



Tiger Traditions

September/October 2015 - Volume 16 • Issue 1

MACS Summer 2015 Construction Update

Mexico High School Avery Skinner Auditorium:

The high school auditorium is being fully renovated to bring it back to its historical splendor with modernized sound, lighting, and technology. The auditorium will re-open near the end of the 2015-16 school year. All events have been relocated to the Mexico Middle School auditorium.



Roofing:

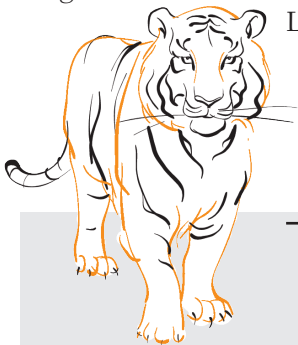
The capital project includes replacement/repair of school building roofs. This summer, the high school and middle school roofs are being done.

Mexico Middle School: This summer, classroom, bathroom, and corridor renovations are in full swing to be ready for school opening. Work at the school will continue throughout the school year with additional work planned for next summer.



Kennedy Lamb to Serve as Student BOE Representative

Mexico High School Student Council President Kennedy Lamb will serve as the MACS Board of Education Student Representative for the 2015-16 school year. Kennedy is a senior at Mexico High and is the daughter of Richard and Terri Lamb.



Welcome Superintendent of Schools Sean Bruno

Mexico Academy and Central School District welcomes Mr. Sean Bruno as the new MACS District Superintendent.

Mr. Bruno comes to Mexico from Brockport Central School District, Brockport, NY. He graduated from Whitesboro High School, earned his bachelor's degree from Buffalo State College and his masters degree from Niagara University. Mr. Bruno is a 2012 graduate of the Future Superintendents Academy through the New York State Council of School Superintendents and a 2014 graduate of the New York State Superintendent Development Program through SUNY Oswego. He and his wife, Maggie, have four children.



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



A Message from the Superintendent



Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year at Mexico Academy and Central School District!

My name is Sean Bruno and I am truly honored and privileged to serve as superintendent of our great district! I'm thinking that most are wondering what changes will come with the change in superintendents. I want you to know that I look forward to meeting everyone and learning more about our wonderful

district and community so that we may continue to honor our rich history and traditions. It is equally important to me that we continue to protect our identity by ensuring that we continue with the unique things that make us MACS proud! I also look forward to working with everyone as we pursue an uncompromising commitment toward continuous improvement and a passion for professional and academic excellence!

Over the summer months, we have updated and will continue to update our facilities to ensure that our children have a safe, warm, welcoming, and professional learning environment. Our educators have

New Members Join MACS Board of Education



The Mexico School District welcomes two new members to the MACS Board of Education. Amy Shaw, seated left, and Chad Bigelow, standing center, became official members at the July 7, 2015 MACS Board of Education meeting. The entire current board of education is pictured here. Seated front, left to right, are: Amy Shaw; MACS Board of Education Vice-President Darlene Upcraft; Marrilee Gorton; and Connie Douglas. Standing back: MACS Board of Education President James Emery; Chad Bigelow, and Dennis Brooks, Jr..

participated in professional development so that we may deliver quality programs, services, and learning experiences that maximize our students' academic performance and personal development to ensure their future success. In addition to providing incredible support for this continuous improvement work, our board has established a renewed focus on student achievement this summer. They have begun to create aspirational goals for our district. Below you will find the goals they have developed thus far:

- MACS will be in the top 10% of the school districts in New York State.
- At the conclusion of grade 3, 100% of students will be reading on grade level.

In September, they will complete their work in this area by continuing to use data to develop goals for our middle school and high school. We look forward to collaboratively developing and successfully implementing strategic plans to achieve these aspirational goals.

Every fall, MACS receives the most precious gifts anyone could imagine, the opportunity to facilitate learning with the children of our community. I want you to know that we deeply appreciate your trust in us! We promise to honor that trust by creating a safe, warm, caring, supportive, and challenging learning environment so that all of our children can realize the hopes and dreams that you, as parents and community members, have for them. We relish the opportunity to work with you as partners in fulfilling this promise. I encourage all parents and community members to get involved with our schools so that together we may maximize our impact.

I look forward to meeting everyone and being involved in our community. Please know that I am always available to you. In addition to contacting me in person, you may also contact me through my email address: sbruno@mexicocsd.org, my office number: 963-5400 ext. 5403, or my cell number: (315) 200-9542.

May this be the best year yet!

Sean Bruno,
MACS Superintendent of Schools

Contact me at:
16 Fravor Road,
Mexico, NY 13114
963-8400 Ext. 5401
www.mexicocsd.org

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).

Proud to be MACS

Patricia Prosser, (Bogart)

New Haven Elementary School Teaching Assistant, was selected as the MACS Honoree for June 2015. Patricia grew up in New Haven, attended New Haven Elementary and graduated from Mexico High in 1977. Following graduation Patricia attended Mohawk Valley Community College for secretarial science. In 1978 she married Mike Prosser. The following year Patricia began working at Oswego County BOCES as a stenographer. She moved on to become a senior accounting clerk and ultimately studied to become a certified professional public buyer for BOCES. Meanwhile two sons joined the Prosser family: Jeremy in 1984 and Adam in 1990. In 2001 Patricia decided to change careers and became a teaching assistant at New Haven Elementary. She says she knew she wanted to work with children and, "It was the best thing I ever did." Patricia worked in the K-1 multi-age classroom until 2013 when she shifted to floating between the first and second grade classes. Every workday begins with greeting the children when they get to school. "I'm the first face they see when they get off the bus," she says. During the day she teaches children how to read, helps teach math and supports the teachers. She ends the day by making the announcements from the main office. "My favorite part of the day is reading. I love to teach reading," she says. About her job Patricia says, "I love my job. I love the people. I love the kids." About the award? "I feel like I'm part of a team. Everyone deserves the award." Patricia and her husband make their home in New Haven.



Janice Clark was selected as the July 2015 MACS honoree. Although not a MACS graduate (she graduated from Oswego High School), Janice moved to Mexico in 1956. She served on the MACS Board of Education for two extended periods: 1974 to 1987 and 2000 to 2015 - for a total of 28 years. Janice stepped down from the board this past June. Reflecting on her service as a long-term board member Janice says, "I consider all of the children in Mexico my own and I want what is best for them. All I care about is the students getting the best education possible. A new goal that I'd like to see the board aim for is all of the children being able to read and write by the third grade. Ultimately the goal is for all students to graduate and succeed in life."



Eric Behling was chosen as the August 2015 MACS honoree. Eric is a MACS graduate - Class of 1980. He served on the MACS Board of Education from 2009 to 2015, for a total of six years, and stepped down this past June. Eric currently serves on the board at the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation (CiTi), and will finish this term in 2017. Looking back at his service on the MACS Board of Education Eric says, "Of the many board accomplishments during my two terms, "Project Lead the Way" stands out for fulfilling the vision we shared. It was a privilege to be part of a board that cared so much for the well-being of our entire community."



Mexico High French Club Trip to France



The Arc de Triomphe was one of the landmark stops for the Mexico students. The arch honors those who fought and died in the French wars, particularly the French Revolutionary War and the Napoleonic Wars.

Seven Mexico High School French Club students and three chaperones enjoyed an 11-day tour in France this summer. Day one of the tour was a travel day and day two allowed the group to settle into Paris and meet their tour guide. By day three, the group was ready to take a guided walk through the city, visit the Notre Dame Cathedral, and experience the famed Louvre Museum. Dinner that evening was in the Latin Quarter. On day four the group saw more of the Paris landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower, and took a sightseeing cruise on the Seine River. The fifth and sixth days found the travelers in the Loire Valley where they toured castles and experienced an authentic French Brasserie dinner. It was on to Montpellier on day seven, Provence on day eight, Cote d'Azur on day nine, and Monaco, Eze, and Nice on day 10 - with many tours and experiences to close out the trip.

The Mexico French Club students who traveled were: Abigail Burrows, Kendra Harter, Caprice Yost, Joe Gardner, Alexander Linerode, Aaron Shopland and Kevin Wells. The students were accompanied by Mexico High French Teacher Kimberley Harter, Mexico High Typist Kathy Yost, and Mexico Elementary Library Assistant Virginia Wilson.



The Eiffel Tower, the iron lattice wonder of 986 feet, was another landmark stop for the Mexico High School French Club while touring Paris.

Mexico Middle School AVID Students Spend Day in Enterprise America City

Over sixty Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), students (and potential students), from Mexico Middle School spent an exciting day at Enterprise America in the WCNY Education Center, at the studio in Syracuse, at the end of the school year on June 18, 2015.

“AVID is an elective class offered to students who would like to prepare for four-year universities,” explains Mexico Middle School District AVID Coordinator/Teacher Stewart Smith. “The curriculum features writing, inquiry, collaboration, reading, note-taking and study skills, and college/career and motivational activities. The AVID class is an elective. College students are in the classroom as tutors and field trips are taken to universities in the area. Students must commit to participating in AVID tutorials and maintaining an organized binder. Other requirements for applicants are satisfactory citizenship, good attendance, and a desire to become college and career ready. AVID students model proper citizenship, demonstrate their determination to succeed, and show their desire to become career and college ready!”

The Enterprise America experience was a day-long, hands-on adventure in a miniature city located in WCNY’s Education Center. To prepare for the experience, the students had to study the WCNY curriculum, which dovetailed the AVID curriculum, for three weeks in the classroom. Once they got to the Enterprise America City, the students used their STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), financial and civic literacy skills to run the city. They owned and operated businesses, created products, offered services, operated a credit union, ran city hall, prepared food in a cafe and more. The students needed to keep their businesses afloat while paying off loans. They also received paychecks,



which required banking skills, took lunch breaks, paid bills, dealt with fellow employees and city residents, and felt stress as well as success. The students were encouraged to vote and to follow the city laws - or receive tickets for breaking them. By the end of the day in the Enterprise America City, the Mexico Middle School students had increased their knowledge of what it takes to be an adult with a career in an American city.



Mexico Middle School Student Molly Blaiser, standing center, acted as the Enterprise America City mayor for the day. Here, she is addressing the citizens/workers of the city, most of whom are fellow middle schools students.

AVID is offered in the Mexico School District at both the middle school and high school levels. Stewart Smith is the AVID District Coordinator at Mexico Middle School while Jeanne Baldwin is the AVID District Coordinator at Mexico High School. There are 34 teachers and administrators involved in implementing the AVID program and there has been extensive and ongoing training in AVID strategies throughout the summer months. The AVID program is now entering its fourth year in the district and in June of 2016, the first AVID students will be among the graduating seniors.

MACS Summer Band Camp

The Mexico School District Music Department teamed with the Mexico Music Boosters to offer a Summer Band Camp during the week of July 13 - 17, 2015. The camp was open to current band students entering grades five through eight. It was led by a band camp staff of seven and was offered free of charge. Each day the musicians participated in a small master class, a larger sectional rehearsal, and a full ensemble rehearsal. On Friday, the last day of camp, a Summer Band Camp Concert was held for parents and family members. The camp was directed by Kevin Upcraft.





MACS Summer Science Camp With STEM Focus



Aries Pickens and Josh Clement worked on programming a robot during a robotics session at MACS Science Camp. This session was led by MACS Teacher Wendy Willsey.



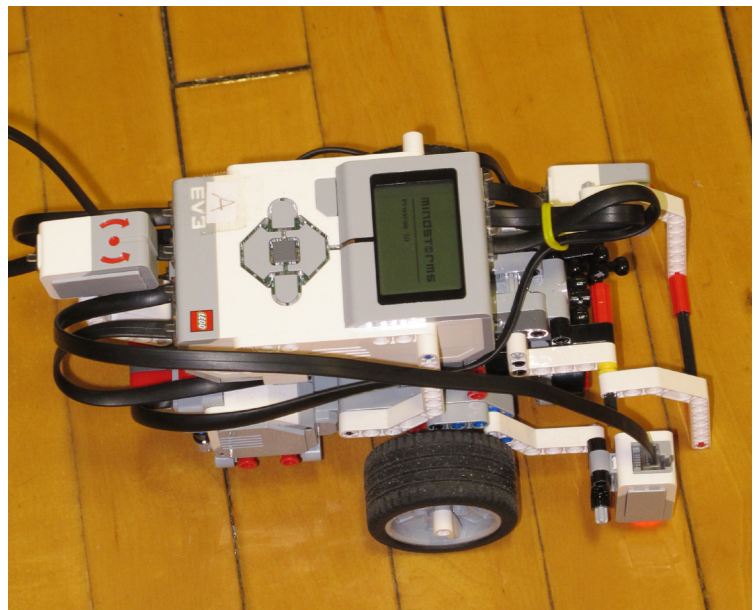
Allen Scott was awed by the slime he created during a chemistry session on polymers at MACS Science Camp. The session was led by MACS Teacher Jackie Havener.

Students entering third through sixth grades had the opportunity to attend the MACS Science Camp during the last two weeks of July. The camp was held at New Haven Elementary School. At the camp, the students learned basic science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts through robotics, rocketry, chemistry and LEGOs. “Our focus is to have fun with science,” says New Haven Elementary School Principal Richard Chapman. “They’ll learn along the way.”

MACS Summer Baseball Camp



Thirty-seven children from around the region participated in the MACS Baseball Camp during the week of July 6-10, 2015. The camp was held at Mexico High School from 9am to 1pm, with stations practice in the morning and games after lunch. The focus of the camp was basic baseball fundamentals/ skills and the age range was 6-14 years old. MACS Varsity Coach Joe Meyer directed the camp and was assisted by baseball coaches including: MACS Junior Varsity Coach Jake Reitmeier; Pulaski Varsity Coach Bush Taplin, (former) Chittenango Varsity Coach Mike Leib, and MACS Varsity Assistant Jeff Hains. In addition, current MACS varsity baseball players, who attended the baseball camps when they were younger, shared their time and talent in service at this year’s camp.





GAPP Exchange Trip 2015



The Mexico High group paused for a picture in Berlin, in front of the Brandenburg Gate. Joining them in the photo are two exchange students who had spent last year in Mexico, NY (Max from Berlin and Jan from Spain), and Maura Roach, a 2015 MACS graduate who had spent a semester of her junior year in Schneverdingen and returned for a month-long visit this summer.

Seven Mexico High School German students and one German teacher, Mona Goble, traveled overseas for a month this summer for the bi-annual German American Partnership Program (GAPP) exchange student trip.

The first two weeks of the trip were spent in Schneverdingen, Germany, with host families. While there, the students attended school, took field trips, went to the North Sea, and did several presentations in English classes at the school. Two main contrasts that the students noticed were that the Germans seem to value family time more than Americans and that the German students have much more freedom.

From Schneverdingen, the group went on a two-week European tour that included: Berlin, Germany; Prague, Czech Republic; Vienna, Austria; Salzburg, Austria; and Munich, Germany.

While in Berlin they were guided by a German student, Max Lueders, who had just spent a year as an exchange student here in Mexico, NY. In Prague they toured the Prague Castle and in Vienna they learned the Viennese Waltz at Vienna's premier dance studio. In Salzburg the group visited Mozart's birthplace and, ending the trip in Munich, they went to the BMW Welt and Museum, took a four hour bike tour of Munich, went to Dachau Concentration Camp and toured the Holocaust Memorial Museum. The size of the group allowed for more student participation in planning and navigating, as well as the adventure of scavenger hunts in most major cities which encouraged interaction with the locals. The students who took the trip with Mona Goble were: Austin Whitaker, Atreyu Hawkins, Justin Gardner, Emily Blunt, Miranda Schafer, Becca Saya, and Abby Weber.



The Mexico High School students are pictured here with the children from their host families at the Schneverdingen welcome party.

Two Summer Math Boot Camps Offer Jump Start



Two math boot camps were offered to students this summer. Pre-Algebra I Boot Camp was offered to students entering Algebra I during eighth grade to allow for a jump start for the upcoming year. This boot camp was not required, but offered to ensure success in the 2015/16 school year and high school as well. Pre-Geometry Boot Camp was designed with the same motive. The camps were held at Mexico High School four mornings a week, from July 13-30. Two MACS teachers, Christine Sabourin and Ben McAuslan, taught the camps. Students worked both independently and with partners, and they worked inside the school as well as outside.



Summer Fit Camp: “Being Physically Fit Is Cool”

The Mexico School District offered a Fit Camp during the month of July. Three days a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday), incoming seventh through twelfth grade students had the opportunity to meet at the high school to participate in a variety of physical fitness activities and games.

Two sessions were offered: three hours in the morning and three in the afternoon. Instructors were Marlow Cuyler, Brian Delola, John Hansen and Jacob Reitmeier. The activities included team sports (basketball, soccer), strength and conditioning, project adventure, ropes course, archery, swimming, running, tag games, and more. “From day one we set realistic, attainable, and individual goals,” explained Marlow Cuyler.

Fitness was a main goal of the camp, as noted by John Hansen who said, “Being physically fit is cool.”

Jacob Rettig, an incoming sophomore, affirmed the effectiveness of the camp saying, “I learned that I could really push myself harder than I thought I could.”

Another incoming sophomore, Jacob Bednar, agreed saying, “I learned how to run the right way and that if you don’t want to do something, just do it anyway. If you try it, and it turns out that you like it, it turns out you did something good for yourself.”



Approximately 28 students participated in the Fit Camp, which could also be physical education credit recovery.

MACS Professional Development - Summer 2015

While students are home enjoying summer vacation, many teachers at MACS have been busy learning about new strategies and ideas to bring to their classrooms in the fall. This summer, teachers have focused on topics such as Blended Learning; Schoology; Screencasting; AVID; Project Lead the Way; Leader in Me, along with many updates to curriculum in Math, ELA, and Social Studies, and Foreign Languages.

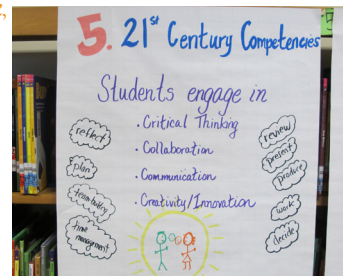


CiTi Training Facilitator Nancy Kather, seated front right, worked with the fifth through twelfth grade MACS social studies teachers during a professional development day at Mexico Elementary School on July 16, 2015. The focuses of the day were developing inquiry-based learning practices and discovering resources to support their units of study. This training assisted teachers in adapting to the new New York State Social Studies Framework. Working with Nancy Kather in training were Barb Recchio - Demmin, CiTi; and Jess Piscitelli, MACS Social Studies Department Coordinator/ Teacher.



Several MACS teachers participated in the Blended Learning Academy Level 2, K-12, professional development day held at Mexico Elementary School on July 28, 2015. This particular training day included three stations: Formative Assessment and Peer Critiquing, led by Nancy Kather, CiTi Computer Educational Specialist; Critical Thinking and Learning Through Programming, led by Brad Beck, CiTi Computer Educational Specialist; and Computer Lab Student Engagement, led by Lynn Millbyer, CiTi Computer Educational Specialist. The focus of the day was, “Integrating traditional face-to-face instruction with a station rotation model that uses technology,” says Kather. “We’re teaching students how to learn and how to be independent and self-reliant people.” Pictured here are, from left to right, MACS teachers; Maryellen Myers, Lynn Sheldon, and Kathy Butler, with Brad Beck, CiTi.

The 4 C’s of 21st Century Competencies highlighted during the professional development day at Mexico Elementary School on July 28, 2015, were: Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Communication, and Creativity/Innovation.



Board of Education

James Emery - President
Darlene Upcraft - Vice President
Chad Bigelow
Dennis Brooks, Jr.
Connie Douglas
Merrilee Gorton
Amy Shaw
Kennedy Lamb - Student Representative

Superintendent of Schools

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Calendar of Events

- Sept. 2 Freshman Orientation, 6:30pm, HS Gym
- Sept. 8 School Staff, First Day
- Sept. 9 First Day of School for Students
- Sept. 10 MACS Board of Education Meeting, 6pm
- Sept. 17 New Haven Elementary Open House, 6pm
- Sept. 22 Beginning Band Night, 7pm, MS
- Sept. 23 High School Open House, 6pm
- Sept. 23 Palermo Elementary Open House, 6pm
- Sept. 24 Mexico Elementary Open House, 6pm
- Oct. 7 Mexico Middle School Open House, 6pm
- Oct. 8 MACS Board of Education Meeting, 6pm
- Oct. 9 Homecoming Festivities
- Oct. 13 High School Fall Concert, 7pm
- Oct. 15 Mexico Idol, HS, 7pm
- Oct. 22 New Haven Fall Festival, 5pm
- Oct. 23 LOTE Halloween Dance, 7pm
- Oct. 29 Fall Play, HS, 7pm
- Oct. 30 Elementary School Halloween Parades
- Oct. 30 Fall Play, HS, 7pm
- Oct. 31 JROTC Home Drill Meet