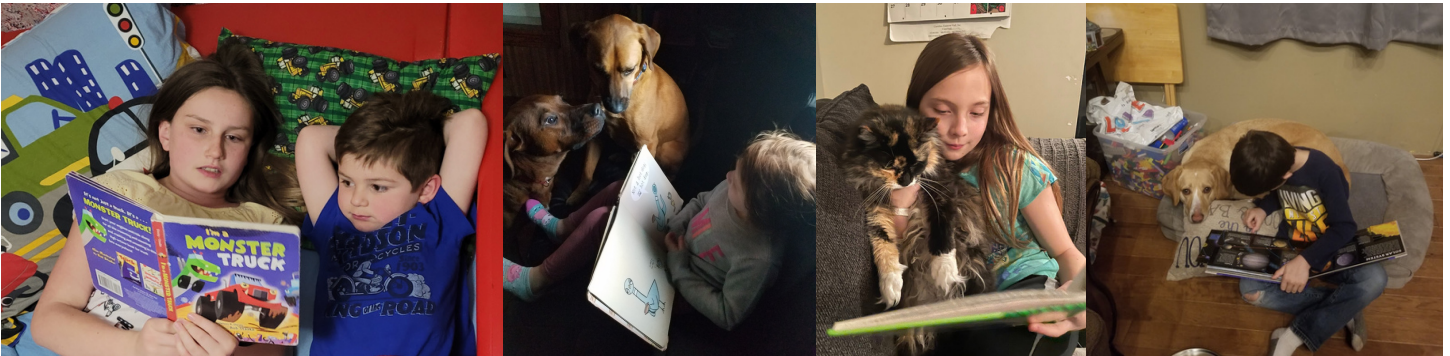




THE MESSENGER

A Publication of the Madison Central School District

March 2022



PARP Empowers Students, Families to Explore "The Power of Reading"

Elementary Students at Madison Central School are once again sharing treasured moments with loved ones, and getting valuable reading time in the process. Students have been encouraged to read at home throughout the month of March as part of the District's Pick A Reading Partner (PARP) initiative.

PARP is a month-long celebration of reading presented by the New York State PTA each year. It was brought to Madison by Mrs. Bergeron, and is currently led by Mrs. Jecko, Mrs. Barton and Mrs. Bodner with the support of the MCS Elementary teachers. Madison has generally chosen the month of March as PARP month over the years. March coincides with Read Across America Day and the birthday of Dr. Seuss. There is also an annual theme. The 2022 theme is *The Power of Reading*.

As part of Madison's celebration, students are encouraged to read at home each day in order to build language skills and cultivate a lifelong enjoyment of reading that will preserve these skills and maximize the student's educational opportunities. Appropriate reading material is not limited to books. According to Mrs. Jecko, even activities such as cooking a favorite recipe can be considered reading.

To accomplish the program's goals, PARP makes reading a fun and collaborative experience. Students are asked to share their time reading with their loved ones. There is a calendar of suggested at-home activities for the students to complete alongside the reading component.

As an incentive, students had the opportunity to bring in weekly reading raffle tickets signed by their parent or guardian for a chance to win prizes. There is also a larger drawing scheduled for the end of the month.

A smorgasbord of in-school activities compliment the at-home portion of the program. There was a theme day scheduled for each Wednesday of the month. For example, March 2nd was Dr. Seuss's birthday, with students asked to come as their favorite Dr. Seuss character. March 21st was *Crazy Socks Day*, which is also a key part of the observance of World Down Syndrome Day around the globe. March 23rd was *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* day, and students were encouraged to wear rain gear to school in accordance with the theme.

Another highlight of the program is the *Tournament of Books*. Throughout the month, eight books are matched up in a single elimination tournament. Students vote on their preferred books throughout the competition until one book remains as champion. Voting takes place on the District website under the *Students* heading.

The District has been extremely pleased with the level of engagement on this year's PARP festivities.

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From The Desk of Mr. Mitchell

Dear Madison Families,

Happy Spring! The renewal of spring in the air provides an opportune time for me to share upcoming opportunities to renew our facilities and grounds. I am excited to share that we recently had a grant approved that will allow us to update our playground area and to increase the number of apparatus that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In addition, the grant will provide us with the opportunity to install an outdoor basketball court adjacent to the playground area. A basketball court was initially part of the building project that was completed in 2019, but it was removed to keep the project on budget. We are excited to finally provide it for our students and community. We expect this work to begin in the Spring of 2023.

In addition, the MCS Board of Education recently approved the scope of work for our next building project. Our last project, completed in 2019, included the gymnasium, auditorium and cafeteria. Since the fall, our Community Facilities Committee has reviewed potential maintenance and facilities upgrade projects for MCS and has arrived at a scope of work that includes the following:

- Upgrade PK-12 library
- Replace flooring and ceilings in elementary classrooms
- Update elementary classroom bathrooms
- Upgrade PK-12 nurse's office
- Level and topdress athletic fields
- Replace portions of roof where warranty is coming to an end
- Replace windows that are no longer cost-efficient
- Replace various interior and exterior doors
- Mill and replace asphalt parking lots
- Build access drive for secondary exit from grounds
- Upgrade clocks and PA system
- Update fire alarm and security system
- Replace some light fixtures with LEDs



In total, this work is projected to cost approximately \$6.1 million with \$700,000 of the cost being covered by our capital reserves. The remainder will be borrowed. There is no anticipated increase in taxes for our community members in support of the project. Periodic building projects such as this one allow us to continue to offer safe, updated facilities for our students and the MCS community.

A voter referendum on the project will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, the same day as our annual budget vote. In the meantime, during the months of April and May, we will schedule opportunities for you to learn more about the project and have any of your questions answered. Stay tuned for dates. In addition, our annual budget newsletter will provide greater detail about the project. If the community approves the project, we expect work to begin by the Summer of 2023, with completion of the project by the Fall of 2024.

As you will see on the pages of this issue of *The Messenger*, our students continue to provide us with much to be proud of and to celebrate. We are limited by space in our newsletters for these celebrations, so please continue to follow us at our website madisoncentralny.org and on Facebook at Madison Central School-Madison, NY.

Please don't hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or insights about MCS. By working together we will provide the best possible opportunities for our students.

With thanks and pride,

Jason A. Mitchell, Superintendent

5th Graders Use Pet Supply Drive To Honor Local Veteran's Legacy



MADISON, NY - One good deed often leads to another. That statement rings true for the fifth grade classes at Madison Central School. Students in Mrs. Nolan and Miss Leone's classes recently organized a pet supply drive, with donations to benefit Wanderer's Rest in Canastota.

As expected, the Madison community turned out in force to contribute. Boxes upon boxes full of food, cleaning supplies, toys, blankets, cat litter, and other valuable commodities were collected.

However, this was far from an ordinary drive. It was an extraordinary opportunity to celebrate the life of one of Madison's most interesting and illustrious residents, and perpetuate the spirit of kindness that brought two students to that resident's doorstep in November.

On Wednesday, November 10th, MCS hosted its donut drive-thru event in observance of Veterans Day. As numerous local veterans stopped by to receive free coffee and donuts as a token of gratitude for their service, it was learned that neighborhood veteran, Mr. James Gerow, could not physically attend.

Gerow was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps who lived a vibrant life packed with adventure and fueled by curiosity. As a teenager, he hitchhiked across the country and was a jet engine mechanic at Griffiss Air Force Base at the end of World War II. He was working at the base when news broke that the war was finally over. James had lost his brother in the war effort, but the call to serve was strong and he went on to enlist in the Armed Forces.

Upon leaving the Marines in 1950, he returned home to Central New York and took on a multitude of roles. He was a husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and eventually, a great-great-grandfather of four. He pursued race car driving during the postwar boom, ran a trucking business and gas station in Madison, and owned the Bouckville Auction Gallery with his wife. He also enjoyed piloting airplanes and boats.

Along with Mrs. Nolan, students Liam Nolan and Nicholas Lollman took it upon themselves to ensure Mr. Gerow would be included in the Veterans Day events. They hand-delivered donuts and coffee to the Gerow house.

"We had such a nice visit with Jim and his wife Patricia," Nolan said. "When we left, we told him we would see him next year to deliver another donut."

Sadly, that promise would get cut short. Mr. Gerow passed away a month later at the age of 91. His obituary detailed a life well-spent, and also included a call to action that the students took note of. In lieu of flowers, the Gerow family requested donations to local animal shelters in Jim's memory.

Within a week, the students set to work collecting donations from the entire school community. On January 25th, the items were delivered to their final destination, where they will be put to use in elevating and sustaining the quality of life for the animals residing at Wanderer's Rest.

Mrs. Gerow was thoroughly moved by the students' efforts, and their willingness to carry out her husband's legacy.

"My family & I are overwhelmed at the successful outcome of this recent collection of supplies for Wanderer's Rest," Gerow said. "Jim would have been so honored that this was accomplished in his name. Thank you, MCS, once again!"

Just as he was remembered on Veterans Day 2021, students at Madison Central School made sure that the memory of Jim Gerow was not forgotten.

Made in Madison

Across the Globe, Tyler Hummer '17 Still Finds A Taste of Home

Hello everyone! My name is Tyler Hummer and I graduated from Madison in the Class of 2017. I am so honored to have been selected to write an entry for this column and am so excited to share my experiences since leaving 5 short years ago.

Following graduation from Madison, I continued my education a short 2 hour drive down Route 20 at Union College in Schenectady, NY.

Last spring, I graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering as a part of the Class of 2021. At Union, I was afforded so many opportunities to grow and thrive. Like Madison, Union had small class sizes, which allowed me to build relationships with my professors that were uncommon to say the least. The best example would be going to my professor's house one Saturday afternoon to eat dinner and take part in a heated game of Catan with his son.



Another amazingly similar aspect between Madison and Union was how empowered the students are in nearly every way. Outside of the classroom, the only limit to my opportunity at Union was my own ambition. During my freshman year, I tried out for, and was subsequently cut, from the Varsity Basketball Team.

Although it didn't feel it in the moment, this was truly a blessing in disguise. Immediately after being cut my freshman year, I co-founded the Union College Club Basketball Team, and later served as club president my Junior and Senior years. Additionally, not being on a varsity sports team afforded me the time and energy to pursue other budding interests. I helped to co-found an Innovation and Entrepreneurship club at Union called EON (Entrepreneurs of the Nott), I became the Vice President of the Outdoors Club and an outdoor pre-orientation leader for incoming freshman, and I finally had the chance to learn to play tennis. In nearly every way, my time at Union was everything I could've hoped for.

One of the most valuable bits of knowledge I took from my time at Union isn't a fact or even a skill, but a mindset. My sophomore year, Union adopted the motto, "Be comfortable with being uncomfortable," or in other words, make it a point to step out of your comfort zone, because these moments often lead to the most growth. I stepped out of my comfort zone academically by taking courses in archaeology, sculpture, film, and even dance. I did the same with my extra-curricular activities.

I took this perspective on life and ran with it, which has led me to where I am today: writing this article from a rural village in Northern Thailand.

During the past nine months, I have been living in and teaching English in the small community of Sob Prap, Lampang. As can be expected, this experience has been the ultimate step out of my comfort zone, and no doubt I have grown as a person because of it. However, contrary to what you may believe, I have come to see more and more of good 'ol Madison in my Thai home. **(Continued on next page)**

How is life different?

The weather – There are three seasons in Thailand: hot, really hot, and hot and rainy. Right now, what is springtime at home, is really hot season in Thailand. The average high every day is ~100°F (real-feel over 110°F). Shorts and a t-shirt every day, right? Wrong. The sun is so intense that you have to wear pants and a sweatshirt to protect your skin. So next time you're complaining about having to wear a jacket to stay warm, just imagine having to wear that jacket inside a sauna just to avoid the sun.

The food – What we call Thai food at home is just called food here! Kidding aside, it is so delicious, but so spicy sometimes. Even when I say to make it not spicy, it still burns my nostrils and makes me sweat. I think after this year I'll be able to go to Pizza Pub and eat an entire death wing like it's sweet BBQ.

Pro Tip: Don't itch your eyes when you eat!

The language – Thai Language is already difficult given the tones and different alphabet.

Example: กินข้าวรึยัง, pronounced "gin khao rue yang," means "Have you eaten yet?". This is a common greeting in Thailand, especially with people who you are close to, because it expresses your concern for their well-being.

Something that I did not know before living here was just how many different dialects of Thai there are. There are four major dialects in Thailand: Central, Northern, Eastern, and Southern. This is pretty extraordinary given the size of Thailand. Imagine people in Boston, New York, Washington D.C., and Cleveland all speaking different languages. What is even crazier is the various mountain dialects, almost exclusively verbal, that exist in the north. Picture people in different regions of the Adirondacks all speaking different languages.

How is life the same?

Everyone knows everyone – Like Madison, everyone knows everyone, and if like me, you happen to be an outsider in this village, no movement goes unnoticed. It is not uncommon for me to do something in the evening and go to school the next day and have 10 different students ask where I was going, what I was doing, and with who.

Sob Prap is like a big family – Anytime I go anywhere with Teacher Kruwan (my Thai grandmother), she stops to converse with a seemingly infinite number of cousins, former students, or more ridiculously a "brother's wife's cousin's cousin." It's not too different from the biggest families in Madison. People of all ages and backgrounds are truly welcoming. The fact that I can say I have a Thai family is proof of this.

The whole town celebrates people's successes – I am always so amazed at the talent that my students have in every area. The U18 soccer team that I helped coach came in 3rd Place in the Province-Wide tournament, behind the largest school in the province with approx. 5,000 students in 7th -12th Grade (there are no divisions based on size here), and the Lampang Provincial Sports School. A Student Band from my school attended and won multiple music competitions that drew competitors from all over Northern Thailand. As a result, they were the opening act for a concert in Chiang Mai, the second largest city in Thailand. One student who plans on attending law school next year won a national public-speaking competition in Bangkok. These things remind me of Madison in so many ways. Sports teams competing for sectional championships, students participating in all-county band and chorus, or students competing in the numerous FFA competitions at the state and national level, Sob Prap and Madison alike represent just how much talent there is in rural towns, and how the small-town community support is truly unmatched.

As a student at MCS, I remember how difficult it was to imagine life outside of Madison. Looking back now, I realize I never really needed to. Even in Thailand, on the other side of the world, I have been able to find similarities to my hometown. I know now more than ever that you may be able to take a person out of Madison, but you can never take Madison out of a person.

If you, or someone you know is an MCS alumnus who is doing awesome things in the world, we want to hear from you! Contact Ray Biggs at rbiggs@moboces.org for information on how to be featured in a future issue!

MCS Athletics Update

The winter sports season has drawn to a close here at Madison Central School. We were very pleased with our participation and results across our winter sports program.

A highlight was our varsity boys' basketball team. The Blue Devils, coached by Mike Strong, finished with a record of 17-5. They were State-Ranked throughout the season and drew the sixth overall seed in the Section III Class D tournament. In front of a packed MCS gym, they topped eleventh-seeded New York Mills 71-51 to advance out of the round of 16. It was truly a special evening for our community as it was one of our first full-capacity indoor community gatherings since the Pandemic began. The boys wrapped up the season with a hard-fought overtime loss to third-seeded Cincinnatus in the quarterfinals. Ethan Rivers and Hayden Dumas both averaged over 20 points per game.

Varsity girls' basketball, under head coach Payge Miller, recorded wins over Otselic Valley and McGraw. One of Section III's youngest varsity teams will be eager to take a step forward next season.

Wrestling and volleyball were offered through Morrisville-Eaton. Madison had six wrestlers compete on their varsity team this season. The Warriors came in sixth place at the Class D sectional meet hosted by Beaver River. Leading the way among Madison wrestlers was Kyle Peavey, who wrestled his way into the semifinal round and placed third in the 126 lb. weight class. Peavey and Alex LaForce each qualified for the Section III Division II Championships.

Girls' volleyball was offered to MCS students for the first time this winter. Madison had four students participate on the junior varsity team at Morrisville-Eaton.

We look forward to sunny spring days ahead with varsity baseball and softball at Madison, along with track and field at Morrisville-Eaton!



SALUTATIONS

Seven Inducted Into National Honor Society

Seven students at Madison Central School were inducted into the Madison Chapter of the National Honor Society in a ceremony held at the MCS Auditorium on February 1st.

To be eligible for this prestigious honor, a student must carry an overall average of 90 or above, and be selected in a faculty committee evaluation on the core values of scholarship, leadership, service and character. Membership is open to juniors and seniors.

This year's inductees were Grace Lutke, Summer Butler, Ayden Zbock, Kyle Peavey, Mackenzie Cotter, Isabella Champion, and Mara Wasuck.



MCS Releases Second Marking Period Honors

The Madison Central School District is pleased to release its list of honor roll and high honor roll students for the second marking period of the 2021-22 school year.

High Honor Roll (94.0+ Average)

12th: Maria Peavey, Myah Hauck, Anna McNamara, Riley Morang & Luke Smyrski

11th: Abigail Cook, Anthony Dodge, Tyler Fellows & Mara Wasuck

10th: Mackenzie Cotter, Grace Lutke, Molly Eastman, Hayden Dumas, Ayden Zbock, Isabella Champion, Summer Butler & Kyle Peavey

9th: Addison Still & Barak Smyrski

8th: Emma Bergeron

7th: Astrid Burkhart-Spiegel & Lillian Reichert

6th: Elijah Zbock & Tyler Cotter

Honor Roll (88.0+ Average)

12th: Stephanie Dodge, Brian Sitts, Josh Kazlauskas, Bradley Marris & Jayden Miers

11th: Fiona Abrams, Katie Schultz, Delaney Livermore, Caleb Lutke & Kiersten Backer

10th: Michael McBride, Charles Jordan, Caleb Still, Jaden Vedder, Colin Pittman & Luke Brayman

9th: Kendra Winterton, Janet Coleman & Matilyn Hackett

8th: Matthew Post

7th: Lewis Joslyn, Lucas Neff, & Ava Still

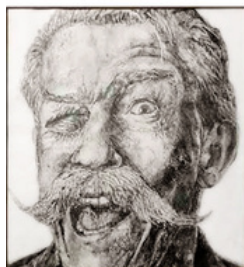
6th: Alyssa Braun

Peavey Wins CNY Scholastic Art Award

Maria Peavey received an Honorable Mention award from the 2022 CNY Scholastic Art Competition.

88 high schools participated, and a total of 3,945 works were submitted that area art instructors felt were outstanding enough to be included in the competition.

With that much competition, it is quite an honor to receive an award from this show!



MCS Quartet Makes All-County Band



Four Madison Central School students were chosen to represent the district in the 2022 Madison County Music Educators' Association All-County bands at Oneida High School.

Congratulations to Lillian Reichert, Brian Sitts, Justin Swartfiguer and Anthony Dodge on a job well done!

Thirteen MCS Students Recognized by Madison-Oneida BOCES

Madison-Oneida BOCES recently released its honor roll for the second marking period.

The following Madison Students were named to the quarterly list, which recognizes high levels of achievement in the Career and Technical Education Programs available through BOCES.

High Honor Roll

Paige Burton-CBOE AM, Stephanie Dodge-Early Childhood Education II, Braxton Fleming-Outdoor Power Equipment I,

Lillyan Harvey-Manufacturing Technology I, Alex Hoff-Information Technology Systems/CISCO I,

Katie Schultz-Cosmetology I, Luke Smyrski-Automotive Technology II

Honor Roll

Kiersten Backer-Health Related Careers I, Jack Bridge-Graphic Design I, Joshua Kazlauskas-Carpentry II

Bradley Marris-Automotive Technology II, Brady Morang-Career Exploration I PM,

Brian Sitts-Heavy Equipment Operation II

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In Brief...



Some of our elementary students stood at the height of fashion as they celebrated the 100th day of school with a fashion show! They were able to show off their special outfits for the occasion!



Sixth grade students recently took a field trip to the Black River Outdoor Education Center in Boonville. The group enjoyed a snowshoeing excursion as part of the trip!



Students in Mr. Flint's high school art classes have enjoyed a wealth of experiences recently. They made impressive paper mache' sculptures, and a group also took a field trip to see the CNY Scholastic Art Show in Syracuse!



Madison Central School was pleased to welcome singer-songwriter Jared Campbell to campus on February 15th! Through music, he teaches key character education lessons for all grade levels. His riveting performances were followed by classroom discussions that reinforced the topics he discussed.

Stay Connected!

SCHOOL ADDRESS
7303 US-20, MADISON, NY 13402

SCHOOL WEBSITE
WWW.MADISONCENTRALNY.ORG

ON FACEBOOK
MADISON CENTRAL SCHOOL - MADISON, NY

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS
TO REACH MADISON CENTRAL SCHOOL BY PHONE, YOU SHOULD FIRST DIAL 315-893-1878, OR 315-893-1879. WHEN PROMPTED, DIAL THE EXTENSION OF THE PARTY YOU ARE TRYING TO REACH.

DISTRICT OFFICE: EXTENSION 201
PRINCIPALS' OFFICES: EXTENSION 202
GUIDANCE OFFICE: EXTENSION 206
CSE OFFICE: EXTENSION 207
NURSE'S OFFICE: EXTENSION 214
BUS GARAGE: EXTENSION 215



We have added an *agility ladder* in the elementary hallways. The new addition is part of a pilot program called the *Sensory Pathway*. Our goal in this initiative is to provide stimuli that get students moving in a constructive way that can also enhance their focus in the classroom setting. Thank you to our facilities team for their hard work to make this a reality!