

MUSTANG JOURNAL

MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Higher Standards ... Higher Expectations

Fall 2017



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

It seems like it was just yesterday that we welcomed all of our students back to school. It is tough to believe that we have just reached the end of the first marking period. One of the most important questions I am often asked by parents is, "How can I help my child perform better in school?"

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.

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. Once a child enters school, the parents can support the teacher through homework and involvement in school.

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.

If you are a parent and you are reading this column, you are already demonstrating an interest in what is happening in the Medina Central School District. I would encourage you to join the PTSA, the Parents' Athletic Club, or the Mustang Band Boosters. Additionally, Mr. Doctor is looking for parent volunteers to help with our newly formed Education Recreation Club. If you would like to volunteer to serve as a role model for students, please contact Mr. Daniel Doctor at 798-2700, Option 6.

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

Sincerely,

Mark B. Kruzynski
Superintendent of Schools

Medina School Students of the Month for October

The Medina Teachers Association, Medina Central School, and the Medina Business Association 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 Bank of Castile.



The winners are:

- Oak Orchard: third-grader Cheyenne Nottingham nominated by Stacey Hamilton
- Wise Middle School: seventh-grader Emma Herbert nominated by Tom Forrestel
- High School: eleventh grader Ray Beneway nominated by Jon Sherman

Congratulations to this month's winners!



Michael Cavanagh
Medina High School
Principal

A Message from the Principal

It is hard to believe that the first marking period is already behind us! The school year has gotten off to a tremendous start; athletics, marching band, and extracurricular clubs/events have definitely kept students busy this fall. Thank you for your continued support encouraging students to arrive to school on time, to take advantage of opportunities for extra help, and to get involved in extracurricular activities. The Parent Portal is an excellent tool to stay on top of your child's progress. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you need any assistance with the portal. We look forward to a memorable school year filled with high expectations and achievement. Wishing all our families a wonderful holiday season!

Michael Cavanagh



High School Says A Little Competition is Good For the Spirit!

Medina High School students showed their class spirit and their competitive streak with Class Competition Day.

The students from 8th grade through 12th took the opportunity during Spirit Week to see if they could beat their schoolmates in some fun and crazy games in the gymnasium. Dressed in their class colors, the teams competed in a series of relay races while their classmates cheered them on.

A great time was had by all!



left to right: Alden Caye, Elijah Sones, Jorge Phillips, Jacob Bensley, Trenton Jones, Destiny Satkowski, Grace Flores



left to right: Alissa Blount



left to right: (back) Layna Voloria, Elle Gross (front) Michaela Erway, Abby Neuman



left to right: Erin Dunham, Jessica Granchelli, Cora Payne, Libby Cook, Alissa Blount, Sarah Cochran, Kaela Gross, Margaret Griffin



left to right: C.J. Cruickshank, Alma Doberstein, Hannah Duhow, Mrs. Duhow, Ryen Brown and Maya Lake



left to right: Danielle Schmidt, Jaxon Phillips



Homecoming



Mustang Marching Band Has Another Amazing Season

The Mustang Marching Band has another great year! They kicked off their season with winning their first three shows this fall. They have even bested the two national class bands in the next higher division. They took first at the Autumn Fanfare in Webster with a score of 82.350 and ended their season with an impressive second place finish with a score of 92.35. The first place team only beat them by .25 of a point.

Band Director, Jimmy Steele, says the band did great. "The theme of the show was "With Every Heartbeat", so it was a little bit different for us. It's a concept show so there is a reoccurring heartbeat that you hear throughout the pit, in the front ensemble through the whole show." Mr. Steele says it is different from the other themes they have covered in the past like magic and Broadway shows. "The show came along nicely and we added to it each week. Overall we are very pleased with our season and as always, I am in awe of the great efforts of the Mustang Marching Band Boosters as they continue to amaze me with their support and commitment to the program."





Chris Horgan Named the Buffalo High School Coach of the Year

Medina Coach Chris Horgan has been named the High School Coach of the Year. He was honored on October 15th at the Buffalo Tennis Night Awards Dinner held at Transit Valley Country Club.

This past June he was named the New York State Coach of the Year for the boys' high school tennis team by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. This is his 18th year as coach of the Medina Varsity Tennis Team.

The Medina Varsity Tennis Team is the defending Niagara-Orleans League Champs and they have won five championships in the past six years. "It is personally a great honor to receive these coaching awards," says Coach Horgan. "But they are also a recognition of the program and competitive success our players have had over the years. These awards are only possible through the commitment made by the fine individuals it has been a privilege to coach."

High School Students Partake in a Book Tasting

We have all heard of "Taste of" events, but they usually involve culinary delights. Well librarian Jennifer O'Toole recently cooked up a book tasting at the high school's library. The event was geared towards encouraging students to borrow independent reading books in a creative way, while also earning some extra credit for their English class for actually reading those books.



The students came into the library and were told to take five minutes to peruse all tables and categories. The books were arranged by genre like fantasy, realistic and sports. They had to pick out three books to "taste". The tasting involved reading the back of the book/summary, reading a couple of pages of the first chapter and they had an option of looking up an online review. The students then had to write a short reflection about what they had read and rate the book on a scale from 1-5.



"This lesson was designed to maintain and strengthen literacy skills, while promoting independent reading," says Mrs. O'Toole. "It showcases the library collection to both avid readers, reluctant readers and those in-between. For the book tasting students had to sample three different books to decide if they would like to read them and expand their reading tastes. My goal was for students to leave with at least one book that they are excited about and earn some extra credit for their English class."

Medina Students Inducted into the National Technical Honor Society

Congratulations to five Medina Central School District students who were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society.

Porter Bellan, Madeline Kraus, Destiny Satkowski, Alisha Scroger and Elijah Sones attend career and technical education programs at the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center. Porter is in the Welding program, Madeline and Destiny are in the Allied Health program, Alisha is in the Culinary Arts program and Elijah is in the Building Trades program.

The students were honored at Orleans/Niagara BOCES' technical education center in front of their teachers, families and school district representatives, Principal Michael Cavanagh, counselors, Tom Robinson, Sarah Ha and Jamie Schechter. Students maintained an 89.5 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.

We are so proud of all of them and their achievement!



Tom Robinson, Sarah Ha, Elijah Sones, Destiny Satkowski, Alisha Scroger, Michael Cavanagh, Porter Bellan, Madeline Kraus and Jamie Schechter.



Fall Sports Wrap Up

Another great season wrapped up for the Mustang Sports teams!

Highlights include the Boys Golf Team winning the Niagara Orleans League Title and the Girls Volleyball team advancing to the Sectional Finals!



FFA Float a Real Showstopper

The students in Todd Eick's FFA program have been hard at work on their float for the Medina Parade of Lights on November 25th. Students chose a "Green Acres" theme and have been using their creative talents to make the TV show favorite come to life.



Ryenn Olive, Jake Bensley and Alyssa Root.

Financial Aid Night Huge Success!

The Financial Aid Night at Medina High School proved very beneficial to parents. "The purpose was to educate parents about Grants/Scholarships, loans, how to complete the FAFSA, and understanding financial award letters," says counselor Jamie Schechter.



Scarecrows Scare Up a Lot of Cash for Lions Club

For the past 10 years, the Medina Lions Club has sponsored a Scarecrow Fest, which seems to grow in popularity with each passing year. In fact, the event attracts 100 or more youth annually.

The event was the brainchild of Lions Club member, Sherry Wheatley. It was an immediate hit with lots of community support. Clothing is donated by the Medina Area Association of Church's Clothing Depot. Matt Mundion Roofing donates the lumber and students from the Iroquois Job Corps' woodworking class cuts the "T" posts for the scarecrows' bodies. Many Medina students participated in the event and paid their \$10 to make a scarecrow.



Students Julia Riches and CJ Cruickshank.

The participants have a great time making their scarecrow and come up with some very unique styles. All proceeds go to the Lions Club which are returned to the community through various projects.

The event raised \$1,270!

Way to go Mustangs for participating in their worthy cause!



Christopher Hughes
*Clifford Wise Intermediate/
Middle School Principal*

Pinwheels for Peace! “Whirled Peace at Wise”

In today’s world, peace needs to become more than just a word. On September 21st, Clifford Wise Intermediate Middle School took part in an international art and literacy project, Pinwheels for Peace. Art teacher Judy Light had her students plant pinwheels with messages of peace at the front yard of the school building.

Pinwheels for Peace is an art installation project started in 2005 by two art teachers, Ann Ayers and Ellen McMillan, of Coconut Creek, Florida, as a way for students to express their feelings about what’s going on in the world and in their lives. In the first year, groups in over 1,325 locations throughout the world were spinning pinwheels. On September 21st, there were approximately 500,000 pinwheels spinning throughout the world. Last year, over 4.5 million pinwheels were spinning in over 3,500 locations, including the United States, Europe, Asia, Australia, Canada, the Middle East, Africa and South America.

“This project is non-political,” says Mrs. Light. “Peace doesn’t necessarily have to be associated with the conflict of war, it can be related to violence/intolerance in our daily lives, to peace of mind. To each of us, peace can take on a different meaning, but, in the end, it all comes down to a simple definition: “a state of calm and serenity, with no anxiety, the absence of violence, freedom from conflict or disagreement among people or groups of people.”

As a take home art project, 4th and 5th grade Clifford Wise students, with their families, created pinwheels. The students wrote their thoughts about peace, tolerance and living in harmony with others on one side. On the other side, they decorated to visually express their feelings.

In art class, 6th grade students made double pinwheels and 7th grade students made origami pinwheels. On the International Day of Peace, September 21st, Mrs. Light’s 6th grade art classes planted the pinwheels in the front yard of the school as a public statement and art installation “Whirled Peace at Wise”.

The pinwheels were uninstalled at the end of the day by the 7th grade art class. They were donated to the Pre-K students at Oak Orchard and the residents of the Willows to pass on the idea of peace.



Beware of Spooky Artwork!

Clifford Wise Middle School Art teacher Judy Light had her students tap into their scariest thoughts as they came up with some artwork.

The display was called ‘Art Attacks’ and students had fun depicting things that go bump in the night!





Award Winning Author Returns to Hometown to Talk Writing and Give Advice

Multiple literary award winner and nominee, Julie Berry, recently stopped into the Medina Middle School and High School to give several workshops and talk about her craft.

Mrs. Berry, a native of Medina and a graduate from the school district, has written over 20 books and has received many accolades for her work in young adult fiction and children's literature. In June of this year, she released her newest book, "The Emperor's Ostrich" which is geared towards children eight to twelve years of age. She ended her day with a book signing at the Lee Whedon Library.

At the Middle School, Mrs. Berry presented two types of workshops. "One was inspirational about her life growing up in Medina and how thankful she was for the opportunity to go to school here with so many wonderful teachers," said 7th grade teacher Melinda Hill. "The second presentation was a writing workshop where Julie led the students through the type of decision-making she goes through when creating a story. She worked on a large board at the front of the room and students came up with their own ideas. They created a character, who wants something they can't have. They also created the character's enemies and friends, along with plotting out their journey to achieve their goal. My students showed they thoroughly enjoyed the writing workshop by bringing wonderful ideas back to class that they were proud to share with me and others."

High School English teacher, Karen Jones, was a classmate of Mrs. Berry's and has been reading Mrs. Berry's "All the Truth That's In Me" with her classes for the past three years. Publisher's Weekly calls it,

"Suspenseful and haunting." It has also been optioned to become a movie. "Thematically it is very similar to both "The Scarlet Letter" and "The Crucible". It is unusual since it is written in the second person. That is the reason that drew me to it. This was a writing challenge to herself. I love it for seniors because it leads into our understanding of a deeper symbolism like archetype theory and it offers so many parallels to classic literature. One of their challenges as a senior is that they have to choose a book from our classic literature canon. Some of that literature can be really intimidating, so this could be their window in to talk about themes like sacrifice, love, betrayal, societal norms, and repression. We can talk about all sorts of stuff and this is our entry point. I think it builds their confidence with tackling much harder literature. The fact that Julie graduated from Medina shows them this is what an author looks like. This is what you can grow up to be. That is encouraging, even to someone like me, a teacher, who has hopes of being an author. I want them to think, maybe I can do that too, no matter what I do."

The seniors had many questions to ask her about her process, what inspires her stories and what advice she would give anyone who wanted to be an author. "She is just so energizing and encouraging," says Mrs. Jones. "She comes all the way from Los Angeles to talk to the students and it means so much to all of us." The dedication to her new book says it all, "To the thousands of children who brainstormed with me in creative writing workshops. To answer the question you frequently ask me; yes, this is really how I write a story. This one is for you."

Middle School Gets Into the Spirit of Things

The students at Clifford Wise Middle School showed their class spirit with an amazing display of red and blue to show their Mustang Pride!





Oak Orchard Elementary School

The First Day of School



Julie Webber
Oak Orchard Elementary School
Principal

Students at Oak Orchard were excited to be back this September to start another school year or begin their first.

Look at all those smiling faces!



Brylee Christiannsen and Ella Crooks



Bradley Goyette and Alder Class



Charlotte Ryan

Oak Orchard Says Happiness is Family Fun Night

Oak Orchard Elementary recently had a fabulous Family Fun Night with over 250 students and their families attending.

The theme of the evening was Happiness is You-nique, which ties into the school's theme of Happiness is Being You and Happiness is Everywhere. Principal Julie Webber says the families enjoyed all the fun activities the staff set up. "We had a lot of fun coming up with activities for kids to make with their families. They made Wordles with their family name and all their family members on the computer. They also made glyphs of themselves. They spelled out their names with pretzels and then ate them as they played games with their families. It was a great evening and we are very appreciative of the local business that donated for our raffle prizes."





Oak Orchard Participates in Take Your Parent to PE Week

Active Schools, is a national movement to assist schools in providing at least 60 minutes a day to physical education (PE) before, during and after school physical activity for all students. They recently sponsored the first-ever Take Your Parent to PE Week and Oak Orchard PE teachers, Pam Maryjanowski and Jeffrey Annable says it fit in perfectly for helping their students keep fit. "We had over 80 parents show up to partake the week of September 25th to the 29th," says Mrs. Maryjanowski. "It was a very hot week, but everyone was smiling, happy and having a great time. We did a lot of cooperative games and activities that tied in well with our school's mission to get parents more involved."

Principal, Julie Webber says she has gotten a lot of great feedback from parents. "They said they had a lot of fun and we should do it more often. It was a great opportunity to get our parents in the school. I give the parents who showed up a lot of credit because we had some of the hottest days ever and they got out there and sweated with their kids. It was great to see."



Third Grader Kaity Howe and mom Jennifer Howe



Art teacher Lisa Pavlak and Jackson Reese



Third Grader Andrey Bloom and her dad Norman Bloom

Medina High School Honors Distinguished Alumni

November 9th, Mrs. Gabrielle Calandra Barone (Class of 1960) and Mr. David Miller (Class of 1966) were inducted into the Medina High School's Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame.

The award was created to honor alumni, promote school spirit, foster pride in the Medina School District and serve as an incentive for current students. Alumni must have graduated at least ten years ago and achieved one of the following: Achieved excellence in their chosen career, made outstanding contributions to their community or profession or made outstanding contributions to humanity.



After graduation from Medina High School, Mrs. Barone continued her studies at Endicott College and Medaille College. While working part-time, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies. She then moved to San Francisco, California with a career in retail, but moved back to the Medina area where she married and started a family. She managed women's ready-to-wear retail locations throughout Western New York. She later became employed by Modern Corporation in Lewiston where she worked for ten years and then in 2002 began working with the Orleans Economic Development Agency.

Mrs. Barone has been extensively involved in the Medina community with her work with the Orleans Economic Development Agency, Medina Business Association, Boxwood Cemetery and Chapel, Job Corps Advisory Council, GLOW Workforce Investment Board and the Medina Sandstone Association. She was also an active member of the former League of Women Voters chapter of Orleans County. She is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Orleans County Chamber of Commerce.

She has been a tremendous asset to the Orleans Economic Development Agency and has been instrumental in bringing many new projects to the county in her role as Vice President. She has also assisted in upgrading established businesses such as Western New York Energy, Brunner International, Hinspergers Poly, CRFS, Cottages at Troutburg, Precision Packaging Products and Pride Pak. She helped guide both state and local support for several county projects from upgrading infrastructure to securing tax credits or grants and has proven to be invaluable in all aspects of economic development. "I am very, very honored to be here today," says Mrs. Barone. "I am the fourth member of the Class of 1960 to receive this award. My classmates are here and it's a wonderful day."

Mr. Miller went on to earn his Bachelor of Science in Photographic Science from R.I.T. in 1970. He continued his education and in 1982 and earned his Master's Degree in Business Administration. He began working for St. Regis Paper Company in 1974 and worked in the paper industry for 26 years as a manager before retiring in 2000. He was awarded the prestigious Quality Award for Excellence for a "Process Improvement Project" which he initiated. He moved back to Medina after he retired and started Nuvisit Communications, a company that designs websites for non-profit and small businesses.

Mr. Miller has definitely immersed himself in the community of Medina since returning. He has served as a volunteer, site manager, board member and president for Habitat for Humanity. Because of his passion for history and his pride in his hometown, he is involved in the Medina Sandstone Society. He was instrumental in the fundraising and erection of the beautiful clock tower in Medina's Rotary Park, a gift from the Class of 1966. He is also involved in the Medina Lions' Club, Medina Sandstone's Hall of Fame, the Parade of Lights, the Medina Historical Society and the Genesee Community College Planning Committee for historical events. He and his wife, Gail, also began the Canal Village Farmers' Market. "I am very excited about being part of the Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame," he says. "I am very pleased. It's a fantastic thing."



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