



Tiger Traditions

September/October 2014 - Volume 15 • Issue 2

MACS District Welcomes Two New Principals

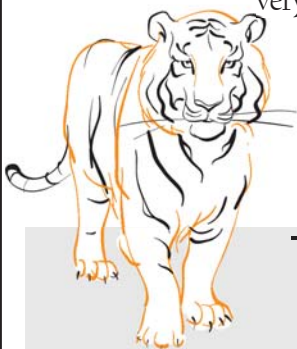
Mexico Academy and Central School District welcomes Richard Chapman as the New Haven Elementary School principal. Richard grew up in Homer, New York, and graduated from Homer High School in 1990. He graduated from SUNY Cortland



*New Haven Elementary School
Principal Richard Chapman.*

with a bachelor's degree in elementary education (with a concentration in geology), in 1995, and a master's degree in reading in 1999. From 1995-1998 he worked in the Liverpool and Syracuse School Districts, then transitioned to the West Genesee School District where he taught fifth grade for two years. In the fall of 2000 Richard moved to the sixth grade level at West Genesee Middle School, as the earth science teacher, and he held this position for 12 years. In 2012 he earned a Certificate of Advanced Study in District and Building Leadership and became the assistant principal at West Genesee Middle School. Richard is looking forward to his position as principal of New Haven Elementary and says, "One of my goals is to give the students more of an opportunity with STEM (science/technology/engineering/math), activities." Coming to the Mexico School District has brought back memories of camping here in childhood. Overall he says, "I'm just excited about being here - learning about the community. It's obvious there is a strong sense of family here. It seems like a tightknit community. It feels

very much like Homer, where I grew up, and that's a good feeling." Richard and his wife live in Liverpool with their two daughters; Mackenzie who is 14 years old, and Olivia who is 12.



Mexico Academy and Central School District welcomes back Robert Briggs as the Mexico Elementary School principal. Robert served as principal at Mexico Elementary from 2009 - 2011 and is returning for the 2014-15 school year. Robert



*Mexico Elementary School
Principal Robert Briggs.*

was born and raised in Fulton and graduated from G. Ray Bodley High School in Fulton in 1991. He earned a bachelor's degree in business management from SUNY Geneseo in 1995 and worked in the insurance field for four years. At that point Robert realized he wanted to work with children so returned to college to earn a master's degree in education in 2002, completing his student teaching at Palermo in the fourth grade. He went on to teach in the fourth and fifth grades at Volney Elementary School and concurrently earned his Certificate of Advanced Study in Administration from SUNY Oswego in 2008. After two years as principal at Mexico Elementary, Robert made a transition to Lanigan Elementary as principal. When an opportunity opened in the Mexico School District for an instructional specialist, during the 2013-14 school year, he sought the position. For the 2014-15 year he returns to his position as principal at Mexico Elementary. "I love this district," says Robert. "The kids are awesome, the staff is awesome. It is a very special place. It's a great place for kids to learn and a great place to work." Considering the year ahead Robert says, "I look forward to working with our parents and guardians for a successful school year - and reconnecting with familiar faces and making new acquaintances." Robert makes his home in Fulton with his wife Michelle and their two children; Robert who is seven years old, and Claire who is four.

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



Student Work on Display



This clay slab piece of art depicting a tiger and her three cubs is the work of Mexico High art students that studied under MACS Art Teacher Barb Sheldon during the 2013-14 school year. This piece was the collaborative effort of many and was completed at year's end. It now hangs on display in the MACS District Office.

Sincerely,

Robert Pritchard

Robert R. Pritchard, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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Julie Bradish named MACS Transportation Supervisor

Mexico Academy and Central School District introduces Julie Bradish as the new MACS Transportation Supervisor. Julie is filling the position vacated by Al Humbert when he retired in August 2014, after 35 years in the MACS Transportation Department.

Julie was raised in Mexico and graduated from Mexico High School in 1984. Following two years of college she began her career with MACS, in 1987, as the district office receptionist. Julie transitioned to the position of account clerk in the business office, then moved to the bus garage in 1996, where she worked as the clerk dispatcher. In 2011 Julie became the assistant transportation supervisor and has served in this role since. She now assumes the job of transportation supervisor, a job that carries many responsibilities including: coordination of bus routes; scheduling of sport and field trips; oversight of mechanics, bus drivers, and monitors; and instruction and testing of transportation staff in regard to state and motor vehicle requirements.

Speaking about her work Julie says, "It definitely keeps you on your toes. I love my job because it's so different every day. You can never expect the same thing."

And regarding the support she receives she says, "I'm lucky, I had a very good teacher with Al. I also have a very supportive staff and family."

In addition, Julie makes note to welcome Kevin Wallis who is now serving as the transportation account clerk and assisting Julie in her new position.

Julie and her husband, Jim, are the parents of five children and they make their home in Mexico.



Michael Wood named MACS Director of Facilities

Mexico Academy and Central School District introduces Michael Wood as the new MACS Director of Facilities. Michael is filling the position that will soon be vacated by Ed McCarty, when he retires this fall after 35 years in the operations and maintenance department of Mexico School District.

Michael grew up in Central Square and graduated from Paul V. Moore High School in 1986. He earned a bachelor's degree in technology education from SUNY Oswego, graduating in 1991. Michael has worked primarily in the commercial construction field since that time.

For the past five years Michael was the on-site construction manager representing Mexico School District for Bernier - Carr Architects during the recent major construction projects. Throughout the years in this position, he came to know all of the buildings and grounds in the district which has made for a smooth transition into his new position as MACS Director of Facilities. As director of facilities he will oversee operations and maintenance of all five school buildings and the grounds (mowing and snow removal) within the district, as well as the bus garage, storage facilities, and outbuildings. He is currently creating a maintenance program and a work-order program.

Looking forward, Michael says, "I do hope to be able to

use my construction experience to do more projects in-house to the benefit of the district and the tax payers."

How does Michael like his job so far? "I love it," he says. "I appreciate the district entrusting

this position to me. I really enjoy the school district. I've gotten to know many people and look forward to serving the school and the community."

Michael and his wife Suzanne live in Central Square with their children - Julia who is 15 years old and Jason who is nine.



Retirement Congratulations

Jane Beltrano, Senior Typist; Vern Borrowman; Teacher; Christine Dirr, Teacher; Jean Herse, Teacher Aide; Al Humbert, Transportation Supervisor; Terry Larrabee, Groundskeeper; Susan Peterson, Teacher Aide; Romaine Stoutenger, Food Service Helper; and Jim Szuba, Teacher.

Middle School Gym Entrance Complete



The new gymnasium entrance and looped drive at Mexico Middle School, located on the lower east side of the building, is complete and ready for use. This entrance serves as the student drop off and pick up point on a daily basis, and is used for sporting events held in the new gymnasium and performances held in the new auditorium.

Maura Roach Student BOE Representative

Mexico High School Student Council President Maura Roach will serve as the MACS Board of Education Student Representative for the 2014-15 school year. Maura is a senior at Mexico High and is the daughter of Brian and Pam Roach of Mexico.



Girls Basketball Mini-Camp

Over 20 girls from the Mexico community attended this year's MACS Girls Basketball Summer Mini-Camp from July 21-23. The camp was directed by David Passer, MACS Head Girls Basketball Coach, with assistance from the MACS girls modified and junior varsity basketball coaches and current girls varsity basketball players. The mini-camp was enjoyed by all who were involved. (Please note that there will be girls basketball clinics offered for grades 3-8, in the fall on Monday evenings.)

Summer Band Camp



Forty students participated in the summer band camp at Mexico Middle School during the last week of July. The camp was designed for fourth to twelfth grade students and was led by MACS Band Teacher Kevin Upcraft, with assistance from additional MACS music staff including Lorien Beaulieu, Glen Gagnier, Julie Raner, and Keith Himes. Community member Annette Hulbert and a MACS alum, Cameron Prior, also instructed. The camp was held for four full mornings and ended with an evening concert. "Our focus was for the students to have an enjoyable time over the summer while reinforcing some foundation skills on their instruments," reports Kevin Upcraft. "Camp and concert went great!"



MACS Participation in the Mexico Firemen's Field Day Parade

In addition to the Mexico Firemen's Field Day Parade, MACS Marching Bands and MACS Color Guard participated in three other parades with the firemen of Mexico and New Haven including: Oswego County Fair Parade, Pulaski Firemen's Field Day Parade, and Hannibal Firemen's Field Day Parade. The students that marched were rewarded with a trip to the Enchanted Forest in Old Forge, NY on August 15.



MACS High School and Middle School Marching Bands (combined)



MACS Matador Alumni Marching Band



MACS Color Guard



MACS Marine Corps JROTC

Congratulations

Al Humbert received the 2013-14 Transportation Supervisor of the Year Award from the Central New York Association for Pupil Transportation. Humbert has worked in the MACS Transportation Department for 35 years, and specifically as the MACS Transportation Supervisor for the past 26 years. Humbert retired from this position in August 2014.



Blended Learning Academy

Teachers and administrators in Mexico took advantage of a little “down time” this summer to learn about many new ideas. Some of these ideas included updating web-based learning for students, updating curriculum and assessments to align with the Common Core Learning Standards in Math and ELA, and learning how to implement programs such as Project Lead the Way and The Leader in Me. In addition, teachers designed their own learning projects based on their own individual needs. In the above photo, the teachers are participating in the Blended Learning Academy training at Mexico High School in mid-July. The purpose of this particular training was to have the teachers learn how to create an active student-centered learning environment that focuses on project-based units of instruction. A total of approximately 200 teachers and administrators devoted over 5000 hours to learning this summer!

Nova Net at Mexico High School



Several students took advantage of the extra assistance offered through Nova Net during this past summer at Mexico High. Two, three week sessions were held, with morning and afternoon blocks of time available to the students. Tina Spriggs was the Nova Net teacher for the first session, assisted by James McKenna, and Denise Bauer was the teacher for session two, assisted by Monica Ariola.

Summer Special Education Extended School Year Program



These three students, under the direction of MACS Teacher Megan Cuyler, demonstrated their math skills during the summer school program. Standing from left to right are: Charlie Roberts, Mitchell Twiss and Jason Allen.



During the summer school program held at Mexico Middle School Tina Majerus, left, teaches student Derek Stowell, center left, while Lisa Fleming, center right, teaches student Rodney McCormick. Both Majerus and Fleming are teaching assistants, working under the leadership of MACS Teacher Nicole Wolcik.



MACS Teacher Kristine Gagnon, standing center, teaches seven students how to match animal tracks with a picture of the corresponding animal during the summer school program. The students then made booklets with pictures of the animals and the animal tracks. Seated left is MACS Teacher Jon Gagnon, who assisted in the classroom.

Many students participated in the MACS Special Education Extended School Year Program throughout the summer. The program was held at the middle school and three classrooms were in operation daily.

Tiger Terrace Begins Third Year at Mexico High



The Tiger Terrace students pose in the kitchen with MACS Teacher Denise Bauer, center, during in the fall of the 2012-13 school year.

The Tiger Terrace opened at Mexico High School in the fall of 2012. Now after completing two very successful school years, the Tiger Terrace is ready to begin year number three. Although many know about this unique eatery and gift shop, many are not aware of how it came into being and what happens within.

For a number of years, seven to be exact, the Mexico High students with special needs happily attended the Make-Sense Restaurant and Gift Shop in Pulaski to learn skills for work and life. Ultimately it was decided the same type of educational operation could be created and staffed within Mexico High School, thus eliminating the need for the students to travel daily. A kitchen/dining/learning center was constructed in the school building and the Tiger Terrace was born.

What exactly takes place in this special area that is tucked in just beyond the high school cafeteria? Actually a whole lot of learning goes on there. MACS Teacher Denise Bauer gives an overview of the four basic goals aimed for in the Tiger Terrace. One goal is to teach job skills. A second is to teach the students social skills. Another goal is to provide real life application to academics such as math and reading skills. Lastly, time management is taught.

These goals are reached through a number of activities. Operating an actual eatery with customers (staff and administration) coming for lunch and students for snacks, as well as a gift shop, provides ample learning opportunities. The students shop for ingredients and supplies, they prep the food, take orders from the customers, and serve the food. For the gift shop the students create the items for sale such as photos, fall and Christmas decorations, signs painted on barn boards, serving trays and more. They learn money management by running the cash register and making change for their eatery and gift shop sales, as well as making bank deposits and withdrawals, and balancing the checking account. Phone

etiquette is practiced, as well as the skills of inventory taking and laundry. Coffee, in multiple flavors (Black Tiger is the best seller), and iced tea are served throughout the day, and delivered by the students to other places in the building. "It's overwhelming but it's wonderful," says

Denise Bauer, who has the support of two teaching assistants in the room. "The students are involved in every aspect from the grocery shopping to cooking to serving to money-management, and they are involved with cleanup too."

Every day each student is assigned a partner to encourage interpersonal skills. They also take advantage of opportunities to integrate into the school, such as going into the technology class to learn safety skills with tools used for making crafts for the gift shop. In addition, internships within the community are arranged for the students.

Holidays give way to special events at the Tiger Terrace. For Thanksgiving the students prepare a special luncheon for the administration and they sell Thanksgiving breads that they bake. On Valentine's Day staff members ordered brownies that the students delivered. And at Christmas time, in addition to the crafts and decorations sold in the gift shop, the students had a booth in the village during Christmas in Mexico. The students also catered a special luncheon at Mexico Elementary.

During the first year of operation the Tiger Terrace had six full-time students in the classroom. For year two, there were four full-time students and four part-time students. Looking ahead to year three, the same count is expected – four and four. And, it would be fair to predict, that the same successes will be found in the Tiger Terrace during year three.



Tiger Terrace Student Courtney Smith, front, serves free slushies in the cafeteria on last day of school for the 2013-14 year.



During the spring of the 2013-14 school year, four students take a break in the Tiger Terrace to pose with some of craft items that they created for sale in the gift shop. From left to right are Demi Maitland, Courtney Smith, MACS Teacher Denise Bauer, Cody Cowen, and Evan Gregory.

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MACS Summer Football Camp



One hundred and thirty boys, from kindergarten to twelfth grade, participated in the MACS Summer Football Camp during the first week of August. The camp was hosted by the



Mexico High School varsity football team, under the direction of MACS Coach Anthony Murabito. The camp ran for three evenings on the high school grounds. In addition to the modified, junior varsity, and varsity levels, the Pop Warner levels were invited to attend the camp. After stretching and warming up as a unit, the various levels split off for lively training and practice sessions.

Monitor of the Year Award



MACS Bus Monitor Heather Pietricola, center, was selected as Central New York Association for Pupil Transportation (CNYAPT) Monitor/Aide of the Year for 2014. Heather is pictured here with David Deuel, CNYAPT Committee Chair and Julie Bradish, MACS Transportation Supervisor; on June 20, when she was presented with the award.



Calendar of Events

- Sept. 3 First Day of School
- Sept. 4 First Full Day for Kindergarten
- Sept. 10 Board of Education Meeting, 6pm
- Sept. 16 Beginning Band Night, MS, 6:30pm
- Sept. 18 New Haven Elementary Open House, 6pm
- Sept. 24 High School Open House, 6pm
- Sept. 25 Palermo Elem. Open House/Book Fair, 6pm
- Oct. 1 Middle School Open House, 6pm
- Oct. 2 Mexico Elementary Open House, 6pm
- Oct. 8 Board of Education Meeting, 6pm
- Oct. 13 Columbus Day, No School
- Oct. 15 Fall Concert, High School, 7pm
- Oct. 16 Mexico Idol, High School, 7pm
- Oct. 21 Fall Concert, Grades 7-8, 7pm
- Oct. 31 Halloween Parades, Elementary Schools