

# BRIDGES

Mount Morris Central School District

*Dare to be Excellent!*

*At Mount Morris Central School District  
we are building the future, laying the foundation  
of lifelong learning, opening minds to explore,  
to create, and to achieve excellence.*



WWW.MTMORRISCSD.ORG

February 2019

## Mount Morris Eighth Graders Participate in 2018 New York State YMCA Model Youth Legislature in Albany



*(left to right) Matthew Hartigan, Melania VanAernam, Anna Johnson, E'Monie Bullock, Lance Warren, Jack Lonsberry, Ar'Monie Bullock, Jacob Callaro, Calogero Scott*

This fall, Mount Morris students in Mr. Gardner's American History class learned how to write a bill. Students sought direct guidance from a government official by scheduling a conference call with Youth and Government State Director, Drew Caldwell. Caldwell walked the students through writing a bill and was available to answer questions the students had throughout the process.

In November, Gardner's class traveled to Albany to experience the process for submitting a bill first hand. Sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students from across New York State attended this three-day state assembly to write different bills, debate them with each other, and vote on them.

During the first day of the event, students acclimated themselves

with parliamentary procedures, practiced presenting their bills, and were provided feedback. On the second day, students presented, debated, and voted on their bills.

"The trip was such a great experience. We learned all about politics, respect, and how to be a leader," said Ar'Monie Bullock, MMCSO eighth grade student.

Upon returning from their trip, students were excited to share how fun and educational the experience was with all of their peers and expressed that they are very excited to attend this event next year.

"The students' leadership abilities and responsibility towards each other were demonstrated throughout the trip. They really grew as people through this experience," said Mr. Gardner.



# Mount Morris Central School

30 Bonadonna Avenue ♦ Mount Morris, New York 14510



**Gregory Bump**  
Superintendent of Schools

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## New Partnerships

The District is partnering with the village recreation department to offer Learn to Swim classes for students in grades PreK-6. The program will cost \$40 per person and classes will be held every Saturday for six weeks (March 9 to April 13).

**9am-9:40am Level 1 Introduction to Water Skills:** Students will learn how to feel comfortable in the water and safely enjoy it.

**9:40am-10:20am Level 2 Fundamental Aquatic Skills:** Children will learn basic swimming skills. Student must be able to float on their own, and fully submerge to be eligible for Level 2.

**10:20am-11:00am Level 3: Stroke Development:** Additional guided practice will help students improve their skills. Student must be able to swim independently to the middle of the pool and tread water for 15 seconds to be eligible for Level 3.

Registration forms are available at: [www.mtmorriscsd.org](http://www.mtmorriscsd.org)

Please contact Amanda Coniglio if you have any questions: (585)658-4160

The District will also be expanding our athletic partnerships with the Keshequa Central School District. In the past we have partnered with them for Modified Track and Girls Volleyball. This year our track partnership will be expanded to include the varsity level. The goal of this partnership is to preserve and expand the athletic opportunities available to our students.

## Principal's List

### *7th Grade*

Emelia Clester  
Tyler Guzzardi  
Jamie Hale  
Sarina Johnson

### *8th Grade*

Leah Gehrig  
Anna Johnson  
Anna Lin  
Ethan Provino  
Emma Van Gorder  
Melania VanAernam  
Trenten Willis



# I Pledge To Make Good Choices

The Mount Morris Central School District celebrated Red Ribbon Week in October. Kara Hiltz, Student and Family Support Counselor, organized the entire week to help students pledge to make good choices.

CASA (Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse) of Livingston County provided free supplies this year including a white vinyl banner and red ribbons for all PK-6 students; the banner was signed and decorated by students.

“I Pledge to Make Good Choices is the heart of Red Ribbon Week,” said Hiltz.

Red Ribbon Week puts emphasis on students making good choices in everything they do. At the high school level, students focused on drug and alcohol prevention.

While health curriculum is embedded in PE and regular classes, teachers were encouraged during Red Ribbon Week to provide even more focus on the importance of making healthy choices.



## National PTA School of Excellence Program

The Mount Morris PTSA members are embarking on a plan through the National PTA School of Excellence Program to help ease student transitions.

This program challenges local PTAs to focus on setting one goal to build a stronger parent-school partnership. The process started with a 20-question survey that was sent to parents via email and in a paper format asking pertinent questions about the school.

According to Amanda Lonsberry, MMPTSA President, the PTSA received almost 100 responses to the survey, which overall showed a positive view of the Mount Morris Central School District. The data reflected that one area parents would like to see improvement in is helping parents and students navigate transitions.

Thanks to this feedback, the School of Excellence Team will focus on creating a series of videos in both English and Spanish aimed at improving student transitions between grades as well as easing transitions into the District for new students and parents.

MMPTSA members will be meeting with the MMCSD High School Student Council to select students who are interested in filmmaking to assist with this project.

“If we can get students to participate in this project, not only will they help us figure out what will make the videos the most useful, but students will gain valuable technical skills as well,” Lonsberry said. “We know we are in for a lot of work, but we really think this will be useful to our students and parents.”

The Mount Morris PTSA has supported the Mount Morris Central School District in many ways, such as providing annual scholarships to eligible students, free books to children under the age of five in the community, providing school supplies to students, grants to teachers, and hosting many fun family activities throughout the school year. The PTSA also contributed to the construction of the school’s first playground.

“We are committed to helping where the greatest need is. Our biggest goal is to walk away feeling like we in some way helped parents and students better connect with our school,” said Lonsberry.

All PTAs enrolled in the National School of Excellence Program receive support from the National PTA. According to Lonsberry, at the end of the year, if the same 20-question survey shows an improvement in the focus area, the MMPTSA, and the Mount Morris Central School District will receive a two-year School of Excellence designation and the PTSA will be considered for a \$2,000 award.

The MMPTSA invites parents and students interested in sharing information regarding their transition into the District or into a new grade level to email [mountmorrisptsa@gmail.com](mailto:mountmorrisptsa@gmail.com).

“This will be a great collaboration between the District and the MMPTSA to help families, specifically the students, transition between different milestones in their academic careers,” said Mrs. Dean, Mount Morris Elementary Principal.



## SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

## Sunshine after the Rain



“My mom felt that I was the light after all the bad things that happened to her, so she named me Nogah Mimitar Pescini. Mimitar means sunshine after the rain,” said Pescini.

As a MMCS D senior, Pescini participates on the Football Cheerleading Team, has three honor keys in Art, one honor key in Science, has been named Student of the Month twice, and participates in the MMCS D Drama Club musical productions. This high honor roll student also works four days a week at The Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation and Questa Lasagna in Mount Morris.

Pescini has an older sister named Meleah (19), and six younger siblings, Lyon (9), Rudy (7), Mackenzie (9), Jason (4), James (2), and Harley (1). The Pescini’s have also fostered six other children throughout the years.

“I learned how to make dinner for ten around the age of ten,” Pescini stated as she laughed.

In October, Pescini helped organize the blood drive that was hosted at MMCS D. Pescini made posters and walked around the building signing volunteers up to donate blood.

“The District does one blood drive a year and this was my very first time organizing it,” said Pescini. “The turnout was great!”

Pescini says that her home life has shaped who she is and what she wants to be.

Pescini is applying under Early Decision to SUNY Geneseo to major in Art and Psychology. Pescini then plans to attend Nazareth College to get her Master’s Degree in Art Therapy.

“My ideal future would be opening my own art therapy practice to help children with mental disabilities,” said Pescini.



## Vibrant Emily



From a young age, Parker Estruch, MMCS D senior, has had a passion for business. From running a lemonade stand outside of his father’s business on Main Street as a child to starting a successful business called Emoji Apparel at 14 years old, Estruch loved to sell products.

Estruch has a passion for business and the desire to be an entrepreneur. Two years ago, when he saw a friend in need, Estruch decided to raise awareness and money for others.

“Two years ago, my view on life was changed. Ever since then, I have worked vigorously putting together a team of passionate individuals to help accomplish a common goal, one we feel needs to be discussed. Together we can help #StopSuicide,” said Estruch.

In October, Estruch founded Vibrant Emily, an online company that sells t-shirts to raise money for Suicide Prevention Awareness.

“As a school culture, we need sympathy and acknowledgment because mental illness comes in all forms. “It is so important to reach out to people who may be struggling because struggling from mental illness can make you feel alone,” said Estruch. “Even if the person doesn’t respond to your gesture, they will know that someone cares.”

According to Estruch, Vibrant Emily revolves around a sunflower because sunflowers represent warmth, growth, and happiness.

“Vibrant Emily does not represent one person,” said Estruch. “Vibrant Emily represents those who passed away due to mental illness, those still struggling, and those who overcame. Vibrant Emily represents the mental health community as a whole.”

Estruch advertises Vibrant Emily through social media outlets such as Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat and has sold t-shirts in over ten different states. Twenty percent of the proceeds go to suicide prevention and mental health organizations such as The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and The National Alliance on Mental Illness. The money donated supports 18 new research studies regarding the genetic, biological and behavioral factors that contribute to suicide, and finding effective interventions and treatments to prevent suicide.

Along with founding and solely operating Vibrant Emily, this honor roll student works five days a week at Walmart. Estruch hopes to attend Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) to study business. In the future, he hopes to make Vibrant Emily a full clothing line to continue to raise money to support mental health awareness charities.

“I have no aspirations to be rich, my goal is just to be happy, and to impact other people’s lives in a positive way,” said Estruch.

Vibrant Emily t-shirts come in six different colors and can be purchased by visiting [www.vibrantemily.com](http://www.vibrantemily.com).

# Passport to Leadership

The Mount Morris Central School District's High School Student Council attended two leadership conferences this fall. In October, Student Council representatives attended the Principal-Advisor-Leader (PAL) Conference at Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC). This one-day conference is offered by the New York State Council on Leadership and Student Activities (NYS CLSA). The aim of the PAL Conference was to provide an opportunity for principals, advisors, and student leaders to share ideas, set goals, and build on their working relationships for the new school year. The program provided time for participants to interact as school teams. Separate opportunities were available for principals, advisors, and students to meet in small group breakout sessions. The High School Student Council Officers were accompanied by Principal Hamilton, Mr. Hussain, and Mr. Schneider.

"The theme of this conference really inspired change and an overall feeling of empowerment," said Mr. Hussain.

Students from 16 districts across New York State participated in a wide variety of icebreaker activities including having to build a necklace by collecting a different color bead after speaking with at least one person from each school district.

"My favorite part was listening to the experiences and challenges faced by other advisors, and knowing how much our administrators support what we do," said Mr. Hussain.

In November, Mount Morris Student Council members attended the NYS CLSA 31st Annual State Conference in Niagara Falls. Students learned tools for combating prejudice, bullying, drugs, alcohol, and depression. They also learned about sharing ideas, networking, project planning, community service, fundraising, and team building.



(left to right): Gabe Simmons (Secretary), Jesse Bacon (Vice President), Joelle Provino (President), and Natalie Muscarella (Treasurer),



## Mount Morris CSD's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Athletic Hall of Fame

The Mount Morris Central School District Athletic Department would like to thank the community for joining us on Friday, January 11, 2019, in the high school gymnasium for the Twelfth Annual Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony. On this evening, our Girls' Varsity Basketball Team played against Geneseo beginning at 6:00 p.m. Immediately following the game, at approximately 6:45 p.m., there was a ceremony to honor our newest inductees to the Athletic Hall of Fame. The Boys' Varsity Basketball Team then played against Geneseo after the ceremony.

*The 2019 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees are:*

- Bradley Ferraro (Class of 2012)
- Roberta Finn (Class of 2002)
- Conor Walsh (Class of 1998)



## Fall Scholar Athletes

### *Girls Varsity Soccer*

Danielle Callar ★ Joelle Provino

### *Varsity Football*

Rowen Gross

### *Varsity Cheer*

Nogah Pescini

### *Boys Varsity Soccer*

- ★ Jose Coyote-Medina ★ Robert Hartigan
- ★ Justin Martin ★ Peyton Martin ★ Ryan Morgan
- ★ Steven Soto ★ Alec Spicciati ★ Devon Terry



# First Quarter Honor Roll

## 12TH GRADE

### HIGH HONOR

Joshua Cautivo  
Nayeli Crespo-Toledo  
Carmen Cruz  
Joshua Cruz  
Shantal Herrera-Olivo  
Isaiah Kenney  
Emily Kerr  
Aleyshka Lopez-Crespo  
Nayellie Martinez Pena  
Justin Martin  
Nogah Pescini  
Joelle Provino  
Alec Spicciati  
Emily Sutherland

### HONOR

Michael Gross  
Joseph Luckenbach  
Alexis Peck  
Russell Rawleigh  
Kianna Rodriguez  
Yaigsa Sepulveda  
Tadiaris Silva Ortiz  
Jordi Smith  
Steven Soto  
Kathleen Warren  
Brianna White  
Wyatt Yorks

## 11TH GRADE

### HIGH HONOR

Jesse Bacon  
Chance Brooks  
Danielle Callaro  
Alyssa Cornelius  
Jose Coyote-Medina

Robert Hartigan  
Peyton Martin  
Kiona Morf  
Erica Morgan  
Ryan Morgan  
Kolby Scott  
Madyson Simmons  
Devon Terry

### HONOR

Averie Matson  
John Rathburn

## 10TH GRADE

### HIGH HONOR

Mary Rose Cautivo  
Edmee Lopez Crespo  
McKenzie Miller  
Evelyn Morf  
JoAnna Regatuso  
Alivia White  
Elizabeth Young

### HONOR

Tannor Brooks  
Amber Correia  
Junery Crespo Toledo  
Maryelee Diaz  
Isiah Frye  
Destiny Gross  
Andrew Jackson  
Treyton Monteleone  
Gabriel Simons

## 9TH GRADE

### HIGH HONOR

Paige Conley  
Jye Crocker  
Jaieshla Sepulveda

Ian Lin  
Nicole Martell-Dale  
Isabella Martinez-Serrant  
Michael Miller  
Natalie Muscarella  
Trinity Muscarella  
Daniela Rivera-  
Figueroa  
McKenzie Ryan  
Jaieshla Sepulveda

### HONOR

Miguelangel Acevedo  
Dominic Coyote-  
Medina  
Avery Gandy  
Abriel Gazzetta  
Rowen Gross  
Briana Lang  
John Martinez Pena  
Daniel McCart  
Jeilyann Morales  
Rodriguez  
Brittany Rathburn  
Shaemus Simons  
Josiah Shattuck  
Sierra Somers  
Stephen Somers  
Jordan Yencer

## 8TH GRADE

### HIGH HONOR

Ar'Monie Bullock  
E'monie Bullock  
William Catlin

Jasmine Follett-Martes  
Leah Gehrig  
Gabriel Gross  
Matthew Hartigan  
Anna Johnson  
Anna Lin  
Jack Lonsberry  
Chloe Mike  
Emily Mike  
Gina Nuttall  
Ethan Provino  
Eliet Ruiz  
Calogero Scott  
Portia Stoddard  
Vannelis Torres-  
Velazquez  
Emma Van Gorder  
Melania VanAernam  
Isabella Waite  
Lance Warren  
Trenten Willis

### HONOR

Benjamin Bacon  
Austin Butler  
Zoe Cornell  
Edrick Delgado Rivera  
Corbin Gaddy  
Jae Lynn Gagner  
Alex Lopez Crespo  
Izaiah Martinez-Serrant  
Anastasia Megliore  
Paola Morales Villodas  
Karla Ortiz Vargas  
Luis Ortiz-Cruz  
Donald Ribble Jr.

Cadence Stroud  
Isaac Sufi  
Mya Terry  
Jesse Yorks  
Alysecia Young

## 7TH GRADE

### HIGH HONOR

Elena Barrios  
Emma Brickwood  
Emelia Clester  
Arianna Dent  
Caitlyn Dwyer  
Tyler Guzzardi  
Jamie Hale  
Adam Johnson  
Sarina Johnson  
Jolee Manthey  
Richard Martin III  
Anthony Regatuso  
Quinn Simons  
Jadyer Torres Ocasio  
Lillien Yack  
Owen Yencer

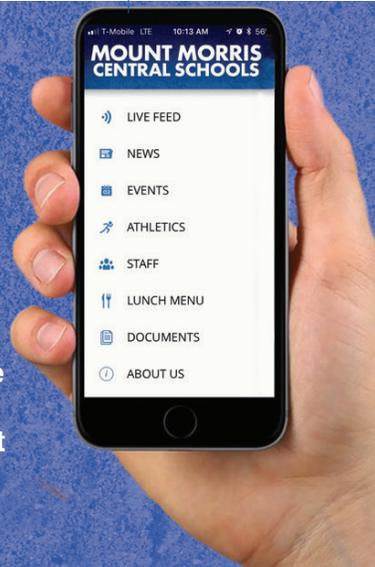
### HONOR

Savanna Ayers  
Shayla Brown  
Angelica Caceres Pou  
Bryson Constantino  
Keara Dwyer  
Alexander Henry  
Mason Santini  
Jenna Saturria  
Gadge Savastano  
Aidan Stanley  
Mia Valentin



# DOWNLOAD THE MMCS MOBILE APP

The mobile app offers a current feed of district news and events with photos and links to the District's website. Users can also choose to receive push notifications to get breaking news, updates and school closures, and calendar changes without having to open the app. Users can even translate content into their native language.



AVAILABLE FOR



# MMCS D Hosts First Annual 'Walk of Honor' to Celebrate Veterans



*(left to right) Back row: Robert Stevens, Treig Stroud, Chelsey Woodworth, Craig King, James DiSalvo, Larry Woodworth, Billie Jo Thompson, Frank Reeder, John Whittenack  
Front row: Gabrielle Pagano, Morgan Luick, Quinn Whiteside, Yasael Malave Perez*

Mount Morris Elementary School hosted the first annual "Walk of Honor" on Friday, November 9, for local Veterans in recognition of Veteran's Day.

"This is an exciting new annual tradition for the Mount Morris Elementary School to honor our local heroes," said Mrs. Dean, Mount Morris Elementary School Principal.

Elementary classes lined the hallways with American flags in hand and cheered for local Veterans who were led by the Elementary Student Council Officers.

At the end of the "Walk of Honor", the Veterans were invited to have lunch with the Elementary Student Council members.

Veterans and students discussed future aspirations, leadership roles, and the Veterans' time in the service.

"The Veterans were grateful for being recognized and honored by our young students," said Mrs. Dean.

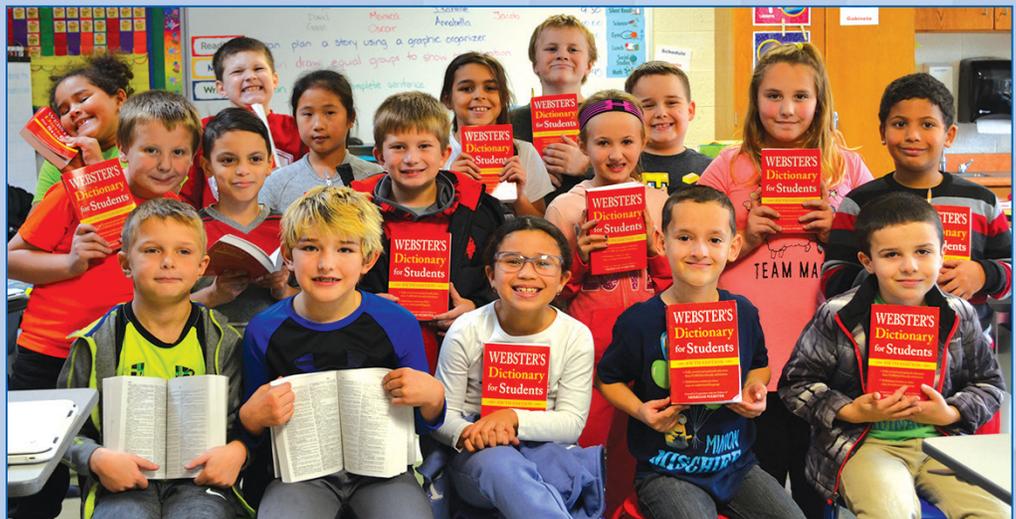
The Elementary Student Council members listened to the Veterans speak about some of the benefits of joining the military, such as paying for college tuition and developing leadership goals.

Mrs. Dean worked with the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 547 and Commander Chelsey Woodworth to coordinate the event.

"As a veteran, I am honored to be a part of this event. I know all of my fellow veterans are thankful to be recognized and appreciated. Some couldn't be here due to work commitments but they were grateful for the invitation. I hope that this tradition will carry on. I think it's important for the younger generation to recognize the veterans in our community," stated Woodworth.

## "Look it up in the Dictionary!"

A special thanks goes to members of the Mount Morris Rotary Club who visited Mount Morris third graders in October and distributed a *Webster's Dictionary for Students* to each child. Their annual donation of dictionaries to students is one of the many ways that the Mount Morris Rotary Club contributes to MMCS D students. These generously donated dictionaries are used every day in third-grade classrooms when students run across an unfamiliar word. Many times while looking up a certain word, students become so interested that they continue to read the next definition and then the next as if they were reading an ordinary book.



# MMCS D



# PRIDE AWARDS

## Celebrating Success

### Mount Morris Celebrates P.R.I.D.E Awards

#### September (Prepared)

- ★ Vanessa Best
- ★ Brayden Browne
- ★ Mercedes Colon
- ★ Brooklyn Coniglio
- ★ Mackenzie Davis
- ★ Paula Garcia-Guadalupe
- ★ Kaylah Harvey-Whitlock
- ★ Brayden Lewis
- ★ Morgan Luick
- ★ Ellissa Mallaber
- ★ Jordan Manthey
- ★ Cameron Moses
- ★ Kaylee Ortiz
- ★ Jonas Palma
- ★ Nicholas Reeder
- ★ Naveenah Royse
- ★ Brody Rudney
- ★ Jhoskar Santaella-Casillas
- ★ Chase Woodworth
- ★ Emma Zambito
- ★ Jacob Zangerle
- ★ Donovan Zuhlke

#### October (Respectful)

- ★ Matthew Bacon
- ★ Masen Browne
- ★ Madalyn Bryant
- ★ Alyster Bumbarger
- ★ Jomar Camacho- Colon
- ★ Adiari Camacho
- ★ Seth Clark
- ★ Addison Coniglio
- ★ Luis Crespo-Toledo
- ★ Chase D'Agostino
- ★ Logan Forbes
- ★ Konnor Hyde

- ★ Lily Johnson
- ★ Dominic LaPiana
- ★ Kaylee Marino
- ★ Carson Reifsteck
- ★ Alex Rivera
- ★ Ceci Rivera
- ★ Daryel Santaella
- ★ Ryleigh Skinner
- ★ Peyton Tidd
- ★ Cooper Woodworth

#### November (Dependable)

- ★ Elijah Clester
- ★ Nathaneil Englert
- ★ Edgard Gerena
- ★ Gideon Kelley
- ★ A'nariyah Lennon
- ★ Ashlie Link
- ★ Rylee Lippens
- ★ Sam Lonsberry
- ★ Marissa Maggio
- ★ Lillian Mallaber
- ★ Abigail Marino
- ★ Jeaneilee Martinez
- ★ BobbiJo Nuttall
- ★ Addison Pagano
- ★ Cali Reifsteck
- ★ Sheyla Rodriguez
- ★ Johnathan Rudney
- ★ Anabelle Sanderson
- ★ McKenzie Smith
- ★ Lyon Sparks
- ★ Anthony Tidd
- ★ Neshkiel Torres Ramirez

#### December's word was Trustworthy

### A FREE Book Every Month for Children Under 5



Our PTSA's partnership with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program benefits our community by allowing all Mount Morris Central School District residents to register their child/children under the age of five (5) to receive a FREE book in the mail EVERY month!

To enroll your child in the Imagination Library, please send an email to [freebooks@mtmorriscsd.org](mailto:freebooks@mtmorriscsd.org) with the information listed below, complete an enrollment form which is available in our visitor entrance, or call Sarah Williams at 585-658-5036.

The information required to register for this program is as follows:

- Parent Name(s)
- Child's Name
- Child's Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year)
- Child's Gender
- Mailing Address
- Phone Number
  
- Parent's Email Address
  - This is not required to register, but helps in establishing a user ID and increases communication and accessibility.



**It's flu season:  
Cover your coughs  
and sneezes.**

Let's fight the flu, together.

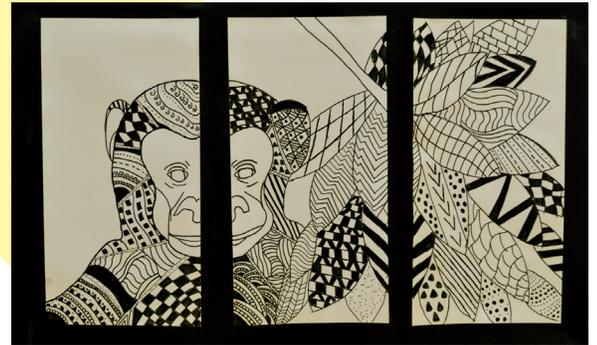
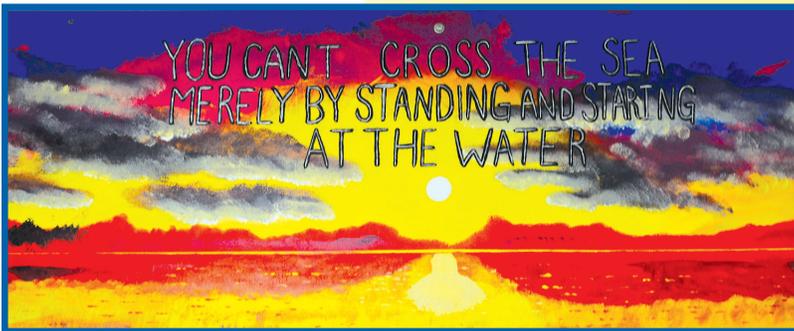
With the arrival of Flu Season, MMCS D would like to share a helpful Guide for Parents which is available on the District website under Parents→Information→Health Services. Everyone is susceptible to this sometimes deadly virus, and the more you know about it, the better your chances are of preventing it! There are helpful hints and general guidelines included in the aforementioned document.

# Artists in the Spotlight

Mrs. Zawacki's High School Art students painted inspirational murals over lockers to create an environment of positivity and inspire faculty, staff, and fellow students to work hard and achieve their goals.



*by Edmee Lopez Crespo, 10th Grade*



*by Liz Young, 10th grade*



# Getting the Most out of College Visits



(left to right) Back row: Isabella Martinez-Serrant, Joelle Provino, Isabelle Chesnes, Carmen Cruz, Elizabeth Young, JoAnna Regatuso, Jeremiah Santiago-Negron, Averie Matson. Front row: Ian Lin, Alyssa Cornelius, Savannah Nunez, Mary Rose Cautivo, Shantal Herrera-Olivio, Ms. Atwell, Joshua Cautivo, Ryan Colon-Burgos.

Visiting college campuses is often cited as the most important element in helping a student decide which college is right for them. The Mount Morris Central School District continues to offer numerous opportunities for students to visit college campuses. Picking the right college is about more than academics.

“It is important to attend college visits,” said Shantal Herrera-Olivio, MMCS senior. “You need to feel a connection to the campus, you have to be able to see yourself there.”

During the 2018-19 school year thus far, Mount Morris students have visited Alfred State, SUNY Geneseo, and Keuka College. Additional college visits will be scheduled throughout the remainder of the school year.

The District has also hosted informational opportunities by welcoming college representatives into the school day. Representatives from Wells College, SUNY Brockport, SUNY Potsdam, RIT, SUNY Canton, to name a few, set up informational booths in the high school counseling suite allowing students to visit during their enrichment periods. During these informational sessions, students learn about admission requirements, choices of majors, and a full description of the campuses.

“The District is providing as many opportunities as possible

for students to visit area colleges and see firsthand what they have to offer,” said Ms. Atwell, MMCS senior.

In October, MMCS students attended the Rochester Area College Fair hosted by York Central School, where fourteen local colleges were represented.

According to Ms. Atwell, Herrera-Olivio has been an advocate for her fellow classmates by asking great questions.

“It’s important to meet with representatives and have the opportunity to speak one-on-one about things like financial aid and commuting,” said Herrera-Olivio. “Meeting with representatives and visiting the colleges is important because you get a lot of important information you need about the college and then when you visit the college, you can focus on the connection you feel with the campus.”

Herrera-Olivio has narrowed down her two top colleges of choice to SUNY Geneseo and Keuka College. “I attribute my college choices solely to the opportunities that MMCS has provided me with,” said Herrera-Olivio.

MMCS students will visit the Rochester Convention Center in March for the National College Fair where 140 national colleges will be showcased.

## Owl Pellets Science Kit

Mount Morris fourth graders are working on an Elementary Science Program kit from the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership (GVEP) called *Birds and their Adaptations*. The students have learned that different birds have special beaks that allow them to eat specific foods. Each student tried a different “beak” to see what types of foods their “beak” could pick up. Students used toothpicks, tongs, strainers, clothespins, and pipettes as models for beaks. The “food” represented what an owl would actually eat: raisins (in place of insects), marbles (oysters), Kool-Aid (nectar), puffed rice cereal (small water organisms), rubber bands (worms), and plastic cubes (seeds).

Following this activity, students dissected barn owl pellets to see what animals barn owls eat. Students wore gloves and goggles as they used tweezers and wooden probes to pull out a variety of bones. The bones were placed on a bond chart based on the type of bone and what animal it came from.

“The Owl Pellets Science Kit allows students to learn about animal adaptations through a deep study of birds and their adaptations,” said Mrs. Gears, Mount Morris Fourth Grade Teacher.

“Students work on a variety of activities, providing them hands-on experiences, leading them to discover how adaptations help living creatures survive.”



(left to right) Fourth Graders Nicole Wiers and Quinn Whiteside dissecting owl pellets.

# Leadership Starting Early

The Mount Morris Elementary School has elected the 2018-19 Elementary Student Council Officers. The officers are Morgan Luick (President), Yasael Malave Perez (Vice President), Gabrielle Pagano (Secretary), and Quinn Whiteside (Treasurer). Their advisors are Mrs. Drumma and Ms. Henrickson.

The Elementary Student Council participates in a number of activities for the District including assisting the Mount Morris Teachers' Association in making and distributing almost 80 gifts for SRP (School-Related Professionals) Day, helping to set up for the Scholastic Book Fair, creating decorations for Grandparent and Special Friend Day, hosting after school at the movies, creating candy grams for students on Valentine's Day, participating in Teacher Appreciation Week, and Board Appreciation.

"Being in Student Council on the elementary level gives students a sense of responsibility and time management," said Ms. Hendrickson, Elementary Student Council Advisor. "Students learn the importance of being actively involved in the community."

During the holiday season, the Student Council makes holiday cards for active duty service members and residents of the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation in Mount Morris. They also make a special trip in December to sing Christmas carols to the residents of the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation.

Along with their volunteer work to benefit MMCSD and the Mount Morris community, Student Council officers are also making plans for their own future.



(L. to R.) Morgan Luick, Mrs. Drumma, Yasael Malave Perez, Gabrielle Pagano, Quinn Whiteside, Ms. Henrickson.

educational institutions, libraries, museums, public broadcasting, records and archives, the licensed professions, and vocational and educational services for individuals with disabilities. Norwood also co-chairs the Board's Standing Committee on the Professions.

"When Yasael and I met with Mr. Norwood, it was my favorite experience so far being in Student Council," said Luick. "We talked about what it was like to be in school at Mount Morris and we talked about books."

Building leadership and communication skills, being a good overall leader for the school, setting examples and becoming a good role model is the foundation for the Elementary Student Council.

Luick hopes to become a member of the High School Student Council. "I just really enjoy being part of the school culture," said Luick. "I like helping the school become a better place."



# Grandparent and Special Friend Day

Grandparent and Special Friend Day is an important day for the Mount Morris Central School District because it gives the District an opportunity to thank those who have made such an important impact on the lives of Mount Morris Elementary students.

This year's Grandparent and Special Friend Day was held on Tuesday, November 20.

Special guests enjoyed a slideshow in the auditorium presented by Mrs. Dean, toured classrooms, enjoyed lunch in the cafeteria, and had the opportunity to visit the Scholastic Book Fair. Students and their special guests were able to create a Thanksgiving craft, complete a fun Grandparent and Special Friend activity packet, and could visit the music room for a special photo memento. A special thank you goes out to Judi Wheeler for running the booth and taking photos.

"Grandparent and Special Friend Day is a time when our students are able to take PRIDE in their school and make memories to cherish with someone special in their life," said Mrs. Dean, Mount Morris Elementary Principal.

The Mount Morris Central School District would like to thank the dedicated Mount Morris cafeteria staff, the Elementary Team, the MMPTSA, the Operations and Maintenance staff, and all those who came out to help celebrate this special occasion!



# Look. Listen. Learn. *Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere.*

Ms. Ross' Kindergarten Class



The National Fire Prevention Association's theme this year was "Look. Listen. Learn. Be Aware. Fire can happen anywhere." Through three simple calls-to-action, the theme identifies basic but essential ways people can reduce their risk and be prepared in the event of a fire:

- Look for places fire can start
- Listen for the sound of the smoke alarm
- Learn two ways out of each room

"Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware – fire can happen anywhere," works to remind the public that fires can and do happen at home, as well as other locations - and that there are basic but vitally important steps people can take to remain safe.

In honor of Fire Safety Week in October, the Mount Morris Fire Department conducted an assembly for the Mount Morris Elementary School where firefighters spoke to students about the importance of preventing fires, escape routes, and calling 911. Students also watched a short video about the importance of fire drills at schools. After the assembly, students were given the opportunity to tour two fire trucks and meet members of the Mount Morris Fire Department. Students were given firefighter hats and goody bags filled with fire prevention activities.

## Lego Story Starters

Mount Morris fourth graders read "The Tiger Rising," a children's book about a 12-year-old named Rob Horton who finds a caged tiger in the center of the woods near his home. Horton must decide on whether or not to release the tiger and then confront the consequences of his choice.

Lego Story Starters enables students to recreate scenes from the book using Legos. Students were put into groups of two and were able to choose the scene they wanted to recreate and were allowed to use their creativity to work as they pleased. Each group of students shared a large kit of Legos, which were provided by the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership (GVEP), which they used to create the characters, objects, and settings from the book. Students took pictures of their scenes with mini iPads, also provided by GVEP, and added text to show the dialogue from the scene.

"Students showed their understanding of the text's characters and were completely engaged in their learning as they recreated scenes from 'The Tiger Rising,'" said Mrs. Gears, Mount Morris Fourth Grade Teacher.

Lego Story Starters is a kit provided by GVEP through an enrichment service called ReadyFor. ReadyFor is a collaboration between the GVEP Enrichment Department and the school library system; a service created from the growing need for innovative integration of technology and play-based learning.

"Our team has curated a collection of technology, tools, games, and resources to enhance and enrich learning in the classroom," said Emilee Williamson, GVEP Library Technologies Specialist. "Our main goal is to collaborate and co-teach with educators to empower them and build up their comfort levels with new tech, tools, and games."



Fourth Graders Brayden Lewis and Damien Michaels discuss the dialogue from their chosen scene from "The Tiger Rising."

## *Dare to be Excellent!* MOUNT MORRIS CENTRAL SCHOOL

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