



# Tiger Traditions

March/April 2016 - Volume 16 • Issue 4

## MACS Superintendent Held Three Community Meetings



Mexico Academy and Central School District Superintendent of Schools Sean Bruno held three community meetings during the last week of January and the first week of February. The first public meeting was held at Mexico Middle School, the second at Palermo Elementary School, and the third at New Haven Elementary (pictured). At the opening of each meeting Mr. Bruno introduced himself, shared about his background and his family, and reviewed the goals that MACS Board of Education has set for school district, as well as his own. He noted the purpose of all who

## Swim Team Takes 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Mexico High School varsity swim team brought the 1st place trophy home from the Jim Dewitt Tough as Nails Invitational on Saturday, January 2, 2016. The 3rd Annual Jim Dewitt Tough as Nails Invitational was held at the Palmyra-Macedon High School in Newark, NY with eight high schools competing. Mexico took 1st place with a score of 408. All team members scored. The 2nd place score was 339. MACS swimmer Daniel Mullen won the 500 Freestyle.

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work in the Mexico School District saying, "We are here to serve our students and to make sure they reach their full potential."

The second focus of each meeting was the recent media announcement of Entergy's closure of the Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant and the impact that the predicted closure will have on the school district. Using a power point, Mr. Bruno explained the district's tax revenue history related to Entergy; reviewed what the district has done to address the anticipated closure situation; spoke of the challenges ahead and how the district is preparing and planning for these challenges; and gave assurance that he will keep the public informed and that the district and the community would get through this together. "We will leave no stone un-turned in how we manage this," said Mr. Bruno.

## Noah Galluzzo Signs D-I Letter of Intent

Mexico High School Senior Noah Galluzzo celebrated his signature on a Division I Letter of Intent, committing to Eastern Michigan University, in the Hungerford Library, at Mexico High School, on January 28, 2016. In the fall of 2016, Noah will study aviation technology at Eastern Michigan and become a member of the school's dive team.



Noah began swimming and diving on the MACS modified swim team in the seventh grade and joined the varsity team in eighth grade. He has continued throughout high school under MACS Diving Coach Sally Oliver. Noah is the son of Jerry and Tina Galluzzo of Palermo.

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](http://www.Mexicocsd.org)



# A Message from the Superintendent



I hope this edition of the Tiger Traditions finds you and your family well. I would like to take this opportunity to discuss budgeting information for the 2016-2017 school year and beyond.

While our budget goal and process will be similar to years' past, the information and projections we are using contain significant challenges. The main goal of preparing a budget for the upcoming school year is to align resources to provide levels of learning and opportunities for our students to achieve their fullest potentials and be college or career ready. The difference this year is that we are trying to prepare a budget based on future revenue uncertainties.

Through their Fitzpatrick plant, Entergy represents 49%

of our tax base. If the announced closure of this plant comes to fruition, revenues would be negatively impacted. While Entergy is predicting removal of the fuel rods in late 2016 or early 2017, there isn't specific information on how that will impact our District's revenue at this time.

In addition to the closing challenge, Entergy has initiated tax certiorari proceedings in an effort to lower Fitzpatrick's assessed value and their tax payment for the last five years. The outcome of these proceedings could negatively impact our reserve funds and lower future revenue amounts. (I am happy to report that our current and former Board of Education members have made tough, but wise budgetary decisions in the past several years that have increased our reserve funds. While I don't know if one ever has enough money for a "rainy day," these reserve funds will certainly help to offset the potential negative fiscal impacts that these proceedings could present to our District.) While negotiations are on-going to find a win-win outcome, the trial date is scheduled for May of 2016 and should come to conclusion by December of 2016 or January 2017. Again, there isn't specific budgetary impact information at this time.

## MACS MCJROTC Drill Team Competes in Massachusetts



*The Mexico High School Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC) Drill Team traveled to the Boston area to compete in the 15th Annual Martin Luther King Drill Competition on January 15-16, 2016. This Northeast regional drill meet was held at the Gloucester High School, in Gloucester, MA. The Mexico High Mixed Color Guard placed 3rd in the competition, and the Mexico High New Cadet Squad placed 5th. Highlighting the meet was the commander of the New Cadet Squad, Cadet David Diehl, who commanded for the first time. New Cadet is a squad of cadets who have never marched in competition, but strive to be the best. Overall, the team utilized lessons from the classroom in real life situations, and displayed hard work and discipline to pursue their goal of excellence.*

While we may not be faced with reductions this year, we must consider and prepare for these challenges. Without proactive fiscal planning and measures, we risk facing a potential "fiscal cliff." I'm happy to report that in our proactive measures to date, we have and will continue to look internally to find budgetary efficiencies that prepare us for uncertain amounts and timelines of potential reductions in revenue. At this point, we are able to realize reductions/efficiencies that don't negatively impact opportunities for students or staffing. However, if these two challenges come to fruition and significantly negatively impact our future revenue, we may be faced with more reductions in future years. We will know more specifics as we move closer to the end of 2016, beginning of 2017.

Sean Bruno,  
MACS Superintendent of Schools

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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

**James Busco**, Mexico High School Assistant Principal, was selected as the January 2016 Proud to be MACS honoree. James grew up in the Liverpool/North Syracuse area and graduated from Liverpool High School in 1978. He attended Cornell University School of Hotel Management, graduating in 1982 with a bachelors degree. James then began his career in the food and beverage business. He married his wife, Anne, in 1984 and three children were born to the couple; JT in 1985, Dolly in 1988, and Sammy in 1996. Along the way James began to attend LeMoyne College to obtain a masters degree in elementary and special education and earned the degree in 2003. That same year, he was hired as a special



**Laurel von Holtz**, Mexico Elementary Kindergarten Teacher, was chosen as the February 2016 Proud to be MACS honoree. Laurel grew up in New Haven, but she attended Mexico Elementary School as a child because her mother, Elaine Fischer, was a teacher there. She graduated from Mexico High in 1992, attended Canisius College for one year, and transferred to SUNY Oswego. Laurel earned a bachelors degree in elementary education in 1996, and later earned a masters degree in reading from the same institution in 2001. Laurel began her teaching career at Mexico Elementary in October of 1996, in the first grade as a long-term substitute teacher for the full year. In the fall of 1997, she was hired on as a full-time first grade teacher. Since that time, she has taught nine years in the multi-age class room, with Diane Barnes, and seven in kindergarten - for a total of 20 years this summer. Currently Laurel team-teaches with the two other kindergarten teachers in the building; Jeannie Grant and Lindsey McCaw. Laurel married David von Holtz, who teaches technology at Mexico Middle School, in 1997. They are parents to two children, both of whom attend Mexico Middle School; Reatha, who was born in 2003, and Alexa, born in 2005. When asked about her favorite parts of her job, Laurel says, "I love the spark when they are learning how to read. They come in not knowing how and they leave and they do." In addition to reading, she teaches her students to count to 100, to add and subtract, and write simple sentences. Speaking about the 'Leader in Me' program that the school is teaching, Laurel says, "We use the words proactive and synergize daily. They will learn more about it as they move up, but here they become familiar with the vocabulary." Considering her job, she says, "I love my job. I can't imagine doing anything else." And about the Proud to be MACS award, Laurel says, "I'm very proud to get the award - to be recognized." A special note to add is that Laurel's sister, Kathy Butler, is also a teacher at Mexico Elementary. Laurel makes her home with her family in New Haven.



education teacher in the Mexico School District, working in both the middle and high schools. In 2007 he transitioned to full-time at Mexico High. Meanwhile, James studied to become an administrator, at SUNY Cortland, and earned his Certified Advanced Studies (CAS) Degree in 2009. In 2010 he was hired as the assistant vice principal at Mexico High School. His duties in this position include, overall: one-on-one student conferencing, intervention with at-risk students, and assisting in maintaining a safe school environment. James is also the administrator of the After School Activities Program (ASAP), at both the middle and high schools. Eighty to 100 students participate in this program from 2:45-5:30pm every day, rotating between such activities as homework help, sports, crafts, swimming, and field trips. How does he feel about his work? "I love my job. Daily. There is never a dull moment. The satisfaction I get from helping the number of students I encounter is very worthwhile." Considering the MACS award, James says, "I'm very honored and proud to be given this award. I've seen some real interesting and talented people ahead of me, as MACS honorees, and I'm privileged to be one of them." James and his wife make their home in Liverpool. They are grandparents to one granddaughter, Anna Belle.

## Swim Team Takes 1st Place



*(Continued from page 1)*

MACS swimmers AJ Yost, Liam Simko, Jason Ray, and Daniel Mullen won the 200 Freestyle Relay. The 400 Freestyle Relay was won by MACS swimmers AJ Yost, Dylan Long, John Ocker, and Daniel Mullen. The team is coached by MACS Head Coach Shawn Parkhurst, Coach Sally Oliver, and Coach Jerry Galluzzo. Pictured front, left to right, are: Austin Lawton, Connor Ransier, Dylan Long, Joe Ocker, and AJ Yost. Second row, left to right: Tyler LaFlamm, Liam Simko, Daniel Mullen, Jason Ray, Dan Berry, John Ocker, Zach Revette, Coach Sally Oliver, Head Coach Shawn Parkhurst, Coach Jerry Galluzzo. Third row, left to right: Nick Galluzzo, Nick Hartmann, Nate Galluzzo, Alex Joss-Forbes, Todd Rector, and Noah Galluzzo.





## Three 1,000 Point Club MACS Members Honored

The three MACS members of the 1,000 Point Club Basketball were presented with plaques prior to the start of the Mexico vs Chittenango girls varsity basketball game on Monday, February 8, 2016. Mexico High Senior Kendra Harter, center, reached the 1,000 point mark on January 29, 2016. Kristina (Lavery) Goodman, left, Class of 2006, reached her 1,000 point mark on January 11, 2006. Kyle Reuter, right, Class of 2005, reached 1,000 points on February 24, 2004. All three plaques will hang in the athletic lobby of Mexico High School. Kendra Harter was named News Channel 9 “Athlete of the Week” for the second week in February.

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**[www.Mexicocsd.org](http://www.Mexicocsd.org)**

## The Circus Came to Mexico!



It was a full house at Mexico High School when Billy Martin’s Cole All Star Circus came to town on Monday, January 25. Mexico High Spanish and German Clubs hosted the circus as a fund-raiser for the clubs, as they have done for over 30 years now. The circus performers wowed the crowd with a variety of talented acts including lofty acrobatics and amazing balancing feats.



Several Mexico High language students who assisted with the circus, both before and after the show, paused for a photo during the circus.

## 2016 CNY Scholastic Art Award Winners



At left: CNY Scholastic Art Gold Key Award Winner Sarah Hubbell.

Below: “Moose and Squirrel” painting by Sarah Hubbell.



Five Mexico High School art students won 2016 CNY

Scholastic Art Awards. The art students were recognized at the CNY Scholastic Art Awards Ceremony at Onondaga Community College on January 14, 2016. The students are taught by MACS Art Teachers Barbara Sheldon and David Maidens.



CNY Scholastic Art Award Winners, from left to right, are: Honorable Mention Winner Ashton Ariola with “The Lion King,” Silver Key Winner Alyssa David with “The Seven Blues,” Honorable Mention Winner Taylor Gates with “MACS Fantasy,” and Silver Key Winner Subin Kwak with “Grand Splendid.”





## New Haven Elementary School Pre-K Community Workers

The Pre-K students at New Haven Elementary School celebrated community workers with costumes, show and tell, and a parade on January 15. Both the morning and afternoon Pre-K classes had focused on their Family and Communities Unit in prior weeks and this event was the culmination of their learning experience. In the morning class, pictured, children dressed in costumes of workers such as: police officer, waitress, veterinarian, banker, soldier, dentist, and race car driver. MACS Teacher Cheryl Barbeau, standing right, teaches the Pre-K classes with the assistance of MACS Teachers Aide Kristen Mattison, standing left.

## Mexico Middle School 8th Grade Super Citizens

Four Mexico Middle School eighth grade students were recognized as Super Citizens during the quarterly Grade Level Meeting on



February 5. Students are nominated for the awards by their teachers, based on the following criteria:

- Take the initiative to do the right thing without having to be told.
- Practice good work habits.
- Consistently follow classroom and school rules.
- Serve as positive role models to others both in and out of school.
- Contribute to the well-being of the larger community through service.

Grade Level Meetings were held for fifth, sixth, and seventh grade students earlier in the week. The meetings are conducted by Mexico Middle School Assistant Principal Patrick Vrooman and include such segments as: public service announcements, student council news, trivia with prizes, and more. The four eighth grade Super Citizens pictured are, from left to right: Grant Williams, Taylor Sova, Hanna Wells, and Paxton Druce.

## Mexico Middle School Fifth Grade Goal Setters

A total of 27 third and fourth grade students at Mexico Elementary School are participating in the 2016 Battle of the Books competition.



Under the leadership of Mexico Elementary Teacher Diane Barnes, the students make up 10 teams that read and study 10 chapter books. The group meets twice a week, after school, and will compete in the building Battle of the Books on March 8. The county battle will be held on March 22. Both Mexico Middle School and Mexico High School will send teams to the 2016 Battle of the Books as well. Two Mexico Elementary teams are pictured here. Kneeling front, left to right: Nico Murabito, Daniel Miller, Emily Bennent, and Mara Williamson. Pictured back, left to right: Ariona Premo, Kaylee Halsey, MACS Teacher Dianne Barnes, Mason Hancock, and Hayliann Smith.

The fifth grade students in Ashley Riordan's English/Language Arts class at Mexico Middle School set personal goals for 2016 and put them on public display in the fifth grade hallway of the school. The assignment required the students to determine resolutions that they would make in four categories, to write these out, and to paste them beneath the four numbers in the year 2016. The four categories included: two things the students would like to learn; something the students will try to stop doing; one thing the students could do to try to make their school a better place; and six books the students would like to read. A wide variety of goals appeared such as: learning about tribes in Social Studies and doing a hand spring; trying to stop eating a lot of candy and letting the water run; being kind and caring; and reading "Diary of a Wimpy Kid."







## Mexico Elementary School Spelling Bee Finalists

Four Mexico Elementary School students were regional semi-finalists in the 2016 Scripts National Spelling Bee. These students won the bee in their building and traveled to Syracuse for the regional competition on January 16. They are, from left to right: Daniel Miller, Emily Bennet, Avery Mack, and Tristan Breckenridge.

## Mexico Elementary School Pre-K Classes Show Compassion

The Pre-K students at Mexico Elementary worked hard in preparation for Valentine's Day this year. Both the morning and the afternoon sessions created a variety of colorful heart decorations for Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital where they brightened the days for the children in the hospital. The project was designed to the focus on care and compassion for others. The class is taught by MACS Teacher Suzanne Maniccia and MACS Teacher's Assistant Dolores Brooks.



Top: Mexico Elementary Morning Pre-K

Right: Mexico Elementary Afternoon Pre-K

# Mexico High Spirit Week

Mexico High School Spirit Week was held January 11-15, 2016. The week included themed dress-up days and a hall-decorating contest, and ended with a pep-rally on Friday afternoon. The freshmen and senior classes tied for the hall decorating contest with "Hollywood Through Time - Freshmen Premier" and the "Game of Life" respectively. The juniors won the spirit stick for the week overall.



Seniors - "Game of Life"



Freshmen - "Hollywood Through Time - Freshmen Premier"

## Mexico Middle School Random Act of Kindness Committee



The 'Random Act of Kindness Week' Committee acted out several skits that depicted random acts of kindness during the Mexico Middle School Grade Level Meetings in early February. The mission of the skits was to help the students watching become aware of what simple acts they may do during 'Random Act of Kindness Week' at the school - February 8-12, and beyond. The goal of the random acts overall is to make the school a better place to be. These actors performed the skits for all four grade level meetings. Committee actors, from left to right, are: Adria Ariola, Ella McCoy, Kathryn Morgan, MACS Student Council Adviser Kristine Earley, Sage Clement, and Emalee Herrington.



# Leader in Me Family Night at Palermo Elementary



The 'Brady Bunch Show' (video) cast.

Palermo Elementary School hosted a Leader in Me Family Night on January 15, 2016 with nearly 225 parents and children present. The evening included dinner, a performance by the Palermo Steppers and Chorus, a 'Brady Bunch Show' video (a '7 Habits' skit created with Palermo Elementary fourth graders as the actors), and a Leader in Me presentation by guest speaker Gary McGuey, of Franklin Covey Co.



Gary McGuey, of Franklin Covey Co.

McGuey covered, in detail, the '7 Habits' that the school, as a Leader in Me school, is focused on. When McGuey encouraged families to use the '7 Habits' at home, he said, "The most important organization we'll ever be involved in is our family."

*Students Logan Haynes and Kaylee Delk speak alongside Palermo Elementary Principal Peggy Scorzelli.*



## The '7 Habits' are:

- 1 ~ Be Proactive.
- 2 ~ Begin with the End in Mind
- 3 ~ Put First Things First
- 4 ~ Think Win-Win
- 5 ~ Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood
- 6 ~ Synergize
- 7 ~ Sharpen the Saw

## Construction Corner

The Mexico High School Reconstruction Project is well under way. The contracts for the project were issued to all Prime Contractors on November 24, 2015, and a kickoff meeting was held on December 21, 2015.

The high school auditorium phase began on December 28, 2015 with site mobilization, creation of construction staging area, erection of temporary barriers, and interior demolition work. Substantial completion is targeted for June 24, 2016.

Looking forward, both the boiler replacement and the front exterior renovation work will begin in April of this year, and both are expected to be completed in September.

During the summer of 2016, construction will include work in the: basement/shop area, guidance area, library, and corridors. In addition, the gym bleachers will be replaced. Stadium reconstruction is slated for late spring and summer as well.



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## Superintendent of Schools

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## Mexico Middle School Musical



The Mexico Middle School Drama Club students presented the musical "School House Rock Live Jr." four times between February 4-6. The musical was directed by MACS Music Teacher Laura Washburn, and was held in the middle school auditorium. Over 40 students participated in the uplifting and colorful production, including: the cast, backstage crew, set construction crew, and sound and lights crew. The Mexico Middle School Student Council, along with Student Council Advisor Kristina Earley, donated the "School House Rock Live Jr." t-shirts.

## New Haven Students Remember Furry Friends



The third and fourth grade students at New Haven Elementary School collected needed items for the Oswego Animal Shelter this winter. They collected six full boxes of: dog food, cat food, litter, toys, dishes, blankets and treats, and donated these to shelter during their neediest time. The classes are taught by: Melissa Stoutenberg, Charles Merritt, Andrea Barry, and Shannon DeSantis.



## Jazz Choir Sings Valentines

Mexico High School Vocal Jazz Choir shared their talents throughout the school on February 12, when they delivered singing Valentines to 74 recipients. Students and teachers alike ordered one of four Valentine-themed songs that were then delivered to another student or teacher in the building. Singing Valentine phone calls were also an option, and recorded songs went out to 30 recipients on the same day. The most popular song? LO.V.E. This singing Valentines project, under the direction of MACS Vocal Teacher Hope Greco-Gaham, was a fundraiser for the choir.



## Calendar of Events

Mar. 3-5	HS Spring Musical "Mary Poppins"
Mar. 8	7/8 Band Concert
Mar. 9	HS Pops Concert, 7pm
Mar. 10	MACS Board of Education Meeting, 6pm
Mar. 17-18	HS Variety Show, 7pm
Mar. 22	MS Chorus Concert, 7pm
Mar. 25	No School
Apr. 7	French Honor Society Inductions, 6pm
Apr. 13	HS Celebration of Learning, 6pm
Apr. 14	MACS Board of Education Meeting, 6pm
Apr. 15	Palermo Elementary Royal Ball, 7pm
Apr. 18	Math & Art Honor Society Inductions, 6pm
Apr. 21	Tri M Inductions
Apr. 25-29	Spring Break