



# KNIGHTS NEWS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW YORK MILITARY ACADEMY

## Superintendent's Message

On Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, I represented NYMA at the memorial service for Mr. John Joseph Brunetti in Hialeah Park, Florida. Mr. Brunetti was a 1948 graduate of NYMA and not only studied here, but also worked for many years for the school. Later in life he was elected President of the Board of Trustees of NYMA and during his tenure he changed the rules to allow the admission of the first female cadets. Mr. Brunetti loved the academy so much that he sent his own sons, John Jr. and Stephen, and later his granddaughter, Courtney, to the school. During the years that NYMA went through financial difficulties, Mr. Brunetti was always there to protect the academy. Today, his foundation continues to support the school.

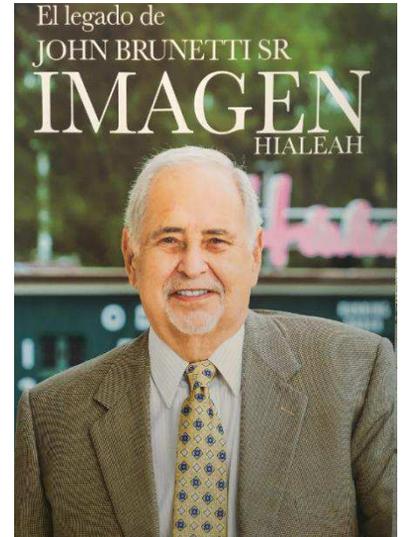
While attending the memorial service, I ran into several NYMA alumni who were there to pay their respects to their fellow alum. They also shared great stories of Mr. Brunetti with me.



We have begun the re-enrollment process. Some parents should have already received the re-enrollment invitation letter and financial contract. Others should be receiving them shortly after the marking period ends. If you don't receive anything from the school over the next three weeks and wish to discuss your child's academic plans for next school year, please feel free to email me at [jzhang@nyma.org](mailto:jzhang@nyma.org).

Finally, our Spring Furlough is here! This is a time when many of you escape to warmer climates and a more relaxed atmosphere; a much welcome change from the cold weather and snowstorms we've been experiencing this winter. It is also a chance for many of us to take a much-deserved breather from early morning physical training and late nights at the library.

Whether you will spend your Spring Furlough with family at home, on a service learning trip, or with friends in a sunny paradise, I am looking forward to seeing every cadet return happy and healthy for the remainder of the school year! Please be advised that there will be no weekly newsletters for the next two weeks. Our next newsletter will be issued on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.



## Dean's News



Happy St. Patrick's Day! We were treated to the most lovely surprise this morning in celebration of St. Patrick's Day tomorrow. John Dolan, our Director of Admissions, commissioned one of his former students to serenade us. It had the same effect as the adjutants call in a parade. All the students rushed out of their classrooms to see where the beautiful sound was coming from. Thank you Mr. Dolan and Justin Bourne, who was the talented bagpiper, for putting a smile on everyone's face this morning.

We have finally made it to Spring Break! Though the weather hasn't felt much like spring lately, the thought of spending the next two weeks with our family and friends has warmed our hearts. Today marked the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period. It's hard to believe that when we return from break we will be beginning the final stretch of the year, our 4<sup>th</sup> Marking Period. Faculty will be grading final assessments over the furlough and will report grades to the Academic Office mid-week. We will post the grade reports as soon as they have been processed. Students were reminded numerous times to make sure that all of their



assignments were turned in before they left. Students who were leaving early for break needed to make prior arrangements to send teachers their assignments, otherwise they will receive zeros for missing work. The announcement during community meeting that there would be no Friday Study Hall this week was met with cheers by both the students and adults. For all who partake in the upcoming holidays of Easter and Passover, I hope that your homes are filled with joyous family celebrations.

If your child is taking an advanced placement course, the expectation is that they will be taking the corresponding Collegeboard Advanced Placement Exam in May. I have just placed the order with the Collegeboard for approximately 40 exams. Ms. Madaia sent individual parents emails outlining the exams your child will be taking and the cost associated with those exams. The reward to a student for challenging themselves by taking AP courses is trifold. AP course grades carry additional weight and if a student does well on their exams, there is the potential to receive college credit. Lastly, admission counselors want to see that capable students have taken rigorous courses. Teachers are providing additional prep to those students taking these exams, but students should be studying over the break because when we return there are only about 5 weeks left to prepare. You can never study too hard or prepare too much!

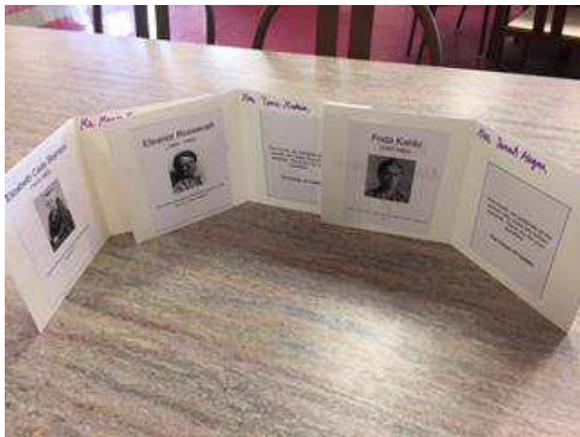
On Tuesday I was approached by two of our female cadets, Gianna Whritenour and Veronica Walker, seeking my permission to organize a memorial service for those who lost their lives in the recent Florida school shooting. For Gianna, this was near and dear to her heart as she knew one of the victims.



I agreed if the girls did the research and led the memorial. These brave girls are pictured to the left on the steps of the Academic Building reading each of the victims' names followed by a moment of silence for each one. As somber as the occasion was, I was filled with pride as I listened to our students' empathic plea for kindness and inclusion to break the cycle of violence. All who attended felt very moved by the effort of our students to stand for something greater than themselves.

With the help of Ms. Harrel, two of our middle school students prepared a script for how Congress should be addressing gun control and then actually placed the call to Congressman Sean Maloney. Yusef Salameh and Daniel Geng did a wonderful job of expressing themselves. Here is a little sample and also my favorite line: "Not only are we concerned about our safety, but the safety of our community and our beloved country."

In honor of National Women's History month the project group, under the guidance of Ms. Larabee, took the time to create a personalized card for each of the 17 women that work on our campus. What a brilliant way to pay tribute to the female staff! Each card (pictured left) contained a photo and quote from a prominent woman in history. It was extremely thoughtful and a great way for the students to learn more about these amazing, groundbreaking women.



Our students returned to Butterhill Day School for a visit and to read to this adorable group of children below. Serena Yang (bottom left) came back to NYMA and showed her book to the rest of the corps at community meeting. Our students were so impressed by the beautiful illustrations in her book. The third volume of the children's books written and illustrated by our students has been sent to be published.





Joseph Xu's bridge (left) made in the Makerspace is able to withstand the weight of a large bucket of nails. Is Civil Engineering in his future?



In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, Dr. Webb shared her recipe for Irish soda bread and the students in her group got to prepare numerous loaves that were eaten the next day.

## From the Admissions Office



We are busy enrolling for next school year. As you know, our most important admissions resource is our parents so please tell your friends about the important work NYMA is doing.

Last week's Open House was AWESOME! The demand to visit NYMA is growing so we have added an additional Open House after Spring Furlough. Please tell your friends to come visit NYMA on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April.

### Open House Schedule:

Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> ← New      Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>      Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Open Houses begin precisely at 10:00 am and end at approximately 1:00 pm. Families will join in an informal meet and greet with the Academy's staff, enjoy a presentation by the Superintendent, and be shown around campus by the cadets. We are excited to show you our unique school and how we are growing the next generation of leaders. Interviews of prospective cadets will be conducted throughout the day.

**Campus Visits:** Our department prefers personal campus visits during the week for prospective families as it gives us much more time to sit and really get to know prospective cadets. These are available most school days so please get in touch! To RSVP please contact Admissions at [admissions@nyma.org](mailto:admissions@nyma.org) or (845) 534-3710.

## From the Athletic Department

As the Winter Sports Season comes to an end and we all prepare for Spring Furlough, I wanted to just let all of the cadets and coaches know just how proud of them we are. All of our sports teams did an excellent job representing NYMA the past four months.

Varsity Basketball won the Hudson Valley Athletic League and NEPSAC Class D Championships. Wrestling was restored at the JV level and showed some great, young talent. With the guidance of Coach Tom Roselli, we hope to make the jump to a full-time varsity sport next winter! Our Cheerleading Team



was established for the first time and the girls and Coach Stephanie Staudle did an amazing job all season. Bowling was also a first-year sport and the young Knights improved with help from coaches Tim Manelly and Nick Boyd. We were able to start swimming lessons and practices with Coach Matt Mauriello. We hope to bring swimming back as a full-time sport next year as well. Student-athletes also started utilizing the weight room area more. We will continue to upgrade the facilities and add new equipment to enhance our athletic experience and boost performance.

The New England Prep School Athletic League announced its postseason awards. Head Coach Bobby Rahn was selected as the Coach of the Year and Zaahir Woody earned Player of the Year honors. Zamere McKenzie, Will Mayfield, and Zaahir Woody all received All-NEPSAC honors.

Finally, when we return from furlough we will jump right into Spring Sports and this year NYMA will have student-athletes participating in Baseball, Golf, Boys and Girls Tennis, Track and Field, and Ultimate Frisbee. We are looking forward to another exciting and fun-filled season! GO KNIGHTS!!!



## Commandant's Notes

Spring Furlough is upon us and believe me the cadets are ready! They've been excited all week and several have made comments that it's been one of the longest weeks so far. I'm sure exams have had something to do with that!

I hope all cadets enjoy a great two weeks off. As a final reminder, all cadets are to be back on campus by 5:30 pm on April 2<sup>nd</sup> for the final push to the end of the school year.

## Counselor's Corner

Spring Break is finally here and I have been feeling the excitement among the corps for the time away! With the changeover to daylight savings, our cadets have been really struggling with that hour they lost. Hopefully Spring Break will reset everybody's sleep-clocks and we can all come back refreshed.

One month after the Marjory Stoneman Douglas H.S. shooting in Florida, two of our young cadets led the way at NYMA to help spread a message of kindness and empathy to the corps. Some of our cadets participated in a "Walk Up". It was not a politically-driven gathering or a time for people to be divided. The event was a moment where members of our corps could honor those students and faculty who lost their lives on February 14<sup>th</sup> and feel unified with students across the county who were doing the same. Cadet Walker read the following to a gathered group of our Corps of Cadets and faculty:

**"Walk up** to the kid who sits alone at lunch and invite him to sit with your group.

**Walk up** to the kid who sits quietly in the corner of the room and sit next to her, smile, and say hi.

**Walk up** to the kid who causes disturbances in class and ask how he is doing.

**Walk up** to your teachers and thank them.

**Walk up** to someone who has different views than you and get to know them; you may be surprised at how much you have in common.



Build on that foundation instead of casting stones."

It was a beautiful way to connect students with their world. Hopefully it helped them to realize the importance of their every action and how powerful kindness and empathy for your classmates is. After Cadet Walker finished her reading, she led a recitation of the names of the 17 victims with Cadet Whritenour and Cadet Graham. They shared a brief statement about the victims' lives, their goals, and their character. It was a beautiful memorial and I hope that the students in attendance were as moved as I was by the gesture.

During Spring Break, I encourage all of our NYMA families to speak to their cadets about the impact that their lives and choices have on those around them. Talk about how they can positively affect their peers and how they can make a difference just by choosing to be kind. I wish you all a wonderful and relaxing Spring Furlough and I look forward to seeing you when we get back!

## Art Spotlight



*Left:* Our cadets in Studio Art worked with clay to create pieces that represented "Body". Ethan Hassane created a pond within an Altoid tin using polymer clay and resin. Serena Yang created an anatomical model of a head out of air-dry clay and acrylic paint. Robin Zhou created a model of the Japanese character, Totoro, using air-dry clay and acrylic paint. William Mayfield created a turtle out of polymer clay.

*Right:* Our cadets in Studio Art also finished up "Identity" in textiles. The cadets learned to sew, weave, and embroider to create these pieces. Woven Nike headband by Josh Antoine. Bart Simpson embroidery by Sara Elhouti. Stuffed plushie based on a video game character by Robin Zhou. Airborne patch by Michael Yusupov. Woven piece by Matthew Montes.



*Below:* In Middle School Art, Michael Zelenger is currently using the grid method of drawing to accurately represent his dog. This method is championed by the artist Chuck Close.



*Above:* Zhengkun Yang created this elaborately woven tapestry.

