



# KNIGHTS NEWS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW YORK MILITARY ACADEMY

## Superintendent's Message

I am very excited about this year's Interfaith Candlelight Service which will take place on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. The Interfaith Candlelight Service is a traditional NYMA event that dates back more than a hundred years and brings the Corps of Cadets, faculty, staff, and parents together to mark the holidays in a way that celebrates the diversity on our campus.

The program for Sunday will include readings from Christian, Hebrew, and Muslim texts calling for peace on earth and traditional American Christmas carols. The candle-lighting itself, passing the light of a candle along from one person to the next, symbolizes all of our shared hopes for the future. Please take a peek at the program below...



Interfaith Candlelight Service  
New York Military Academy

### *Processional – Holiday Music*

Flute Duet - Ms. Sarah Magno and Ms. Ashley Mendeke

### *Welcome and Invocation*

Superintendent Jie Zhang

### *Holiday Greetings from the Corps of Cadets*

Cadet Nigel Petti-Fernandez – Class of 2018

### *Hanukkah Explained and a Hebrew Prayer for Peace*

Cadet Nathan Kratman – Class of 2022

Cadet Ariel Farzannekov – Class of 2021

### *A Muslim Prayer for Peace*

Cadet Yusef Salameh – Class of 2023

### *A Reading from the Gospel of Luke 2: 1 - 14*

Cadet William Mayfield – Class of 2018

### *A Christian Prayer for Peace*

Cadet Alvin Lukose – Class of 2020

### *Original Piano Composition*

Cadet Serena Yang – Class of 2021

### *"Imagine" Composed by John Lennon*

Cadet Veronica Walker – Class of 2021

### *The Significance of the Lighting of the Candles*

Cadet Mathew Montes – Class of 2020



The cadet ushers will light their candles and, in turn, light the candles of those seated at the end of each row. Those people are asked to then light the candle of the person seated next to them, and so on, until all candles are lit.

### *Benediction*

Cadet Amanda Beller – Class of 2018

(Please extinguish all candles after the benediction.)

### *Sing Along – "Winter Wonderland" & "Let it Snow"*

Led by Cadet Gianna Whritenour – Class of 2021

### *Closing – NYMA Cadet Prayer*

Cadet Joshua Antoine – Class of 2019

### *Recessional – Holiday Music*

For the first time, dinner will be served after the Candlelight Service. You should have already received an invitation. I am looking forward to seeing everyone who is coming to the event. I also want to thank all of those who made generous donations.

Winter Furlough will officially start on Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. I sincerely wish you all a very happy holiday season and a Happy New Year! To those who will be traveling to meet your loved ones, I wish you safe travels!

## Dean's News

The weather outside has been a little frightful, but the thought of winter break is delightful...so let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! We have made it to the home stretch with only 3 more academic days left before we leave for break and the second marking period closes. The Academic Office would like to wish the entire NYMA community a happy and healthy holiday season.



The painted windows of Scarborough Hall, coupled with the freshly fallen snow from Thursday and Friday, will be the perfect backdrop to our Candlelight Service on Sunday. I was rehearsing with the students yesterday and I can assure you that you are in for a real treat. The service will begin at 5:00 pm in the Chapel. We will have tickets available at the door of the Dining Hall for our fundraiser dinner following the ceremony.

For those of you who have taken the NYMA tour given by one of our cadets, you know what excellent ambassadors they are for our school. At our most recent community meeting, the Admission's team presented Robin Zhao, Aristotle Avaras, Matthew Montes, and Amanda Beller with ribbons for their many hours of dedicated volunteer service in this area.



Students helped to prepare the Mexican menu of chicken enchiladas, taco salad, chicken tortilla soup, Arroz Mexicano, and Mexican chocolate pecan pie which was scrumptious. Cadet Walker and Cadet Daly hold up their piñatas as Cadets Petti-Fernandez and Antoine tell us about the menu they created. Students are holding up their papel picados which are a typical decoration made for celebrations.



I finally was able to snap a picture during the "NYMA News" broadcast that captures the spirit of their endeavors. This group has really taken the broadcast to a new level by alternating news anchors, incorporating campus interviews, and displaying pictures in the background of what they are reporting about. This week, I would describe it as a mixture between the evening news and a Saturday Night Live skit. The students are able to complete this with roving laptops. If any parent has any leads on video equipment, please let us know. It is a dream of ours to set up a proper studio for them.

The cadets in Studio Art learned how to use a variety of paints including oil, watercolor, watercolor pencil, and acrylic. They planned and executed their own paintings based on the theme, Life and/or



Death. Their artwork may be seen in the display case of the Academic Building. They are all so talented. If you are attending the Candlelight Service, please make it a point to take a look at their work.

The Yarnis Family donated a large bag of tools and supplies for use in the Makerspace. Joseph Xu and Aristotle Avaras are standing beside the newly acquired items. We've had so many generous donations of tools that the Director of Admissions, Mr. Dolan, a.k.a. Santa, bought us a locking tool cabinet. HOHOHO!!! Thank you to our generous families and Mr. Dolan for your continued support of our Academic programs.

## From the Admissions Office

NYMA released a new award this week for cadets who have been invaluable in helping the Admissions team to select new members of the corps. While many cadets have helped with campus tours and open houses, several stood out for always giving of their time to volunteer and as a school we appreciate it.

"Cadets, your school is proud of you. Not only are you leaders within the corps and scholars within the classroom, but your dedication to NYMA shows through in your deeds. Thank you for helping us select the next generation of NYMA cadets."

All cadets are invited to volunteer and help us to tell the story of NYMA. Please see Mr. Dolan to sign up.

Our Color Guard presenting the colors at Pace University has been viewed over 8,000 times on Facebook; thank you all for sharing! Please share any of our postings that connect with you as we want to spread the word about our great little school.



## From the Athletic Department

On Wednesday, 12/13, the Varsity Basketball team (2-2) traveled to Long Island to play Upper Room Christian and lost 87-71. The Knights were led by Zaahir Woody who finished with 24 points. Will Mayfield added 15 and Zamere McKenzie had 12. Brandon Evans, Karif Isaacs, Mickey Urso, and Josh Antoine added 6 points each.

On Friday, 12/8, the Varsity boys traveled to Faith Christian Academy for a HVAL match-up. The Knights won by a score of 93-66. NYMA had a balanced scoring attack led by Zaahir Woody with 20 points, Will Mayfield and Zamere Mckenzie each had 18, and Josh Antoine added 10 points.





On Wednesday, 12/13, the JV Basketball team played host to league rival Storm King. The Knights played very tough, but in the end they came up short losing 32-22. Cadets Bob Wang and Henri Racine both had outstanding games. Michael Zelenger also scored his first basket of the season and finished with two points. These two teams will meet again in February at Storm King for what should make for another great game. The JV Boys, led by Coach Mario Espinoza, are now 2-1.

The Varsity Boys will travel to Chase Collegiate on Saturday, 12/16. Both JV and Varsity are then back in action next Wednesday, 12/20 as they travel to NEPSAC powerhouse, St. Thomas More.

## Commandant's Notes

Happy Holidays! We have a very short week coming up so first things first. Please send an email to [parentdesk@nyma.org](mailto:parentdesk@nyma.org) with your travel plans for Wednesday's Furlough departure...picking up, train time, etc. We'll need to know by Monday the plan for your cadet's departure. I'm looking forward to Sunday night's Candlelight Vigil and hopefully will see many of you there!

## From the Activities Coordinator

This weekend is a closed weekend and there are several activities for cadets to participate in. Friday is Open Mic Night in the Social Center. On Saturday evening there will be a Holiday Movie and Treat Night in the Social Center as well. Some cadets are doing a little last-minute shopping at Target before the break begins. We are all looking forward to the Candlelight Service and dinner on Sunday.

Planning has begun for the Cadet Activities 2018 calendar and we are taking suggestions and requests. Some future activities involve embracing the cold and snow. Please remember to send your cadets back from break with any snow gear that might help them enjoy the winter months to come. Also, if any parents would like to help plan a weekend activity, please feel free to reach me at [shill@nyma.org](mailto:shill@nyma.org). Happy Holidays!

