

Muskegon

M I R R O R M I B B O B



Muskegon Public Schools
Vol. 31 • April 2014

Superintendent's Message	2 ::
MLK Day of Service	2 ::
From Garbage to Garden	3 ::
Kindergarten Roundup	4 ::
Schools of Choice	4 ::
Athletics	5 ::
After School at Moon	6 ::
National Honor Society	7 ::
Muskegon Museum of Art	8 ::

Superintendent's Message to the Community

On behalf of the Board of Education, I want to say "Thank You" to the community members of our district for your support of the Technology and Security Millage on February 25, 2014. Your approval of a one-mill property tax increase will generate approximately \$161.00 per student every year for the next ten years. This tax increase will provide Muskegon Public Schools with an additional \$725,000 per year when you factor 4,500 students x \$161 per student. Muskegon Public Schools has compiled a list of priorities which include: increased building security and the number of security cameras throughout the district; provide greater technology access for students and staff; provide ongoing and enhanced training for staff; improve wireless and wired networks

to support additional devices; and maintain a replacement cycle for classroom technologies, computer labs and laptop carts.



Jon Felske,
Superintendent
Muskegon Public
Schools

We are now meeting with staff members in deciding which of the above needs require immediate attention and which will be addressed in future years.

I recently asked our building principals to share their *Points of Pride* with our MPS community. At Lakeside

Elementary, 6th graders are leading in a school-wide challenge for positive behavior! Muskegon Middle School students and staff raised \$1,000 for "Pennies for Patients"! Oakview 6th graders enjoyed the Winter Sports Complex in a day filled with winter sports: lugging, skiing, snowshoeing, and iceskating. Nelson held a Semester Celebration for students with zero referrals and great attendance. MHS hosted the Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association District Band Festival with MHS band scoring one's and both MHS and MMS orchestras scoring two's at the festival.

Monthly *Points of Pride* can be viewed on the district web site at www.muskegonpublicschools.org

Go Big Reds!

MLK Day of Service

On January 20, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, ninety students gathered to perform community service at Muskegon High School. Those gathered included students from the National Honor Society, Student Leadership, Upward Bound, Teen Health Clinic Advisory Board, BOOM Youth (Dept. of Public Health), YUP (Community Encompass), JROTC, 21st Century Project STAAR afterschool program, and other volunteer students from the high school. Students assembled food baskets for 48 needy families, washed lockers, cleaned chairs, washed windows and other major housekeeping in the building.

At 3:00 p.m. more than 500 community members were inspired by a concert and program in the

MHS auditorium. The program, titled "**PEACE Muskegon ... Celebrate the Legacy ... Act on the Dream**", featured musical performances by the MLK Community Choir, various MPS choirs, and Christian rap artist James "Timothy" White; student written essay readings; and a presentation by local educator and mentor Chauncy Williams.

Williams' presentation focused on the importance of avoiding drugs and violence, and focusing on reaching one's goals. Williams told the audience that motivation, self-discipline, critical intelligence, courage and competition are five keys to reaching your dreams.

The program also honored MPS' student winners of the MLK, Jr. essay

writing contest. This year's winners were: Muskegon High School 9th grader - Devin Sanders, Muskegon Middle School 8th grader - Jasmine Croff, Lakeside Elementary School 5th grader - Aniyah Ford, and Nelson Elementary School 3rd grader - Xavier Reed.

Following the program, guests were invited to view student art exhibits, visit vendor booths, and partake in a community dinner.

As King so eloquently stated, "Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal." So say **yes** to PEACE Muskegon, ... Celebrate the Legacy ... Act on the Dream!



By Marti Johnson

Marquette Elementary students are becoming garbage collectors...in an environmentally good way! Every school day, during lunch, they sort uneaten and leftover food, which will become compost and ultimately grow vegetables, flowers and herbs this spring in raised beds on the school's property.

At the beginning of the year, Marquette's Social Studies Committee searched for a project that involved not only the whole school but the community as well. Amy Donaldson, Speech Therapist, and Catherine Freeland, 2nd grade teacher, helped develop the school/community/composting project idea. Debra Warren, Registered Dietitian for

Food for Thought at Pioneer Resources, presented information to the Committee teachers' four classrooms on composting basics and how the Marquette/Pioneer Resources partnership would work. In November 2013, the composting program began.

Students from Amanda DeHaan's 3rd grade, Kitty LaVigne's 2nd grade, Catherine Freeland's 2nd grade, and Dylan Darga's 4th grade classes now team up during their lunch periods to educate and help other students compost their leftover food. Over 600 students help compost school-wide, but only the students in the four classes listed above help facilitate the composting. Pioneer Resources picks up the compost material twice a week and deposits it in their giant composting bins, where they have created a successful compost "recipe". In about 6 months, the compost will be delivered for use in Marquette's garden and flowerbeds.

"Our social studies curriculum talks about the 'Role of the Citizen in American Democracy' and focuses on working together as a school/community to promote a positive environment," Principal Ann Moore

explains. "Teaching students that they CAN have an impact on what happens around them in their community is a huge piece. We don't want these students thinking just because they are young that they have no effect on what happens around them in their community. Students are planting seeds, tilling gardens, making compost, and many other hands-on activities that promotes the curriculum and produces visible outcomes."

For more information about composting at home:

- http://eartheasy.com/grow_compost.html
- <http://www.organicgardening.com/learn-and-grow/5-easy-steps-fast-compost>
- <http://organicgardening.about.com/od/compost/a/diganddrop.htm>



Accepting patients through age 21 for medical, dental, or behavioral health care

~

Medicaid, Private Insurance, and Sliding Fee Scale Accepted

~

For Appointments Call (231) 733-6680



TEEN HEALTH CENTER

Hours
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 7:45 am - 4:30 pm
 [Closed 12:30 - 1:00 pm for lunch]
 Wednesday 11:00 am - 4:30 pm

Located in Muskegon High School J Building, Room E113, 80 W. Southern Avenue

Offering Sports Physicals for ALL Athletic Sports

Roundup Time at Elementary Buildings

It's time to get your 3- to 5-year-old child ready for school next fall by attending Roundup at any one of Muskegon Public Schools' five elementary buildings.

At Roundup, you can meet the school principal, visit classrooms, talk to teachers and fill out necessary paperwork.

All elementary schools in the district will hold Roundup in the spring (see chart). Parents attending Roundup should bring their child's birth certificate, immunization record, and two proofs of residency in the school district (for example, a rent receipt or utility bill).

- Every elementary school in the district offers all-day kindergarten.
- Head Start, a federally funded preschool program for 3- and 4-year-olds, is available at Glenside School
- Great Start Readiness Program

(GSRP), available at several MPS buildings, is a preschool experience for 4-year-olds that focuses on promoting productive learning attitudes and fostering positive self-images.

ROUNDUP SCHEDULE

Lakeside Elementary	Wednesday, April 23	1:30 - 7 pm
Marquette Elementary	Wednesday, April 23	1 - 4 pm
Moon Elementary	Wednesday, April 30	9 - 11 am & 1 - 3 pm
Nelson Elementary	Monday, April 21	1 - 5 pm
Oakview Elementary	Wednesday, April 2	4 - 6:30 pm
Two Way Immersion at Glenside <i>(Spanish/English)</i>	Tuesday, April 15	5 - 6 pm

In-District and Out-of-District Choice

New procedures are in place for both In-District Transfers and Out-of-District Schools of Choice.

In-district families have options about which school their children attend. If you live in the Muskegon Public Schools district, you must apply for an in-district transfer by **May 23**. Forms are available at the main office of district school buildings.

In-district transfers will be accepted based upon both grade and building capacity. Parents of in-district transfer students are responsible for their student's transportation to and from school.

The county-wide Schools of Choice Program gives families the opportunity to enroll their children in any school outside their home district **if space is available**. Transferring students must be students in good standing, and families must assume responsibility

for transportation to and from their new school.

Out-of-district families who want to transfer into Muskegon Public Schools need to complete a Schools of Choice application, available at the main office of district school buildings, starting **April 14**. Completed applications must be returned **no later than May 23**. According to the county-wide agreement among area school districts, applications received after May 23 will not be considered.

Families will be notified of their student's acceptance by July 1.

In-District Transfers and Out-of-District Schools of Choice parents and students must understand and agree to the following regulations:

1. Transfer/Choice Students will remain in their Choice school for the entire school year.

2. Muskegon Public Schools does not transport Transfer/Choice Students.

3. Transfer/Choice Students will maintain excellent attendance. Absences and/or tardies in excess of fifteen (15) days will void Choice status.

4. Good citizenship will be maintained. Ten (10) days or more of suspension or repeated disciplinary actions will void Choice status.

5. Transfer/Choice parents will participate in parent/teacher conferences.

6. Muskegon Public Schools reserves the right to limit enrollment based on the capacity of buildings or programs, as well as the failure of the applicant to meet any special requirements for entry into those buildings or programs.

Families with questions about Schools of Choice or transferring to a different school inside the school district may call Dee Carlson at 720-2545.

: Big Red Tradition Shines on Athletic Programs

: By Marti Johnson

: The **Big Reds Athletic Program**, under the direction of Keith Guy, Muskegon High School Athletic Director (AD), honors the Tradition of Excellence that has graced the school for 100+ years. It's a huge job, even without the pressure of **tradition**, but Guy loves it. "It's fun dealing with coaches, fans, athletes," Guy explained as he multi-tasked in his office during the interview. Weather-related game cancellations cause the most frustrations in his job. And as Spring Sports practice started March 10th, he already knows there will be games to re-schedule, especially due to field conditions. "Safety first," he stressed. "You can't play on fields partially snow-covered or frozen and expect conditions to be safe and without injuries. Practices will begin in the gym, and we'll take it from there."

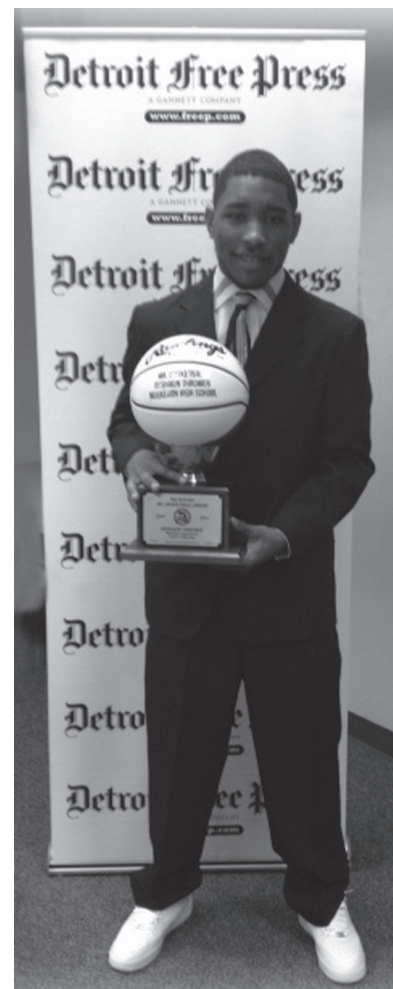
: If being AD in an OK Black Conference school wasn't enough, Guy also took the job of Boys Varsity Basketball Coach two years ago. This season's accomplishments have not only carried on Big Red Tradition but set a "first ever" regular season 20-0 record and earned the team a #1 ranking in Michigan and #18 in the country! The OK Black Conference Champs added the MHSAA District trophy on March 7th and the Regional Trophy on March 12th to the huge display case in the Redmond-Potter Gym hall across from Guy's office. (The Big Reds move to Semi Finals at this story's deadline). Under Guy's tutelage, Big Red Senior Deshaun Thrower signed a full-ride basketball scholarship at Stony Brook University, and Junior Deyonta Davis has committed to Michigan State University.

Another aspect of an AD's job is monitoring athletes' academic eligibility and that is a fulltime job in and unto itself. That's where Keith Williams, Student Athlete Academic Advisor, enters the picture. Williams constantly checks athletes' grades and behavior to make sure school and state eligibility requirements are met. Over 350 students participate in various sports throughout the school year and that doesn't count the ones who play multiple sports. Study Tables (required after school time) offer athletes homework assistance as well as specific time in their practice schedule devoted to academics. It pays off on many levels. "Students learn life skills when they play sports," Williams emphasized. "Because of sports, it (also) helps makes teachers' lives a little easier."

Other sports program notes:

- Seven Big Red football players made the All-Conference 1st team; five made honorable mention;
- Big Reds Football were back-to-back Champions in Division 2 District, Regional, and as State Finalists;
- Two Lady Reds Varsity Volleyball players took Conference Honorable Mention out of 5 awards given;
- Two Varsity Boys Soccer players made All-Conference and one received Honorable Mention;
- Three Competitive Cheer members received All-Conference honors; one was awarded Honorable Mention;
- Four Wrestlers made All-Conference and two made All-Area;
- One bowler made All-Conference.

Muskegon's rich tradition supports "nurturing student athletes, demanding excellence on and off the field/court," Guy concluded. "It's a lot of work, but worth the effort."



Muskegon senior Deshaun Thrower wins the Mr. Basketball award for the 2014 season. The 2014 Hal Schram Mr. Basketball award is given to the top senior in the state as voted by the Michigan High School Basketball Coaches Association.

**Go
Big Reds!**

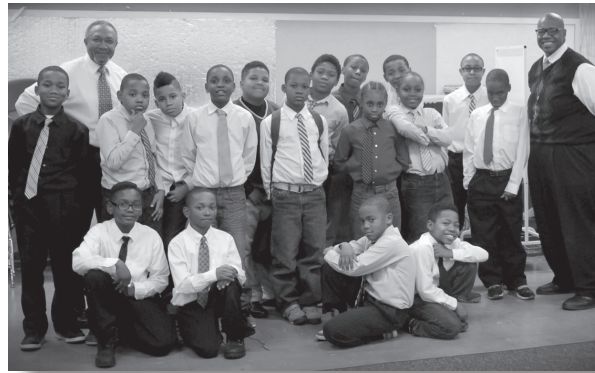
Academic and Social Goals Highlight Moon's After School Program

By Marti Johnson

Eighty-six Moon Elementary students voluntarily stay after school every Wednesday for an hour and a half. The girls wear "dress up" clothes; the boys dress shirts and ties. And they learn about how to succeed as developing adolescents, which will carry them into adulthood.

The program, "Young Ladies of Excellence" and "Young Men of Destiny" is a home-grown program, according to Principal Okeelah McBride, which began this school year. This program is based on the book, *Motivating Black Males to Achieve in School and in Life* by Baruti K. Kafele, renowned educator, principal and motivational speaker. The book offers strategies to overcome the "attitude gap – the gap between those students who have the will to strive for academic excellence and those who do not". Kafele's advice applies to females and all races as well.

Moon's program is a prevention/intervention program, targeting attendance, behavior, and academic performance. McBride explains, "The primary objective is the transition of young males into gentlemen and young girls into young ladies. The



Moon Elementary School's Young Men of Destiny with Mr. John Smith, Youth Safety Advocate and Mr. Art Duren, Dean of Students

process increases student awareness of the importance of quality education through activities, experiences and a curriculum promoting better decision-making, and focusing on natural assets and gifts that boys and girls bring to the learning table."

Students meet weekly with a facilitator to complete activities that are geared toward the program's goals, which help young girls and boys mature mentally, physically and emotionally. These meetings also include guest speakers from the community and peer-led discussions. All meetings are formal with appropriate attire.

Although in the beginning stages, the program is already producing positive results. "We have noticed that the students are taking pride in

their school by keeping hallways and restrooms nice and clean," McBride indicated. "They have also been given the responsibility of reporting problems to advisers to help keep the school safe and a fun place to be. With this responsibility students feel empowered to be role models for others in the building."

The program's initial organizer was Miss Kristi Weberg. Principal McBride, Dean of Students Art Duren, Youth Safety Advocate John Smith, Head Custodian Kin McAllister, and teachers Brittani Moore, Fran Ward, Angela Johnson, Teresa Cunningham, Safornia Johnson-Pierce, collaborated and developed Moon's program. Students interested in joining either program should contact any of these staff members.

Reach up to
20,000 Households
by Direct Mail

Become an Advertising Sponsor
and help offset the cost of the newsletter to
Muskegon Public Schools.

For more information contact:
Mark Williamson • 231-766-3038
or email: mark@orshalrdproductions.com

Summer FUN

Muskegon Area Career Tech Center

for middle school students
Incoming 6th, 7th, and 8th grade
students can explore exciting
careers June 16-19 & June 23-26,
2014 at the Muskegon Area
Career Tech Center.

**DO MORE
THIS SUMMER**

Call 231.767.3600 or visit muskegoncareertech.com for details

New National Elementary Honor Society Chapters Chartered

By Marti Johnson

Establishing a Lakeside Elementary Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS), which was chartered with the NEHS National Office in Reston, Virginia in the Fall of 2013, was the brain-child of Principal Mrs. Gay Monroe. She took the idea to Dean of Students Geoff Zietlow, who became the chapter's adviser, and the selection/eligibility process is now underway for Lakeside students earning their way to apply. Potential members must be in 4th through 6th grades and must have maintained a 3.5 grade point average (GPA) for an entire semester. Twenty-five fourth graders, 19 fifth graders and 17 sixth graders meet that basic requirement. Once selected, students will be inducted into NEHS in a specially-designed ceremony that reflects the school's traditions, goals, priorities and community values.

"Lakeside's parents are proud their children have been nominated for inclusion in the NEHS," Zietlow commented. "They are excited their students will be involved in completing service projects that benefit their school and community."

NEHS is a program of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NAESP) in cooperation with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). This new program, according to its website www.nehs.org, is designed for all elementary schools and includes two primary functions:

1. Recognizing the accomplishments of students -- the whole child, specifically the full range of a student's academic achievements and the ability to be a responsible student at school, at home, and in the community.

2. Involving students as members participating in the activities of the chapter; and involving all students through leadership development and service activities, enhancing the culture of achievement in the school.

In addition, NEHS provides information and resources for chapters from the NEHS National Handbook, to its Web site with information and advice for advisers, parents and students. A national staff assists in



establishing and maintaining chapters, and insignia is available to recognize NEHS members.

NEHS membership benefits have short and long-term effects on students. NEHS also sets the stage and prepares students for National Honor Society at the Middle and High School levels. "It promotes and rewards excellence in academic achievement and involvement in leadership and service," Zietlow pointed out. "NEHS engages its members in leadership development that helps improve life in the community as well as at school."

Oakview Elementary also has an NEHS chartered chapter. Nelson, Marquette and Moon Elementary Schools are looking forward to joining as well.



Summer Classes Start May 12
REGISTER TODAY
www.MuskegonCC.edu/Summer



Muskegon Community College

On the cover

Pictured on the cover of this issue of the *Muskegon Mirror* are Schools of Choice students Faith and N'Kaylah Woods along with their parents Fredrina and Warren Woods.

Muskegon Board of Education

- Louis Churchwell • President
- Cindy Larson • Vice President
- Marian Michalski • Secretary
- Billie J. Bruce • Treasurer
- Earl W. O'Brien • Trustee
- G. Lynnette Marks • Trustee
- Tasha Bibbs-Oakes • Trustee

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MUSKEGON, MI
PERMIT NO. 554

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER



The "Muskegon Mirror" is published three times each year by Muskegon Public Schools, 349 W. Webster Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49440. Muskegon Public Schools accepts advertising to defray the cost of production and distribution and appreciates the support of its advertisers. Muskegon Public Schools does not specifically endorse advertisers or their products or services. Please contact Mark Williamson with inquiries at (231) 766-3038 or email to: mark@orshaldproductions.com

Lea esta edición del "Muskegon Mirror" en español. Encuentre la versión electrónica en la siguiente dirección, www.muskegonpublicschools.org/mirror

Muskegon Museum of Art

EXHIBITIONS

**Buster Keaton's Bluffton:
A Graphic Novel by Matt Phelan
Now through May 25, 2014**

Step back into local history and the heyday of vaudeville and Buster Keaton with an exhibition of original illustrations from the new, acclaimed graphic novel *Bluffton, My Summers with Buster Keaton* by Pennsylvania-based artist and Newbery Medal winner Matt Phelan.

Bluffton tells the story of Henry, a young boy who befriends the most famous resident of Muskegon's Bluffton neighborhood Actors' Colony. Tucked into the Bluffton neighborhood, the Colony was a remarkable place in the first decades of the 20th century. The nation's vaudevillians made their summer

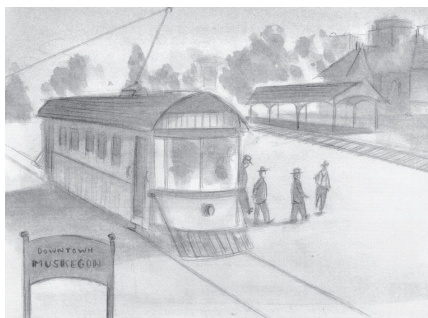


Illustration from *Bluffton, My Summers with Buster Keaton* by Matt Phelan

residence here, working up fresh material for upcoming seasons and, more importantly, unwinding and enjoying Muskegon's still-incredible lakeshore.

**Translating Reality: Representation in Glass
Now through May 11, 2014**

Technical advances in studio glass have enabled artists to push the

boundaries of what they are able to create, moving beyond the vessel to make sculptural objects that depict the world around us. Using blowing, casting, lampwork, and cold working, and some combining glass with found objects, metal, and paint, the artists in this exhibition have given shape to figures, interiors, animals, and still-lives. Technique is integral to the content of the art, as the character of the glass shapes how the object is made and perceived.

VISITOR INFORMATION

The **Muskegon Museum of Art** is located at 296 W. Webster in beautiful downtown Muskegon. Call 231-720-2570 or visit www.muskegonartmuseum.org for information.