



Tiger TRADITIONS

Inspiring Excellence and Leadership in All!

January/February 2017 - Volume 18 • Issue 1

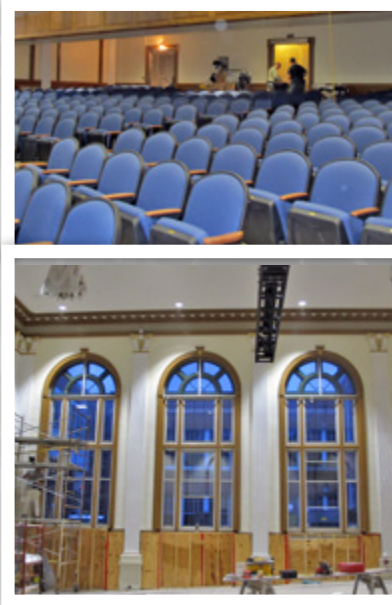
MACS Capital Project Progress!



Great progress has been made within the current Capital Project at Mexico High School. The copula atop the high school was unveiled this fall to reveal a striking new clock tower. The scaffolding has been removed from the front portico and the new pillars stand proudly in place.

Inside the high school, 535 seats have been installed in the auditorium. There are 383 seats on the main level and an additional 152 seats in the balcony area. With the walls, ceiling, floors, and trim painting completed, the auditorium renovation expected completion date is January 2017.

The Pike Company is contracted for the Capital Project and, under the direction of Pike Project Manager Chris Whalen, the expected completion of the overall Capital Project is December 2017.



Welcome New Haven Elementary School Interim Principal Joseph McGrath



New Haven Elementary School welcomes Mr. Joseph McGrath as the interim principal, serving from December 2016 to June 2017. Joe grew up in Oswego and for the majority of his career worked in the Pulaski School District. From 1977 to 1998 he worked as a counselor in the high school. From 1998 to 2011 he served as the Pulaski High School principal. Joe makes his home in Pulaski and is currently a member of the Pulaski School Board of Education.

Check out Page 4 & 5 for

Holiday Concert Photos



A Message from the Superintendent



Happy New Year! I hope this edition finds you and your family ready for the new year and with great memories from the recent holidays!

My focus for this edition is our Capital Project. Thus far, it has had a very positive impact in all areas for our district and I thank both present and past MACS Board of Education members for their dedication, commitment, and visionary leadership! I also thank our staff who has

worked so hard to ensure construction runs smoothly. Most importantly, I thank you for your support!

There are quite a few improvements inside our schools that are not often noticed by community members. To ensure that we are doing everything to keep everyone informed, we have added a Capital Project area to our website, which specifically addresses accomplishments and progress. On this page, you will find each building. The building links will then provide a list of renovation updates with before and after pictures. While you can access this page several ways, the easiest is through our homepage. Hover over the District section of the orange navigation bar (at the top of our homepage above the pictures). Select the Capital Project from the drop down box. You can also access the Capital Project page directly through the following address: www.mexicocsd.org/caproject.

The next portion of our Capital Project is our high school stadium renovation. As you may remember, this portion was delayed from last year due to the delay in NYSED approval. I am happy to inform you that the project is on schedule to be started this spring. Due to the need to begin the phase as soon as possible this spring, we anticipate 2017 graduation will be moved next door to the softball field. Our plan is to keep 2017 graduation as traditional as possible for our graduates and their families. This phase will also affect both spring and fall sports. Mr. Barnes is creating opportunities for our athletic teams to practice and play games in alternate locations, which will support our sports to run smoothly.

Regarding our high school stadium renovation, I would like you to know that the project is on track to include turf from the October 8, 2014 public hearing and Board vote. Also, our Board has thoroughly re-reviewed the stadium project to ensure that we are delivering on all of the portions that were advertised in the referendum such as

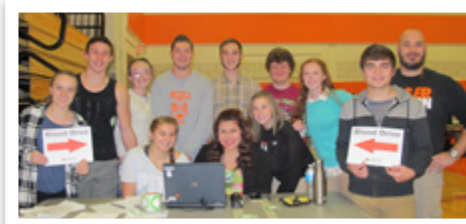
bathrooms and tennis court updates. They have also re-reviewed prior concerns such as the field not being big enough for soccer and having enough lanes for track. I am proud to announce that through our Board of Education members' great care for our schools and community, we have found a way to, as much as possible, accommodate all areas of interests and expectations as best as I've ever seen given the spatial constraints and within responsible financial limitations. We will be placing the details with pictures on our website shortly.

May this be our best year yet!

Sean C. Bruno,
MACS Superintendent of Schools



Mexico High National Honor Society Fall Blood Drive



Pictured standing, left to right, are: Abbi Garrett, Logan Burrows, Kennedy Myers, Ben Pelow, Sean Heagerty, Austin Whitaker, Emily Blunt, Alex Linerode, and MACS NHS Advisor Joseph Deckman.

Seated, left to right, are: Shania Purchase, Alissia Seeburger, and Bailey Wills.

Mexico High School National Honor Society held their Fall Red Cross Blood Drive on November 29, 2016. During the all-day event, the students registered donors as they arrived, monitored other students after they donated blood, and served refreshments to all donors.

Mexico Middle School Super Citizens Fall 2016

Mexico Middle School announces the Super Citizens for Fall 2016. Students at each grade level are nominated by their teachers based on good work habits, following rules, being positive role models and more.



GRADE 5:

*Front row, left to right: Logan Wilder, Julia Collins, Avery Mack, and Ainsley Bigelow.
Back, left to right: Emily Bennett, Hayliann Smith, Emma Cadrette, and Katelyn Baker.*



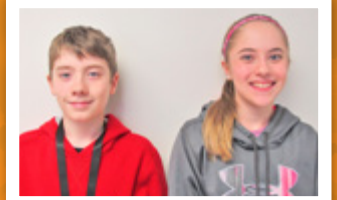
GRADE 6:

Left to right: Tucker Donath, Hunter Lasinski, Paige Masrouri, Adria Ariola, Delaney Richer, Alyssa Webster, and Harmony Schroeder.



GRADE 7:

Left to right: Ryan Liedka, Eric Hyde, Emma Murabito, Erica Henderson, Ryan Gates, and Alex Gayne.



GRADE 8:

Left to right: Aiden Cadrette and Anna Pluff

Proud to be **MACS**



November Proud to be MACS Honoree

Mary Beth Horn, MACS Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, was selected as the Proud to be MACS Honoree for November 2016. Mary Beth graduated from Nottingham High School in Syracuse in 1977. She attended Syracuse University where she earned a bachelor's in elementary education and master's in special education. She earned her CAS (Certificate of Advanced Study) Degree in educational

administration at SUNY Oswego. In 1988, Mary Beth began as a special education teacher at Mexico Middle School.

She was appointed as Mexico Middle School Assistant Principal in 2000 and appointed as MACS Director of Pupil Services in 2001. She began working as MACS Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in 2008.

When asked what her job entails Mary Beth responds, "My responsibilities are wide and varied! I am in charge of curriculum - meaning I oversee all things that are taught to our students. I ensure that our curriculum follows the New York State Learning Standards. I am responsible for teacher professional development, making sure that it is aligned to district initiatives and focuses on improving instruction. I am responsible for coordinating local and state assessments in the district and providing that information back to State Ed. I manage all Title Grants for the district, which amount to approximately \$1 million annually. I am responsible for overseeing multiple programs in the district such as our partnerships with local colleges, AVID and Project Lead the Way."

How does she feel about her job? "I love my work! I have been truly blessed to work with so many outstanding individuals in this school district for the last 28 years. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the students, families, and the community of Mexico!"

And considering the award, "It's very rewarding to receive this recognition from the Board of Education. No matter how old we are or how long we have done our jobs, it's always appreciated to be validated for the work that we do every day. I am truly grateful."

Mary Beth has been married to Andy Horn for 38 years and they are the parents of three grown sons, all of whom graduated from MACS and are currently living in Colorado. The Horns have two grandchildren.



December Proud to be MACS Honoree

Cheryl Barbeau, New Haven Elementary School Pre-K Teacher was chosen as the Proud to be MACS Honoree for December 2016. Cheryl grew up in West Monroe and graduated from Central Square High School in 1991. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from SUNY Oswego in 1995, and earned a master's in reading from the same institution.

After student teaching in the Mexico School District, Cheryl accepted a long-term substitute teaching position in the district in the fall of 1995. She became a kindergarten teacher at New Haven Elementary in the fall of 1996 and has worked at the school since that time. For the first six years, she looped with kindergarten and first grades. Next she taught in the kindergarten and first grade multi-age room, and followed that with the first and second grade multi-age level. Ultimately she transitioned to Pre-K in 2010. Now, with 21 years of service, Cheryl holds the position of senior teacher in the building. At this point she is teaching children of long-ago former students. Cheryl estimates that she knows approximately 75% of the students in the building because they passed through her Pre-K classroom.

What is a day in Pre-K like? She begins with 20 preschool children for the morning session. After a lunch and planning session, 18 more children arrive for the afternoon session. Speaking about her job Cheryl says, "I feel blessed. My favorite part is that I get cards and colored pictures daily, hugs in the morning, and I get flowers in the spring and fall from the playground."

In addition to teaching, Cheryl is an active member of the New Haven Parent Teacher Club. She works at most of the PTC events and attends every Readers from Birth event, which allows her to meet some of the future Pre-K students. "I think it's important to plan fun events for the students and families," she says. "They work so hard, so it is a reward for all their hard work to have something to look forward to and to have fun with their friends and families."

Considering the Proud to be MACS Award Cheryl says, "I feel honored and I feel lucky to be able to do what I am doing. I feel lucky too, that I have the opportunity to build relationships with whole families. The parents have helped me become a better teacher and a better mom." Cheryl makes her home in Hannibal with her husband of 13 years, Matthew Barbeau, and their two daughters: Emily, who is 11, and Hailey, who is 10.

MACS Artwork on Display

Mexico High National Art Honor Society students happily painted winter scenes on the windows at Dunkin' Donuts in Mexico.

Pictured is MACS Senior Adriana Walts with her winter creation.



COMING SOON TO FACEBOOK!

Starting this January on Facebook we will be showcasing a fun way new to get to know our staff better: MACS Staff Spotlight!

MACS Staff Spotlight is a graphic look at our staff with a fun Q&A.

Look for it this January!



FOLLOW US:



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Holiday Concerts

Mexico Academy & Central School District was alive with music this past holiday season. Audiences were treated to the awesome talents of MACS students from every building during the district's annual Holiday Concerts.

- A:** Mexico Elementary 3rd/4th Grade Concert
- B:** New Haven Elementary 3rd/4th Grade Chorus
- C:** Mexico Middle School Marching Band
- D:** Mexico Middle School 5th Grade Band Concert
- E:** Mexico Middle School 6th Grade Band Concert
- F:** Mexico High School Chorus Concert
- G:** Mexico High School Symphonic Band Concert
- H:** Mexico High School Jazz Band Concert
- I:** Mexico Elementary 3rd/4th Grade Concert
- J:** Mexico Middle School Chorus Concert



New Haven Elementary 1st Graders Food Collection

First grade students at New Haven Elementary School opted to donate food to Mexico Food Pantry versus participating in a gift exchange. The students brought in donations of food and also extended the opportunity to donate to everyone in the school.

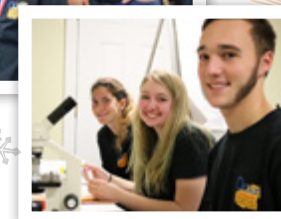


Pictured are students from all three first grade classrooms with New Haven Elementary School First Grade Teachers, from left to right: Alexandra Scorzelli, Deborah Patterson, and Sarah Palmer.

Mexico High School OCAY League Earns Two Gold Medals

The Mexico High School OCAY (Oswego County Academic Youth) League Team started off the 2016-17 season on a high note, earning gold medals in both fall events. OCAY League is comprised of teams from eight schools in Oswego County, and each of four annual events requires teams of students to utilize their skills, within a strict time limit, in a variety of interdisciplinary areas to complete a series of specific tasks.

The team is coached by high school English teacher Shannon Bigelow. They will compete in the final two OCAY League events in the spring.



Mexico High School Football Players Named 1st Team All CNY

Mexico Academy and Central High School Varsity Football Quarterback Dante Turo and MACS Varsity Football Linebacker Mike Ladd have received 1st Team All CNY Football Honors for 2016. This recognition comes on the heels of the outstanding 2016 MACS football season that took the team to the playoffs with a record of 7-2. In addition, Coach Tee Murabito was named Coach of The Year for Section III Class B-East Division.



Pictured, left to right, are: Mike Ladd, MACS Coach Tee Murabito, and Dante Turo.

Elementary School 2016 Halloween Parades

Clear weather prevailed for the annual Halloween Parades at all three elementary schools in the Mexico District. Parents, grandparents, and siblings happily watched as students in costumes paraded past.



New Haven Elementary School

Elementary School 2016 Fall Enrichment Programs



Mexico Elementary School

All three elementary schools in the Mexico District hosted five-week sessions of Fall After-School Enrichment Programs for students. Students attended a wide variety of clubs, twice weekly, in such areas as travel, fitness, muralists, coding, creative writing, cooking, and games.

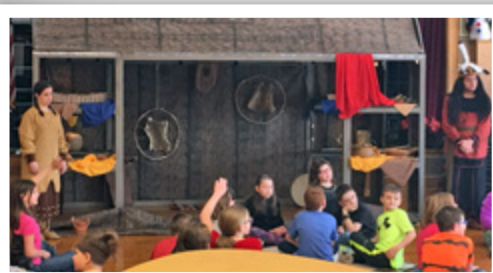
Elementary School 2016 Veterans Day Celebrations

Veterans Day Celebrations were held at all three elementary schools in the Mexico District in November and veterans related to students attended as guests. Mexico High Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps opened the ceremonies and patriotic music, readings and more followed to honor the US Military Veterans service to our country.



Palermo Elementary School

“People of the Longhouse” Interactive Program Comes to Mexico



Palermo Elementary School

The Merry-Go-Round Playhouse, of Auburn, NY, brought an exciting, interactive program to all three elementary schools in the Mexico District in mid-December. Fourth grade students study

Native Americans during the fall and “The People of the Longhouse” program followed the unit nicely.

2016 Mexico Middle School Spelling Bee



Mexico Middle School held the 2016 Scripps National Spelling Bee on December 16, 2016. Eighteen students from 5th - 8th grade participated in the challenging contest. Mexico Middle School Teacher Elizabeth Petrocci organized the spelling bee and Mexico Middle School Principal Kim Holliday presented the words to the students.



Seventh-grade student Ethan Rhoads, left, is the Mexico Middle School 2016 Spelling Bee Champion. This year's runner-up is sixth-grade student Emma Haney, right. Both will continue on to compete in the next level of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, on January 14, 2017. Mexico Middle School students Tyler Samson and Jacob Poissant, who finished in third and fourth place, will also compete in Syracuse.

Mexico Elementary School PTA Movie Night



Well over 100 community members attended the Mexico Elementary School Movie Night hosted by the Mexico Elementary Parent Teacher Association (PTA), in early December. Mexico Elementary School Library Teacher

Dianne Barnes (pictured), opened the evening by reading aloud to the children. Two Christmas movies were shown: “Prep and Landing” and “Ice Age.” The movies were decided upon through a voting process during library classes prior to the event. Kindergarten and first grade students used paper ballots, while second through fourth grade students used QR Code - which brought them to a Google Doc to vote. Snacks and crafts were part of the fun evening as well.

MACS School Facilities Use Study



A committee of approximately 18 members gathered in the Mexico Middle School Library on December 12, 2016, for the second meeting in a nine-month process of completing a School Facilities Use Study. The study is being led by Alan Pole, seated back right, and Bill Silky, standing left, of Castallo

and Silky LLC Education Consultants. The committee is comprised of members invited from the community, MACS staff, and MACS administration. The purpose of the study is to consider the question, "How can we educationally and fiscally reconfigure our grades and/or facilities to provide a sound instructional program now and in the future?" The final report from the study is expected to benefit student learning and present a plan for building use for the next five years and will be presented to the MACS Board of Education on July 10, 2017.

Members of the community at large are welcome to be silent attendees at the committee meetings, recognizing that there is an opportunity to ask questions at the very close of each meeting.

MACS Art Work on Display

Artwork from all five schools in the Mexico District was on display at Mexico Public Library throughout the holiday season.



Pictured here: Artwork by 3rd grade Mexico Elementary students.

Mexico High School German Students Collect, Wrap, and Give Gifts

Mexico High School German students helped to make Christmas bright for children in the Foster Adoptive Parent Association of Oswego County (FAPAOC). The students collected presents, and on November 8, 2016, they filled stockings, and wrapped/gift-bagged the presents for a total of 65 FAPAOC children. Going a huge step further, several of the German students attended the FAPAOC Christmas Party on Saturday, November 10, where they organized all the presents and stockings, and then handed them out to the children. In addition, the students helped to clean up after the party. "They have done this the last three years and they do an amazing job!" reports MACS German Teacher Kim Rice.

Mexico High School Fall Play "Break a Leg!"



Mexico High School Drama Club presented the humorous show "Break a Leg!" on November 4-5, 2016. Directed by MACS Drama Teacher William Coughlin, the 'play within a play' met its comical mark. Between actors, stage crew, set design, lights, sound and more - upwards of 40 students and staff members worked to bring this well-performed and very entertaining show to life.

Palermo Elementary School Giving Tree

Staff, students and their families contributed gifts to the 2016 Giving Tree at Palermo Elementary School during December. The gifts, along with a large collection of food items, were donated to the Palermo United Methodist Church who distributed them to families in Palermo to help make their holiday season brighter. Joaquin Giberson, 4th grade, is standing to the left of the Giving Tree, and Natalee Judge, also 4th grade, is standing right.



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Operation Reindeer Treasurer Dick Niles is pictured left, receiving the check. MACS English Teacher Corey Davis, standing second from left, is the adviser for the MACS Friends of Rachel chapter.

Friends of Rachel Club Donates to Operation Reindeer

Members of the Mexico High School Friends of Rachel Club donated \$180 to Operation Reindeer during the Operation Reindeer Packing Day, at Mexico Presbyterian Church, on December 8, 2016. The club raised the money by making and selling hand-shaped, salt-dough Christmas ornaments, with a heart pressed in the center of each. The club members also worked during the Operation Reindeer Packing Day, along with dozens of other Mexico High School students, to prepare presents for children in the area who might not otherwise have them.

Boys Varsity Swim Team Rings the Bell

Approximately 12 members of the MACS Boys Varsity Swim and Dive Team took turns ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle at Tops Friendly Market, in Mexico, on December 17, 2016. The swimmers/divers covered the whole day of ringing, from 9am - 7pm. The team is coached by MACS Coach Shawn Parkhurst.



Pictured, from left to right, are: Joe Ocker, Austin Lawton, Chase Manzano, Zach Revette, and John Ocker.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January - February Calendar

- Jan. 9:** Facilities Use Meeting, Palermo Elementary, 6:30pm
- Jan. 12:** MACS Board of Education Meeting, 6pm
- Jan. 16:** No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 19:** New Haven Elementary Roller Skating, New Haven
- Jan. 24:** New Haven Elementary Readers from Birth, 6pm
- Jan. 30:** New Haven Elementary 4th Grade Educational Band Concert, 6pm
- Feb. 2-4:** Mexico Middle School Musical, 7pm
- Feb. 6:** Palermo Elementary 4th Grade Educational Band Concert, 6pm
- Feb. 9:** MACS Board of Education Meeting, 6pm
- Feb. 10:** No School - Superintendent's Conference Day
- Feb. 13:** Mexico Elementary 4th Grade Educational Band Concert, 6pm
- Feb. 15:** Cole All-Star Circus - 12 & Younger FREE, 7pm
- Feb. 20-24:** No School - Mid-Winter Recess
- Feb. 27:** Facilities Use Meeting, New Haven Elementary, 6:30pm
- Feb. 28:** New Haven Elementary Readers from Birth, 6pm

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Jeremy Belfield, 16 Fravor Road, Suite A, Mexico, NY 13114, 315-963-8400 x5407 or 315-297-7780. Inquiries concerning the application of the Mexico Academy & Central Schools non-discrimination policies may also be referred to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), 32 Old Slip, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10005, telephone (646) 428-3800 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (TTY).

Palermo Holiday Fun Night

Palermo Elementary first grader Remy Francis and his sister, Vera, enjoyed a visit with Santa during the Holiday Fun Night at Palermo Elementary School on December 2, 2016. Students wrote letters to Santa and enjoyed crafts and refreshments as well.

