

# The Appleseed

A Word From the Superintendent...

Dear Community,

## Beating the Odds

On November 8th, the Michigan Department of Education released a report that identified certain schools as “Beating the Odds”. Schools were identified by one of two studies utilizing Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) results. The first study looked at schools that scored considerably higher than the school buildings predicted success given the school building demographics. The second identified those schools that scored considerably higher than schools with similar demographics (similar free and reduced lunch population, special education population, etc.).

In the State of Michigan there are well over 3,500 schools. The Department of Education identified 60 schools “Beating the Odds” in the first study and 83 schools in the second study. Hudsonville Public Schools had three of our schools identified as “Beating the Odds”. That is, almost one third of all schools in Hudsonville School district were recognized by the State of Michigan. The State Department of Education shared that “Beating the Odds” schools are recognized for their *“common vision; highly qualified and dedicated staff; high academic and behavioral expectations; a collaborative school culture; commitment to technology; strong community and parent involvement; and staff commitment to do whatever it takes to help students succeed.”*

We must not forget there is danger in putting too much importance on a single test. What we are excited to report is that all our schools have the important qualities and characteristics that identify with quality schools.


## New South Elementary

On November 10th, the Hudsonville Board of Education approved the design plans for the new South Elementary School. As prescribed and outlined by our May 6th Bond Election, the new South will be located on the corner of Greenly Street and 24th Avenue. For more information, please visit our website at [www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org](http://www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org).

Thank you community for your continued support of our Hudsonville Public Schools.



Sincerely,



Superintendent

To conclude a theme on "Fall," the Hudsonville Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Program recently went on a field trip to Frederik Meijer Gardens for a Fall Color Tour! The ECSE Program is a special education program that services children ages three through six who display a developmental delay. The children in the ECSE Program receive a preschool experience that meets their individual needs through a hands-on and play-based curriculum. The color tour allowed the children the chance to experience a variety of activities which reinforced the concepts they have been learning about. This field trip also supported the program's parent component, as parents had the opportunity to tour along with their child. The field trip was a huge success!



Mrs. DeSmit's Monday/Wednesday kindergartners practiced their math skills at their pumpkin party on October 19. The event began with a short show for the parents with songs about Halloween. The students then weighed their pumpkins, measured the circumference, and counted seeds. After analyzing their pumpkins, they carved them and enjoyed a treat of cookies they frosted themselves.

## HUDSONVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION & INFORMATION NIGHT

Hudsonville Public Schools offers a play-based kindergarten readiness preschool curriculum that teaches positive self-concepts, social, physical, intellectual, and emotional development, language skills, and self-expression through large and small group learning. Programs offered through Early Childhood are:

- Before & After School Childcare
- Early Childhood Special Education
- Play to Learn
- 3 & 4 Year Old Preschool
- Summer Childcare
- Speech & Language Early Intervention
- Great Start Readiness Program
- Kindergarten Care

### Information Nights

(Identical information will be provided on both evenings.)

**Thursday, January 26, 2012**  
**Riley Middle School (2745 Riley St.)**  
**6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**Monday, January 30, 2012**  
**Bauer Elementary (8136 - 48th Ave.)**  
**6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**



Preschool  
will be located at  
multiple locations  
throughout the  
district.

Full & half day preschool registrations for the 2012-2013 school year will be accepted at the information nights. Registration for Kindergarten Care, Before & After School, and Summer Care will also be accepted. Registrations will be available online on January 26 (date of first registration night) at [www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org](http://www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org)

For more information, please call Shellie or Becky at 616-797-0842.



### WHAT MAKES UP A LEAF?

Third graders at Bauer worked together to sort and classify leaves. They were asked to sort their leaves based on observable characteristics like a scientist would. We had a wonderful assortment of leaves to look at through the microscope and with the document camera on the computer!

### Calendar

**Monday, December 19, 2011 -  
Monday, January 2, 2012**

Holiday Break

**Tuesday, January 3, 2012**

Classes resume

**Thursday, February 16, 2012 &  
Friday, February 17, 2012**

Winter Break - No school for students

### PARK STUDENT "PAYING IT FORWARD!"

This past summer, Maggie Hartman (Park 1st grader) decided to set her sights high to help others. Maggie worked hard all summer growing beautiful Cosmos, Zinnias, and Sunflowers and sold them in bundles at her own "Maggie's Flowers" stand for \$1 each. Amazingly, she was able to raise \$436! Even more amazing, she has chosen to use the majority of her profits to



purchase 28 Christmas presents for families in need this Christmas season. When asked why she wanted to do this Maggie responded

"I already got a ton of my own, I'm thinking (the kids I help) are going to be happy."



*Maggie Hartman, a big-hearted, first grader in Mrs. Faraci's class at Park Elementary was recently featured on Fox 17 News' "Pay it Forward" segment.*

### ALWARD MAP MAKERS

Alward Elementary third grade classes finished their Michigan Geography unit by making salt dough topographical maps. Students formed the physical features of Michigan using salt dough. After the dough dried and hardened, the students painted their maps during art class. Finally, students labeled important water and land features of Michigan and the surrounding Great Lakes. Pictured are Alward third graders Kaelyn Foltz, Brynne Obbink, and Lauren Nippa.





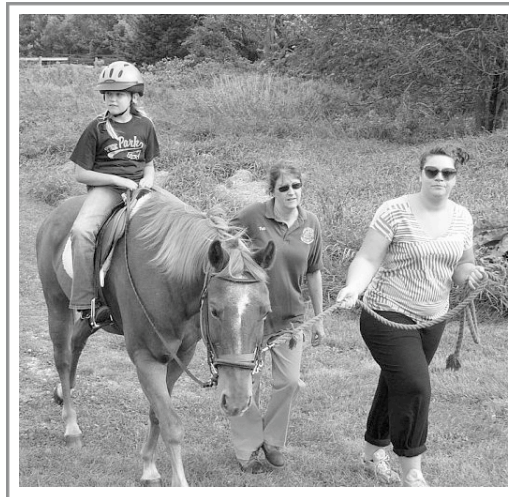
## BUSY BUILDERS - - CREATING THE CITY OF HUDSONVILLE

South Elementary second graders from Mrs. Kissane, Mrs. Broek, and Mrs. Hoekema's classrooms were assigned to build one special building or location from their community. All 60 second grade students worked together to build a giant map of the City of Hudsonville by placing the buildings on the appropriate "roads" in the gym.

This activity allowed the second graders to explore a map of their local community and better understand the spatial organization of their community by applying concepts of relative location, distance, direction, and scale. Parents were invited to help with the set-up of the city. One parent commented, "I think we are having as much fun as the kids!" All teachers were then invited to bring their classes down for a tour of the city. Students were shocked to see how realistic the buildings looked. This was a fun and educational project that was enjoyable for both students and their families.



## THANK YOU TO THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS!



Each year the Knights of Columbus donates money to the Special Education Department at Hudsonville Public Schools. At the November Board of Education meeting, Anna Hoekstra, Park Elementary Teacher of Cognitively Impaired students, gave a presentation on a six week horseback riding program that her students participated in with funds donated from the Knights of Columbus. The riding program took place at Kent Special Riding Program (KSRP) which is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing high quality therapeutic and recreational horseback riding instruction to physically, mentally and emotionally challenged individuals in Kent and surrounding counties.

KSRP strives to maximize the potential of all individuals involved in the program in a safe and stimulating environment. After Anna's presentation, Kevin Wilterink from the Knights of Columbus presented our Special Education Department a check for \$2,215.50. We greatly appreciate their faithful support of our special needs students. Without their donation, programs like these would not be possible.



## TEACHERS TEACH TEACHERS

Professional development for teachers comes in many forms, but we are always looking for ways to enhance the experience. Using the S.O.A.R. I goal of “Identifying effective professional development programming aligned with staff, building, and district goals” as our guide, secondary staff recently took part in a mini conference where teachers participated in several one hour sessions taught by their colleagues. Topics ranged from effective student engagement strategies, using data to guide instruction, reading and writing in the content areas, and many more!



The response from staff was overwhelmingly positive. Below are just a few of the many positive comments we received. We are currently in the process of planning our January 2 professional development day using a similar format with session topics to be led by our staff focusing on the use of technology as an effective teaching tool.

- ★ “This was as good or better than 90% of all in-services and conferences I've been to. We have some of the most knowledgeable and creative professionals in our district available. I think many of us gained ideas to provide new sessions if we do this again.”
- ★ “Friendly co-worker environment. I liked getting information from other staff members.”
- ★ “It was a great experience! I picked up several ideas that I am preparing to use in class. I hope that we do this again.”
- ★ “I loved this format! The sessions I attended gave me some ideas that I can easily use in my current lessons with students. The time was well spent....best PD day yet!”

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## TITLE I PARENT INFORMATION

Each year, the federal government provides funding for support services and materials for students identified as falling behind in grade level content standards and expectations. District assessment and standardized test scores are indicators of those students who would most benefit from these services. If your child has been identified for receiving the services provided in the building, you will receive a letter in the mail from your child's building principal or staff member. A plan will be put in place to assure your child will receive the appropriate support in order to achieve the academic goals of that grade level or course in the areas of reading, writing, or math. The support received may be short term or long term depending on the individual needs of each student. We believe each and every student can be successful in their academic journey if provided the right opportunities and with the help and support of parents.

As a parent of a student identified to receive support services, you are strongly encouraged to be involved in any of the planning for your child's success. On the Hudsonville Public Schools district website, you will find a tab for Title I. Under this tab, you will find our Board Policy language on Title I parent involvement and your rights as a parent to ask questions and be involved. Please contact your building principal if you would like to discuss how to be involved. Title I information meetings will be announced for you to attend in your child's building.

The Hudsonville Public Schools staff devote their time and effort to helping all students be successful. We are grateful for federal and state funding that allows us to add support services for any student falling behind. We know the power of working together as staff, students, and parents as we blend our contributions for the same common goal.



### APPLES DELIGHT THE SENSES!

The five senses came alive for the kindergarten classes at Georgetown Elementary. The four classes spent the morning exploring Moelkers' Orchard in Walker. The students enjoyed seeing fruit trees, picking and touching their own apple,



listening to new facts from "Miss Bonnie," and feeling the cold air inside the large refrigerator. The best part was using their sense of taste to enjoy fresh apple cider. It was a great trip to kick-off the fall season!

### ELVIS HAS ENTERED THE BUILDING

Any good teacher knows that every lesson should begin with an anticipatory set, a short introduction used to briefly expose students to the lesson's objective, but very few have ever thought of Elvis in that way, that is, until our first Curriculum Council meeting in October. Teachers began the morning by listening to an Elvis song on a record player, followed by a song played on an iPod, and then when they least expected it, Elvis himself entered the building to serenade them with a song.

The goal of this year's Curriculum Council is to study two of our S.O.A.R. I teaching and learning goals:

- Develop and initiate implementation of an instructional technology plan to support and enhance high quality teaching and learning
- Formalize a plan to infuse 21st Century Skills and College & Career Readiness Standards into K-12 instruction

By listening to an Elvis song in three different ways, we were able to demonstrate a connection between the two goals by showing teachers how technology and 21st century skill integration is not about the **tool** itself (the record player), or even the **skill** needed to manipulate the tool (the iPod), but ultimately our goal is to change the **mind set** so that students and teachers begin to view technology as just one of many ways to develop the expertise and content knowledge needed to be competitive in the 21st Century (the kind of skills necessary to perform "live" on the world stage!)

Our next Curriculum Council meeting will take place in January. Perhaps there will be a Beatles sighting since group work and collaboration are also important 21st Century Skills?!

### ARE YOUR READING FINGERS READY?

Kindergartners at Forest Grove Elementary are working hard every day to improve their literacy skills in both large and small groups. These eager youngsters were working on their sight word "on" while reading a fun book entitled, "Thanksgiving Dinner", when this picture was taken. What a fun way to practice their reading skills and to create some anticipation for our school's Thanksgiving Feast on November 22. Whether it is yummy pies, full bellies, time with family and friends, or having the ability to learn to read-- we sure have a lot to be thankful for, don't we?





## MANY HANDS FEED MANY CHILDREN!



Jamestown students were given the opportunity to participate in the Feed My Starving Children mobile pack event held Friday, October 7. Third, fourth, and fifth graders were given the challenge of raising money by doing odd jobs around the house, not just simply asking mom and dad for donations. On event day, more than 50 students and 10 adults went to DC Storage to help pack the actual meals.

Between the two groups that went on this day, more

than 24,500 meals were packed! Our students were told by the FMSC representatives that their efforts will feed over 60 children for one full year with all of the meals they assembled. It was such a blessing to serve. One of our third grade students commented, "We fed a lot of kids. We did something really important today." Even at the tender age of 8, in a challenging economy, it's still important to let our children know that there are many others who are in need, and we are called to bless them. Thanks so much, kids, for sharing the love of Jamestown Elementary with children around the world.



When Cinderella, Rapunzel, Little Red Riding Hood, and a scorned witch, venture in to the woods, who knows what will happen? The Steven Sondheim/James Lapine musical comedy, "Into the Woods" is coming to the stage at Hudsonville High School this January! This musical's characters are figures from children's fairy tales, but their stories run amiss as they venture "Into the Woods."

We will be performing the "Junior" version of the show so show times run just over an hour, perfect for children and parents alike! There will be a reception after each show for our audience and the cast members. \*The reception will be included in the price of your ticket.

**Tickets:**  
**\$10 adults,**  
**\$8 students**

Tickets will be available in the high school main office starting December 1st.

### Show Times:

- Thursday, January 12 at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, January 13 at 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday, January 15 at 2:00 p.m. ~ Matinee

If all shows sell out, we will open our final dress rehearsal on Wednesday, January 11, at 6:00 p.m. for \$5 at the door.



## 30 SECOND TIMEOUT

-by Kevin Wolma, Athletic Director

The past 16 years as a coach, teacher, and now the last ten years as a parent, have given me a unique perspective on youth/high school sports. As the new athletic director, I want to communicate, advise, and explore the challenges that parents face today when dealing with their children participating in athletics. My hope is that “30 Second Timeout” is a valuable resource that will enhance your experience and your child’s experience in educational athletics.



Why the name “30 Second Timeout?” I am a former basketball coach, and when things started to unravel on the court I would call a “30 Second Timeout” to regain our focus. Whether you are a parent of a child in little league, AYSO soccer, or a high school varsity athlete, there will be times when you need to take a “30 Second Timeout” to regain your focus. We have all witnessed the parent in the stands who yells at the officials or yells at their own kid when they make a mistake. How about the parent who coaches from the sidelines? Do they live through their child’s athletic accomplishments or failures? Are they worried about whether they make a team or whether they will get an athletic scholarship? Every one of us, including myself, will answer yes to some of these questions. Some of us may be the person I am describing. This commentary will hopefully provide insight and awareness to deal with all of these questions and much more.

As we move forward on tackling this sensitive, but real issue, I would like to lay a foundation on what the expectations are for every parent who has a child, young or old, that participates in athletics. I would like to call this the Hudsonville Parent Athletic Creed.

### Hudsonville Parent Athletic Creed

- 1. Parents will understand their role.** Parents parent, players play, officials officiate, and coaches coach. If you want your child to play at their highest level, then make sure they listen to their coach. Mixed messages from you will only cause confusion and a decrease in performance level.
- 2. Parents will support and encourage their child, teammates, and coaches no matter the outcome.** If you want to build a solid relationship with your son/daughter, be sure to tell them after the game, win or lose, that you are proud of them and to keep listening to their coach.
- 3. Parents will act with the highest class possible in all situations.** This means no yelling at officials, players, or coaches. You may not realize this but it *embarrasses* your kid. Every athletic event should be a positive experience for the parents, players, and coaches.
- 4. Parents will allow their children to face adversity.** Athletic seasons are long and unpredictable. There will be good days and there will be bad days. Your son/daughter will never play enough nor will they be happy every second. Support them but do not solve their problems. Let them face adversity. Perseverance is one of the greatest attributes sports can teach athletes.

The vision set forth for Hudsonville athletics is expecting nothing but the best from our athletes, coaches, and parents in the arena and outside the arena. Parents play an incredible role in creating that culture of excellence by the actions they display in the stands, on the car ride home, and at the dinner table. Take a moment to remind yourself of the Hudsonville Athletic Creed during those “30 Second Timeouts.” Please join me on this crazy, sometimes frustrating, but extremely rewarding journey we are all embarking on together. See you at the games!

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