Dear Residents,

It is truly hard to believe that February is upon us. I am hopeful that half of winter is behind us and soon temperatures will warm up and our students will be out on fields and the track.

Recently the state released accountability information regarding every school and district in the state under federal guidelines. With the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) comes a new designation for New York Mills. Originally the District was identified as a Focus District due to the performance of our students with disabilities. A lot of work, by everyone, has occurred to address concerns that came with that designation. We now have students of all ability levels in co-teaching learning environments. We have made some curriculum adjustments, and will continue with that work as New York state adopts the Next Generation Learning Standards. We are formalizing a system of benchmarks and data review that informs our instruction and allows us to use that data to personalize the learning for our students.

Districts that were designated Focus for the 2017-18 school year were to be identified as Target Districts with the ESSA rollout. We were hopeful that with the increased participation in the state assessments that translated into clear success especially in grades 4 and 5, the district would no longer be identified. District and building wide-our Students with Disabilities (SWD) are all in good standing, which was a primary area of concern with the Focus designation. In fact, many of our students, when looking at groups by demographics, are in good standing.

Given that schools are institutions that are constantly in a state of continuous improvement, there remains one area that has the secondary program identified as a Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school and that would be for our middle level mathematics growth scores. (Continued on page 2)
Drama Club Presents: The Little Mermaid

The New York Mills Drama Club will be presenting the musical *The Little Mermaid* on March 22 and 23, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium. The cast has been working hard since December to transform the auditorium into a magical underwater kingdom full of jellyfish, mermaids and princesses.

The musical will showcase the talents of the students here at New York Mills. Some of the students that will be sharing their musical talents include: Ariellah Bova as Ariel, Ethan Hurst as Prince Eric, Michael Robles as King Triton, Amanda Costello as Ursula, Gretchen Biel as Flounder, Kaitlyn Kulawy as Scuttle, Alyssa Malinowski as Sebastian and many other talented musicians and dancers.

The show is directed by Teresa Zielinski-Lovecchio, choreographed by Juliana Muirhead with orchestral direction by Keller Shelton.

Tickets will be on sale beginning March 11 at the cost of $8 per person and can be purchased at the school's attendance office, through any cast member, and at the door the nights of the performances. A senior performance will take place on March 21 at 4 p.m.
The Optimist Club of New York Mills has named Matthew Cornish as Youth of the Month for December. Matthew is the son of Timothy and Candace of New York Mills and a member of the New York Mills Class of 2019.

Matthew has been named to honor roll and was inducted in the National Junior Honor Society in 8th grade. Last spring, Matthew was presented with the Walter Miga Memorial Award at the National Honor Society banquet for the countless hours that he has dedicated to assisting a classmate and "because he is a daily reminder of what it means to be courteous and he is a rare pleasure to teach," among other qualities that he exemplifies.

Matt has been a member of our Varsity Golf Team for the past two years and plans to participate again this spring. Matt's main sport has been hockey and he is a member of the Mohawk Valley Raiders High School Hockey team. He has volunteered for our Olympic Day and Craft Fair as well as the Children's Heart Run.

Matt is considering a number of career options, including computers and electronics, and plans to attend MVCC.

MaryGrace has been named the New York Mills Optimist Youth of the Month for November. MaryGrace is the daughter of Paul and Joyce Kehrli of New York Mills and a member of the New York Mills Class of 2019.

MaryGrace is an honor roll student who has been named Student of the Month every year in high school. She was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society in 8th grade and National Honor Society in 11th grade, and now serves as vice president of the organization. As a junior, MaryGrace received an award from Keuka College.

MaryGrace has been an active part of the New York Mills High School community. MaryGrace has played flute and sung in our chorus since elementary school and has performed both as part of the group and as a soloist with our concert band, jazz band and chorus for many years. In addition, she has earned many large roles in our school musicals and is a current officer for Drama Club. She also participates in the Debate Club.

MaryGrace is a talented athlete who played basketball earlier in her school career and now plays volleyball and runs for our cross country, outdoor track and indoor track teams. Her accomplishments in the sports include being named a CSC All-Star for multiple years as well as Most Improved Runner in 2017. In addition, MaryGrace has volunteered her time for a number of organizations and functions including the NYM PTSO annual craft fair, the Utica Boilermaker Kids Run and at her church. She has also held a part-time job.

MaryGrace wishes to pursue a career in Occupational Therapy and is interested in Utica College, Keuka College and MVCC.
School News

Grades 7-11 Students of the Month

Students are chosen using the following criteria:


September 2018

Kylie Lyons  
Grade 11

Heather Roberts  
Grade 10

Noah Diskin  
Grade 9

Audra Brannum  
Grade 8

Abigail Evans  
Grade 7

October 2018

David Mroz  
Grade 11

Donnell Anderson  
Grade 10

Jemma Jordan  
Grade 9

Isaiah Sobolewski  
Grade 8

Vincent Martell  
Grade 7

November 2018

Holly Simon  
Grade 11

Lesya Voloshchuk  
Grade 10

Ariellah Bova  
Grade 9

Noah Moore  
Grade 8

Lauren Kulpa  
Grade 7

December 2018

Alexis Gyore  
Grade 11

Sydney Maciol  
Grade 10

Isabella Cornish  
Grade 9

Jadin Staring  
Grade 8

Victoria Odarchuk  
Grade 7
School News

Kids of Character Awards

The following grades 3-6 students were selected as September Kids of Character at New York Mills Elementary School. This award is given for following The Marauder Way on a regular basis.

**OCTOBER Kids of Character Awards**

Grade 3 – Alexander Duymaz & Brady Cornish  
Grade 4 – Kaylyn Dreidel & Caleb Miner  
Grade 5 – Asah Bova & Skylar DesMarais  
Grade 6 – Heidi Cilbrith & Siena Lorraine

**NOVEMBER Kids of Character Awards**

Grade 3 – Liliya Armitage-Leuthauser & Joseph Koch  
Grade 4 – Ethan Stratman & Haelee Phillips  
Grade 5 – Maggie Copperwheat & Austin Exton  
Grade 6 – Sean Clifford & Ethan Garay

**DECEMBER Kids of Character Awards**

Grade 3 – Bryce Grande & Lena Galime  
Grade 4 – Aubrey Salmon & Ethan Lubey  
Grade 5 – Abbey Calhoun & Liam Mahardy  
Grade 6 – Rose Jeff & Abigail Pavlus

Junior High All-County News

In January, five students from the 7-9 grade music department auditioned for placement in the Junior High All-County festival. We would like to congratulate all of them for their successful auditions and acceptance into the festival. They will be performing on March 16 at the Junior High All-County festival at Westmoreland Middle School where they will be members of the select students who excel at their instruments. Congratulations to Hailey Mahardy for her acceptance on flute in the Symphonic Band, Ariellah Bova, Torie Bullen, Julie Roberts and Ethan Hurst for their acceptance into the Concert Choir. Congratulations!

Student Council members will be scheduling to help local senior citizens with their yard clean-up this spring. Council members are working in conjunction with the Oneida County Youth Bureau to help clear leaves and other debris from yards after the winter season. If you are interested in having students come and help with your yard work in late April, please contact the Oneida County Youth Bureau at (315) 798-5027. A specific date will be given in the coming months.
School News

Winter Ball 2019

Student Council hosted the Winter Ball on January 12, 2019, for students in grades 9-12. This year’s color scheme was black, gold and white. Students decorated the lobby, hallway, and cafeteria. DJ Scott Carman played the tunes. In addition to the decorations and music, photos were taken on the stage in the auditorium with a professional photo booth by Big Shot Photo Booths. Food and beverages were provided for students as part of the admission fee to the dance and included: tomato pie, cupcakes, brownies and various types of soda and water.

Students Receive Art Certificates

The following students who received Art Certificates for being creative: Lamanh Nguyen, Elizabeth Ford, Dominique Galante, Olivia Achen-Tebsherany, Brianna Broccoli, Emily Hutchings and Izabella Morse. Great work!
Thank you to our Director of Facilities, Mark Santomassino, for his work with National Grid to replace our street lights on Marauder Boulevard!

National Grid had offered to replace our 13 light poles with LED fixtures for a cost of $501.17. Once complete, we will submit proof of completion to New York state who will then reimburse the district $875 for the work done to reduce energy costs. Due to Mr. Santomassino’s work with National Grid, we will recoup revenue for the District as well as reduce our energy costs long term.

Truly a “win/win” for New York Mills.

New York Mills Music Department and Student Council Present:

April 27, the second annual community-wide Color Run will commence with a 1-mile fun run beginning at 8:30 a.m. and a 5K untimed run at 9 a.m. Both runs will take place here at New York Mills School. The run is geared for all ages and fitness abilities. “Rather than sell goods, we want to engage the entire student body in a fitness initiative that aims to encourage a life-long healthy way of living.”

Pre-registration (before 4/12/19) $20


Questions about the event can be directed to Teresa Lovecchio at tlovecchio@newyorkmills.org or Aileen Viel at aviel@newyorkmills.org.

FIRE INSPECTION NOTICE

“Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection for ... (2019) of the New York Mills Union Free School District for fire hazards which might endanger the lives of students, teachers, employees therein, has been completed and the report thereof is available at the office of the Superintendent at New York Mills UFSD for inspection by all interested persons.”
Board of Education
Jacqueline Edwards, President
Steve King, Vice President
Alicia Albright
Kristin Hubley
Michelle Jordan
Dr. Gary W. Porcelli
Janet Wroblicki

Administration
Dr. Joanne Shelmidine, Superintendent of Schools
Mary Facci, K-12 Executive Principal
Brent Dodge, K-12 Principal

Visit us on the Web
http://www.newyorkmills.org

Blood Drive
TUESDAY
FEB. 26
8:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
HS AUDITORIUM

Public walk-ins are welcome!