

# NW Community Boosters announces scholarships

The Niagara Wheatfield Community Boosters announced eight members of the Niagara Wheatfield Class of 2021 were awarded scholarships earlier this summer.

Ann D. Bishara, president of the NW Community Boosters, made the presentations to graduates Marisa Zarcone, Lily Adamshick, Emma Halleen, Zachary Grosskopf, Alyssa Hall, Kaylee Miller, Kevin Doyle Jr. and Dominic Ciruolo.

•**Marisa Zarcone** is the daughter of Al and Maureen Zarcone of North Tonawanda. She is the Class of 2021 valedictorian with a 101.662 grade-point average and ranked No. 1 among the Niagara Wheatfield Class of 289 graduates. Marisa served as president of the Honor Society, was a member of the board of directors and earned high honor roll status over 14 marking periods. She received the Falcon Pride Award in 2020.

The lead recipient of the NW Community Boosters Scholarship, she has been honored with numerous awards, including the Kiwanis of NW Scholarship, the Rotary Club Scholarship, George Eastman Youth Leaders Award, HOBY NYM Torch Leaders Award, New York State Senate Award, President Douglas and Susan B. Anthony Award, the Rensselaer Medalist and the President's Volunteer Service Award. Also, the DECA

State Qualifier, All WNY Scholar Athlete, NYS Seal of Bi-literacy Award, NYS Scholarship in Academic Excellence, Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Scholarship Achievement Award, and the Junior League and Buffalo High School Scholarship.

Marisa plans to attend Colgate University in the fall as an alumni memorial scholar and pursue a degree in mathematics and statistics. Her career goals are undecided.

•**Lily Adamshick** is the daughter of Brendon and Amy Adamshick of North Tonawanda. She has a 97.86 GPA and achieved a class rank of 16 among NW's 289 graduates. She is a member of the National Honor Society and vice president of the Class of 2021. A member of DECA, she received the Falcon Pride Award and served on the Student Council for four years. She also received the NYS Seal of Bi-Literacy Award.

Lily was awarded the NW Community Boosters Scholarship and the St. John Fisher Trustee Scholarship. She plans to attend St. John Fisher College and pursue a career in nursing.

•**Emma Halleen** is the daughter of Richard and Vanessa Halleen of Niagara Falls. She has a GPA of 96.12 and ranks 33 out of 289 in her graduating class. Emily is a member of the National Honor Society, DECA, the Student Council and the Yearbook Club.

She received numerous academic honors awards and was an athlete of the week.

Emma is a recipient of the NW Community Booster Scholarship, the Town of Niagara Business Association Niagara Orleans Labor Council Scholarship and Town of Niagara Lions Club Scholarship. She intends to pursue a career in criminal justice and become a forensic psychologist at FBI Clemson University in South Carolina.

•**Zachary Grosskopf** is the son of Robert and Jennifer Grosskopf of Niagara Falls. Zachary has a GPA of 97.559 and ranks 19 out of 289 in his graduating class. He is a member of the National Honor Society, has earned high honors since the sixth grade, and earned an advanced regents diploma with honors and the Falcon Pride Award.

A recipient of the Scholarship Athlete Award, he participated in both JV and varsity soccer and was recognized as a sectional champion, state qualifier and achieved All Niagara Frontier League honors for varsity track and field. He also participated in travel football and played trumpet for one year in band.

Zachary is a recipient of the NW Community Boosters Scholarship and RIT Presidential Scholarship. He plans to major in structural mechanics and aerospace engineering at RIT and has hopes of starting his own engineering

business.

•**Alyssa Hall** is the daughter of Jeffrey and Michelle Hall of Niagara Falls. Alyssa has a GPA of 95.42 and ranks 46 out of 289 in her graduating class. She is a member of the National Honor Society, served on the Student Council and was a member of DECA and the Business Honor Society.

Alyssa is a recipient of the NW Community Booster Scholarship, the NW Peter P. Tycsz Memorial Scholarship and the NW Business Department Award. She will attend Canisius College and pursue a dual degree in mathematics and special education, with plans to become a teacher.

•**Kaylee Miller** is the daughter of Steve and Krista Miller of North Tonawanda. Kaylee has a 94 GPA and ranks 58 out of 289 in her graduating class. She is a member of the National Honor Society, a four-time Falcon Pride Award recipient and received the "Heart of the Falcon Award" as well as several academic honor patches.

Kaylee is a recipient of the NW Community Boosters Scholarship, Alpha Delta Kappa Scholarship, NWTA Scholarship and Wegmans Scholarship. She plans to attend Niagara University, majoring in elementary education with a minor in literacy.

•**Kevin Doyle Jr.** is the son of Al and Kristen Doyle Sr. of North

Tonawanda. Kevin has a 91.5 GPA and ranks in the top third of his class. He has taken college courses through NCCC's accelerated program and enters college with one semester of course work completed.

A recipient of the NW Community Boosters Scholarship, he plans to attend Hilbert College majoring in criminal justice and will play lacrosse.

•**Dominic James Ciruolo** is the son of James and Carrie Ciruolo of Niagara Falls. Dominic has a GPA 90 and ranks 107 out of 289. A winner of the Falcon Pride Award, he has earned many honor roll awards and athletic honors. Dominic also completed his Eagle Scout project for St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Niagara Falls. In Scouting, he served as an assistant patrol leader and bugler, patrol leader and senior patrol leader.

Dominic is a recipient of NW Community Booster Scholarship, the Kiwanis Club of NW Scholarship, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 77-Peter P. Tycz Memorial Scholarship, NW Music Parents Club Scholarship, Lions Club of Town of Niagara Scholarship, Thomas F. Micklejn Community Service Scholarship and the NYS Seal of Bi-literacy Award.

He plans to attend Niagara University and major in early childhood education.

## 'In the Loop'

BY DANIELLE MULLEN

President  
Lewiston-Porter Board of Education

Peach Festival weekend always coincides with the start of a new school year. It is a signature tradition and many welcomed its return.

Lewiston-Porter has welcomed the return to a more normal school experience this fall, including traditional extracurricular activities and community events. Despite ongoing restrictions, the district is excited to be able to offer these invaluable experiences. We hope our school community is getting settled in the routine of the new school year.

As mentioned in last week's "In the Loop," the district's strategic plan is the main overarching guide that drives many decisions within the Lew-Port schools. A second component of focus within the plan is building a culture and climate that supports the needs of all community members. This work is taking place through a couple of key initiatives.

One focus area for this school year related to culture and climate will be starting to implement "restorative practices" across the campus. Restorative practices acknowledge that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. These also seek to build, repair and strengthen relationships within the school community.

This includes student-student relationships, adult-student relationships, and adult-adult relationships. All relationships matter. Now more than ever, social emotional awareness is so important. Without feeling safe and supported emotionally, students will not learn at their highest po-

## Lewiston-Porter to focus on 'restorative practices'

tential.

In classes this year, students might participate in "circles," which will facilitate community building. These circles will allow students time to connect with one another, and there are different levels of circles. Tier/level 1 circles are for everyone and help establish communities, while smaller tier/level 2 circles are for resolution to some form of specific conflict. In this level circle, participants can include individuals within the school directly impacted by the conflict being addressed. Tier/level 3 are the smallest and most intensive circles and are used for repairing significant ongoing conflicts.

Restorative practices will have an effect on how students will be held accountable for their actions. Students will develop an understanding that their actions have consequences and affect others besides themselves.

Lew-Port has moved away from consequences that are more punitive in nature and don't seek to address the root cause of problems.

Restorative circles will help students, families and the school understand how to better re-

solve situations while seeking to strengthen relationships. Out-of-school suspensions do not provide students with the best environment to learn.

Suspensions and in-school detention in the secondary schools have been replaced with an "alternative learning environment" (ALE) option, which is located in the district office. While in ALE students will work intensively with a dedicated teacher to help identify the root cause of their infractions and the effect it has on themselves and the whole school community.

ALE is utilized only after it is evident that students need more intensive support. Out-of-school suspensions will be reserved only for the most severe offenses.

Other districts that adopted

restorative practices have seen positive results. Attendance, test scores and employee engagement increased, while discipline referrals, fights and suspensions decreased. It is harder to disappoint people you know care about you.

The district's code of conduct has been updated to reflect this new method of accountability. The code of conduct is reviewed and adopted every year and has

undergone significant changes to help support restorative practices.

Lewiston-Porter has already seen the positive impact of using the ALE room versus in-school detention or suspensions. A goal of restorative practices is to further improve student outcomes.

The success and well being of everyone in our school community is always a top priority.

Have a great week Lew-Port!

## Give us the scoop!

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