

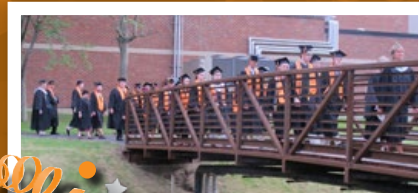
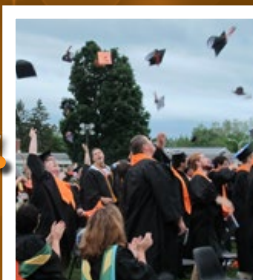
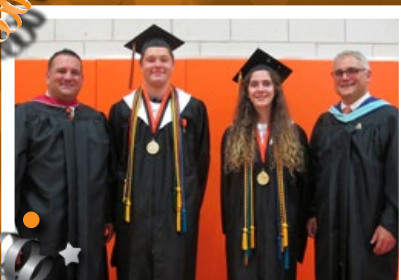


Tiger TRADITIONS

Inspiring Excellence and Leadership in All!

July/August 2017 - Volume 19 • Issue 4

Congratulations
Class of
2017



Congratulations



Mexico Middle School

Valedictorian Tyler Yankee

Salutatorian Lyle Trimble



A Message from the Superintendent



Congratulations to all of our graduates and their families! I hope you all achieve happiness and success!

As you may know, the renovations of our high school stadium have begun. This stadium project is part of the 2013 District-wide, voter-approved capital project.

The stadium renovation portion of the capital project was originally scheduled to be completed last year at this time. As we reviewed the original plan however, we were concerned that it would not have properly met the needs and expectations of the students, parents, staff, and community. A second concern was that the late approval of the project by NYSED would result in a bidding process too late in the construction season. In short, we felt we could do better for you and delayed the renovation for one year to allow time to ensure that every detail of the plan, including the bidding process and timing, would meet or exceed the needs and expectations of everyone involved.

The original stadium renovation plan included tennis court resurfacing, track resurfacing, a new scoreboard, turf field, new bleachers to seat 500, and a press box.

This past year we studied the plans in more detail and assessed the area to be renovated. We also sought feedback from students, staff, and community members and discovered areas where the original plan could be improved. A wider field would better accommodate soccer and lacrosse. A more efficient plan for bathrooms and concessions was possible. The tennis courts and track surfaces had deteriorated from 2013 to the point where replacement was necessary. In addition, community members and students requested the return of a basketball court. Finally, all parties asked for additional parking.

Throughout the year, we worked with our architect and construction professionals to develop a better plan. The decision to replace the tennis courts gave us the flexibility to think "outside the box." We discovered that by relocating the tennis courts to set adjacent to Liberty Street, and by tucking the concession stand and restrooms beneath the bleachers, the field could be widened to accommodate an eight-lane chute for the six-lane track, and better accommodate soccer and lacrosse as well. This new plan would allow for a basketball court, which could also be used for snow removal storage during the winter. In addition to providing more space, tucking the restrooms under the bleachers would be more cost efficient and thus afford savings for some of the additional work.

We finally had a much-improved plan, and we were on track for a May 1, 2017 start date. On April 11, I presented the plan to 11th and 12th grade students as well as high school staff. While the feedback from students and staff was very positive, they asked if we could please find additional parking. I listened and brought that information to our final meeting before our May 1, start date. The

architects worked some more of their magic and suggested that by seating the guest spectators in our bleachers, thus eliminating the bleachers from the far side of the field, we could shift the stadium over enough to add 19 parking spaces to the plan and save over \$360,000. The guest spectators would have closer access to bathrooms and concessions as well. This development changed the start date to May 26, and I believe you will agree that it was worth the delay.

Once the plans were updated, we held a special board meeting for approval on Thursday, May 25, at 9 pm. The meeting was held at that late hour because our dedicated board members wanted to attend student activities that evening.

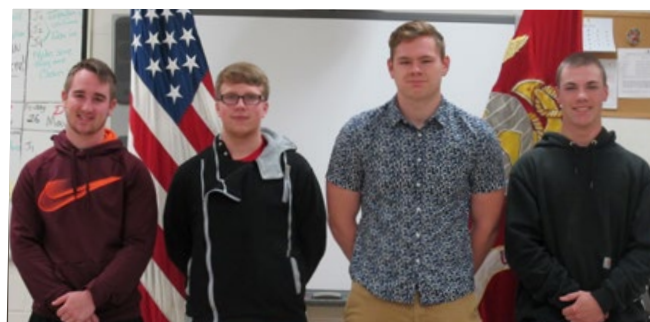
You may not know that once contracts are approved, it takes a few days for the companies hired to mobilize their equipment and begin construction. We used this as an opportunity to invite our CiTi BOCES heavy equipment students to begin demolition. This not only allowed us to capitalize on our short summer window by beginning 12 hours after contract approval, it also allowed for an additional cost savings while providing local students real world learning experiences.

I truly believe this plan best meets the needs and expectations of students, parents, staff, and community. In addition, there is no extra cost to taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Sean C. Bruno

Proud to be Americans



Five 2017 Mexico High School graduates have signed up to serve in the United States Military.

Pictured, from left to right, are: James Gracey, US Navy | Dakota Crumpton, US Air Force | Brandon Gracey, US Navy | Seth Aurelio, US Army. Not pictured, as he graduated early in January, 2017: Chance Hagler, US Marine Corps.

Proud to be MACS



May Proud to be MACS Honoree

Deanna Cilento, MACS Teaching Assistant, was chosen as the May 2017 Proud to be MACS honoree. Deanna grew up in Oswego County and graduated from Hannibal Central High School in 1981. She married, and daughters Stephanie and Shannon were born in 1986 and 1993, respectfully. When her children

entered New Haven Elementary School, Deanna began volunteering at the school and ultimately became a substitute teacher in the district in 1999.

By 2001 Deanna had earned a teaching assistant certificate and was employed full-time at New Haven Elementary, working with MACS Teacher (ret.) Audrey Cole. "I went through the University of Audrey Cole," says Deanna. "To me, the best education I could have gotten was with her. She was gifted in figuring out how kids learn and what they needed. I still think about her often, and use some of the skills and interventions that she implemented." Over a decade ago Deanna transferred to Mexico Elementary School to work as a special education teaching assistant. She soon became the school's Response to Intervention Coordinator, which is the role she fills now - along with serving as the 504 Case Liaison. In these positions Deanna facilitates the response to intervention process, supports small groups and instruction for students K-4, compiles and organizes all the data for required student assessments, works with teachers that have students with accommodation plans, and supports quarterly data meetings for the building.

All said, "My favorite part of my job is watching the light bulb come on in a student's eyes when they grasp a concept being taught or reach a goal in an area they struggle in," she explains. About her job she says, "I love my job. I am blessed in the respect that I get up every day and no matter what the day, I look forward to going to work." Regarding the award she says, "My success has been due to the fact that I work with a great team of people in every grade level." Deanna has two grandchildren: Allison who is four years old, and Elena who is one year old. She makes her home in Oswego.

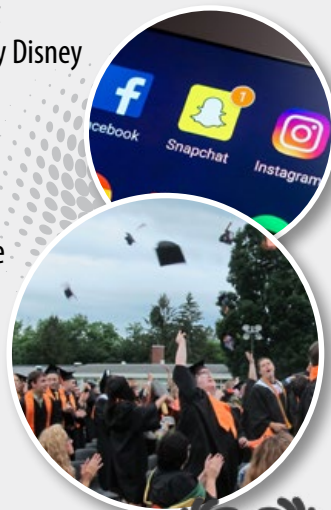


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MEMORABLE EVENTS

FOR THE CLASS OF 2017

- 1999** SpongeBob SquarePants premieres on Nickelodeon
- 2001** Apple launches the iPod
- 2002** First hand held full-color GPS navigator hits the market
- 2003** Finding Nemo released by Disney
- 2004** Facebook is launched
- 2005** USB flash drives replace floppy disks
- 2006** Twitter is launched
- 2007** Apple releases the iPhone
- 2008** Usain Bolt breaks world record in 100m sprint
- 2009** Water discovered on the moon
- 2010** SnapChat is launched
- 2012** The Avengers earns \$1.5 billion at box office
- 2013** The word 'selfie' is added to dictionary
- 2014** Class of 2017 enters Mexico High School
- 2015** Star Wars: Force Awakens debuts
- 2016** Michael Phelps wins 23rd Olympic gold medal
- 2017** MACS class of 2017 graduates!



Mexico High School 2017 Top 100

Mexico High School celebrated the top academic students of each grade level during the 2017 Top 100 Dinner on June 5, 2017. In addition, 22 seniors received the "Above and Beyond" Awards for being in the top 25 of their class all through high school.

MACS Above and Beyond Award Recipients

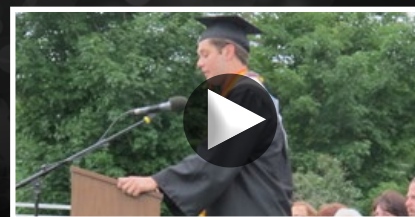
Jack Baldwin, Lydia Becker, Emily Blunt, Kylene Fletcher, Abigayle Garrett, Erin Gilmore, Taylor Hall, Sean Heagerty, Hannah Henderson, Marisa Higby, Renee LaDuc, Ashton McCormack, Benjamin Pelow, Victoria Ross, Becca Saya, Alissia Seeburger, Liam Simko, Caitlin Spurling, Gabrielle Syrell, Andrew Thorp, Abigale Weber, and Austin Whitaker.

Congratulations
CLASS
of **2017**

Couldn't Attend the Graduation Ceremony?

Watch it on our District USTREAM channel:

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/eye-on-the-tigers>



Mexico Middle School 2017 5th Grade Grandparent Luncheon

The 2017 Mexico Middle School 5th Grade Grandparent's Luncheon was held on May 17, 2017, at the school. The luncheon was hosted by Mexico Middle School Student Council and the menu included pizza, chili, chicken patties and more. On May 18, the 6th grade students shared a similar luncheon with their grandparents.



MACS 4th Grade Students Visit One-Room Schoolhouse

All 4th grade students in the Mexico School District spent a portion of a school day at the MACS one-room schoolhouse during the month of June. The authentic schoolhouse is located on the grounds of Palermo Elementary School. Dressed in clothes befitting students who would have attended this one-room schoolhouse in the 1800's or early 1900's, the 4th graders spent time learning, and experiencing, what life was like for children going to school long ago.



Mexico Elementary School Teacher Donna Handley reads a chapter from the book "Farmer Boy" by Laura Ingalls Wilder, to the Mexico Elementary School 4th grade students inside the one-room schoolhouse.

Play Days and Race Days

All three Mexico School District elementary schools held Annual Play Days or Race Days during the last two weeks of the school year. Depending on the weather, fun and competitive games and events were held inside or outside, for students in all grade levels to enjoy. The activities included, but were not limited to: relay races, distance runs, long jumps, distance throws, Frisbee throws, balloon tosses, sack races, and team tug-a-war contests.



Pictured: A long jump contest for 3rd grade students at Palermo Elementary School.

Mexico High School Senior Awards and Scholarship Ceremony



The Mexico High School 2017 Senior Awards and Scholarship Ceremony was held on June 14, 2017, at the school. Numerous special awards and scholarships were given to a large number of students of the MACS 2017 graduating class, as well as over \$12,000 in MACS Dollars for Scholars scholarships.



Muffins with Moms at Mexico Elementary

Approximately 300 moms attended the Muffins for Moms event at Mexico Elementary School on May 11, 2017.

The event was organized by the Mexico Elementary School Parent-Teacher Association to honor mothers for Mother's Day.

New Haven Elementary School Spring Enrichment Program



Leader in Me Club, led by MACS Teacher Alexandra Scorzelli.

New Haven Elementary School held Spring Enrichment Programs during the month of May. Students who chose to participate stayed after school for an hour every Monday and Tuesday, for four weeks, in one of six fun and educational clubs. Mexico and

Palermo Elementary Schools offered the Spring Enrichment Programs as well.

Six clubs were offered at New Haven Elementary School as well, including: dance, Leader in Me, recess games, cooking, solar robotics, and kickball/dodge ball.

Mexico High School Auditorium Grand Re-Opening A Success!



The official Mexico High School Auditorium Grand Re-Opening was held on May 30, 2017, at the school.

The event was designed to celebrate the completion of the renovation of the Avery Skinner Auditorium. With food, music, and speeches, special guests, MACS Board of Education members, administration, staff, students, and community members all as part of the special evening, the celebration was indeed a grand success!

MACS Board of Education 2017-2018



Seated front, left to right: MACS BOE Member Amy Shaw, MACS BOE Student Representative Annie McDowell, MACS BOE Members Janice Clark and Sue Teifke.

Standing back, left to right: MACS BOE Vice President Darlene Upcraft, MACS BOE Member Chad Bigelow,

MACS BOE President James Emery, and MACS BOE Member Connie Douglas.

Palermo Elementary Hosts 4th Grade Career and Wellness Day

The Annual 4th Grade Career and Wellness Day at Palermo Elementary School was held on June 15, 2017. The morning involved students traveling to five different stations to learn about five possible careers. The afternoon

was filled with 'wellness' activities, games, and a nutritious lunch. Each student took home items from the day - one being a tomato plant of their own.



Addison Lasnicki, of Lasnicki Landscaping and Nursery, Hastings, NY, coached each student in potting their own tomato plant.

MACS Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees



Three individuals and one team were inducted into the MACS Athletic Hall of Fame during the MACS 2017 Annual Block "M" Athletic Awards Banquet on June 7, 2017.

MACS 2017 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees, from left to right: MACS 1997-1998 wrestling team - Matt Bryant, Javin Watson, Brian von Holtz, Jason Larrabee, Luke Pickford, John Hanson, Tim Allers (Assistant Coach), Bill Kays (Coach); Kim Holliday; John O'Brien; and Abby (McDermott) Kurtz.

MACS 2017 Annual Block "M" Athletic Awards Banquet

The MACS 2017 Block "M" Athletic Awards Banquet was held on June 7, 2017, at the school.

Numerous Mexico High School athletes were honored with words, awards, and scholarships.



Jace Eastman, left, and Ashton Ariola, right, received the Laurence "Sparky" Rector Athlete of the Year Awards. Sparky Rector stands center.



The MACS Block "M" Athletic Awards recipients.

Congratulations TO MACS 2017 RETIREES

Eleanor Armlin

Randall Barnes

Daniel Caughey

Michael Conners

William Coughlin

Karen Doud

Alfred Greco

Arlen Halstead

Ronald Jardin

Cathryn O'Brien

Jeffrey Raner

Doreen Rousseau-Purdy

Jean Unson

Darleen Vosseller

Shelly Williams

Carol Wood

Annual Elementary Cardboard Regatta Makes a Splash!

For the third consecutive year, several MACS 4th grade students participated in the exciting and challenging Cardboard Regatta! The event was held on May 19, 2017, in the pool at Mexico High School, with MACS Principals Margaret Scorzelli and Kim Holliday serving as facilitators.

With boats made only of cardboard and duck-tape, the students climbed in, grabbed their oars and raced to the opposite end of the pool. Did they make it? Many did and some did not - but all had great fun!



2017 MACS Cardboard Regatta participants.



Best Time: Team 'Purplicious' with Co-Captains Anin O'Neil and Helen Baker.

MACS German Honor Society Induction Ceremony Held

Eight Mexico High School Students were inducted into the MACS Chapter of the German Honor Society, the Delta Epsilon Phi, on May 4, 2017, in the auditorium of Mexico High School.



Pictured front, left to right, are: Arianna Nowakowski, Danielle Dunn, Morgan Fischer, and Jordan Bartosek. Standing back, left to right, are: Joe Ocker, William (Buddy) Ruby, Evan Blunt, and Nathan Burrows.

Annual Mexico High PE Kayak Trip



The Mexico High School Physical Education (PE) Department ran two, five week long kayak units during the school year - in the pool at the school. In June, 11 high school students and two Mexico High PE teachers, Shawn Parkhurst and Andy Chamberlain, took to the water for a kayaking day trip. They launched at Salmon Country Marina for the trip, traveled the surrounding area, and stopped at Mexico Point for a picnic.

MACS JROTC Awards Ceremony

The Mexico High School 2017 Junior Reserves Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Awards Ceremony was held on May 18, 2017, in the auditorium of the school. Numerous awards, medals, and scholarships were presented from both within the school and from outside organizations. JROTC cadets were recognized for their personal growth, academics, athletic participation, music and art participation, community service, commitment, leadership skills, and more.

MACS Senior Marine Instructor Lieutenant Colonel John Freda and MACS Marine Instructor First Sergeant LaShaun Benjamin Sr. directed the ceremony with assistance from JROTC Cadets.

New Haven Elementary Spring Concert



Nearly 40 3rd and 4th grade chorus members took part in the New Haven Elementary School Spring Concert on May 16, 2017, at Mexico Middle School. Under the direction of MACS Music Teacher Theresa Rutkowski, the students sang four songs and engaged in a number of speaking parts that went along with the songs - one being Wynken and Blynken and Nod (with readers in costume). Mexico and Palermo Elementary Schools held spring chorus concerts as well.

MACS 2017 4th Grade Band Spring Concert



The Mexico School District 4th Grade Spring Band Concert was held on June 15, 2017, in the auditorium of Mexico Middle School. The band is comprised of students from all three elementary schools: Mexico, New Haven, and Palermo. Under the Direction of MACS Band Directors Glen Gagnier and Gina Giufre, the musicians performed four songs during the concert. In addition, several numbers were performed as solos and in small groups.



Mexico High AP Science Symposium Exceptional!



Pictured: MACS AP biology student John Ocker (11th grade), prepares to explain his selected symposium innovation about how pencil lead can improve genetic modification to Andrea Ross during the AP Science Symposium. Andrea is a MACS graduate (2015) currently majoring in environmental chemistry at SUNY Binghamton.

solution, which they then presented during the symposium.

The AP Science Symposium was very well attended by guests including administration, staff, board of education members, parents, siblings, and fellow students. Attendees traveled from display to display to listen and learn from the AP students.

When Stephanie Kinney was asked if the symposium was successful she responded, "Oh absolutely. They worked very hard and got really invested in what they were learning. And the projects gave them a good appreciation for what is ahead in college."

Top Congratulations To MACS Musicians At Sherburne!

Mexico High School and Mexico Middle School competed in the 68th Annual Sherburne Pageant of Bands on June 2-3, 2017, in Sherburne, NY. Combined, Mexico High School and Mexico Middle School Bands proudly brought home 12 awards. In addition, Mexico High School won the Albert Whitney Overall Achievement Award.



MACS 2017 National Art & Math Honor Society Inductions

The Mexico High School National Art & Math Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held on April 24, 2017, in the Avery Skinner Auditorium at Mexico High School. During the ceremony 23 students were inducted into the MACS Chapter of the National Art Honor Society and 25 students were inducted into the MACS Chapter of the National Math Honor Society. MACS Art Teachers David Maidens and Barbara Sheldon, and MACS Math Teacher Jamie Battles presided over the event.



2017 MACS National Math Honor Society Inductees:

Row 1, left to right: Madison Sheats, Gabrielle Syrell, Angel Newcombe, Brittany Bennett, and Ashton Ariola. Row 2: Emily Miller and Olivia Moretti. Row 3: Alyson Ruby, Katlyn Belcher, and Kaycie Guilds. Row 4: Anthony Yost, Austin Reed, Jack Ryan, and Bryson Russell. Row 5: Ashton McCormack, Frank Leone, and Zach Revette.

2017 MACS National Art Honor Society Inductees:

Row 1, left to right: Majesta Martin, Alyssa Dann, Kimberley Heagerty, and Brooke Burton. Row 2: Katie Durfey, Amy LaFlamm, Alyson Ruby, and Shayla Reid. Row 3: Alexis Cleveland, Morgan Chrisman, Harlee Curran, and Kassie Wallis. Row 4: Katherine Hill and Alyssa Curling. Row 5: Rachel Zacharias, Ellarose LeMay, Chase Manzano, and Stacia Johnston.



Mexico Middle School Mind Quest Challenging and Fun!

On May 26, 2017, Mexico Middle School held an inaugural Mind Quest Trivia Competition and it proved both challenging and great fun! Two teams, with a total of eight 7th and 8th grade students, met on stage to compete in three lively rounds of trivia. All the questions were from the 7th and 8th grade curriculum that had, at some point, crossed the desks of those students participating. Mexico Middle School Vice Principal Patrick Vrooman and MACS Teacher Chris Hatch served as judges during the competition, while MACS Teacher Adam Metcalf served as emcee.



Mind Quest Winning Team ~ The Wolverines: Carolyn Zedack, Ethan Rhoades, James Galvin, and Tucker Lehtonen.

Official Groundbreaking Ceremony for MACS Athletic Stadium

The official groundbreaking ceremony for the new Mexico High School Athletic Stadium was held on June 5, 2017, at Mexico High School. Members of the MACS Administration and MACS Board of Education, as well as representatives from The Pike Company, were present to celebrate the new stadium project that is now underway. The anticipated completion of the new stadium project is fall of this year.

Pictured, from left to right, are: MACS Director of Facilities Mike Wood; The Pike Company Project Coordinator Nancy Collins; MACS District Superintendent Sean Bruno; MACS Board of Education (BOE) Members Sue Tifke, Merrilee Gorton, Amy Shaw, Chad Bigelow, Janice Clark, and Connie Douglas; MACS BOE Vice President Darlene Upcraft; MACS BOE President James Emery; and The Pike Company Senior Project Manager Timothy Brown.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chad Bigelow
Janice Clark
Connie Douglas
James Emery
Amy Shaw
Sue Teifke
Darlene Upcraft
Annie McDowell - Student Representative

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Sean Bruno
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Mexico Middle School Celebration of Learning



Pictured, from left to right, are: MACS Teacher Kelly Hayes, MACS Teacher Becky Todd, Katelyn Baker (5th grade), Helen Baker (4th grade), Elizabeth Baker (7th grade), and Rachel and Darrick Baker.

The Annual Celebration of Learning was held at Mexico Academy and Central School on May 10, 2017, and hundreds turned out for the event including the Baker family from New Haven. The evening included visits with teachers, classroom displays, rock climbing, face painting, a science fair, rock painting, a book give-away a variety of community information displays and more.

MACS 2017 Spanish Honor Society Induction Ceremony

A total of 19 Mexico High School students were inducted into the Spanish Honor Society during the 2017 Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica Induction Ceremony on May 24, 2017. The ceremony was held at Mexico High School following a celebration meal in the school cafeteria. MACS Spanish Teachers Kathleen Pallotta and Diane Bush presided over the event.

MACS 2017 National Spanish Honor Society inductees, front row, left to right: Grace Frasier, Madeline Higby, Jolie Pelow, Kim Haegerty, Alyssa Dann, Brianna Clark, Sheila Wallis, and Joshua Washer. Middle row, left to right: Nathaneal Galluzzo, Caleb Kinsey, Ashley Clement, Amber Moseuk, and Christine Seckner. Back row, left to right: Madison Sheats, Dylan Long, and Connor Ransier.



Mexico Middle School Students Take Field Trips to SUNY Oswego



One group of Mexico Middle School students paused for a photo during the 2017 Youth Career Summit at SUNY Oswego.

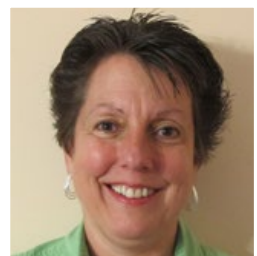
Approximately 70 Mexico Middle School students took an exciting field trip to attend the 2017 Youth Career Summit at SUNY Oswego on May 17, 2017. The group consisted of a combination of Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) students, and Exploratory Occupations students. Students from several Oswego County school districts, as well as

CiTi students, attended this year's Youth Career Summit. Rotating between six 'career stations' in SUNY's Lanigan Hall, gave the students the opportunity to learn what options they have in high school and what career choices they may aim for following high school.

Two weeks later, on May 31, all of the Mexico Middle School 6th grade students traveled to SUNY Oswego to tour and learn about college majors and careers. "This exposure at an early age fosters student thinking about future interests," states Mexico Middle School Principal Kimberly Holliday. "Such experiences help students make connections between what is learned in school and college and career readiness."

Proud to be MACS

June Proud to be MACS Honoree



Kelly Freihofer, MACS Public Relations Team Member, was selected as the June 2017 Proud to be MACS Honoree. Kelly has served in this position since 2010, gathering and preparing MACS District information for the MACS website and the Tiger Traditions. She retires from this position at the end of the 2016-17 school year.

Kelly makes her home in Mexico with her husband, Michael. They are the parents of two MACS graduates: Maegen ~ 2004, and Molly ~ 2011.

COME JOIN US AT MEXICO HIGH SCHOOL

**SUMMER
LUNCH**
is free



Monday, June 26 – August 25, 2017 • Lunch: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Daily choice of the menu entrée, Chicken Patty or Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich.

mexicocsd.org for complete details
Questions: 963-8400 ext. 5031 or 5071