Welcome back, YMS! Here are some updates from the year so far. Select classes are a part of the Chromebook pilot this year. Also, all students and families were invited to Curriculum Night, which took place on August 31st. Thanks to all who participated. In addition, fall sports and many clubs/activities are up and running. Be sure to find that something "extra" that interests you. Seventh graders, we hope you are adjusting well!

YMS Volleyball Community Service

Forty-six athletes participated in a community service project with their "volleyball big sisters" from YHS on Saturday, August 13th. Student-athletes boarded a bus to North Aurora's Feed My Starving Children. Donning their hairnets and gloves, the athletes worked in teams of 5-7 to fill rice bags with added nutrients to help children grow strong. In two hours, they packed a total of 136 boxes, which will feed 81 children for an entire year. They worked to feed children from Nicaragua, El Salvador, Haiti, Panama, and Ghana.
Young Adult Author Jordan Sonnenblick to Visit YMS this School Year by Megan Breon

All YMS students should consider reading After Ever After by Jordan Sonnenblick. It is a really good book and it draws the reader’s attention quickly. I can relate to it because it tells a story about two kids, one with Leukemia and the other with brain cancer. It tells truly about the process with the chemo and everything. Both my grandmas passed away last year with one of those. The book is realistic fiction. Jordan Sonnenblick is the author who is coming to our school in the spring. In the library there is a whole section set up for him since he is coming this year. I would read it before he comes and his other books if you like it, because he is a funny author. Keep in mind that After Ever After is a sequel to Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie. Check out After Ever After today!

The World Around Us by Daniel Konopelski

Historical Anniversaries

Sep. 2: 71 years since WWII ended

Sep. 11: 15 years since the 9/11 attacks

Sep. 11: 75 years since the Pentagon opened

Recent and Upcoming Holidays

Sep. 5 - Labor Day
Sep. 11 - Patriot Day
Sep. 17 - Constitution Day
Oct. 10 - Columbus Day (No School)
Oct. 31 - Halloween

Aug. 31, 2016 - JetBlue Flight 387 was the first regularly scheduled commercial flight to Cuba from the United States in over half a century, since the U.S. placed an embargo on the island nation on Feb. 3, 1962, preventing all trades between the two nations.

Sep. 5, 2016 - The G20 Summit, President Obama’s last summit, took place in China.

Complaint Box by Kaylee Brummel

1) Passing periods from upstairs to downstairs classes are not quite long enough, students report.

2) Students are using too much inappropriate language on the bus and in the hallways.

3) Hallways are crowded.

Solutions for Students:

• Consider stopping at your locker less times during the day to save time, and carry more materials with you.

• THINK before you speak. :)

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Blackout Dance was Friday, September 30th
Over 250 students in attendance

Staff Spotlight:
Interview with
Mrs. Gruber by Julie R.

What are the strangest things you have seen in the hallway?
• Stinky backpacks

What do you want to be for Halloween?
• SpongeBob hall monitor

Who are two of your student friends?
• Julie Rodriguez and Natalie Aguilar

What is your favorite food from Portillos?
• Italian beef and cheesy fries

What is your favorite song?
• Humble and Kind by Tim McGraw

When is your birthday?
• July 1st

Do you have any kids? If so what, school what age?
• Matthew, 19, college at Winona State
• John, 14, freshman

What school did you go to when you were in middle school?
• St. Mary’s

What are some of your favorite things to do?
• Fishing and hiking with kids, cheering my kids on at a game or a band concert, switching lyrics to fun songs

Halloween Survey and Pumpkin Farms by Nick Guerra

21 students were surveyed from Team 7-3. Out of those students, 20 reported they will be dressing up for Halloween this year, and 1 said he/she will not. When asked if students are going door-to-door for candy, 18 students said yes. 18 people also noted that they are celebrating Halloween in some way. Finally, when asked if students are celebrating Halloween differently than in the past, only 4 said yes. Some are handing out candy for the first time.

Best pumpkin farms in the area include:
Heap’s Giant Pumpkin Farm-Minooka: Playgrounds and playing in hay available
Kuipers-Maple Park: Includes apple cider store; also a Christmas tree farm in the winter
Lyon Farm-Yorkville: Halloween at the Farm October 28th and 30th, 1 pm—4pm
Blackberry Farm—Aurora: Antique train; also an antique classroom; horseback riding; petting zoo
Cross Country Update by Derek Miller

The YMS cross country team has gone to the Troy Invite every year since the cross country team was founded in 2008. The invite used to be the biggest middle school invite in the country, and it is still one of the most competitive in the state. Last year both seventh grade teams earned team championships and they were hoping to repeat this year.

The seventh grade girls were in one of the most competitive races of the day. Herget, Yorkville, Rotolo, and Minooka were all under 160 team points, which would have been good enough for second place in any other race. Ultimately, the team’s depth and pack running earned them a second place finish with 89 points, while Herget’s heavy hitters at the top delivered a victory for the team from Aurora with 67 points.

Sydney Peterson led the team by sheer force of will with a 13:24 finish in tenth place. Brooke O’Carroll (19th place) and Ava Glenn (20th place) worked together to both finish in 13:40. Anna Hunter wasn’t far behind them in 13:42, and was the last seventh grade girl to earn a top 25 medal. Nuria Pugh was the team’s final scorer with a 27th place finish in 13:49. Shannon Burke (29th, 13:51) and Maggie Hunter (82nd, 14:48) rounded out the top seven for the girls.

The seventh grade boys took home the Troy Invite team championship with a 156 to 187 win over Bolingbrook Jane Addams. Jaydon Harvey led the way in 11th place with a time of 12:24 and was the only medal winner for the boys. A great pack ensured the victory for the Foxes as Josiah Gulbro (29th, 12:43), Jack Stillmunkes (31st, 12:45), and Jonathan Aguado (32nd, 12:46) finished within seconds of each other. Jonathan was the only runner on the entire team to set a new personal record during the two-mile race on a wet, slow course. Nick Sinozio was the team’s fifth runner and finished in 55th place with a time of 12:17. Nick Sinozio was the team’s fifth runner and finished in 55th place with a time of 13:14. Justin Jakstys (61st, 13:19) and Nathan Summers (72nd, 13:32) were the essential sixth and seventh runners for the team.

Before last season Yorkville has never had an individual champion at Troy, but Helena Kleronomos changed that with her 13:07 victory last year. She also became the first back-to-back individual champion with her 12:23 victory this year over Rotolo’s Jenna Schifferer. Helena ran a smart first half of the race, sticking around the front pack without going out too fast. During the second half Helena worked her way up the pack and eventually passed Rotolo’s runner for the victory.

On the strength of Helena’s run, and the work of the runners behind her, the girls secured back-to-back team championships at Troy with a 78-113 victory over Old St. Mary’s. After Helena came in the dynamic duo of Sara Klemm (8th) and Hailey Simmons (9th) finished in 12:54 and 12:58, respectively. Nikki Vergara just missed a medal by finishing in 26th place in 13:20. Jinnaea Richardson had a great race to finish the scoring for the girls in 43rd with a time of 13:45. Ana Penland (58th, 13:59) and Natalee Penland (95th, 14:40) closed out the top seven for the girls.

The eighth grade boys used unbelievable depth to collect the first back-to-back Troy team championships for a boys team in Yorkville’s history. They did it with the most dominant performance of the day, a score of 98 points that easily eclipsed second place Manhattan's 173 points.

Ivan Westcott led the team with a second place finish for the second year in a row. This year Ivan ran 11:27 compared to last year’s 12:04. Cade Grimaldi (10th, 11:40) and Austin Popplewell (22nd, 11:56) joined Ivan on the medal stand. Matthew Angerame (34th, 12:17) and Jack Brucher (35th, 12:18) turned in great performances to finish the scoring for the boys. Colin Kachlic (47th, 12:32) and Tyler Deutsch (57th, 12:40) weren’t far behind.

On the strength of winning four team trophies for the first time, YMS also came away with the overall Troy Invite trophy for the first time. Congratulations, Foxes!
Interested in submitting a story to the monthly newspaper?

- Photos
- Club/activity/athletic/academic team updates
- Story/column
- Student work
- Comic or artwork

Quotes of the Month by Sophia J.

"Listen! The wind is rising, and the air is wild with leaves, we have had our summer evenings, now for October eves!" - Humbert Wolfe

“You can't put a limit on anything. The more you dream, the farther you get.” - Michael Phelps

“Today was good. Today was fun. Tomorrow is another one.” - Dr. Seuss

“If human beings had genuine courage, they'd wear their costumes every day of the year, not just on Halloween.” - Douglas Coupland