



## Contact:

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For immediate release

THREE SCHOOLS WIN MAPLE SYRUP CONTEST AND EXPERIENCE A SWEET  
JOURNEY

Ithaca, NY— New York Agriculture in the Classroom and the New York State Maple Foundation are pleased to announce the winners of the second annual Schoolyard Sugaring: Maple Syrup Contest. In this contest, students and teachers were exposed to the time, patience, and science it takes to turn sap into syrup by participating in every step of the maple syrup production process from tapping the trees to bottling the syrup.

Over seventy K-12 teachers initially registered their classrooms to participate, and each classroom was equipped with a book, lesson plans, and an empty pint jug to fill with their syrup and return for judging. Schools were paired by request with a local maple syrup producer who mentored the students through the process by either visiting their classrooms or inviting them to their sugarbush. In this hands-on experience, students were exposed to careers in maple production and got a sense of the unpredictability the industry faces each year as it relates to weather.

In the classroom, the elementary students read the book “Sugar on Snow by Nan Parson Possiter or “Maple Syrup from the Sugarhouse” by Laurie Lazzaro Knowlton and the middle and high school students received “The Sugarmaker’s Companion” by Dr. Michael Farrell or “Maple Syrup: An Introduction to the Science of a Forest Treasure” by Michael Rechlin. These titles were paired with lessons that taught students the basic syrup-making principles including vocabulary, sequencing the syrup-making process, making and using a hydrometer, and role-playing the economic differences between the syrup industry in the United States and in Canada.

Fifty-two entries were submitted for judging by a panel of maple producers. Each entry was scored for sugar content, clarity, color, and taste. The 1<sup>st</sup> place classroom in each division will receive \$250, the 2<sup>nd</sup> place classroom receives \$100, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> place classroom receives \$50, co-sponsored by New York Agriculture in the Classroom and the New York State maple Foundation. The top three rankings and honorable mentions are included in the results. Additionally, a photography contest was held concurrently and the classroom with the best submitted photograph in each division will win \$50.

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[agclassroom.org/ny](http://agclassroom.org/ny)

New York Agriculture in the Classroom and the New York State Maple Foundation would like to thank each school that participated in the contest for increasing the agricultural literacy of their students. The combined hope of the two organizations that students will grow an appreciation and changed perspective about the maple and agricultural industries in New York and grow in their awareness and understanding of New York's food and fiber systems. To enter your classroom in a future contest, or to volunteer your time as a mentor maple producer, please contact [nyaitc@cornell.edu](mailto:nyaitc@cornell.edu).

For more information about the National Agriculture in the Classroom Schoolyard Sugaring contest, visit the New York Agriculture in the Classroom website at [www.agclassroom.org/ny](http://www.agclassroom.org/ny). New York Agriculture in the Classroom is an outreach program of Cornell University, with a goal to increase the agricultural literacy of our students so that they may be able to understand and communicate the source and value of agriculture as it affects their daily lives.

### Elementary Division:

Place	School	Teacher	Maple Partner
1 <sup>st</sup>	ER Andrews	Jessica Tomcho and Kathleen Orth	Orth Farms
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Port Leyden Elementary	Kerin Markham	Markham's Maple Shanty
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wells Central School	Mrs. Bovee	Country Cabin Maple Syrup, Lee & Debbie Welch
HM	Prattsburgh Central School	Jeffrey Herrick	Prattsburgh FFA
HM	Lisbon Central School	Katelyn Driscoll	Finen Maple Products
HM	DeRuyter Central School	Stephanie Locke	DeRuyter FFA

Photography Contest Winner– Town of Webb UFSD, Jeremiah Best

### Middle School Division:

Place	School	Teacher	Maple Partner
1 <sup>st</sup>	Malone Middle School	The STEAM Team	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Southern Cayuga	Kimberly Davidson	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Hawk Meadow Montessori School	Lisa Dunne	

Photography Contest Winner– Malone Middle School, STEAM Team

### High School Division:

Place	School	Teacher	Maple Partner
1 <sup>st</sup>	Stockbridge Valley	Erin McCaffrey-Smith	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Southern Cayuga	Kimberly Davidson	

<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School	John Antoski	
<b>HM</b>	Berne Knox Westerlo Central School	Michaela Kehrer	Fletcher Hill Farm, Bittersweet Maple, Grippin Family Farm
<b>HM</b>	Pavilion Central School	Catherine Johnston	Happy Hill
<b>HM</b>	Lowville Academy and Central School	Melvin Phelps	Ken & Dawn Sweredoski

Photography Contest Winner– OCM BOCES, Chad DeVoe

### Winning Maple Photographs

Elementary Division – Town of Webb UFSD, Jeremiah Best



Middle School Division – Malone Middle School, Kitty Eldridge & The STEAM Team



## High School Division – OCM BOCES, Chad DeVoe



### Participating Schools:

School	Teacher	Division	Maple Partner
Appleby Elementary School	Carrie Newkirk	Elementary	Ensign Family Maple
Attica Elementary	Sarah Stenson	Elementary	
Bainbridge-Guilford Jr.-Sr. High School	Daniel Cirigliano	High School	Madugno A4 Maple
Beekmantown CSD	Veronique Krohn	High School	Uncle Jack's Sugar Shack, Norman Davis
Berne Knox Westerlo	Sarah McArdle	Elementary	Fletcher Farms Maple Syrup, Grippen Family Farms

Berne Knox Westerlo Central School	Michaela Kehrer	High School	Fletcher Hill Farm, Bittersweet Maple, Grippin Family Farm
Burnt Hills- Ballston Lake Central Schools	John Antoski	High School	
Cazenovia Central High School	Mandi Millen	High School	
DCMO BOCES Harrold Campus	Zach Whittaker	High School	
Delaware Academy Central School	Tina Miner-James	High School	
DeRuyter Central School	Stephanie Locke	Elementary	DeRuyter FFA
DeRuyter Central School	Mary Coolbaugh	High School	
Eden Jr/Sr High School	Steve Jones	High School	Gallman Maple
ER Andrews	Jessica Tomcho	Elementary	Orth Farms
Erie 1 BOCES at Maryvale Work Readiness Program	Melanie Roth	High School	
Greenwich Central School	Chris Kelly	High School	Mapleland Farms
Hawk Meadow Montessori School	Lisa Dunne	Elementary	
Hawk Meadow Montessori School	Lisa Dunne	Middle School	
Indian River High School	Nichole Hirt	High School	
L.P.Quinn Elementary	Kelcey Summers	Elementary	The Wild Center
L.P.Quinn Elementary	Brittany Burnham	Elementary	The Wild Center
Lisbon Central School	Katelyn Driscoll	Elementary	Finen Maple Products
LoGuicice BOCES	Brandon Mead	High School	Fairbanks Maple
Lowville Academy and Central School	Melvin Phelps	High School	Ken & Dawn Sweredoski
Malone Middle School	STEAM Team	Middle School	
Marcus Whitman High School	Carlie Bossard	High School	
Naples Elementary School	Seth Almekinder	Elementary	
Naples High School	Jon Betrus	High School	Wohlschlegel's Naples Maple Farm
Oakfield-Alabama CSD	Todd Hofheins	High School	
OCM BOCES/New Vision Environmental Science	Chad DeVoe	High School	
Oneida Herkimer Madison BOCES	Phil Lacelle	High School	
Pavilion Central School	Catherine Johnston	High School	Happy Hill
Peru 2 Head Start	Mary Stowe	Elementary	
Pine Valley	Isaac Habermehl	High School	
Port Leyden Elementary	Kerin Markham	Elementary	Markham's Maple Shanty

Prattsburgh Central School	Jeffrey Herrick	Elementary	Prattsburgh FFA
Prattsburgh Central School	Andrea Elward	High School	
Radez Elementary	Laura Gagnon	Elementary	Maple Hill Farms
Rome Y Home School Group	Priscilla Larry	Elementary	
Salmon River FFA	Danielle French	High School	
Sauquoit Valley Elementary	Mary AnnKnapp	Elementary	Tibbits Maple Farm
Sauquoit Valley Elementary	Beth Ann Nora	Elementary	Tibbits Maple Farm
Sherburne-Earlville CSD	Scott Bugbee	High School	
Southern Cayuga CSD	Kimberly Davidson	Middle School	
Southern Cayuga CSD	Kimberly Davidson	High School	
Stockbridge Valley	Erin McCaffrey	High School	
Tioga Central High School	Michael Barbieri	High School	
Town of Webb School District	Jeremiah Best	Elementary	
Villa of Hope	Scott Oldenburg	High School	Shadow Hill
Wells Central School	Mrs. Bovee	Elementary	Country Cabin Maple Syrup, Lee & Debbie Welch
Wells Central School	Cynthia Richardson	Elementary	Brower Road Sugarhouse
Wynnwood Academy	Heather Wynn	Elementary	

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