

The Appleseed

A Word From the Superintendent...

Dear Community:

We are committed to putting student success in the forefront. At our February meeting, the Board of Education had the honor of celebrating twenty-two Hudsonville High School seniors who scored a 30 or higher on their ACT assessment. Nationwide, these students scored in the top 1 to 2% in the country. We are very proud of all our students' hard work, determination and academic achievement.

During the next few months, our goal will be to communicate the pertinent information regarding the May 3, 2011 school election. This year's election will have major implications for how our district manages its growth. During a challenging economic time, Hudsonville Schools continues to experience growth. That is, in a twenty-five year period we have nearly tripled in size. On May 3, we will go to the voters with a comprehensive plan to help address our growing student population.

The annual school election will be held on Tuesday, May 3. There are three issues on the ballot:

- Non-Homestead Renewal

Hudsonville voters will be asked to approve the **annual renewal** of the 18 mill (**non-homestead**) property tax. This is a tax on businesses and second homes, not on homestead residences or qualified agricultural property. State education taxes on homestead residences will remain at the 1994 millage rate.

We are deeply grateful for our community's continued support. Especially during these difficult financial times, the importance of the Non-Homestead Renewal allows the district to maintain the current millage rate for operational funding.

- Bond Proposal

Hudsonville voters will be asked to approve a request to construct a new 9th grade (plus) building next to the existing 10-12 building, new South Elementary school (on Greenly Street), new competition pool, new fine arts auditorium, new transportation building, renovation of the existing Freshman Campus into an Early Childhood Center (which will free up classrooms at each of our elementary buildings), district-wide technology upgrades, athletic upgrades, and specific renovations at the existing 10-12 building.

The request is to extend our current millage rate to finance the improvements. That is, if the proposal is successful, there will be **no millage increase**.

- Board Election

One (1) four-year seat is open this year. Larry Kapenga (incumbent) is the sole candidate on the ballot.

We have informational meetings scheduled on March 29 and April 19 at 7:00 p.m. at Hudsonville High School for any citizen who wishes to learn more about the proposal. We also encourage you to visit our website at www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org to obtain additional information. As we move closer toward the election, the district will be providing additional information to all voters.

Thank you for your continued support of Hudsonville Public Schools. An incredible place to live, learn and grow!

Sincerely,



Nick Ceglarek
Superintendent

We invite parents and community members to take our survey for strategic planning purposes at www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

Did you know that heart disease is our nation's #1 killer? For the last few weeks, Hudsonville Elementary School students have been busy raising money for the American Heart Association through Jump Rope for Heart. Jump Rope for Heart is a great way to encourage students to take care of their hearts through physical activity while making a difference in the lives of others. The Jump Rope for Heart events were held during each classes PE time. Collectively, our elementary schools raised an amazing amount of over \$20,000! Baldwin Middle School also raised \$3194.50 for the American Heart Association through the Hoops for Heart event held on February 14. A huge thank you goes out to all families who participated in this year's events!

Two students do their part to take care of their hearts!



IPODS ARE INSPIRING READERS AT PARK!

Technology continues to reform the way that reading instruction is taught. Fourth grade students from Miss Uthe's class pictured here have the opportunity to read into the iPods and then listen to their reading to check how accurately and smoothly it was read. Students then set reading goals from these recordings that are monitored weekly, if not daily. Park students are excited to use technology in this way to literally hear the improvements that they are making from week to week.

COME OUT AND SUPPORT THE ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

The Hudsonville Athletic Boosters will be sponsoring two fundraisers on Saturday, March 26th. One hundred percent of all proceeds will be going back into Hudsonville Athletics. Starting 9AM Saturday morning there will be a 5K & 10K Road Race Run Walk. Contestants from the Eagle Fit Club, a health challenge for employees inside the Hudsonville Public Schools, will participate in the race and a team trophy for the Eagle Fit Club Challenge will be handed out in the high school cafeteria at conclusion of the road race. Entry forms can be picked up at local businesses, Hudsonville High School or at www.eagle1ok.com.

Saturday evening, the 2nd Annual Booster Bash will be held at the Pinnacle Center. There will be a sit down dinner of up to 550 people, with live and silent auctions and bidding on a wide variety of donated items. Doors will open at 6 PM that evening for early viewing and bidding on the auction items. A cash bar will be available. Tickets for the Booster Bash are available for \$25.00 each at the Hudsonville High School Office, 5037 - 32nd Street in Hudsonville. Contact Jill Ellenbaas @ 616-669-1500 if you have any questions.



Hamming it up with the refs!

BASKETBALL GAME "NETS" DONATIONS FOR THE KIDS FOOD BASKET

The Alward and Jamestown schools had an incredible basketball game supporting the Kids Food Basket of West Michigan. We were able to donate over 3,500 snack bags with the donations from the fans and staff members alike.

Jamestown was able to finish ahead of Alward by one point, the final score was 36-35. The game was fantastic and fun for everyone!



Mr. Dekker, Alward Principal, tries to play with a Sombrero on!

IT'S ALL DOWN HILL FROM HERE...

Or is it? A group of teachers, staff and students from Jamestown Elementary went on a fun-filled, after school sledding trip Tuesday, February 22. Students, and especially the staff, discovered that sledding is indeed downhill; but that same sled must get back up the hill somehow!



Holding on tight!

The trip was a result of a raffle held at the JES Winter Carnival sponsored by the PTA. Kids purchased tickets and placed them in the box of the staff member they wanted to go sledding with. The lucky winners were given a bus ride to Charlie's Dump, the opportunity to push their favorite teacher down the hill, as well as some hot chocolate and donuts to snack on. There were a few "crashes", but thankfully no one got

seriously hurt - which is saying a lot since more than 40 people were in attendance.

The weather was sunny and mid - 20's - perfect for some outside winter fun. It was a fantastic afternoon as the adults and kids had a genuinely good time together - and we're already looking forward to next year's outing!



It's hard to say who enjoyed themselves more, the teachers or the kids!





WRESTLERS HAVE SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The High School Wrestling team is coming off of a very successful season. From the beginning of the season this group of young men believed that they could be a part of something very special and set out to accomplish this. Although there were some small setbacks along the

way, the wrestlers peaked at the correct time and were able to claim the conference title for the first time in twenty-two years. Over the next two weeks they followed this up by winning the district and regional titles for the first time since 2004, sending them to the state finals, where they finished as one of the top eight teams in the state. This year's squad became the first wrestling team from Hudsonville to win the conference title, district title, and regional title in the same year.

Along with the team success there was also individual success. Hudsonville was represented by five athletes; Zach Henderson, Marcos Diaz, Carl Nystrom, Jared Zimmerman, and Zach Van Ess at the individual state tournament. The Eagles were led this year by a strong group of eight seniors. This group set the tone and helped to keep the expectations high.

The wrestling program would like to thank our schools, peers, staff, and community members for their support this season.

AMAZING AFRICAN ART!

Throughout the school year, students at Jamestown Elementary have been learning about African art. Each grade level has completed at least one project based on this theme.

Pre-K and Kindergarten students learned about the African Asimevo cloth and designed their own paper Asimevo cloths with lots of colors and patterns. First graders learned about the Masai people of Eastern Africa, and created colorful necklaces based on their traditions. Second grade artists made African Ashanti Dolls, which are small sculptures believed to bring good luck. Fourth graders created their own African jewelry by making beads out of clay. Fifth graders discovered the many purposes of African masks, and made their own masks out of cardboard and beans.



Third grade artists have done several projects related to Africa this year! They discovered the art of the Kente cloth, and learned how to weave and paint African designs. They also used watercolor paints to make Lion King pictures. Finally, our third graders each made an African drum using coffee cans, oatmeal canisters, paint, twine, and wooden beads.

Students of all ages have enjoyed experiencing the art of Africa! Many of our African projects will be on display at the 11th Annual Hudsonville Public Schools Art Show, April 25-28, at Park Elementary School.

THE HUDSONVILLE EAGLE FIT CLUB...ARE YOU READY TO GET SWEATY?

Eat Breakfast

Asleep 8 Hours

Get Sweaty

Lifestyle Change

Eat Fruits and Veggies

Find time to Relax

Intake H₂O

Testing (Check-ups)



Georgetown Elementary Fit Club



Hudsonville High School Fit Club

These were the goals that over 360 district employees tried to accomplish during the months of January, February and March (and hopefully forever!). Members had to log points for 12 weeks and were given incentives for reaching their goals. The incentives included an Eagle Fit wristband, water bottle, and beach towel. The Eagle Fit Club was funded with a Safe and Drug Free Schools grant as well as membership entry fees.

As a result of the success of the employee Eagle Fit Club, we have extended the program to some elementary buildings to pilot an Eagle Fit Running Club for students. The kid's club members will train for the Fifth Third River Bank Run during the months of April and May and log points related to the Eagle Fit goals. As an incentive, the Eagle Fit Running Club members will also receive a special pre-race party the day before the River Bank Run if they reach the goals.



South Elementary Fit Club

The Eagle Fit Club has proven to be a great success in our district employees' lives and we are excited to be a positive influence on our students!

HUDSONVILLE COMMUNITY EDUCATION SUMMER ACTIVITY BROCHURE

The Hudsonville Community Education Summer Brochure will be sent home with students the end of April. We will again be offering many activities to keep your kids from saying those dreaded words, "I'm bored." We now offer online registrations, so do not delay in getting your child registered. Our web address is www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org, click on the Community Ed. link to the left of the page.

HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM HAS BEEN TRAVELING THIS YEAR!

In April of 2010, 110 band students (along with 20 orchestra students) traveled to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. The students spent time in all four Disney parks and at Downtown Disney. The orchestra students performed at Downtown Disney and the band marched at Disney's Epcot Center (*right*). We had a spectacular time performing and enjoying Walt Disney World!



In November of 2010, the Hudsonville High School marching band traveled to Detroit to compete in MCBA State Finals. The band has qualified as a state finalist for 18 straight seasons. The band stayed overnight in a hotel in downtown Detroit and performed in Ford Field, finishing 9th in the state.

The Hudsonville High School Jazz Band traveled to Chicago (*left*) in January. The students shopped downtown, went to a jazz club to listen to live music, participated in a jazz clinic, and performed at Friendly Village Senior Center in Schaumburg, Illinois.

While the students in the band program enjoy traveling, they really enjoy performing. They are thankful for the opportunity to travel and perform on a regular basis.

For more information on the Hudsonville Band program, visit www.hudsonvillebands.org.

WHAT IS ECONOMICS?

The first graders at Georgetown went on a field trip to a local Family Fare to supplement our social studies unit on economics. This trip wrapped up our economics unit. In first grade, we teach economics with the objectives that students will:

- Distinguish between producers and consumers of goods and services.
- Describe ways in which families consume goods and services.
- Be able to explain why people cannot have everything they want (scarcity) and describe how people respond to that problem (choice).
- Describe ways in which people earn money (providing goods and services to others).
- Describe how money simplifies trade.

The kids had a blast exploring all the parts of a grocery store and applying what they know about economics to a real store. We even got to take home some treats from the bakery (kettle corn), produce section (apple), and the deli (jello). Thank you so much for helping us with our economics unit Family Fare!



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS AND LEARNING!

As an on-going fundraiser, the CI program at Park Elementary offers Birthday Grams. Each Birthday Gram comes with balloons and options for weights including candy, pencils or snacks that can be ordered for students (and their class) on their birthday. The students in the CI program help to process the orders by filling orders and delivering the birthday grams. It's great practice for future jobs and the CI students love helping kids celebrate their special day!



BAUER STUDENT SELECTED TO CONDUCT SYMPHONY!

Hudsonville fifth grade students visit a Grand Rapids Symphony performance. Ann Kong was selected to conduct the final piece of the Fifth Grade Concert at Central Wesleyan Church on March 8. Ann is in Mr. Jewell's fifth grade class. We are very proud of Anne!

MEAP INFORMATION... WHAT DOES THE STATE MEAN BY "NEW MEAP CUT SCORES"?

It is that time of year when schools are beginning to receive data results from the Fall MEAP testing cycle. After the school districts across the state have the opportunity to review their results, they are given a window of time to contact the Michigan Department of Education for any clarifications. The results are then made public to parents and community members.

What changes are being proposed for student MEAP scores? Many of you may have seen articles in the paper or heard on the news that Michigan MEAP scores are not measuring up to other states. The "cut scores" to determine proficiency were set lower by the Michigan Department of Education in response to the expectation of the No Child Left Behind mandate that 100% of ALL students would be proficient by the year 2014. In order to align Michigan assessment results to other states, the State Board of Education has recommended raising "cut scores" to determine proficiency in the testing cycle starting next Fall.

How will this affect our district and building scores? An example would be that under the state's current "cut scores", a student may only need to answer 15 out of 33 questions correctly to be considered proficient. Beginning next Fall, students will need to answer 25 out of 33 correctly for proficiency. According to new state standards, buildings and districts normally scoring at a 98% proficiency rate could now be 57% proficient or lower. This year's MEAP writing assessment for fourth and seventh grade students is the only assessment measured under the "new cut scores" which will impact our district proficiency percentage.

The State Board of Education has not officially approved the new "cut score" standards for the remaining core content areas for next Fall, but we are preparing to make necessary changes to support academic growth for all students in preparing them for the future.

DEFINITION

Cut score - An arbitrary line where student achievement is determined to be proficient or not proficient.



DON'T MISS THE ART SHOW!

The 11th annual Hudsonville Student Art Show will be held April 25 through 28 at the Park Elementary Community Room. The show will be open from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. during the week, and artist receptions will be held from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. each evening. The art show features student work from Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade and includes spectacular pieces in clay, acrylic and tempera paint, pastel, and a variety of other media. The Student Art Show is free and open to the public.



Calendar

Friday, April 1 - Sunday, April 10, 2011

Spring Break

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Annual School Election

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Late Start for Middle & High School Students Only



CARNIVORES, HERBIVORES, AND OMNIVORES - OH MY!

Did you know that lady bugs are predators? Did you know that catfish use their rough teeth to scrape algae from the bottom of a pond? These are just a couple of fun facts that the students at Georgetown Elementary discovered as they searched nonfiction text last week.

We have just begun a science unit focusing on food chains and food webs. You will now hear students talking about producers, consumers, decomposers, carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores. If you are not sure what these terms mean, ask one of them.



Later this week, we are looking forward to dissecting owl pellets! In the process, we will discover what owls eat and gain a better understanding of the food chain to which they belong.



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Human Resource Director, Hudsonville Public Schools, 3886 Van Buren, Hudsonville, MI 49426, (616) 669-1740