

The Appleseed

Dear Community:

"Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now." ~ Alan Lakein

Over the past many months, Hudsonville Public School officials have been preparing for the future of Hudsonville Public Schools on two fronts: facilities and long-range planning. Please allow the following to be a summary of progress on both initiatives:

Facilities Update: May Bond Election

On Thursday, January 13, the Board of Education approved the Preliminary Bond Application for a May 3, 2011 election date. The application outlines the proposed facilities plan that would construct:

- New 9 + facility on the existing high school campus site
- New competition pool and fine arts center
- New South Elementary School on Greenly
- New transportation facilities
- Technology upgrades
- Reconfigure Freshmen Campus to Early Childhood Center

If approved, the above plan would be paid for by extending the existing tax rate of 7 mills for 30 years.

At the February meeting, the Board of Education will officially call for the May 3 election date. As the election draws near, we will be holding informational meetings throughout the district to help residents understand the specifics of the project. Please visit our website for more specific information regarding the process and timeline.

www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org/HPS

We would like to thank the many individuals who provided us information via the web site survey, and the individuals who were a part of the community advisory committee. The information provided helped shape the Board's decision to move forward in the "One Hudsonville" concept.

District's Long-Range Plan

We would like to thank the students, staff, parents and community leaders who participated in one of the ten focus groups. One hundred forty-nine individuals provided us with a wealth of information regarding the strengths of our schools and areas where we need to focus our attention. Some of the most notable conclusions were:

- Desire to preserve "close knit" feel
- Strong satisfaction with high academic standards (preserve high quality teaching and learning)
- Equity for all Hudsonville families
- Support for upgrading instructional technology

Many other important conclusions surfaced and we would invite you to review the executive summary of the focus group report at our website under "Strategic Planning."

The focus groups were Phase I in a multi-phase approach to gather community data to drive our long-range plan. In the upcoming months, we will be asking students, staff, parents, and community residents to participate in completing a comprehensive needs assessment survey. This survey will provide district leadership with valuable information on successes and areas of focus. The data, along with the focus group data, will be used to guide the district's long-range plan for the next three years. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this very important undertaking.

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

Sincerely,



Nick Ceglarek
Superintendent

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

Kindergarten enrollment forms are now available at any of our Hudsonville Public School elementary buildings. We encourage any family with a child turning five years of age on or before December 1 of 2011 to enroll. Please fill out the forms included in the packet and return the completed information to any elementary school or at one of the Kindergarten Round-Up meetings on March 8.



- ☐ Completed enrollment form
- ☐ Copy of your child's birth certificate must accompany registration (certified with raised seal)
- * ☐ Health appraisal form which includes dates of immunizations and vision testing
 - * (information needs to be completed no later than August 26, 2011)

Children with birthdays between June 1 - December 1, 2011 will be screened on kindergarten readiness skills. If you have a child who will be turning five before June 1, 2011 and would like him/her to be screened, please check the box on the enrollment form. You will be contacted to set up a screening appointment after the Kindergarten Round-Up meetings in March.

Our Kindergarten Round-Up meetings will be held for parents on Tuesday, March 8. The meeting will offer parents information in preparation of your child entering Kindergarten or Pre-Kindergarten in the Fall. The locations and times of the meetings are as follows:

Meeting Location

Alward Elementary
 Bauer Elementary
 Georgetown Elementary
 Forest Grove Elementary
 Jamestown Elementary
 Park Elementary
 South Elementary

Times

10:00 a.m. OR 7:00 p.m.
 7:00 p.m. only
 7:00 p.m. only
 7:00 p.m. only
 7:00 p.m. only
 7:00 p.m. only
 10:00 a.m. OR 7:00 p.m.

Due to larger turnouts for our evening Round-Up meetings the past few years, we decided to offer a day time Round-Up meeting in two locations. We encourage parents from other buildings to attend those locations if the day time meetings work best for you. The same information will be given in each location. You should drop off your completed enrollment information to your child's school. If you need to set up a screening date because of your child's birth date falling between June 1 - December 1, 2011, you can set up an appointment for the screening when you turn in your child's enrollment form.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS INFORMATION

Our programs located at Alward, Bauer, Georgetown, Jamestown, and South Elementaries provide a variety of full and half day Preschool, Alternate Full Day Kindergarten Care, and Before and After School Childcare opportunities for children ages 3 years through 5th grade. Busing to and from Forest Grove and Park Elementaries is provided for school-age students.

For more information about our school year and/or summer childcare programs, please visit our website at www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org under the Early Childhood link, or call Becky VanSomerén, Early Childhood Director, at 616-797-0842.

We welcome your child with open arms and thank you for the privilege of working with your family!

BALDWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL GIVES BACK

Staff members are not the only ones hard at work before most students arrive on late start days at Baldwin Street Middle School. BMS Student Council members are busy getting ready for "Donut Day." On each late start day, BMS students have an opportunity to treat themselves while supporting a worthy cause by purchasing a donut from Student Council members. BMS Student Council then uses the proceeds from donut sales to support various causes in our community and beyond. Over the past few years, donations have been made on behalf of BMS to many great causes including Kids Food Basket, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Harbor Humane Society, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, DeVos Children's Hospital, the Megan Hanges Benefit Fund, Hudsonville Wrestling's Takin' Down Cancer fundraiser and more.

TALKING WITH THEIR HANDS

The 4th and 5th grade students at Alward Elementary School have the chance to learn how to speak with their hands. Once a week, during the last recess, the students have the opportunity to go to a sign language class. Students are starting to learn the language of the deaf. Kids are excited about it, and are often seen signing to each other at lunch time! They also

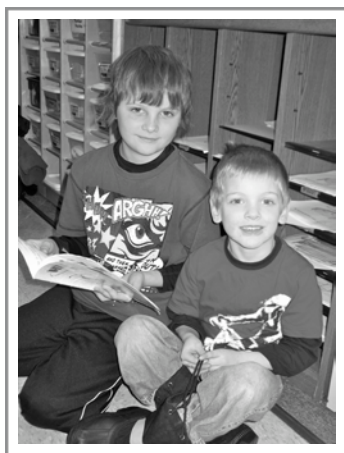


had the opportunity to meet a deaf man from the community. This really helped the students to understand the life of a deaf person.

The 4th and 5th graders also signed part of a song for their Christmas program. Eight special kids were also picked to help sign the verses of the song. All of the students did a wonderful job, and everyone was proud of them!



LEARNING BUDDIES



Mrs. Haagsma's third graders and Mrs. DeSmit's kindergartners have teamed up to be "Learning Buddies." This partnership has been a great learning opportunity for both grades. Third grade students have an opportunity to practice their fluent reading and have a chance to be reading and writing role models to their buddies. Kindergarten students greatly benefit from the opportunity to have one-on-one modeling in essential reading and writing strategies.



NOW ENROLLING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

3 & 4 year old Half Day Preschool, 3 & 4 year old Full Day Preschool, Kindergarten Full Day Care, Before & After School Care, and Summer Programs

Registration information can be found at the Hudsonville Public School website, www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org under Early Childhood Programs or call 616-797-0842.



Free 4 year old Preschool (child must turn four by Dec. 1, 2011)

GSRP (Great Start Readiness Preschool) is a FREE state-funded preschool program for Hudsonville four year olds who meet certain criteria. This program allows children who qualify an opportunity to receive a high-quality preschool experience who may not otherwise have the chance. Parent/Guardian's must provide transportation to and from the program.

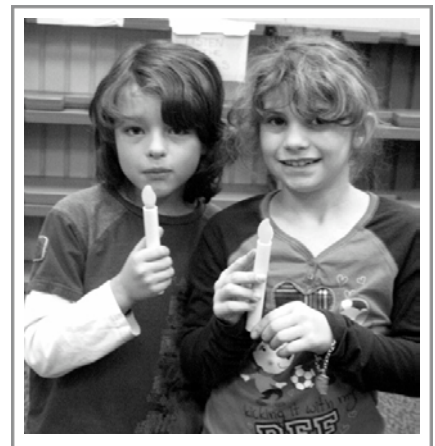
Children meeting at least two of the 25 criteria listed on the application can qualify. Some examples of the criteria include: household income, single parent, unemployed parent, and many others.

The Hudsonville Public Schools' GSRP program has openings as long as state budget allocations allow. Families who show the greatest need will be enrolled first. Registration information can be found at the Hudsonville Public School website, www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org under Early Childhood Programs or call 616-797-0842.

GEORGETOWN'S HOLIDAY PROGRAM A MUSICAL SUCCESS

December is a month filled with the excitement of the holidays and especially our much anticipated holiday programs. Each elementary school performs an amazing program of singing which highlights all students and grades. For Georgetown Elementary, preparations for this production usually start in early October and continue until the performance. The students work extremely hard for months learning words, choreography and music. But did you know they are doing

much more than just singing? Students at Georgetown Elementary learn how to take care of their voices, warm-up their voices, and learn the difference between various vocal registers and timbres. They learn how to sing by themselves and with others varied repertoire. They learn how to read, notate, listen, analyze and describe music. They learn about dynamics and tempo and the history of many songs- some which date back 300 years. They even analyze and evaluate their own performances. The National Standards for Music Education, which our music curriculum is based on, consist of 9 very specific standards. Our students actually do 6 of the 9 standards while preparing for their programs. Through the fun and excitement of our program each year, students are learning many aspects of music. Now THAT is a musical success worth cheering for!





TRENDWAY...LEADS THE WAY...WITH GIVE AWAY

Jamestown Elementary received an early present from the Trendway Corporation of Holland this past Christmas. They provided our school with a fabulous donation of book cases. In economic times where office furniture manufacturers are having difficulty making ends meet, Trendway was able to give us more than \$8,400 in book cases that will help organize and provide storage for every classroom in our building! One of our very own Jamestown parents, Tim Kasen, contacted Mr. DeLeeuw about the possibility of a donation, and was instrumental in making it happen.

Not only was Trendway kind enough to give us this marvelous gift, but they also allowed us to choose the color that best matched our building decor. Mr. DeLeeuw, not being an expert interior designer, was able to call in "reinforcements" to help make this decision.

These high quality, 3 and 5 shelf units arrived shortly before Christmas vacation, so most of the teachers had them stocked, organized and ready to use when we returned from our break. The staff at Jamestown would like to thank Tim Kasen and the Trendway Corporation for their generous gift to our staff and students. Their support of our school is greatly appreciated! This was a wonderful surprise that will be used and appreciated for many years to come.



SOUTH KIDS BRING JOY

The first graders from South Elementary spread some Christmas cheer by visiting their friends at Sheldon Meadows Living Center. They joined voices to sing some familiar carols and shared some holiday cards. The students value their community friends and wanted to let them know that they are loved during this time of year.



K-5 MATH INFORMATION NIGHT FOR PARENTS

Have you been wondering how to help your child with math at home? Join us, February 17, from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium for a Math Expressions Information Night. We will explain how this "new math" can benefit all learners and give you some practical resources for assisting your child. We hope to see you there!

MIDDLE SCHOOL KIDS ATTEND SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL AT GVSU

Earlier this year, the English 1 classes from Riley Street Middle School and Baldwin Street Middle School had the opportunity to attend Grand Valley State University's Shakespeare Festival where his famous play *As You Like It* was presented. Students appreciated the chance to see a live performance and were especially excited by the fact that it was a comedy this year. Students were allowed to ask the actors questions as they ate their complimentary lunches together. Riley students who had enacted a readers



theatre version of the play before seeing it enjoyed comparing styles, noting that some of the jokes were interpreted the same way. Students had a great day, and they were able to understand a Shakespearean work the way it was intended to be presented. The teachers were very pleased to have the opportunity to discuss cultural norms and acceptable behaviors associated with attending the theatre as well as the history behind the theatre of Shakespeare's time.

MMMMMMM...

Fun with Mom's and Muffins in Mrs. DeGram's Kindergarten class, at Bauer! We are celebrating with hot chocolate and muffins to go along with our "Mm" sound and the book, *The Mitten*, by Jan Brett. The activity helps with our Retell of the story, *The Mitten*.



SCHOOLS-OF-CHOICE

Hudsonville Public Schools is accepting Schools-of-Choice Applications under Section 105c (residents outside Ottawa County) for grades K-12 for the 2011/2012 school year at all buildings excluding Georgetown Elementary and Baldwin Middle School. Acceptance will be determined by space available at the grade level requested.

Parents can apply by requesting a Schools-of-Choice application form by calling 669-1740, ext. 1 or accessing the application on our website www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org. The form can be found under "Enrollment Information."

PRINCIPALS & POLICE OFFICERS?



Lunch with the Principal is an exciting tradition held monthly at Jamestown Elementary to honor kids who have achieved their monthly reading goals. It was particularly fun when a special guest dropped by for our December lunch. Deputy Flick happened to be in the building when our Snowman Poo (mini-marshmallows relay game) was being played.

Being one player short, she happily stepped in to "round" out one of our

teams. At one point she collided with Mr. DeLeeuw (as well as a couple students) and dropped her "snowman poo" all over the floor, but the kids were more than happy to pick it up. In addition to our game, the kids dined on pizza & pop as well as shared stories about favorite books they have read in the last few months. Congratulations to these students and we look forward to many more events!



SOUTH STUDENTS GIVE THE GIFT OF BOOKS

The 3rd and 4th graders at South Elementary participated in a different kind of gift exchange this year. Students were asked to bring in new books to donate to children in need. Then, students took time during their holiday party to wrap the books and make cards. The 3rd and 4th graders were able to donate over 300 books to children in need from the D.A. Blodgett Services-Big Brothers/Big Sisters program!



Just a sampling of the books that are being prepared to get wrapped and donated.

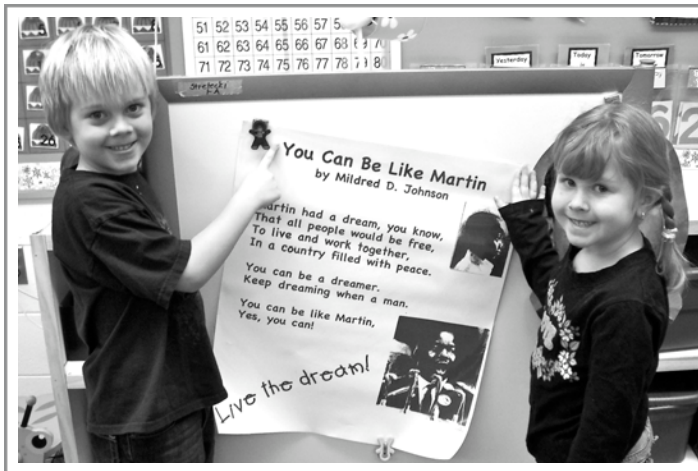


POETRY FOR PARENTS

Students in Mrs. Gitler's and Mrs. Haagsma's third grade classes proved to be true poets. On January 14th, students hosted a Poetry Cafe to spotlight the hard work that they had done throughout their poetry unit. Parents had a chance to eat some delicious treats while listening to all of the children share their creative words. There was laughter, tears and every emotion in between hidden within the lines of the poems. Parents and students alike could not have been more proud of words that they had written. Here, Jenna shares one of her beautiful poems while parents and students listen intently to her words.

YOU'VE GOT TO LOVE SOCIAL STUDIES...

Pancakes, sunken ships, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., electing a mayor and traveling the great lakes-- what do all of these things have in common? Unfortunately, this is not a trivia question worth a million dollars. Fortunately, these "things" are all related to what the students at Forest Grove Elementary are learning in social studies.



- Our first graders are learning about the civil rights movement, how we can make a difference in the world around us and about comparing the past and present as a way to learn about history.
- Our second graders are learning about what good citizens do, how citizens elect officials and solve problems in a community, and how we need to work together to make our community a better place to live.
- Our third graders are learning about components of economics in Michigan. Manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, and natural resources along with a cool pancake experiment to help kids visualize the concept of "interdependence".
- Our fourth graders are learning about the five regions of the United States, the current emphasis is on the geographic and economic importance of the Great Lakes.
- Our fifth graders are exploring sunken treasure as they analyze artifacts unique to European exploration. Our young archeologists have been researching items they have found (gold coins, an astrolabe, tobacco, etc.) and learning about why these artifacts were important to exploration and the early American colonies.

Sorry no GPS, Droid App or Satellite imagery to help you find your way. Can you imagine that our early explorers were excited to find a compass and a map (the newest wave of modern technology at the time) in their Christmas stockings to help them navigate the waterways and countryside of the new world? Can you imagine what new ideas will be generated in a few 9 year old minds that might revolutionize Michigan's stagnant economy through the use of forests, wind turbines, lakes or tourism in the coming years?

Can you imagine that we might have a student (or a few hundred) who decide to make a difference in their neighborhood, their city, their state, their country or the world through politics, business, a humanitarian effort, ministry, professional sports, raising a family or a host of other venues. It is kind of exciting to think about, isn't it? You've got to love social studies!

Calendar

Friday, February 18, 2011

No school for students - staff reports

Monday, February 21, 2011

No school for students - Winter Break

Friday, March 11, 2011

No school for students - staff reports

Hudsonville Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, height, weight, marital status, handicap, disability, or limited English proficiency in any of its programs or activities. The following office has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:
Human Resource Director, Hudsonville Public Schools, 3886 Van Buren, Hudsonville, MI 49426, (616) 669-1740