



Tiger TRADITIONS

Inspiring Excellence and Leadership in All!

March/April 2017 - Volume 18 • Issue 1

“Madagascar - A Musical Adventure JR” - A Musical Success!



When “Madagascar - A Musical Adventure JR” was presented at Mexico Middle School in early February, it was a musical success! The talents, skills, and hard work of more than 50 Mexico Middle School students shown brightly in drama, voice, art, stage, lights, and sound, and produced a colorful, entertaining, and highly comical musical. The show was directed by MACS Music Teacher Laura Washburn with the assistance of Lisa Brooks and Tara Wiseman.

Palermo Elementary 4th Grade Educational Band Concert

The Palermo Elementary School Fourth Grade Educational Band Concert was held on February 6, 2017, at the school. MACS Music Teacher Glen Gagnier directed the event during which family members watched and learned how their children experience band lessons, what they are learning, and how they should practice. All three elementary schools hosted educational band concerts during the winter season.



Let's Get Social!



Want to know the latest happenings at MACS? Follow us on social media! MACS has gone social across the district and below is a list of what to follow for the latest updates on all things MACS!

FACEBOOK



Mexico Academy & Central School District

www.facebook.com/MACSPride/

Mexico High School Library

www.facebook.com/PierceLibraryAtMexicoHs

Mexico Elementary Library

www.facebook.com/MexicoElementaryLibrary

TWITTER



MACS Superintendent Sean Bruno

@Macssuper

Mexico Academy & Central School District

@macspride

MACS Athletic Department

@MacsAthletics

Mexico High School

@MexicoAcademyHS

Mexico High School Student Services - Scholarships

@MScholarships

Mexico High School Library

@MexicoHSLibrary

Mexico Middle School

@MexicoMiddle

Mexico Elementary

@MexElm

New Haven Elementary

@NewHavenElm

New Haven Elementary Library

@NewHavenLibrary

Palermo Elementary

@PalermoElm

Palermo Elementary Library

@PalermoLibrary



A Message from the Superintendent



It's hard to believe Spring is almost here! Time seems to be going by quickly. I hope this article finds you and your family happy healthy and enjoying the mild winter. I would like to provide a couple of updates regarding our District.

Facilities Use Study

As stated in the September issue, our District is participating in a transparent and collaborative study of our facilities. As we engage in this study, we continue to make certain that we adhere to the following guiding principles:

1. Ensure we are providing optimal learning conditions for our students that is also financially responsible to our taxpayers.
2. Ensure that we continue to honor our rich history and traditions while simultaneously maintaining our focus on continuous improvement.

An advisory committee representing broad-based representation from all geographic sections of our school district community have volunteered to serve. The committee is working closely with consultants, Mr. Alan Pole and Dr. Bill Silky of Castallo & Silky LLC who our district has hired to conduct this important study. All meetings are open to the public. While there will be an official advisory committee, all meetings are public and anyone may attend. The meetings will be held in the district's schools and will rotate every meeting. The meeting dates are located on our District calendar and on our website. All meetings will run from 6:30-8:30 p.m. (for several meetings an optional tour of the host district school will also be conducted from 5:45-6:30).

As you may know, we strive to ensure that our District website contains the most accurate, reliable and up to date information regarding our District. As such, all of the Facility Use Study information, including meeting agendas, presentations, and minutes can be found at <http://www.mexicocsd.org/domain/296>

As you will see from this information on our website, the committee is studying all aspects of our facilities and brainstorming all sorts of ideas. They will weigh pros and cons of each potential idea and make final recommendations along with supporting data and rationale to our BOE in July for their consideration. Please know that these are not decisions, they are data-based collaborative recommendations to improve the way we use our facilities for our students, our taxpayers, and our community, while simultaneously ensuring that we continue to honor our rich history and traditions. From these recommendations, our Board of Education members can decide to use all, some, or none of the recommendations.

As you may know, whenever you complete renovations at home or in any of our buildings, there always seem to be challenges that cause delays. While we have had significant delays during the renovation of our high school auditorium, we are in the last phase, including hanging the stage equipment and look forward to it being completed within the next couple of months. To celebrate the completion of our high school auditorium, we are planning a grand re-opening ceremony. We will notify every one of the date and time and look forward to seeing you there!

You may have noticed that most of the work on the front of our high school is almost completed. Please take a look at the clock; it has been renovated and is now working. Once the weather permits, final painting of our entrance and completion of the front steps and handicap ramp will finalize this portion of our capital project.

The targeted renovation areas of our middle school, including classrooms, hallways, and the elevator have been updated. Not only do they look fantastic, they provide a clean, safe and academic environment that supports increased professionalism and learning. Please feel free to stop by central office for a tour.

Our high school stadium is on track to be started and completed this year. As I have previously stated, we need to begin this construction as soon as possible so that we can complete it before the winter begins again. Renovating our stadium means that it will impact spring sports, graduation and fall sports. While I realize this causes disappointment, our stadium facilities are failing and must be renovated, and there is no other way they can be renovated without the impact.

I thank our Board of Education members who have gone to great lengths to create a plan that best meets the needs of students and our community, which is also fiscally responsible. Once it is completed, I am sure that you will be very pleased!

All of our Capital Project information can be found on our website at, <http://www.mexicocsd.org/facilitiesusestudy>. I thank you for your patience and continued support while we complete our project!

Sean C. Bruno,
MACS Superintendent of Schools

MACS National Honor Society Annual Rite of Induction



The MACS National Honor Society 61st Annual Rite of Induction Ceremony was held on January 19, 2017. Seventeen Mexico High School Students were inducted into the admirable society. The 2016 NHS Inductees are pictured, flanked by the current MACS National Honor Society Members (in robes). MACS Teacher Joseph Deckman serves as advisor to the MACS chapter.



Front, left to right: MACS NHS Advisor Joseph Deckman: Abbi Garrett, Becca Saya, Bailey Wills, Ashton Ariola, Angel Newcombe, Victoria Ross, Brianna Clark, Kylee Fletcher, Alex Linerode, Kaitlyn Belcher, Alissia Seeburger, and Abby Weber.

Back, left to right: Emily Blunt, Ashton McCormack, John Ocker, Derrick Mosher, Wyatt Jensen, Anthony Yost, Shania Purchas, Erin Gilmore, Kassie Wallis, Lydia Becker, Austin Whitaker, Ben Pelow, and Sean Heagerty.

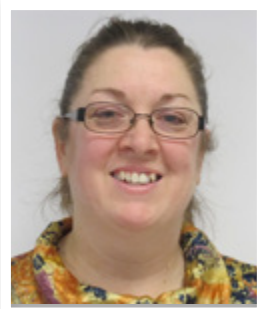
Proud to be MACS



January Proud to be MACS Honoree

Keith Himes, New Haven Elementary School Music Teacher (retired), has been selected as the January 2017 Proud to be MACS Honoree. Keith grew up in Scriba, attended the New Haven Elementary School, and graduated from Mexico High in 1969. He earned a bachelor's degree from SUNY Oswego in 1982 and a master's degree from the same university in 1991.

In 1987, Keith was hired as a music teacher in the Mexico School District, dividing his time between the middle school and New Haven Elementary school. Ultimately he worked full-time at New Haven Elementary and retired in June of 2016. Keith's retirement was short lived however, as he returned to the district to take a long-term substitute position at Mexico Elementary School from September 2016 to January 2017.



February Proud to be MACS Honoree

Lisa Buske, Mexico Elementary School Teacher Assistant, was selected as the Proud to be MACS Honoree for February 2017. Lisa grew up in New Haven, attended Mexico Schools through eighth grade, and graduated from Bishop Cunningham Jr/Sr High School in Oswego in 1989. She attended Cazenovia College, earned an associate's degree from Cayuga Community College, and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in English and writing from NY Institute of Technology.

Lisa began her career in the Mexico School District in December 2002 as a teacher aide at New Haven Elementary School, working in all grade levels. She became a teacher assistant in 2003. In the fall of 2012, she transferred to Mexico Elementary School, where she currently serves in the capacity of one-on-one (guiding one student), and assists all the second grade teachers and students. In addition, Lisa is the Mexico Elementary Leader in Me Lighthouse Team Facilitator.

Lisa married Ed Buske, a 1986 MACS graduate, in 1993. The couple became parents to daughter Mary in 1998.

Speaking about her work Lisa says, "I love it. I don't look at it as a job though, I look at it as an investment in the lives of the kids and our future... Everything that happens in the elementary school is the foundation for middle school and high school. We are a key to graduation. We are teaching them to love to learn."

Commenting on her position in the Mexico School District Lisa says, "Mexico treats their teacher assistants as educators."

When asked how she feels regarding the Proud to be MACS award, Lisa responds, "It's very humbling. I don't think that I do anything above and beyond what is expected. I do what I'm called to do. I appreciate it. It is an honor."

Lisa and her husband make their home in New Haven. Their daughter Mary, a MACS 2016 graduate, attends SUNY Oswego.

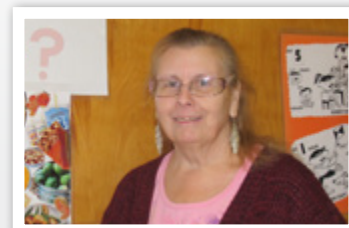
Oswego County AmeriCorps Member in 4th Year at MACS!

Oswego County AmeriCorps Volunteer Georgia Davis is in her fourth year serving as a volunteer in the Mexico School District. She began volunteering at Mexico Elementary School in 2013 and transferred to New Haven Elementary this past fall.

Georgia volunteers at the school five days a week, six to eight hours a day. She mentors students in two kindergarten classrooms and leads five Nutrition/Fitness Groups, with five to six students in each, during lunch periods. "We talk about nutrition and fitness, do crafts, play games. The students have enjoyed our time together and so have I."

Since her retirement 22 years ago, Georgia has volunteered in a variety of places but notes that she really enjoys working with children, encouraging them to work hard and helping them to be good students.

Georgia makes her home with her husband in Mexico. They are parents to three children and five grandchildren.



Georgia Davis AmeriCorps volunteer

Mexico Elementary January Synergy Summit

The students in MACS Teacher Karin Musumeci's second grade class gave a Leader in Me Presentation during the Mexico Elementary School Synergy Summit on January 26, 2017. The presentation highlighted the difference between being a boss and being a leader. The audience (all grade levels),



called out 'boss' or 'leader' depending on the words on the posters held by the students. Examples: 'Knows everything' – boss. 'Admits mistakes' – leader. This year is the second year that Mexico Elementary School has been a Leader in Me School.

Mexico Middle School AVID Students Discover Breakout EDU

The Mexico Middle School 8th grade Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) students dove into an exciting educational challenge in mid-January. The students were tasked with solving mystery puzzles which led to opening several locks and discovering the treasure that was secured in special boxes.

MACS AVID Teacher Kim Julian led the students in the Breakout EDU lesson that used problem solving, teamwork, technology skills, and more. A letter, left in the classroom from someone called 'Master Mind', challenged the students to follow clues, solve the puzzles, and open the locked boxes within 30 minutes. Could they do it?

Yes. What did they find in the locked boxes? M & M's.



MACS Hall of Fame Seeking Nomination of New Members

The Mexico Academy and Central School Alumni Association is seeking nominations for new members to be inducted into the MACS Hall of Fame at this spring's MACS Alumni Banquet.

Not to be confused with the MACS Athletic Hall of Fame, the MACS Alumni Association Hall of Fame was created to honor those individuals who have had a profound effect on the children of the Mexico School District, including teachers, administrators, board members, support staff, and community members. The MACS Hall of

Fame, located in the Mexico High School Hungerford Library, provides a place for alumni to give tribute to those individuals who helped shape their lives while students of MACS.

Nominations can be made using the form provided on the Alumni page of the school website: www.mexicocsd.org. The Alumni page can be located by following the "For Community" link on the home page and then choosing the "Alumni" link from the directory.

The deadline for nominations to be received is March 15

Palermo Elementary Pre-K Visit the Dentist

Both the morning and afternoon Palermo Elementary Pre-K students took a field trip to Madden Family Dentistry, in Mexico, in early February.

The students learned many things about what a visit to the dentist is like including: how it feels to ride in the chair, how instruments are used and cleaned, how teeth are counted and cleaned, and what foods are good for their teeth and what foods are not. The field trip ended with a puppet show.

Mexico Elementary and New Haven Elementary Schools also had field trips to Madden Family Dentistry during the month of February.



Palermo Elementary School Pre-K students were excited to see how Dental Hygienist Patricia Bendura, makes water disappear from a cup with a suction tube.

New Haven Pre-K Community Helper Day

January 13, 2017 was Community Helper Dress-Up Day for the Pre-K students at New Haven Elementary School. During both the morning and afternoon Pre-K sessions, the students in the class dressed as community helpers and role played what the helpers would do in the selected positions. There was a wide variety of careers represented; including, but not limited to: firefighter, doctor, dental hygienist, artist, paleontologists, construction worker, builder, and dad. Show and tell followed with the children sharing about the roles they were pretending to be and explaining any tools they used in their work. Community Helper Dress-Up Day followed the Family and Community Unit that the classes just completed.



MACS Superintendent's Conference Day

MACS held a Superintendent's Conference Day on Friday, February 10, 2017, providing MACS staff time to conduct data analysis and attend a wide variety of workshops. Many teachers spent the morning reviewing results of recent STAR testing and mid-year benchmark assessments that students completed in January. Data analysis provides an opportunity for teachers to address specific needs of students along with making needed adjustments to instruction.



Pictured, left to right, are: Mexico Elementary Art Teacher Patricia Brooks, Mexico High School Art Teachers Barbara Sheldon and David Maidens, and Mexico Middle School 7/8 Grade Band Director Kevin Upcraft.

In addition, many staff members attended web-based technology trainings for programs that are intended to provide additional learning opportunities for students or streamlined processes for staff. Staff learned about Writing A-Z, RAZ Plus, Health Office Anywhere, Schoology, Screencast-o-Matic, Moby Max, plus many more.

MACS Director of Technology Steve Roux led art and music teachers in an in-depth Visual and Performing Arts Website Design workshop. Mr. Roux explained the workshop saying, "The focus was to bring the teachers together to update and expand a visual and performing arts webpage."

To do this, the teachers researched other webpages online, discussed and defined a layout, and gathered text and MACS images to complete the webpage, which is located on the MACS website.

True Beauty Day at Mexico Middle School and High School

The annual True Beauty Day at Mexico Middle School and Mexico High School was held on February 9, 2017 with the focus on true beauty being shown in kindness and the way we treat others. In addition to a variety of activities, hundreds of participating female students and staff went without make-up. In the middle school both male and female students and staff wore T-shirts that read, "#BeBeautiful #BeKind." MACS Teacher Mona Goble and MACS Counselor Lisa Szewczyk co-coordinated the event. Seventh grader Ayla Cowley served as the student leader for True Beauty Day.

At Mexico High school hundreds of students and staff joined in on activities that highlighted individual worth as being more than what a person looks like. A variety of activities filled the day including the wearing of T-shirts that read "Beauty is more than what I look like," and photos with participants holding white-boards identifying personal positive character traits. MACS Teacher Shannon Bigelow serves as coordinator for True Beauty Day and this year was assisted in orchestrating the day-long event by 15 MACS seniors.

Valentine's Day for Mexico Elementary Pre-K



Both the morning and afternoon Pre-K classes at Mexico Elementary School participated in a special Valentine's Day project that showed love and care for children spending Valentine's Day at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital in Syracuse. With MACS Pre-K Teacher Suzanne Maniccia and MACS Teacher Aide Dee Brooks guiding, the students created colored tissue paper hearts and coffee filter stained glass hearts to provide decorations for children in the hospital. In addition, the families of the students donated a total of \$205 to the hospital for supplies needed for the children.

MACS Student is 2017 CNY Scholastic Art Exhibition Gold and Silver Key Winner

Anne Den Ouden, MACS Senior and foreign exchange student from the Netherlands, was awarded both a Gold Key and a Silver Key at the 2017 CNY Scholastic Art Exhibition at Onondaga Community College. Anne is a student of MACS Art Teacher David Maidens.

Cummins, Julia Furlong, Katie Durfey (2), and Katherine Hill.



Anne Den Ouden



Anne Den Ouden, MACS Senior Gold Key Painting: "LION"

In addition, the following four Mexico High School art students were awarded 2017 Scholastic Art Exhibition Honorable Mentions: Chynia

Anne Den Ouden, MACS Senior Silver Key Painting: "BEAR"



#BEBEAUTIFUL #BEKIND #TRUEBEAUTY

Beauty is more than what I look like.



Pictured: a group of Mexico Middle School students participating in True Beauty Day 2017.



Pictured distributing homemade cookies, from left to right, are: Mikala Fredette, Marisa Higby, Olivia Moretti, and Kylie Fletcher.

P-TECH Presentation at Mexico Middle School

P-TECH Principal Bill Lynch and Counselor Dan Lupa reviewed the P-TECH Program, currently in the inaugural year, as a college career path opportunity for high school students interested in electrical or mechanical technology. P-TECH connects the school districts within



Oswego County with CiTi (Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation), OCC (Onondaga Community College), and five local industry



partners, offering students the prospect of simultaneously working toward earning an associate's degree in Applied Science from OCC while earning their Regents High School Diploma - at no cost to the student or their families.

Presently, 56 Oswego County students are enrolled in the P-TECH Program; six are freshmen from Mexico High School.

DO YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN



P-TECH is now accepting applications for the 2017-2018 school year, and eighth grade students interested in the program must apply, online, by March 23, 2017. Additional information is available at www.CiTiboces.org/PTECH.

MACS MARCH MUSIC PERFORMANCES:

March 9, 10 & 11	High School Musical – Cinderella – 7:00 MS Auditorium
March 13	Middle School Jazz Ensemble performance at State Capital in Albany
March 15	High School Pops Band & Chorus Concert – 7:00 PM MS Auditorium
March 27/28	Band Concert – 7:00 PM @ MS Auditorium
March 28	MS Chorus Concert – 7:00 PM @ MS Auditorium
March 28	HS Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Choir performance at State Capital in Albany

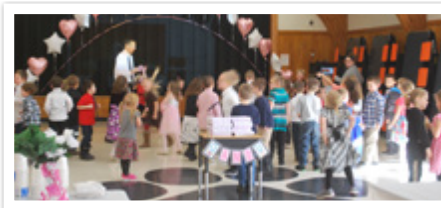
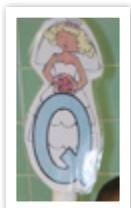
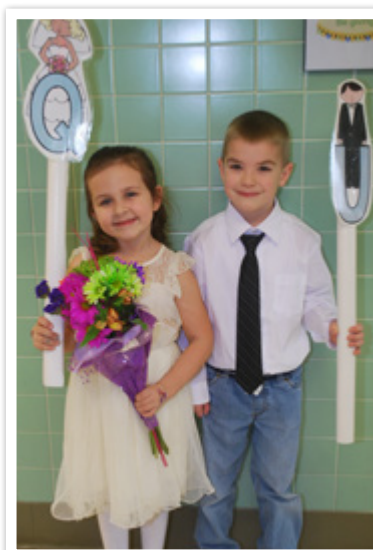
MARCH IS

Music

IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH

The Wedding of Letters Q and U

The wedding of Letters Q and U took place at New Haven Elementary School in early February. Students in all three kindergarten classes dressed formally for the occasion and held placards of the letters Q and U, as brides and grooms, while New Haven Principal Joseph McGrath officiated. Once the letters Q and U were wed, a reception followed with dancing and cake. Thanks to New Haven Elementary Kindergarten Teachers Nicole Virdone, Elaina Hastings-Gauthier, and Brianne Hartmann for the orchestrating successful event.



Mexico High School Spirit Week Hall Decorating Contest



Spirit Week at Mexico High School, sponsored by Mexico High Student Council, was held January 9-13, 2017. After five days of dress themes, the week culminated with the annual Hall Decorating Contest and Pep Rally.

Students from all grade levels spent hours creating themed masterpiece scenes in the halls of the high school. On Friday morning, students, staff and guests toured the hallway and voted for their favorite. MACS Sophomores took the vote with the theme "A Night in Venice."

Mexico High School Applied Technology Class Builds A Trebuchet

Under the instruction of MACS Teacher Andrew MacDonald, students in the Mexico High School Applied Technology class recently built a Trebuchet.

What is the definition of a Trebuchet? According to medieval-life-and-times.info, "The Trebuchet was a weapon used during siege warfare. The Medieval Trebuchet was similar to a catapult, or stave sling, which was used for hurling heavy stones to smash castle or city walls. The word 'Medieval Trebuchet' is derived from the Old French word 'Trebucher' meaning to throw over."

The process for the class is explained by Andrew MacDonald who says, "We built a Trebuchet from scratch using a swing bucket weight. We will collect more data on trial throws, then we will use the weight of a softball and volleyball to learn the maximum height, distance, miles-per-hour and other facts."

Andrew MacDonald is pictured left, with the students who worked on the project, from left to right: Jon Bean, Dustin Bristol, Sydney Wilson, Ryan Goodrow, and Alex Ericksen.



Mexico School District Battle of the Books Winner

A Palermo Elementary School Battle of the Books team of three came in first-place in the Mexico School District competition on February 8, 2017. Two teams from Mexico Elementary and two from Palermo Elementary were challenged into overtime during the competition, and in the end the Palermo Elementary "Reading Rock Stars" took first-place. This team moved on to face the first-place teams from eight other Oswego County school districts.

A total of 13 MACS elementary school teams participated in the Battle of the Books this school year, which involved reading and studying 10 chapter books since last fall, bi-weekly meetings, and competitions that tested their memories. Congratulations to all participating students and their coaches.



Palermo Elementary School Battle of the Books First-place Winners at the District Level, from left to right: Avery Willis, Jenna Ricker, and Makena Jewell.



HEAD START PRE-K

is taking APPLICATIONS FOR ENROLLMENT

MEXICO HOME BASE PROGRAM

In addition:

Applications are accepted year round.

Please Bring:

- ◆ Child's Birth Certificate or Medicaid Card
- ◆ Proof of 2016 income (e.g. taxes, budget sheet, W-2s, pay stubs, etc.)

For more information: Phone: 598-4711
E-mail: children@oco.org



Home Base Head Start Offers:

- ✍ 1 1/2 hour weekly home visit to provide educational activities for 3 year old children and parents that are designed for school readiness.
- ✍ Classroom experience provided twice a month.
- ✍ Family engagement focus.
- ✍ Meal provided during classroom experience

Bus transportation is limited. Parent may be responsible to provide their child's transportation to specific Head Start sites.

Head Start is provided at **NO COST.**
(Income guidelines apply)



SAVE THE DATES!

Applications for Head Start Pre-K for Mexico Enrollment will be:

Fri., March 17th
8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Believer's Chapel 5375
State Route 3, Mexico

Wed., April 25th
8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Believer's Chapel 5375
State Route 3, Mexico



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Day at Syracuse University for Mexico High Music Theory Students

On January 19, 2017, eight Mexico High School students involved in the Music Theory I and AP Music Theory classes were able to take part in a learning extension experience at Syracuse University's Belfer Audio Archive. As part of their coursework, students have been studying introductory musical acoustics, sound production, historical and current recording technology, and basic techniques in sound engineering.

Shaun Kinney (Mexico Academy Class of 2012), a Fifth year graduate student in the Audio Arts Program at Syracuse, gave students a tour of the state of the art, live end-dead end studio within the Belfer facility. Students discussed the engineering and architectural challenges of creating a space suitable of producing a high-fidelity recording while maintaining musical integrity. Shaun then took the students into the control room where they discussed the difference between stereophonic and surround sound recording procedures. To wrap up the day, students also visited Crouse College. This building houses the majority of the programs for Syracuse University's Setnor School of Music. MACS Junior AJ Yost stated, "It was great to see how a professional music studio works. It showed us how cool and intricate the industry really is."



Shaun Kinney, left, a MACS 2012 graduate and fifth year graduate student in the Audio Arts Program at Syracuse University, with Mexico High School music students, right, at Syracuse University.

New Mural in Mexico High School Principal's Office

Six talented Mexico High School art students spent many hours creating a masterpiece that now brightens the wall of the principal's office in Mexico High School. Incorporating a tiger, the MACS Alma Mater, the Mexico High cuploa, the Village of Mexico and more, the mural is one to be proud of.



The Mexico High Artists, all students of MACS Art Teacher Barb Sheldon, are: Stacia Johnston, Morgan Rhoads, Madeline Higby, Alyssa Curling, Kimberly Heagerty and Alexis Cleveland.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 15:** High School Band/Chorus Concert, 7pm
- March 16:** Grade 4 District Elementary Band Concert
- March 17:** New Haven Elem. Movie Night, 6pm
- March 21:** New Haven Elem. Readers from Birth, 6pm
- March 22:** Grade 7/8 Band Concert, 7pm
- March 23-24:** High School Variety Show, 7pm
- March 28:** Grade 5/6 Chorus Concert, 7pm
- April 4:** Junior College Night, 6pm
- April 6:** French Honor Society Inductions, 7pm
- April 7-8:** JH/SH All-County Chorus
- April 13:** MACS Board of Education Meeting, 6pm
- April 14-21:** No School, Spring Recess
- April 24:** Math & Art Honor Society Inductions, 7pm
- April 28:** Palermo Elem. Royal Ball, 7pm