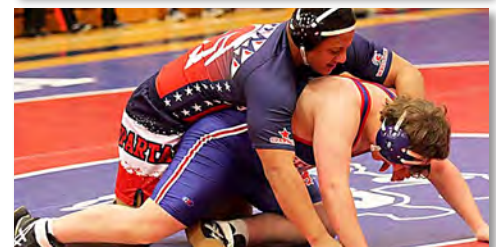
## Sports Wrap-up

Our Boys Basketball Team is crushing it! They are seeking their third straight N-O Title thanks to the stellar coaching by Tom Forrestel who has completed his milestone 200th career victory. This is his 18th year of coaching varsity basketball and his 20th year of coaching overall with two years spent with modified basketball. "I really don't think this is a big deal," he said of his achievement. "I am lucky to be surrounded by great coaches and great players. It is truly a team effort. I am just a hard working coach who cares about his guys and I am surrounded by players and coaches who want to do a great job. This is really not about me, it is about the players I have had throughout the years, probably around 250, and the coaches who assist me."

Coach Forrestel says he got into coaching because he himself was an athlete. "I love sports and have since I was a kid. When I could not compete anymore, I still had this competitiveness and I wanted to pass down my love of sports to kids. It's been great."

A big congratulations to our Mustang Competitive Cheerleading Squad! They won the first annual Niagara-Orleans League Cheerleading Championship competition on January 25th at Akron High School. Their flawless routine beat out Akron and Wilson in the N-O D2 small varsity division for the win! They also had the highest score of the competition, beating out Newfane in the D2 large varsity division to take home the title of as Niagara Orleans League Champions.

Wrestlers Coby Petrie (126) and Elijah Sones (195) earned championships at Medina's annual Gary Gross Memorial Wrestling Tournament recently. Taking third place were DaRon Bellan (132) and Cody Crane (220). The tournament honors the memory of Gary Gross, the father of Medina Coach Eric Gross, who was a longtime avid supporter of the Mustang wrestling program.



## Medina CSD to Promote Communitywide Reading Campaign

Don't be surprised if you start seeing "WE READ" signs popping up all over Medina. It is all part of a new campaign started by teachers, students and administrators from all the school buildings, as well as representatives from the community. "We met back in October to discuss ways in which we might promote the benefits of reading within the entire community," explains High School teacher Elizabeth Dickhut. "During the discussion we generated many exciting ideas, ideas meant to celebrate the power of reading in our schools and more importantly, in the community of Medina. We realized that while our goal is always to get kids to read, the bigger goal is to create and foster a culture of reading."

The WE READ campaign's mission statement is the Five Reasons for Reading:

1. Promotes life-long learning
2. Cultivates the imagination
3. Fosters communication and compassion
4. Shapes future leaders
5. Leads to higher earning potential



*Continued on Page 12*





## A Fond Farewell to Sheldon DeHollander

It is with a heavy heart, that the Medina CSD Transportation Department informs everyone that Sheldon (Shelly) DeHollander has passed away.

The story of Sheldon DeHollander is an easy one to tell, almost so easy it tells itself. He was a small town man, with an overly large heart, which made him a staple in our small community in many ways. He was the kind of man that helped anyone, everyone and brought pure joy to all around him.

He was a lifetime member of the Ridgeway Volunteer Fire Department, a bus driver of 18 years, and played Santa for all the children in our small town for over thirty years. You could say he was very dedicated and loved the place he called home.

Above all he loved the children, they were his driving force and something he looked forward to each day. This past summer Sheldon was diagnosed with Stage 4 Non-Operable Small Cell Lung Cancer, which forced him to take some time away from the Transportation Department and his kids on Bus F. This was very sad news to us, as Shelly's smile and laugh were truly contagious, it lit up our breakroom daily.

This November Shelly's Transportation family put on a basket raffle and we ended up raising \$10,000 to help with the medical bills piling up. Unfortunately, his cancer worsened and has forced an early retirement. Today we celebrated not only the 18 years of service but, the friendships, the memories and all the love he has given this District over that time. This is such a big loss to our department, as he was one of the best. Please keep Shelly's family in your hearts during this tough time.

- Jennifer Molisani

## Communitywide Reading Campaign

*Continued from Page 11*

The committee has reached out to the Medina Business Association for support and are the lucky recipients of a \$500 grant from the Medina Sandstone Society to help jumpstart the endeavor and thanks to the generosity of TakeForm they will receive free yard signs that they can sell as a fundraiser. The Print Shop has also offered the committee a discount on promotional items such as buttons and postcards.

The official launch of the campaign is this spring with the events and promotions to roll out in April and May. The organizers will be setting up tables at evening events at the schools such as concerts and Family Fun Nights to sell their yard signs. The cost will be \$10 and go to funding this initiative. "Our hope is that as you drive or walk through the Village of Medina, you will see WE READ signs popping up like flowers this spring," says Ms. Dickhut. "There will also be some events at Lee-Whedon Library and you should see storefronts and windows decorated with a reading theme. We will also have high school students who have volunteered to be ambassadors of reading, sharing their love of reading with some of the elementary students. We also hope to construct and place little libraries throughout the town as well."

Ms. Dickhut and the committee members: Jennifer O'Toole, Karen Jones, Todd Bensley, Kristen Phillips, Sandy Gabrys, Julie Webber, Catherine Cooper and Mary Lee Knights wish to thank everyone who is supporting this worthwhile cause and they hope to see a sign in your yard and a book in your hand!



**MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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[www.medinacsd.org](http://www.medinacsd.org)

Mr. Mark B. Kruzynski, Superintendent

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