



Tiger TRADITIONS

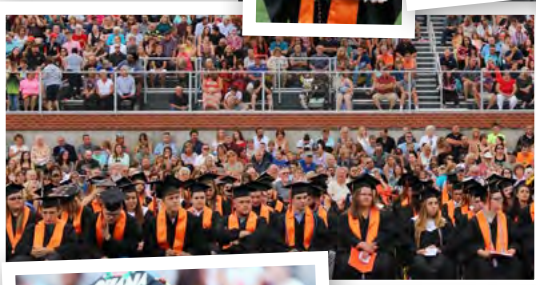
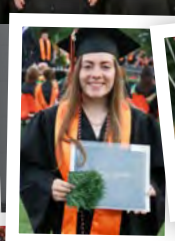
Inspiring Excellence and Leadership in All!

July/August 2018 Volume 23 • Issue 4



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF

2018



**Mexico Middle School
Val & Sal**

Salutatorian: Carolyn Zedack

Co-Valedictorians: Mackenzie Craig
Morgan Eastman

CAPITAL PROJECT REVIEW (Pages 4-5)

For district information including a calendar of events, MACS Board of Education meeting dates and times, contact information and more, visit the district web site at

www.Mexicocsd.org



A Message from the Superintendent



I hope this Tiger Traditions edition finds you enjoying our wonderful summer weather! The 2017-2018 school year was another fantastic year at MACS! We have successes to celebrate and wonderful opportunities to look forward to in the coming school year!

I would again like to congratulate our MACS graduates! They are such a wonderful group of young adults. Some were the first babies born in the 21st century, and I am

certain they all will have a profound positive impact on our world!

Additionally, we have much more to celebrate as a learning community. As you will see in this edition, so many of our students are earning significant awards and enjoying wonderful experiences in our District! I also congratulate students and staff at Palermo Elementary school for earning Lighthouse School designation with their Leader in Me program! This wonderful leadership program has been a part of each of our elementary schools. We are currently exploring how to continue this program at our Middle School.

Another significant milestone for our District is the completion of our capital project. As you may remember, the voters originally approved this \$21 million capital project in 2013. The five-year life of this project included several phases that have improved upon many areas of our District. It was especially enjoyable to have the culminating phase be our wonderful newly improved stadium. Our renovated stadium not only finally upgrades it to meet American with Disability Act requirements, it also provides new features for students, staff, and community members, not the least of which are bathrooms and parking! Please enjoy it! I would like to thank our Board of Education members for their extra time and attention in ensuring that the phases of this project met or exceeded expectations! Most importantly, I thank our taxpayers who make it all possible!

Furthermore, we have several new and exciting initiatives for our students in the upcoming school year. As you know, we are preparing students for their future success. Technology is a pervasive part of current society in both professional and personal lives. We all have experienced this technological growth and know it only increases as our students enter their post-graduation lives. This means that we must embed technology in learning so our students are truly prepared for their future. While computers in classrooms are not the end all, be all answer, they are a critical part of facilitating learning and preparing students to reach their highest potentials. In our efforts to

ensure our Mexico Grads are truly prepared for success, we have initiated a one-to-one laptop initiative for our students. This means that in the fall, there will be a laptop for every student in our District. Our secondary students will be able to take the laptops home. Younger students will utilize them in school. Parents and students will receive more information about our technology initiative during the summer and at the start of the school year.

As you know, we pride ourselves on setting student achievement goals. We also pride ourselves on using data to drive continuous improvement of our wonderful District. While reviewing data, we have noticed a trend where students who do not have the benefits of Pre-Kindergarten and who do not meet proficiency on the Kindergarten readiness screening assessments, tend to underperform students who score Kindergarten readiness proficient. What is even more concerning is that the trend also shows that students who do not score Kindergarten readiness proficient never seem to catch up or close the learning gap. This means they tend to underperform throughout their school careers. In order to assist these students in being more successful at school throughout their school careers, we have created a Transitional Kindergarten program. We are strongly recommending this program for all students who are entering kindergarten and do not score proficiency on their Kindergarten readiness screening. This is a full day, yearlong program designed to ensure that Kindergarten students entering MACS who may not be Kindergarten ready, are on a successful school pathway as they enter our District. Please feel free to contact your child's school principal, Assistant Superintendent for PK-8 curriculum, Mary Beth Horn or me for more information.

Finally, I would like to end my message with a personal thank you to all. Every year at MACS seems to be the best year of my professional career. This year is no exception. I thank you: students, staff, parents, community members and MACS Board members for another wonderful year! I look forward to many, many more years together! Have a great summer!

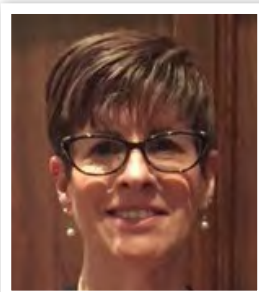
Sincerely,

Sean C. Bruno

MORE GRADUATION PHOTOS



Proud to be MACS



May Proud to be MACS Honoree

Suzanne Maniccia, Mexico Elementary School pre-kindergarten teacher, has been selected as the May 2018 Proud to be MACS honoree.

A graduate of Pleasantville High School, she graduated from SUNY Cortland with a bachelor's degree in psychology and later obtained a master's degree in curriculum instruction from SUNY Oswego. While her

teaching career began in the Bronx, she happily returned to the Upstate area.

Her passion for working with children began several years ago when she oversaw the needs of displaced adolescent girls and worked with students through the Migrant Education Program at CiTi. She vividly recalled visiting some students' homes which featured dirt floors, or lacked indoor plumbing. From that experience, she learned the importance of connecting with her students and understanding their environments. Her drive and impeccable connection with children led her to MACS, where she began her career as a first-grade teacher at New Haven Elementary in 1986. She welcomed change and embraced challenges.

Pure joy is what she said she receives while teaching children who are a part of the MACS community. "Ultimately, I encourage a love for learning so it will follow them throughout life," she said.

Nominator and MACS parent Julie Kessler said Maniccia treats her students as if they were her own children. Treating them like family is something close to her heart, as she recalled her dad as being a great source of inspiration while growing up.

Maniccia also treasures her own family: husband, Jim, grown son Mitchell and daughter Avian, who is set to graduate from the Rome School for the Deaf. A passion for children also runs in the Maniccia family, and Suzanne is proud that her daughter has an internship at a pre-school site in Rome.

"Be bold, be courageous, be your best."

— Former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords to Bard College in 2013



June Proud to be MACS Honoree

Patty Brooks, Mexico Elementary School art teacher, has been selected as the June 2018 Proud to be MACS honoree.

A graduate of Pittsford-Mendon High School, Brooks obtained a degree in art education and her master's degree in art therapy from SUNY at Buffalo. Her work as a senior residential facility activities director and time in New Hampshire well prepared

her for her career within the Mexico Academy & Central School District, beginning in 2000 at Mexico High School.

Brooks has remained at Mexico Elementary School since 2001. Nominator Shannon Bigelow said Brooks' impact on the building and its students is proven throughout the hallways, which are generously covered with student art work. Bigelow said with Brooks' efforts, Mexico Elementary is even more beautiful, fun, inviting and engaging.

"Patty's hand is in all of this; by prominently displaying student artwork, she gives them a sense of confidence and accomplishment in something that is not as concrete as the core academic subjects," Bigelow said. "Patty praises students for looking at the world in a new and unique way, which is ultimately what we hope that all of our students will be able to do.

Brooks said her favorite memory thus far has been watching each student's expression of awe when they mix colors for the first time, almost as if they have magical powers. Her favorite part of the job, meanwhile, is working with each student and staff member in a fully-supported environment.

Bigelow added that Brooks always explores new project ideas to engage her students, as she often works with grade-level teams to add art to the interdisciplinary arc of study and provide a new perspective on what they have been teaching in the classroom. The students eagerly attend "Art Enrichment" class, in addition to art class, to improve their skills and exercise creativity in new and different ways. Also, she often offers art options for after-school enrichment clubs, giving students the opportunity to make their mark on their school building in a positive and beautiful way.

Brooks has also been a shining example of strength and resilience, as she and her husband, Dave, and son, Sam, have overcome tragedy upon the loss of their daughter, Jillian, to cancer. Jillian's memory is forever honored through the Jillian Colton Brooks Memorial Scholarships each year.

MACS celebrates retirees with over 400 years of service

As the 2017-2018 school year comes to an end, the Mexico Academy & Central School District is celebrating 15 employees who are retiring with a combined 415 years of service.

The following employees were recognized during a recent Board of Education meeting:

- David C. Colvin, teacher, with 31 years
- Joyce Connolly, teacher assistant, with 31 years
- Tom Czarnecki, teacher, with 30 years
- Ed Grant, teacher, with seven years
- Jeanie Grant, teacher, with 22 years
- Pam Kuczawa, teacher, with 36 years

- Kevin Lafferty, teacher, with 30 years
- Suzanne Maniccia, teacher, with 32 years
- Mark McCarty, head custodian, with 33 years
- David Passer, teacher, with 33 years
- Julie Raner, teacher, with 33 years
- Jay Rector, head custodian, with 29 years
- Deborah Schwab, senior typist, with 18 years
- Ed Taber, auto mechanic, with 30 years
- Morgan Wisner, food service manager, with 20 years



Mexico Academy & Central School District Superintendent Sean Bruno, back left, proudly stands among several MACS retirees who were celebrated at a recent Board of Education meeting.

CAPITAL PROJECT *Review*

Mexico High School

- Auditorium renovation / upgrades
- New stadium, concessions, tennis courts & additional parking
- Main entrance portico, columns & cupola including new clock and new doors
- East & West portico complete refurbishment
- Sidewalk replacement around building & improved site lighting
- Roof replacement work including new roof leaders & drainage collection
- Interior Improvements including new ceilings & lighting, floor finishes, stone & plaster repair, brick and precast work
- Asbestos abatement in multiple areas
- Mechanical & electrical upgrades including new boilers, cooling tower and chiller, pool filtration, lighting replacement, steam piping replacement, update unit ventilators, clean & insulate ductwork, new drinking fountains
- Security Upgrades



Mexico Middle School

- Renovate classroom wing with new finishes, lockers, ceilings, lighting & cabinetry
- Elevator reconstruction and replacement to meet ADA requirements
- Toilet rooms – complete renovations in most areas
- Interior renovations (partial) including lockers, new window shades, carpet replaced with VCT, cafeteria & home econ renovations, and masonry repair including replacement of terrazzo stair treads
- Asbestos abatement in multiple areas
- Mechanical & electrical upgrades including adding AC to the computer room, air handling unit replacement (except crawlspace), partial electric panel replacement, new clock and sound systems
- Roofing (partial), and security upgrades



Palermo UPK Graduation



Palermo Elementary School Universal pre-Kindergarten students perform during the program's graduation ceremony, which signified the students' readiness to move onto kindergarten within the Mexico Academy & Central School District.

Mexico Elementary Students Visit Schoolhouse

Dressed in late 1800s-to early 1900s attire, Mexico Elementary School student Kellsey Dermady-Thomas intensely listens to a teacher speak during the fourth-grade field trip to the one-room schoolhouse on the grounds of Palermo Elementary.



Donuts with Dad Attracts Dozens to New Haven Elementary



Love, appreciation and donuts recently filled the New Haven Elementary School cafeteria as students in grades pre-kindergarten through four honored positive male role models during the annual Donuts with Dad event. Sponsored



by the school and its parent-teacher club, the event offered a fresh donut, milk and juice to each attendee, as a way

to promote family engagement and healthy relationships to help New Haven students grow. Students also prepared special gifts for their guests, including paper ties, mugs with goodies, poems and other presents.

The Capital Project that was started in 2012 has neared completion, with just a few items remaining to complete. Thank you to all of our supporters for making all of these improvements possible. Our students deserve the very best, as we always strive to provide a safe and secure environment for all.

Palermo Elementary

- Roofs and Security

New Haven Elementary

- Roofs and Security

Palermo Elementary

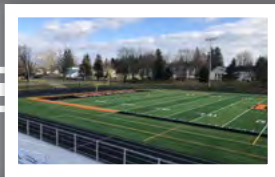
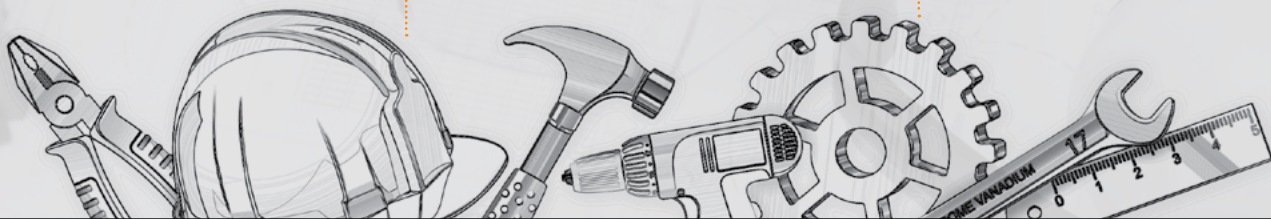
- Roofs and Security
- Electric Panels

Bus Garage

- Interior alterations to office & driver areas, including ceilings and wall finishes
- Trench drain replacement
- Exterior drainage & paving improvements
- Overhead door replacement
- Fuel dispenser replacement
- New bus heaters / outlets & panels
- Upgraded electrical distribution and service
- Replaced furnace and additional ventilation
- Masonry repointing around the facility
- Added weather-stripping to all doors

Remaining Work to Complete

- Concession Building
- Fencing, striping, lighting, final seeding around Tennis Courts
- Minor punch list work at Mexico HS and the Stadium
- Electrical work at Mexico ES



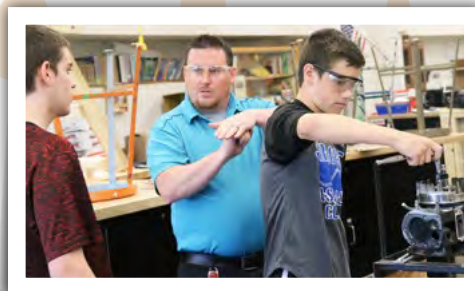
Hands-On Learning Leads to Real-World Experiences

Some Mexico Middle School students are getting a jumpstart on potential future career opportunities one hands-on learning experience at a time.

Eighth-graders enrolled in the Exploratory Occupations class have learned how to apply math, science and English language arts skills learned in core academic classes to hands-on projects that peek students' interests.

Teacher Steven Connolly said his full-year class further engages students in their education, especially for at-risk students who have since found their way while on the educational path the class has paved for them. With a recent small engine unit, students were tasked with finding MMS staff members that had old lawn mowers, weed eaters, chainsaws or other related machines that were in need of repair. Connolly

guided students as they were tasked with communicating with their "client," diagnosing the problem, filling out an invoice and relaying money required to purchase parts, fixing and testing the rebuilt product.



Mexico Middle School eighth-grader Andrew Centrone works on repairing the motor to a lawn mower as teacher Steven Connolly explains how its inner-workings function.

Class of 2018 Val & Sal



Congratulations to Mexico High School's Class of 2018 valedictorian and salutatorian: Ashton Ariola and Angel Newcombe! Best of luck with all of your future endeavors.



Marilyn Hilton Award 6th grade – Julianna Ricker, Emily Bennett & Ashley Bennett

Jillian C. Brooks Award 6th grade: Avery Mack – Math | Ella Blunt – Science

VFW Award 7th grade: Payton Seavor & Emma Haney

VFW Award 8th grade: Caleb Fischer & Alecsis Buda

Metcalf-Pryor Family of Educators Scholarship 8th Grade – ELA Writing Award: Lorelei Deasy & Destiny Wakeman

Attorney General's Triple C Award (Character, Courage and Commitment) 8th Grade: Riley Wallace & Destiny Wakeman

Office of the State Comptroller Student Achievement Awards 8th Grade: Joey Reed, Eymarah Bowman, Grace Mason, Carolyn Zedack, Lauren Salisbury & Autumn Parkhurst

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York 8th Grade: Tyler Warner & Devon Walker

Palermo Elementary is a Lighthouse School

Palermo Elementary illuminates MACS with Lighthouse School designation.

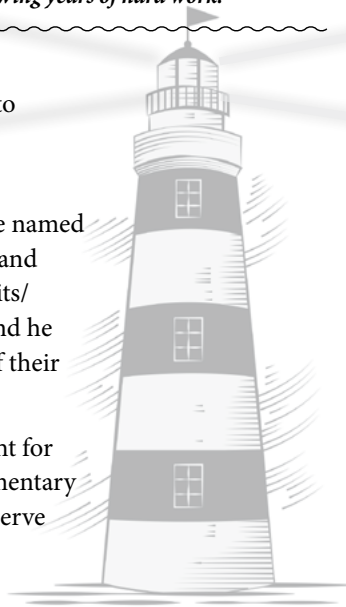
Palermo Elementary School has officially been named a Lighthouse School with the Leader in Me program. The accomplishment has followed years of dedication from school staff members and students who, collectively, have remained committed to learning and implementing the 7 Habits: begin with the end in mind, put first things first, be proactive, think win/win, seek first to understand, then to be understood, synergize and sharpen the saw.

Palermo Elementary is the first Lighthouse School to be named in Central New York, one of only 16 in New York State and one of 421 throughout the world. Gary McGuey, 7 Habits/Leader in Me coach, joined Scorzelli for the occasion and he congratulated the students and staff members on one of their greatest accomplishments.

Scorzelli said the purpose of a lighthouse is to shine light for ships when they are traveling in the dark. Palermo Elementary will now light the way for surrounding schools to also serve as a Leader in Me example.



Gary McGuey, 7 Habits/Leader in Me coach, high-fives Palermo Elementary School Student Lighthouse team members after Principal Margaret "Peggy" Scorzelli announced to the students that the school had been named a Lighthouse School with the Leader in Me program, following years of hard work.



Leadership Days Allows Mexico Students to Shine



Mexico Elementary Student Lighthouse Team members Jaelyn Mykietyn, Kacee Killam and Emma Belfield ready for the end of their building tour with guest and New Haven Elementary School Teacher Aide Kristen Matteson during the school's recent Leadership Day.



New Haven Elementary 3rd Graders Complete Prosthetic PBL Activity

Students in Andrea Barry's third-grade classroom at New Haven Elementary were recently tasked with creating a prosthetic leg using their academic and life skills.

After the students had learned about animals and the human body in English language arts units, they explored adaptations to help animals and humans thrive. A friend of Barry's happened to work in a prosthetic laboratory in Tennessee, so her students were able to view short videos of how prosthetics were made before they began work on their creations. Plungers, cardboard, paper, tape and other materials were used to create customized prosthetic legs for their imaginary patients.

All students research the history of prosthetics and how far they have come throughout the years before they used math skills to measure materials, science skills to help figure out how and why the prosthetic would work and character education skills, such as empathy, to connect with their imaginary patient. They also felt a sense of pride and importance when they worked with Mexico High School Librarian Nicole Nicosia, who had agreed to 3D print a prosthetic hand for Barry's students to assemble.



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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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MACS to Offer 1:1 Laptop Program

The Mexico Academy & Central School District is embarking on a 1:1 student laptop program to help its students increase their digital literacy and core competencies.

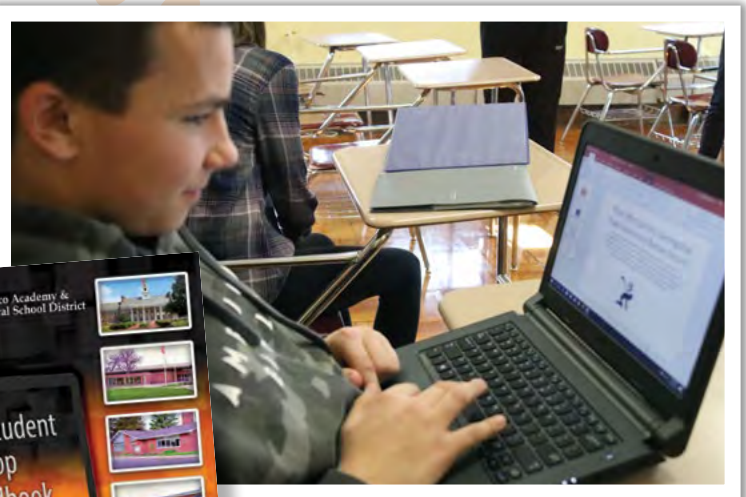
MACS Director of Technology Steven Roux said the district will roll out laptops for students in grades two through 12 at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. The advancement to the MACS technology program comes after approximately 75 percent of its teachers have been trained in blended learning instruction strategies, which is a combination of traditional classroom learning and computer-mediated instruction to support student ownership of their own learning.

“This is not about technology; it’s about using the right tool to support student learning,” Roux said.

Students in grades two through four will have a device assigned to them in their classroom and they may utilize it for any necessary classroom switching. Fifth- and sixth-graders will start the year with devices in their classroom and will be allowed to take laptops home after the October open house. Students in grades seven through 12 will be permitted to bring the laptops home for flexible studying, research time and completion of class assignments.

All students will be trained on how to properly care for their laptops, which will come with a case for added protection. They will be required to review the 1:1 program handbook and through Family ID, parents will also be asked to accept responsibility for the device. Future 1:1 student and parent orientations will take place.

Mary Beth Horn, MACS Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, said more time will be built into



students’ schedules to help increase their keyboarding and other computer skills to help make the program even more successful. Increased utilization

of the devices will also help with preparation for online assessments, she said.

Students in grades pre-kindergarten through first-grade will have a classroom set of iPads for age-appropriate digital literacy development.

Horn said the 1:1 laptop program will highlight the 21st century skills of communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.

Roux said the district has leveraged the power of services through the Regional Information Center and was able to lease necessary equipment over an extended period of time.