



Tiger Traditions

November/December 2014 - Volume 15 • Issue 3

Middle School Students Learn Digital Literacy

Mexico Middle School Teaching Assistant Julie Osborn, right, holds up a hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) as she instructs fifth grade students on its use during a digital literacy class at the school. This is a new, year-long, class at Mexico Middle School, created and presented by the library department. The class is designed to teach the fifth grade students to be literate in a digital world. The students first learned how to make folders in Microsoft Word. Next they learned to download photos to a file and how to work with the photos. During the month of October they focused on operating a GPS and then using it in the outside world by going geocaching (finding an item/

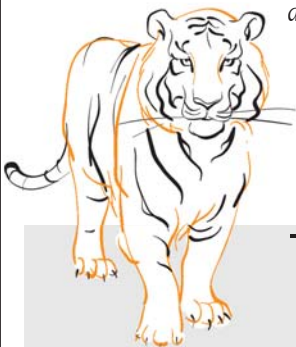


location using coordinates), on the school campus. Working with the GPS (each student works with one), they learn about satellites, latitude and longitude, distance, personal location, mapping, geography, natural landmarks, safety use (how to find their way if they become lost), and more. Next the students will learn internet safety and responsibility, followed by use of Schoology (an on-line learning management system). Speaking about the digital literacy class Julie Osborn says, "I think that this is going to prepare them for the real world because they are learning to use technology in everyday life and it's fun." Mexico Middle School Librarian Kim Julian also teaches the class.

MACS Welcomes New Staff



The Mexico School District welcomed the newly hired staff with two days of training just prior to the beginning of the 2014/15 school year. Pictured front, left to right, are: Sharon Pritchard (first grade at New Haven Elementary), Holly Rhoads (long-term substitute sixth grade teacher at Mexico Middle), and Shannon DeSantis (AIS math teacher at New Haven Elementary). In the back row, left to right, are: Christopher Gorton (long-term substitute special education teacher at Mexico High), Robin Cuyler (part-time health teacher at Mexico High), Elizabeth Muldowney (long-term substitute at Mexico Elementary), Meagan Quirk (teacher aide at Mexico High), Sarah Mack (teacher aide at Mexico Elementary), Rhonda Williams (teacher aide at New Haven Elementary), Rebecca Todd (special education teacher at Mexico Middle), and Charles Merritt (teaching assistant at Mexico Middle).



MACS Teacher Recognized As One of America's Best

Sergeant Major Earl Combes, Mexico High School Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps Teacher (JROTC), was awarded the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award for 2014. Combes was nominated for this award through the Mexico VFW and received number one in New York State. The award recognizes Combes as one of America's best educators who teaches, among other attributes, national pride, civic responsibility, and patriotism.



For District information including a calendar of events, Board of Education meeting dates and times, contact information and more, visit the District web site at www.Mexico.cnyric.org

A Message from the Superintendent



“READINESS” is a state of preparedness that will allow our students to interact successfully in the world around them. One of our most important goals at MACS is to ensure that each of our students is ultimately ready to be successful in the “post-secondary world” when that day arrives. In short, we at MACS firmly believe that “Readiness Matters.”

According to the New York State Department of Education, “Readiness Matters” because the labor market in the United States is more demanding. The expectation from many employers is that labor force candidates will have some level of skill prior to being hired (or demonstrate an ability and willingness to be trained in an entry level position). In this sense, a post-secondary education can be the “passport to the American Dream.” Consistent with this notion is that an *unskilled* labor force might be better served by overseas workers or other individuals willing to work for lower wages. In the next four years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, of the projected 47 million job openings, almost two-thirds will require employees to have at least some post-secondary education. This year alone, 14 million job openings will go to people with an associate’s degree or occupational certificate and pay a significant premium over many jobs open to those with just a high school degree.

Readiness for college and the workforce will also increase America’s ability to be competitive in the global marketplace...According to NYSED “if American students performed at the same level in math as Canadian students, we would add \$1 trillion annually to the economy (NYSED, 2013).” An increase in market revenue gained from a more skilled labor force has been referred to by economists as a “Talent Dividend.” If New York increased its college attainment rate by just one percent – from 33.8 to 34.8 percent – the state would capture a \$17.5 billion Talent Dividend (NYSED, 2013).

Preparing our students for entry into a post-secondary experience

is just the beginning – we must also strive to ensure that each is able to demonstrate mastery upon graduating from MACS. Alarming, however, we have been informed by our SUNY community college partners that over 50% of students in two-year institutions of higher education take at least one remedial course. So while we do an excellent job of graduating students here at MACS, we must do a better job of ensuring that each is able to thrive in the post-secondary environment of his or her choosing.

This begs the question: “How can we do a better job of increasing student readiness?” Beginning in October 2015, all MACS High School students in the 10th and 11th grade will take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) during a scheduled half day of attendance (exact date to be determined). This is a change from prior years when we administered this exam on a Saturday to only a handful of students. We are hoping to increase our student participation on this critical exam since PSAT data is a good predictor of college readiness. We can diagnose where our students are deficient (where they are not “ready”), increase college attainment and minimize college remediation. Further, it is our intention to offer our students the option of college entrance exam preparation classes (e.g., SATs and ACTs) and increase opportunities from which our students (particularly those who are classified as “at-risk”) might otherwise be excluded. We will also continue to employ districtwide strategies (through programs like AVID and Naviance) to ensure that our students have the proper mindset to be successful through college visitations, interview skills development, and written preparation of college applications.

As many of you have already witnessed, we are well-underway with other “readiness” programs that integrate academics with career themes – especially in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). In this issue of the Tiger Traditions, you will learn more about the initiatives (e.g., Project Lead the Way) that we have implemented to make scholarship more meaningful to our students within the context of a STEM curriculum. As such, our students are demonstrating great promise in the areas of robotics, pre-engineering, computer programming, biomedical technology, and concepts in advanced manufacturing – in our elementary, middle, and high schools.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that we can only do this with the support of an engaged community. We are fortunate that the environment within which we live and work demands that our students be prepared for the challenges and opportunities that await them. To this end, I wish to thank each of you for your support in this important endeavor and the continued assurance that “Readiness Matters” for our students and ourselves.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Pritchard, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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High School Open House Held



The Annual Mexico High School Open House was held on Wednesday, September 24. Members of the Ariola family, pictured here with Mexico High Vice-Principal James Busco, were among

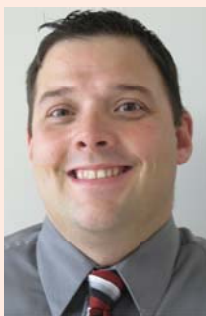
the many that attended the event that evening. Standing, from left to right, are: Alexia Ariola, MACS senior; Ashton Ariola, MACS freshman; Adrea Ariola, MACS fourth grade; Shelly Ariola and James Busco.

Mexico Academy & Central School is an equal opportunity educational institution and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national or ethnic origin, marital status or handicaps and disabilities in its activities, programs or employment practices. The Title IX compliance officer is Jeremy Belfield 16 Fravor Road, Mexico, NY 13114 (315) 963-8400 Ext. 5407.



Proud to be MACS

Kevin Upcraft, Mexico Middle School Seventh and Eighth Grade Band Director, has been selected as the September 2014 MACS Honoree. Kevin grew up in the Mexico area, attended the Mexico Schools, and graduated from Mexico High in 1999. During his years at Mexico High, he was on the varsity swim, football and golf teams. He was a member of the marching band, pep band, and jazz band, and participated in the musical productions as well.



After high school, Kevin attended Syracuse University, graduating with a BA in music education in 2003. While at SU, he played with the marching and pep bands, and played with the pep band in New Orleans when the SU basketball team went to the 2003 National Championships.

Kevin was a substitute teacher at MACS for the 2003/04 school year. After serving as a band director for the Mt. Markham School District from 2004-2007, Kevin came to Mexico in the fall of 2007 as the seventh and eighth grade band director. Kevin also serves as the MACS District Music and Art Department Leader and head coach for the girls swim team.

Kevin's job as band director involves directing the band and preparing for performances both at school and on the road. How does he like his job? "Oh, I love it," he says. "Life is good."

Commenting on the MACS Award, he says, "It's a nice recognition but there are many deserving individuals all over the district."

Kevin married Corinne Toenniessen in 2007 and the couple has one son, Jacob, who is four years old. The Upcraft family lives in Syracuse.

LeAnn Skotniski, MACS

Administrative Assistant to the District Superintendent and MACS District Clerk, was chosen as the October 2014 MACS Honoree. LeAnn grew up in Orwell and attended Sandy Creek Schools - graduating in 1981. Following high school she attended business school for one year and married Edwin Skotniski Jr. in 1983. Three children were born to the couple; Edwin III, Emily and Stanley. As the children grew, LeAnn worked part-time at various jobs until she went to work full-time at BOCES as a typist in 1989. This position was followed by a typist position in the Altmar-Parish-Williamstown School District. In January of 1993, LeAnn accepted employment in the Mexico School District, at the district office, as secretary to the assistant district superintendent. She was then promoted to secretary to the district superintendent and ultimately became administrative assistant to the district superintendent.



In 2005, LeAnn earned an associates degree from Bryant and Stratton College as an administrative assistant, attending school part-time while continuing to work full-time. While LeAnn assists the district superintendent in administrative matters, in the district clerk position she acts as the clerk for the MACS Board of Education by publishing notices of meetings, attending meetings, recording meeting minutes, handling the board of education records and contacts and posting legal notices.

When asked how she feels about her job LeAnn responds with characteristic enthusiasm, "I love my job. I've been very fortunate." And considering the MACS award she says, "I feel honored and humbled at the same time. This is a job that requires all the people around you to be effective."

LeAnn and her husband make their home in Pulaski.

ASAP Trip to Behling Orchards



A total of 110 Mexico Middle and High School After School Activities Program (ASAP) students took a field trip to Behling Apple Orchards, on Potter Road in Mexico, on Thursday, October 2. The field trip included

wagon rides into the orchard where each student picked apples to take home, a tour of the barn where they learned about making fresh apple cider and more. Pictured here are several of the middle school students before they boarded their wagons to ride into the orchard.

Brianna Jessmore Selected for NYSSMA All-State Music Festival

Brianna Jessmore, a senior at Mexico High, has been selected to attend the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Conference All-State Festival in Rochester in early December. She will perform with this year's women's choir at the festival.



Mexico High Junior Powder Puff Team



Mexico High Senior Powder Puff Team

Powder Puff Football Game

The Mexico High School Annual Girls Powder Puff Football Game was held on Friday, September 19, following the annual homecoming parade. The junior girls played the senior girls in this typically lively match and the latter team was victorious at the end of the game.

STEM Initiatives in the Mexico District

For the first time, Mexico Schools are participating in the 2014 CNY Build'em and Bust'em Bridge Event at the Museum of Science and Technology



(MOST), in Syracuse. Under the direction of New Haven Elementary School Principal Richard Chapman and Mexico Middle School Teacher Dave vonHoltz, four teams, with a total of 11 fourth grade students from all three elementary schools in the district, will enter bridges in the November 8 MOST competition. To prepare for the event, the teams are meeting for two-hour sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays for six weeks, in the technology room of Mexico Middle School, to build bridges. The teams first designed their bridges and then set to work building test bridges to determine what design will hold the most weight. Their final bridges will be constructed from basswood. Through this experience the students are learning to follow directions, meet specifications, solve problems, work as teams and be creative. On Saturday, November 8, the four Mexico teams will travel to Syracuse with four bridges to determine how they hold up under weight during the competition. Pictured here are three Mexico Elementary students making up one team for the Build'em and Bust'em Bridge Event. Seated, from left to right, are: Noah Britton, Owen Marsden and Ryan Hiller.



New Haven Elementary Principal Richard Chapman, back left, pauses for a photo with a LEGO® League Team of six elementary school students during the LEGO® League Club meeting on Tuesday, October 14. Students from all three elementary schools meet twice a week in the technology classrooms at Mexico Middle School to learn, build and prepare for the Central New York FIRST® LEGO® League Qualifier Event which will be held at Mexico Middle School on November 22, 2014. In preparation for the event, each team will build a robot, program the robot on the computer, make accessories for the robot to use as it progresses through the challenge field, and practice with the robot for the competition. Both the LEGO® League Club and the Build'em and Bust'em Bridges Club are Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics (STEM) initiatives at the elementary school levels. The students pictured here with Richard Chapman by the challenge field, are, from left to right: Peter Maciejko, Ethan Ladd, Trevor Bartlett, Alex Shomo, Logan Stanton, and Daniel Callahan. The first five students are from New Haven Elementary and the last is from Mexico Elementary.



Mexico Middle School Technology Teacher Dave vonHoltz, center, explains the robotics kit to six eighth grade students during

the October 9, Robotics Club meeting. The club meets, along with the middle school Build'em and Bust'em Bridges Club, after school during 10th block. Two teams from the Robotics Club will create robotic machines, up to 18 by 18 by 18 inches, using the Vex Robotics kits. These robotic machines will be entered in the Syracuse City Vex Skyrise Tournament competition on December 6. Pictured here, from left to right, are: Lyle Trimble, Evan Herrington, Tanner Dowd, Trenton Williams, Dave vonHoltz, Jacob Becker and Ethan James. This club is one of the Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics (STEM) initiatives at the middle school level.



Mexico Middle School has a sixth grade team and a seventh grade team preparing to participate in the 2014 CNY Build'em and Bust'em Bridge Event at the Museum of Science and Technology (MOST), on November 8, in Syracuse. Mexico Middle School Teacher Dave vonHoltz is guiding the teams as they prepare for the event by meeting every other day during the tenth block session. The teams first design their bridges and then build test bridges to determine what design will hold the most weight. Their final bridges will be tested for strength during the competition. Pictured here are two members working on their bridge; Emma Domachowski, left, and Retha vonHoltz.



Mexico School District Introduces Project Lead the Way

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is the nation's leading provider of Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics (STEM) programs and the Mexico School District has introduced these programs at both the middle and high school levels this year. PLTW states that their "world-class curriculum and high-quality teacher professional development model, combined with an engaged network of educators and corporate and community partners, help students develop the skills necessary to succeed in our global economy."

Mexico High School Technology Teacher Joe Malone, standing right, is teaching the new PLTW Introduction to Engineering - Design, Drawing and Production class. At the high school level, three PLTW tracts are offered in Mexico: pre-



engineering, bio-medical, and computer science. This design, drawing and production class is in the pre-engineering tract and applies math, science, and engineering standards to hands-on projects. This class also meets the high school's fine arts credit requirement and can earn Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) credit. The plan is to add two additional classes in the pre-engineering tract in the 2015/16 school year: principles of engineering and computer integrated manufacturing. During the class pictured, the students are participating in a paper bridge instant challenge.

Mexico High School Computer Science Teacher Dave Colvin, standing, is teaching the new PLTW computer science and software engineering class. Computer science is one of the three PLTW tracts being integrated into



the high school to increase STEM opportunities for students. Additional PLTW computer science classes may be added as more curriculum is developed. Like the intro to engineering class, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) credit may be earned with this class. The PLTW principles of biomedical sciences class, which is taught by MACS Science Teacher Christina Scales, also enables students to earn college credit. Looking ahead in the bio-medical tract, Mexico High plans to offer human body systems in 2015/16, medical interventions in 2016/17, and biomedical innovation in 2017/18. Speaking about the opportunity for the students to earn college credit from these PLTW courses Mexico High School Principal Donald Root says, "The beautiful thing about this is there is no charge to take these classes. If they [the students], receive a six or higher on their test at the end of the year, then they can apply for college credit by October of the next school year at a total cost of \$200 per course."

Mexico Middle School Technology Teachers Dave vonHoltz, left, and Steve Connolly hold robotic models that they created during the two weeks of PLTW training that they attended in

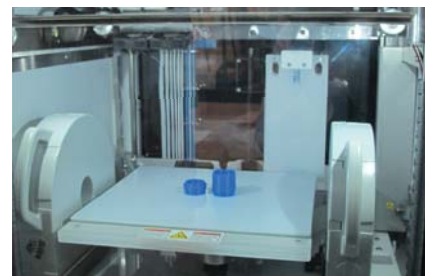


July of this year. The training, held at both Rochester Institute of Technology and Worcester Polytechnic Institute, prepared the instructors to teach two PLTW classes: design and modeling and automation and robotics (using VEX Robotics kits). These two, 10-week modules will reach nearly all of the seventh and eighth grade students in the school (approximately 275-300 students). "We are looking at producing students with the skills needed to work toward filling jobs in the engineering, bio-medical, and computer science fields in our community and country," says vonHoltz.



Grace Frasier, an eighth grade Mexico Middle School design and modeling class student, stands by the school's new 3-D printer. The printer uses a 3-D modeling program called 'Inventor' to build computer designed objects with thin layers of plastic. Speaking about the PLTW classes Mexico Middle School Technology Teacher Steve Connolly says, "We have seen a solid increase in the engagement level of students in the technology classes."

A close-up look at a barrel being created, one thin plastic layer at a time, in the 3-D printer in the Mexico Middle School technology room.





Foreign Exchange Students

Mexico High School is privileged to have the presence of seven, year-long, foreign exchange students from around the world. Pictured front, left to right, are: Gokcem Cinar, from Turkey; Emma Louise Louwagie, from France; Deborah Roye, from Germany; and Shani Stockhammer, from Switzerland. Standing back, left to right, are: Maximilia Lueders, from Germany; Lam-Pau Aparic-I-Nguyen, from Thailand; and Bhume Sudsawad, also from Thailand. These students are with the Youth for Understanding and Educational First exchange programs. They are being hosted by families within the Mexico School District and will stay throughout the 2014/15 school year.

Middle School Open House



Many parents and extended family members attended the Mexico Middle School Annual Fall Open House on Wednesday, October 1. One of the table displays, as pictured here, was Kelly's Choice Nutritional Company, the consulting firm contracted by the Mexico School District as part

of the Carol M. White Physical Education Program Grant (PEP Grant). This grant allows for expanded education about fitness and nutrition in a variety of ways within the Mexico Schools. Pictured front, left to right, are brothers: Tyler Warner (fifth grade) and Lucas Warner. Pictured back, left to right, are: Kelly's Choice Nutritional Company Owner Kelly Springer, MS, RD, CDN; Jolene Hoskins, Registered Dietitian Intern; Morgan Witte, Registered Dietitian Intern; Kerri and Rick Warner. The middle school open house also included classroom visits, free book giveaways, a book fair, bus demonstrations, refreshments and more.

Palermo Elementary Open House



Many attended the Palermo Elementary Fall Open House including the families pictured here. The Dann family stands to the left with: Wyatt, Jack, and Jameson in front, and parents DJ and Rachel in back. The Grzesik family stands to the right with Zoe and Abby in front, and parents

Colleen and Richie in back. The evening included music by the third and fourth graders, classroom visits, a book fair, family photos, refreshments and more.

Mexico Elementary Open House

Mexico Elementary School had a terrific turn out for the annual fall open house on Thursday, October 3. The event included tours of the classrooms, a book fair, organization table displays, bus safety, and more. Pictured here is a family visiting the book fair, from left to right: Rowen Kugler, Megan Kugler, Colin O'Neil (4th grade), and Riley Bolton.



New Haven Open House

New Haven Elementary School hosted a fall open house on Thursday, September 18. The open house included classroom tours, a book fair, school bus safety activities, snacks, and display tables by Daisy Scouts, MACS Music Booster Club, United Health Care, and Kelly's Choice Nutritional Company. Pausing for a photo while attending the open house are, front: Nathan Copenhaver (kindergarten), and Mitchell Copenhaver. Back, left to right: Kathy Rose, Erin Copenhaver, MACS Board of Education Member Darlene Upcraft, and MACS Board of Education Member Dennis Brooks, Jr.



College Awareness Contest

A contest was held this fall at Mexico High, to promote college awareness amongst the students. Faculty was asked to create/ decorate a space within their room presenting information about colleges near and far. Over 30 members of the faculty participated in the contest, which was judged on September 18-19, by MACS District Superintendent Robert Pritchard, Mexico High Principal Donald Root, Mexico High Vice Principal Jim Busco, and three AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) students. Eight members of the faculty were named winners at the end of the contest and each received a \$20 gift card. Mexico High English Teacher Shannon Bigelow's winning contest entry is pictured here.



7th Grade Science Field Trip to Fulton's Lake Neatahwanta

As part of the water ecology unit, approximately 160 Mexico Middle School seventh grade science students took field trips to Lake Neatahwanta in Fulton on September 17 and 18. Led by Mexico Middle School Science Teachers Alicia Archer and Dan Caughey, the students made three stops to learn about the health/condition of the 750-acre lake that is currently being dredged to improve the quality of the water. The first stop was at the dredging site, the second at Bull Head Park, and the third at North Bay Campground.

At North Bay Campground, MACS Science Teacher Alicia Archer, right, and students study samples from the lake. They tested the water for oxygen levels, bacterial levels, nitrates and phosphates. They searched for stream insects and crustaceans, and tested these on a three-tier level that indicates the health in the lake by the presence or absence of the insects and crustaceans. Some of the water samples and the stream insects and crustaceans were taken back to school, where they were studied and compared with the samples that the students took soon after from Black Creek in Mexico.



John Ceglarek, of Groh Dredging and Marine Construction LLC, stands left on the edge of Lake Neatahwanta in Fulton while he explains the dredging process to the

seventh grade science students of Mexico Middle School. The students were able to see the hydraulic dredging boat that digs up, and pipes out, the mud and sediment (10 foot or more in depth), and the geotubes that separate the dredged muck, sediment and water. The process enables clean water to be returned to the lake.

Ed McCarty Retires After 38 Years With the MACS District



The retirement of Ed McCarty, MACS District Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, was duly recognized during the annual buildings and grounds cook-out on August 25, at the MACS Bus Garage. Ed, standing front and center in this photo with the buildings and grounds staff, was hired as a part-time employee by the Mexico School District in 1976 while he was still a student at Mexico High, and began as a full-time employee in 1979. Ed retires after a total of 38 years with the district.



German/American Partnership

Once again Mexico High School and the community at large are enjoying the presence of German exchange students through the German/American Partnership Program (GAPP). Twenty-six students and two chaperones, Gudrun Billmann and Dr. Hans Fack, traveled from Schneverdingen, Germany and arrived in Mexico on Friday, October 10. While here for approximately three weeks, the German students and their chaperones experience life in America by living with local families, attending Mexico High, participating in extracurricular activities through the school, and traveling to such places as the local orchards, Niagara Falls, New York City and Washington, D.C. The Mexico School District has been participating in this exchange program for over 30 years. An exchange trip to Germany, for the Mexico High students studying German as a foreign language, will take place in the summer of 2015.

Outstanding Musicians Selected

On Sunday, October 5, ten Mexico High students participated in the Greater Syracuse Honors Youth Wind Ensemble and Concert Band's "Final Concert" in Crouse College's



Setnor Auditorium on the campus of Syracuse University. Students are selected based on recommendation from their band director, with freshmen and sophomores placed into concert band and juniors and seniors placed into the wind ensemble. The group contains some of the strongest high school musicians from districts all over Central New York. Under the baton of SU Director of Bands Dr. Bradley P. Ethington and Professor Justin J. Mertz, each group performed three selections. Pictured here are the performers: Becca Saya - sophomore alto saxophone, Elizabeth Spencer - junior clarinet, Raechel Sidoti - sophomore clarinet, Chance Hagler - sophomore trumpet, Corrinne Perrotti - junior clarinet, Deanna Spencer - junior clarinet, Caprice Yost - junior clarinet, Hannah Bittner - senior flute, Courtney Lamb - senior bassoon, and AJ Yost - senior percussion. Mexico High's band director is Brian Carnes.

Senior Homecoming Float

The Mexico High Homecoming Parade, held on Friday, September 19, was a happy event with a number of floats participating including the senior class "Up" float pictured. The homecoming kings and queens rode in convertibles, and each grade level entered a float as well as other high school groups.



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Palermo Elementary a "Leader in Me" School

Palermo Elementary has officially been designated a "Leader in Me" school. What does this mean? The program's website, www.theleaderinme.org, explains, "The Leader in Me is a whole-school transformation model that acts like the operating system of a computer—it improves the performance of all other programs. Based on The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, The Leader in Me equips students with the self-confidence and skills they need to thrive in the 21st-century economy." Within this program, "The 7 Habits of Happy Kids" are integrated into daily life at the school. One example is students doing the morning announcements. Another example is one of Palermo Elementary First Grade Teacher Karen Metcalf's students leading his classmates to physical education class wearing a headlamp as he "Lights the Way", reminding everyone that they are to be seen coming through the hallway rather than heard. Students also greet their physical education teacher with a handshake upon arrival. To become a "Leader in Me" school, the staff had three days of in-school training facilitated by the Franklin Covey Education Company in June of 2014, and one additional day of "Lighthouse Team" training by the same company in August. The Lighthouse Team is comprised of 12 staff members who set the "Leader in Me" course for the school.



encourages "The 7 Habits" among the staff, collects and displays data about the progress of the program and more. "The Leader in Me" Program has given our school good direction," reports Palermo Elementary Principal Margaret Scorzelli.

Palermo Elementary's Developing Leaders

These two Palermo fourth grade students, Cali Hopp, left, and Anna Trimble, are part of the "Leader in Me" Program in place at the elementary school. Selected by Palermo Elementary Principal Margaret Scorzelli as being very responsible students, the girls did the morning announcements, from the main office, three days a week for the month of September. Two fellow male students gave the announcements the remaining two days of every week during September. The announcements included: the Pledge of Allegiance, birthdays, and the current reading from "The 7 Habits of Happy Kids" which are highlighted in the "Leader in Me" Program that the school has embraced. When asked what they liked about their job Anna replied, "I like being responsible and feeling that I can show kids how to be responsible." Cali answered, "I like being here and having kids look up to me..." The students serving in this role in September trained the students that served in October.



This team ensures that "The 7 Habits" are integrated into all areas of the school,



Art work, by retired MACS Art Teacher Deb Tagliareni, displayed in the school cafeteria.

The 7 Habits of Happy Kids

- Habit 1:** Be Proactive (You're in Charge)
- Habit 2:** Begin with the End in Mind (Have a Plan)
- Habit 3:** Put First Things First (Work First, Then Play)
- Habit 4:** Think Win-Win (Everyone Can Win)
- Habit 5:** Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood (Listen Before You Talk)
- Habit 6:** Synergize (Together is Better)
- Habit 7:** Sharpen the Saw (Balance Feels Best)

Calendar of Events



November - December
 Upcoming Events

- Nov. 1 MCJROTC Drill Meet
- Nov. 7 MCJROTC Birthday Ball
- Nov. 7-8 All County Chorus Festival at MS
- Nov. 7-8 Fall Play, HS 7pm
- Nov. 10 Superintendent's Day - No School
- Nov. 11 Veteran's Day - No School
- Nov. 12 Board of Education Meeting 6pm
- Nov. 18 National Honor Society Inductions
- Nov. 19-20 Parent Teacher Conferences
- Nov. 24 NHS Blood Drive
- Nov. 26-28 Thanksgiving Recess, No School
- Dec. 2 Grades 5-6 Winter Concert 7pm
- Dec. 4 ME Winter Concert, 7pm
- Dec. 5 PE PTC Holiday Fun Night 7pm
- Dec. 9 NH Winter Concert 6pm
- Dec. 9 HS Winter Concert (1) 7pm
- Dec. 10 Board of Education Meeting 6pm
- Dec. 11 PE Winter Concert 6pm
- Dec. 11 HS Winter Concert (2) 7pm
- Dec. 16 Grades 7-8 Winter Concert 7pm
- Dec. 22-31 Holiday Recess