



Outreach

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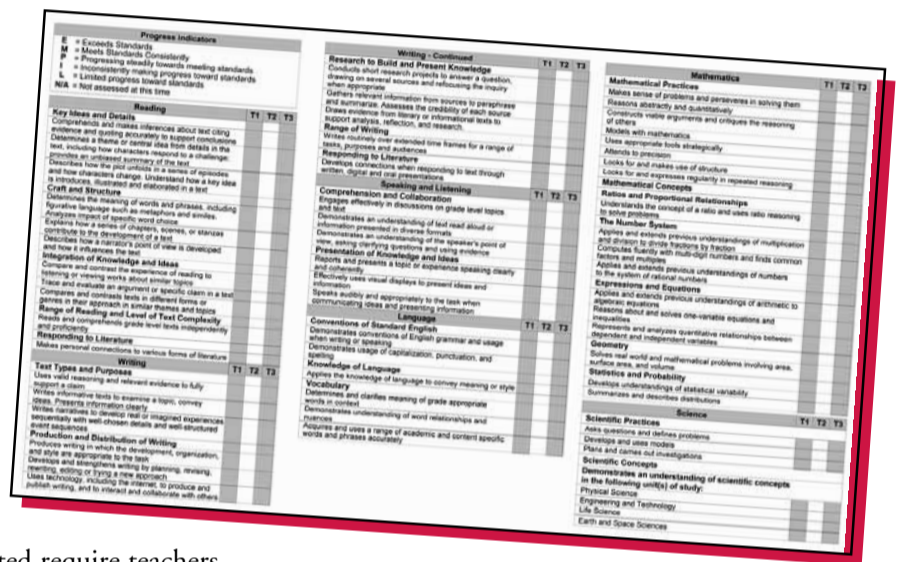
New Report Cards Developed for Common Core

In order to better align with the new Common Core Learning Standards, Mineola has established new standards-based report cards for students in grades pre-K-6. In conjunction with parental input, a committee of teachers worked last spring to create progress indicators aligned with the Common Core anchor standards in English language arts, Common Core math standards and Next Generation Science Standards.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment Patricia Burns said of the decision, "These new report cards target specific standards and enable teachers and parents to understand what students know in relation to standards. We have the ability to assess students' progress toward standards and want to accurately inform parents on where their child is in terms of meeting end-of-year standards."

The report cards have been designed to indicate where a student stands in his or her understanding of the grade-level standards at the conclusion of each trimester (not quarter). Teachers have created common formative assessments aligned with the Common Core Standards in order to gauge student progress at the end of each unit of study.

"The curriculum resources and instructional materials that the district has implemented require teachers to go deeper in fewer topics over the school year," Mrs. Burns explained. "If at the end of a unit of study students are not meeting standards, the teachers will re-teach in small groups based on the students' needs."



Parent workshops will be held in October (dates listed below), but in case you miss them, here's an overview of what to expect:

- Rather than receiving a score of 1, 2, 3 or 4 or 85% or "Excellent," etc., the children's progress will be aligned to the grade-specific standards.
- The new progress indicators are:
 E = Exceeds standards
 M = Meets standards consistently
 P = Progressing steadily toward meeting standards
 I = Inconsistently making progress toward standards
 L = Limited progress toward standards
- Grade-level rubrics based on state standards have been created to assess students' performance/growth in relation to the standards. An example of a standard would be: "A child can describe characters in a story

and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events" or "The child can write an opinion piece on topics or text, supporting a point of view with reasons." The new indicators will assist students and parents in knowing whether a student is consistently meeting standards (M) or making limited progress toward standards (L).

- It is unlikely that a child will receive a progress indicator of "E" for exceeding standards in the first trimester. If they do, this means that they were assessed at the next grade level in that particular standard and met the standard for the next grade. Students are expected to meet grade-level standards at the end of the school year.

- The new report cards will be distributed THREE times over the course of the school year, not four. Trimesters end on Dec. 5, March 19 and June 26. ESL students and students receiving Academic Intervention Services will receive three progress reports in addition to the report cards.

Workshops are being held on the following dates for parents interested in learning more:

- Middle School - Oct. 23
- Jackson Avenue - Oct. 28
- Hampton/Meadow - Oct. 29

Mineola Union Free School District
 121 Jackson Avenue
 Mineola, New York 11501

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UPCOMING SPECIAL VOTE Tuesday, November 19

Proposition #1: Permission to expend \$3.8 million from capital reserve fund for capital improvements

Proposition #2: Permission to increase the maximum amount allowed in the capital reserve fund to \$15 million

More information will be provided in separate Outreach mailing and is currently available on the district website at www.mineola.k12.ny.us.

A MESSAGE FROM *Your Superintendent*

Dear Residents,

Welcome to another school year! I hope everyone had a relaxing summer and was able to get some much-needed time off to enjoy family, friends and some nice weather. We were busy over the summer implementing a new program at the middle school aimed at stopping the “summer slide.” We loaded iPads with differentiated work for students as well as our summer reading assignment. It was a volunteer program in which 78 percent of our students received schoolwork a full month early. This is one example of how we strive to engage students using technology to increase student achievement.

I firmly believe that the purpose of school is still for the student to have fun and enjoy learning while developing socially, mentally and academically as an individual. Our teachers are amazing at incorporating learning into games, and the iPads have been an added tool for many with respect to keeping the “fun factor” alive. That

being said, we also have a responsibility to demonstrate student achievement on state and local assessments. As you are aware, the state-administered exams are now in line with the Common Core Learning Standards. There has been a lot of discussion about this change. As anticipated, scores were down not only in Mineola, but everywhere in New York State.

While it may seem disheartening, please keep in mind that these scores are being used to create a baseline for future tests, and a 30 percent drop was fully anticipated by the state. By now parents should have received their child’s individual scores. Know that teachers, principals and administrators are all here to assist you in interpreting anything you do not understand or which was not fully explained in the results packet.

Lastly, the Board has unanimously decided to hold a special referendum vote on Tuesday, Nov. 19 for two propositions. One is for permission to expend funds the district has already saved in its capital reserve fund (savings account) for capital improvements

districtwide. The other is for permission to increase the maximum allowable amount in our capital reserve fund to \$15 million. This does not mean we ARE FUNDING the capital reserve with \$15 million, it just gives us the ability to save up to that amount over the course of the next six years. The intention is for us to save enough for additional capital improvement projects, as well as possibly a turf field, without the need to go out for a bond. More information on this will follow with a special edition of the Outreach due in homes the first week of November. Information is also available on the district website at www.mineola.k12.ny.us.

Don’t forget to follow me on Twitter @NaglersNotions, as well as on my blog.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Nagler, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Achievement

Rising with
eSpark 

The 2012-13 end-of-year eSpark results showed unprecedented improvement in our students’ level of achievement. The eSpark application takes NWEA test data for each student and recommends a series of other applications and experiences (such as a specific iTunes video) that may benefit the individual student. Students complete these personalized “missions” in an effort to enhance areas that are classified as their goal domains. As an example, a goal domain may entail a student’s need to improve his or her reading of informational text and literature. Student success is then based on his or her own accomplishments within not only their goal domain, but their non-goal domains as well, and is directly compared to him or herself only over the course of the year.

With approximately 85 percent of the students at the middle school completing the recommended number of eSpark missions or more, the district was able to compare the results of those utilizing eSpark against those who did not – and the results were astounding.

- From fall to spring, students grew 6 percentile points in their NWEA reading scores.
- More than 58% of students moved up at least one RIT band; 15% of students moved up at least two RIT bands.
- Students who completed eSpark missions exceeded their NWEA growth expectations by DOUBLE.
- Students who had previously been working “far below grade level” made exceptional, unprecedented improvements in their scores.
- Both low- and high-achieving students from Mineola, on average, saw more growth than middle school students nationwide.
- 17 English as a Second Language students achieved 258% of their annual growth goals in just one school year with the program.

“I think this report is very encouraging and statistically significant in that we can attribute student growth directly with a specific program, thereby justifying our investment in this technology,” Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Nagler said during his presentation on the end-of-year results to the Board of Education in July. “It’s just going to get better moving forward.”

The district also implemented an iPad distribution for middle school students in August 2013, allowing students to utilize this technology and its applications in order to sharpen skills over the summer. The iPad initiative was expanded to grades 3-8 this year, with Jackson Avenue students receiving their iPads this fall, and grades 3-7 able to take advantage of the eSpark application. Under the three-year Management Efficiency Grant, the district is planning to implement the iPad initiative for students in grades K-10 by 2015, and possibly K-12 by 2017.

“I think this report is very encouraging and statistically significant in that we can attribute student growth directly with a specific program, thereby justifying our investment in this technology.”

- Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Nagler

A Focus on Our Future



"I read a lot this summer – over 100 books. The Junie B. Jones series was my favorite."
- Kerry McKenna, Hampton, Grade 2



"I read 'Where the Red Fern Grows' for class on my iPad as well as 'Party Princess' and 'Driver's Ed.'"
- Samantha Tedesco, Grade 7

"'Imperfect' by Jim Abbot and 'Diva' by Alex Flynn. One was for school and one was for pleasure."
- Dylan Estler, Grade 12



"I read 'Dancing Dinos' to my sister who is 3. And I read a Sophia book and Barbie books."
- Madelyn Troche, Meadow, Grade 1



"I read our assigned reading book, 'Where the Red Fern Grows.' I also read a book called 'The Raft.'"
- Sydnie Jean-Noel, Grade 7

Students Speak:
What books did you read over summer vacation?

"I read nonfiction books about cheetahs and animals. I also read 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' and 'My Teacher Fried My Brains.'"
- Walter Barios, Grade 4



"My mom read me a book about ants. I also found a Lego building book I like."
- Alexander Rothstock, Meadow, Grade K



"I mostly read chapter books like 'Horrible Harry' and 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid.'"
- Kaitlyn Blanco, Grade 4



"I read 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn' by Mark Twain for school."
- Ryan Kelly, Grade 12



National Merit SEMIFINALIST

Mineola High School senior Joyce Rhim has been named a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program for 2014. Mineola has consistently had students selected for this honor, demonstrating its continued dedication to academic excellence. In addition to this latest recognition, Joyce has also been named an AP Scholar with Honor by the College Board and took third place in the New York State Science and Engineering Fair last year.



Semifinalists represent the top one-third, or about 16,000, of approximately 50,000 high scorers who took the PSAT/NMSQT, which has a total of 1.5 million entrants, according to the National Merit Scholarship Program. Students are ranked with a selection index score based on their combined scores in critical reading, writing and math. Semifinalists can compete to be named a finalist and continue in the process to receive corporate and college-sponsored scholarships, as well as the esteemed National Merit Scholarship. Those advancing to the finalist stage will be notified in February of their standing.

The district congratulates Joyce on this impressive achievement and wishes her continued academic success in the future.

Singing Their Way to All-State

Senior musicians Michelle Senra and Bonnie Small will be representing Mineola School District's music department at this year's New York State School Music Association All-State Music Festival. Held in December, the festival will feature high school student-musicians from throughout New York State. Michelle and Bonnie were chosen as top vocal musicians based on their perfect All-State auditions.

Additionally, fellow musician Rebecca Bastos achieved alternate status for the All-State Mixed Chorus. This puts her on a waiting list for participation in the conference, with a final decision on her status being made by the organization at the end of October.

Congratulations to all three musicians on this phenomenal achievement.



Third Year for Spanish Exchange

Twenty-one students from Leon, Spain visited Mineola High School for three weeks to participate in the third Spanish Exchange Program since 2009. Visitors shadowed and lived with Mineola students and their families to experience life, culture and education in America. Participating Mineola students will be visiting Spain to reciprocate the experience for 12 days in February.

"I think it's a fantastic way for kids to see the world and experience culture," Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Nagler said of the program. "I'm proud that we are able to offer this opportunity."

Advanced Placement Honors

More than 60 Mineola High School students have been recognized by the College Board as AP Scholars due to their outstanding success on Advanced Placement exams. Students took AP exams in May 2013 after completing challenging college-level courses in the district in a variety of subjects.

According to the College Board's website, the AP Program offers willing and academically prepared students the opportunity to take college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement or both for successful performance on the AP exams. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on these exams. The students who have been recognized are from the Classes of 2013 and 2014.

Congratulations to the following students:



National AP Scholar

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Sujith Maracheril
Danielle Martinez-McCormack

AP Scholar with Distinction

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Sangmin Bak
Scott Berger
Mallory Brady
Delores Chichi
Julia Fabiano

Julianne Falotico
Allison Furuya
Stephin Jose
Justin Lemli
Taylor Lenze

Sujith Maracheril
Danielle Martinez-McCormack
Angela McColgan
Patrick Murray
Mersim Redzematovic

Razvan Tohanean
Annette Voll

AP Scholar with Honor

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Michelle Barbosa
Anastasia Canell
Anthony Caruso
Brad Coleman
Clare Connaughton

Joyce Hwang
Nicholas Iadevaio
Kyle Jenkins
Jessica Kern
Kristin Moro

Caroline Mueller
Joyce Rhim
Brandon Sia
Rohit Singla
Kristen Sze-tu

Eric Timlin
Shannon Timlin

AP Scholar

Granted to students who receive a score of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.

Kathryn Barnwell
Rebecca Bastos
Thomas Behan
Courtney Capobianco
Katherine Capeller
Calbert Chan
Aldany Diaz
Robert Dwyer

Jacob Escobar
Christopher Farrell
Quinn Ginsberg
Kristina Goncalves
Douglas Hale
Jane Hostomsky
Paige Illiano
Lina Kim

Sarah Lee
Jaclyn Lusardi
Rachel Luz
Priscilla Ma
Emmett Maloney
Samantha Mendoza
Thomas Mullane
Neha Narvekar

Janet Ribando
Michelle Senra
Ansel Shibu
Helen Sung
Vineeth Varghese
Gabrielle Ward

Benefit Performance Raises \$4K

New this summer, Mineola alumni teamed up with current students to put on a benefit performance of "Les Misérables." Originally staged five years ago, the performance was resurrected to raise money for the Department of Fine and Performing Arts. Twenty-seven alumni coached, directed and produced much of the performance, which included 21 current students as well as seven teachers who volunteered to perform. Local businesses also supported the district by donating raffle prizes for the event. The community responded generously and more than \$4,000 was raised to benefit the Drama Club, which intends to utilize the money to purchase new lighting equipment. In addition, \$400 raised through a 50/50 fundraiser was donated to the high school's Crisis Fund to support local families in need.

Thank you to the entire Mineola community for supporting our students!



Camp Invention

Over the summer, Mineola contracted with Camp Invention to provide a hands-on science program for students in the English as a Second Language program, as well as for any interested students in grades 1-6. A total of 80 students took advantage of the program, which was a two-week science enrichment camp that challenged students' problem-solving abilities through fun and unique projects. Rotating through various workshops in small groups with a high school intern, students learned about code breaking and reverse engineering and even built a clubhouse. Each day was filled with brainstorming, experimentation and hands-on action.

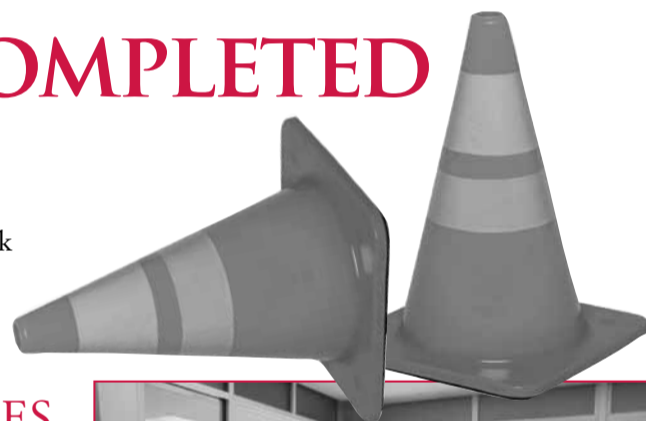
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED

Over the summer, the district finished renovations including the new Meadow Drive library, security upgrades and a new music room for the middle school. These projects utilized funds that were built into the 2013-14 school budget and comprise many enhancements for our students' instruction and safety. Take a look at some of the new features below:



SECURITY UPGRADES

Each school now has a buzzer system to enter into the vestibule, where all visitors must state the purpose of their visit and show ID before being buzzed through a second set of doors to enter the school's main lobby. Pictured here is the new high school setup, which includes a desk where a guard will be stationed to greet visitors. Still to come are computer screens for the guard to monitor points of entry/exit in real time.



MEADOW DRIVE LIBRARY

A new annex was built specifically for the library and features a spacious reading room, window seats for students and kid-friendly shelving, furniture and décor.



MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC ROOM

Walls were painted and new furniture installed in the middle school music room. Lockers were also installed for students to safely store their instruments throughout the school day. "Prior to these lockers, it was an event for middle schoolers to pick up and drop off their instruments," Superintendent Dr. Michael Nagler said of the addition. "I think it has literally changed some kids' lives."



Board Sets Goals for 2013-14

The Board of Education set its annual goals for the 2013-14 school year at its Sept. 19 meeting. Goals are important, as they set the tone for the year and offer directive to the superintendent of schools with regard to the Board's priorities. Members of the administration and Board will work together throughout the year towards accomplishing each of these goals.

The following goals have been adopted for follow-up throughout the year:

EDUCATIONAL

- Continue to integrate the Common Core Standards with an emphasis on new grade level assessments that measure student progress in specific standards.
- Develop and implement a plan to encourage high school students to challenge themselves with AP and/or college-level coursework, with the goal of every student gaining this experience before they graduate.
- Develop a system to assess the district's strategic objectives and report on progress towards those objectives.
- Explore the feasibility of five-day pre-K for all students.

FACILITIES

- Explore the feasibility of green technologies as part of the projects associated with our capital reserve expenditures.
- Implement and maintain a comprehensive security plan.

FINANCIAL

- Not exceed the allowable tax levy cap while continuing to maintain and enhance all of our programs.

Fresh Faces for Mineola



Jackson Avenue Principal

Following the retirement of Patricia Molloy, the Board of Education unanimously appointed Janet Gonzalez in July as the principal of Jackson Avenue School. Mrs. Gonzalez holds a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and a Master of Science in elementary education, both from Fordham University, and is a doctoral candidate in instructional leadership at St. John's University. She joins Mineola with more than 15 years of education experience, most recently having served as assistant principal of Stratford Elementary School in Garden City.



Middle School Instructional Leader

Andrew Casale brings more than nine years of education experience to Mineola Middle School as the new instructional leader for math and science. He joins us from Baldwin Middle School, where he served as a mathematics teacher for the last five years. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics with a concentration in secondary education from St. Joseph's College and a Master of Arts in liberal arts with a focus on mathematics education from Stony Brook University. Mr. Casale was a member of the Kappa Mu Epsilon – National Mathematics Honor Society in college.

Student Teachers

This group of student teachers receive college credit for their time in our district, while also assisting our teachers and students in instruction.



New Teachers

As part of the new teacher orientation, new additions to the district receive a special introduction from all administrators and an overview of Mineola culture, pride and tradition. New hires also receive a tour of the schools and engage in several professional development workshops to prepare them for their classrooms. Now that they are familiar with us, you should be familiar with them. Meet our newest team members.



Karin Weidlein • High School/Jackson
Spanish Teacher
B.A. in Spanish Education



Sandi Yarow • Middle School
.6 Special Education
B.S. in Psychology
Master's in Elementary Education



Robert Mendes • High School
Leave Replacement for Special Education
M.A. in Special Education



Sarah LaSorsa • High School
Leave Replacement for .6 Orchestra Teacher
B.S. in Music Education
Working Towards Master's in Music Education



Roneldy Pingitore • Hampton
Leave Replacement for Dual Language
B.A. in Elementary Education
M.A. in Spanish Education/Foreign Language



Michelle Topel • Meadow
Leave Replacement for Grade 1
B.S. in Childhood Education
Master's in Literacy



Lisa Spyridon • High School
Leave Replacement for Living Environment
B.A. in Biology
M.S.Ed. in Secondary Science Education



Jillian Vento • Meadow
Leave Replacement for Special Education
B.A. in Psychology
Dual M.S. in Special Ed. & Education



A Salute to **MUSTANG** Pride

Mustang pride was strong and persistent, even enduring a brief downpour before sunny skies emerged for the 32nd Annual Homecoming Celebration on Saturday, Sept. 21. The day, which got off to a soggy start at noon on Andrews Road, featured a few new additions for 2013. Floats made a comeback this year at the elementary level in place of the banners of years past, and the parade was joined for the first time with a visual presence for SEPTA and the Kornreich Early Childhood Learning Center. The skies had cleared by the time marchers rounded the corner to Westbury Avenue, and the sun was shining as they took their final lap to Hampton Stadium for the festivities and big game.

Booths offering face painting, popcorn and Mineola mementos

served as fundraisers to benefit the PTA and various school organizations. This year's homecoming court included King Leo Garry, Queen Kathryn Priolo, Junior Princess Julianna Caruso, Sophomore Princess Meghan LaFaye and Freshman Princess Anne Cripps, all of whom were honored prior to kickoff.

Singing the national anthem just before the Mineola Mustangs took the field against the West Hempstead Rams were Katie Barnwell, Michelle Sentra and Bonnie Small. New this year was an inflatable tunnel and archway, won by the Booster Club in an MSG Varsity contest, through which the football players made their entrance onto the field. Despite their best efforts and support from the crowd, Mineola was defeated by West Hempstead 35-7.



Follow Your Principals on **Twitter!**

Jackson Avenue
Middle School
High School

@Jackson_Ave
@MineolaMS1
@EdTEscobar



And Your Superintendent!
Michael P. Nagler, Ed.D.
@NaglersNotions

STAR Rebate Reminder

Just a reminder: New York State is asking all homeowners to reapply for their STAR exemptions this year. New applications are due by Dec. 31, 2013. Failure to file a new application for exemption will result in loss of the STAR rebate applied to your taxes.



Sports Corner



The Mineola Mustangs fall athletic season shows great promise as it gets underway. The girls volleyball team is off to a fast 3-1 start, with their lone loss coming at the hands of new conference rival Lynbrook. The girls defeated Seaford in a tough five-game match to avenge last year's loss in the Nassau County Class B finals. The team is led by seniors Valerie Fischer, Courtney Copabianco, Meaghan O'Neill and Kathryn Priolo. The girls are poised to make a run at the conference championship and possibly another run deep into the county playoffs.

The cross-country track team won their first meet of the year and have set their goals high with a possible division championship on the horizon. Senior Jake Tavernite won the first meet in the overall competition and looks to build on his hard work and enjoy a rewarding senior season as a cross-country runner.

The golf team improved their record to two wins and two losses by defeating Carle Place and Herricks high schools. Leading the way was senior captain John Lusardi who had a 39 and 40 score, and junior Christopher Fischer who recorded a 38 and 39 score for nine holes. Also contributing to the victories were senior

Matthew Eisen and junior James Wiercinski, and playing an important role in the team's success are senior Brendan Healey and junior Thomas Farrell. Starter Nicholas Iadevaio was recovering from an injury and returned shortly after to contribute to the team's performance.

The varsity football team, ranked fourth in the conference this year, will play a highly competitive schedule featuring road games against top-ranked Roosevelt and second-ranked Seaford. The team is made up of a core group of hardworking senior athletes led by quarterback Vincent Bienieck and lineman Anthony Caruso. Talented underclassmen that will help carry the load include James Gerstner, Ryan Eccher and Kyle Dunleavy. Last year the team made the playoffs and were knocked out in the first round by Seaford High School. The goal this year is to get back to that position and advance to the finals at Hofstra University. The team hosted North Shore at Hampton Stadium on Oct. 4 for the annual Friday night game.

The boys and girls soccer teams started off the season strong, the boys splitting two games in the annual Mustang Cup Tournament held at Mineola. Junior Daniel Pardo leads the team in goals so far. The girls team is led by senior



Nicole Forte, who got off to a great start with goals in each of the team's first three games. The girls hosted their Breast Cancer Awareness game on Oct. 5, with a great turnout to help raise money in the fight against breast cancer.

Rallying for Jackson Avenue

Members of the Mineola High School varsity cheerleading squad visited third- and fourth-grade students at Jackson Avenue School on Sept. 18 to lead a pre-homecoming pep rally celebration and introduce a school cheer. Varsity cheerleading coach and Jackson Avenue teacher Laura Kligman willingly volunteered her team for the event, which was coordinated by the Jackson PTA to garner additional districtwide spirit for homecoming. The cheerleaders taught their peers two new school cheers, complete with hand routines. They also spoke to them about homecoming and what it means to come together and show Mustang pride at all grade levels. This is the first time the cheerleaders have held a pep rally at any of the district schools besides the high school.



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