



M I R R O R
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Muskegon



Muskegon Public Schools
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Superintendent's Message to the Community

In 2013 a group of community leaders were meeting to talk about how to provide quality adult supervised activities for school aged students after school and into the early evening hours. After numerous meetings, the group visited both Holland and Grand Rapids area Boys and Girls Clubs to have a better understanding of the vision and mission of a Boys and Girls Club. In 2014 numerous additional meetings with Dana Pink the state director of the Boys and Girls Club led to the official recognition of a Board of Directors for the future Muskegon Lakeshore Boys and Girls Club. Since the summer of 2014, over one million dollars has been raised to support three years of operational expenses for the new Club. With funding secured, Muskegon Public Schools and the Board of Education approved the usage of Nelson Elementary to

house the new Club. In January of 2015 Dakota Crow was hired as the director of the new Club. Dakota comes from West Plains, Missouri



Jon Felske,
Superintendent
Muskegon Public
Schools

where he had very successfully increased the number of daily participants at his Boys and Girls Club.

With great anticipation the Board of Directors looks forward to the grand opening taking place on Monday, April 13, 2015. The Club is scheduled to be open Monday – Friday, 2:30pm – 7:30pm daily.

Club activities will include extended academic opportunities, a game room, structured gym and green space activities and media center access. The cost of an annual membership is only \$5 per student.

I would like to thank Muskegon County Prosecutor D.J. Hilson for his leadership as board president, and local business men Tom Tuttle and Michael Youngdahl for their extensive efforts in securing the necessary three years of operational revenue to open the doors.

I encourage all students, parents and family members of Muskegon Public Schools to visit and learn more about the opportunities this new Club will provide to the young people of the City of Muskegon.

Introducing the Newest School Board Member By Marti Johnson

Don't let his age fool you: Zachery Allen Anderson, 22, has the commitment and enthusiasm to make his recent election to the Muskegon School Board a valid choice by voters.

Anderson's motivation to run for School Board results from his own positive school experiences. "Growing up in a broken home, I found stability [in] going to school every day," he explained. "I had some absolutely astounding teachers that mentored me and made me into the man I am today. I wouldn't be where I am if it were not for my teachers. Thinking about how I could best impact my community and students in my position, I ran for School Board."

He credits former State Representative and MPS teacher Colleen Lamonte for sparking his interest in running for the Board position. As campaign manager for Cathy Forbes, candidate for 34th District State Senate candidate, Anderson's favorite part of that job was meeting people and helping to solve problems. Both are things he plans to do with his constituents.

Learning the history of Muskegon Public Schools and being a productive Board member are two of Anderson's short-term goals. His three, major long-term goals are to improve the infrastructure of the facilities, increase the graduation rate and increase the college enrollment rate. Only four

years out of high school himself, he's likely to connect to students as well as their parents.

Connecting to the community is foremost in Anderson's goals. A Glenside resident who plans to get involved in the Glenside Neighborhood Association, Anderson represents the entire District.

Feel free to contact Zak, a Detroit Tiger and Miguel Cabrera fan, at (231) 571-8978 or zachary.allen.anderson2@gmail.com.

Go Big Reds!

Stand-Out MHS/MACTC Senior Wins State Recognition

By Marti Johnson

To be named Volunteer of the Year is an honor and accomplishment unto itself. Michaela Harman-Wilson, Muskegon High School (MHS) and Muskegon Area Career Technical Center (MACTC) senior, earned that designation on December 4, 2014 at the State Citizen Corps' annual conference at Traverse City's Great Wolf Lodge. "I nominated Michaela for this award because of her maturity and her willingness to learn," commented Rhona Colbert, Executive Director of the Muskegon County Citizen Corps. Michaela received her award from State Citizen Corps coordinator Jane Younts.

The Michigan Citizen Corps Program helps communities coordinate volunteers to prepare for and respond to local emergencies. It trains and engages volunteers to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to all emergencies and disasters, including terrorism threats, natural disasters, crime, public health issues, etc. Citizen Corps support activities are especially important during major disasters when first responders may be initially

overwhelmed. Muskegon County's Citizen Corps Council, in existence since 2004, manages and adapts activities to meet the community's needs. Colbert met Michaela during FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Administration) and CERT (Community Emergency Response Training) classes, required for MACTC's Criminal Justice students. "Michaela's enthusiasm and willingness to help others when testing" made her stand out



Michaela Harman-Wilson, Teenage Volunteer of the Year

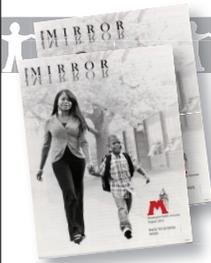
according to Colbert. In addition, Michaela volunteered as a "victim" in a state-wide disaster drill at Ferris State University in May, 2014. Last September she participated as the scribe for the Incident Commander in a Federal, State and local drill in Muskegon, for which she received

high praise for her accurate, thorough and professional performance. "She is energetic, motivated and always willing to help out. Her skills as an emerging leader are very evident. I look forward to working with Michaela in the future," summarized Colbert.

Her leadership skills were evident "in an MACTC class project; a school-wide challenge," explained Karen Reynolds, Criminal Justice Instructor. "The class decided to enter the challenge and the contest, *Seatbelts Save Lives* campaign, on-line through NOYS (National Organization for Youth Safety). Many students were involved but Michaela was our voice. We received word that our project made the Top Ten nationally!"

View the video: <http://www.viddler.com/v/546384c9?secret=101990578>

MHS counselor, Bridget Fox, summed up Michaela. "She's the whole package: caring, considerate, likable, smart... an all-around young lady." Michaela will attend Ferris State University with a \$3,500 annual scholarship to study Criminal Justice and become a police officer.



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On the cover

Pictured on the cover of this issue of the Muskegon Mirror is Deyonta Davis; MHS senior, McDonald's All-American, Michigan 2015 Mr. Basketball, Gatorade's Michigan Player of the Year, Jordan Brand Classic team member and MSU signee.

It's 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 22	1:30 - 7 pm
Marquette Elementary	Wednesday, April 22	10 - 2 pm
Moon Elementary	Thursday, April 30	9 - 11 am & 1 - 5 pm
Nelson Elementary	Thursday, April 30	Noon - 5 pm
Oakview Elementary	Thursday, April 23	4 - 6 pm
Two Way Immersion at Glenside <i>(Spanish/English)</i>	Thursday, April 16	5:30 - 7:30 pm

Schools of Choice & In-District Transfers

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 22**. 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 13**. Completed applications must be returned **no later than May 22**. According to the county-wide agreement among area school districts, applications received after May 22 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.

School Wellness Centers Open

By Marti Johnson

Back in “the day” schools had a nurse’s office where students went when feeling ill during class. Gradually, over time, those services ceased for various reasons.

The return of in-school health care in Muskegon Public Schools began in 2005 with the opening of the School Wellness Center in Steele Middle School, now Muskegon Middle, by Hackley Community Care (HCC). With its success came the idea for a health center in Muskegon High School and the submission of a state planning grant application in 2009. Although the state did not fund that request, it didn’t stop HCC from fundraising \$100,000, which was matched three to one by Federal money, to open the Teen Health Center (THC) in 2010.

Because these centers have done so well, HCC was awarded a state grant to develop a three-year pilot School Network Hub health center model program that provides care for underserved children and youth. As one of three State grant recipients, Judy Pruiam, LBSW and HCC Program Manager, is thrilled with this opportunity to offer health

care through the schools to the community. “The Pilot [designation] doesn’t limit you in what you can do,” she explained. “By gathering data, we can identify barriers [to accessing health care] and reduce or eliminate them.”

The Teen Health Center will be the HUB for four satellite sites, one each at Nelson Elementary and Marquette Elementary, and two others outside the District. THC provides full clinical health services: Behavioral, Medical and Dental. Staffed by a Master-level Licensed Therapist, all satellite schools have Behavior Health services that provide individual and family counseling, screenings, prevention and early intervention in areas such as bullying and suicide prevention. Additionally, Marquette’s Health Center has a Registered Nurse on staff.

The Middle and High School Centers have shown the program’s success in a number of ways. “More kids are staying in school [instead of going home with minor ailments]”, Pruiam clarified. “We are able to connect kids to medical and dental offices for those without a doctor or dentist. Students are in

and out of the centers in 15 to 20 minutes, so they don’t miss much class time for school-time appointments. In addition there is a bilingual counselor at the THC and a bilingual clerk and behavior therapist at Marquette to service the non or limited English speaking clients.”

The Wellness Centers will not turn anyone away due to the inability to pay. All insurances and Medicaid are accepted; co-payment and/or an income-based sliding scale payment are collected for services.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Muskegon Teen Health Center Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 7:45am – 4:30pm; Wednesday, 11am – 4:30pm. 231.733-6680

Nelson Elementary Network HUB Site: Monday – Friday, 8am – 4:30pm. 231-720-2224

Marquette Elementary Network HUB Site: Monday – Friday, 8am – 4:30pm. 231-720-2607



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Wednesday 11:00 am - 4:30 pm

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Lakeside's Peer Buddies Partner with Kindergarteners

By Marti Johnson

Ask any of the 26 Kindergarteners in Kathy Kuharevicz's Lakeside Elementary classroom what they look forward to every Monday after lunch and they'll excitedly tell you, "SMR and Peer Buddies!!" Translated that's Sensory Motor Room and the fourth grade helpers from Mrs. Northuis's third/fourth split class.

The Peer Buddies program began last year when Kuharevicz, (Mrs. K), realized additional helpers were needed to make SMR run more smoothly and effectively. She also saw older kids who needed to do something extra to boost their self-esteem and confidence. Sixth graders were recruited and everyone benefited. When they left for the Middle School, replacements were needed; the "Great Eight" (nicknamed by Kuharevicz) were selected because their schedule best aligned to the Kindergarteners'.

"These 'Great Eight' rotate in groups of four every other week. They assist my children at large motor stations by encouraging turn taking, making sure they're safe, using language with them to increase vocabulary, and to

simply interact and have fun!", Mrs. K described. "They are Brielle Dean, Brenden Ely, Tyson Farrell, Dominic Farr, Faith Hale, Kemiah Halasinski-Anderson, Paige Nash and Hailey Strait."

The SMR looks like an indoor playground with various "stations" through which the students, in their socks - no shoes are allowed - rotate every three minutes. Each activity is supervised by a Peer Buddy and/or an adult. Each session begins with the Physical Therapy Assistant, Keri Brott, Michelle Emmory, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, or Colleen Halloran-VanderWier, Physical Therapist, reiterating room rules. Then in groups of three, students are assigned to a beginning station where the activities might range from balancing in Yoga positions, to finding the way through a maze with a "Hot Wheels" car, to jumping on a trampoline, to rolling down a slide while sitting on a 4-wheeled scooter, to hand-paddling the scooter while lying on stomachs, to rolling Play Doh into long, thin rolls or matching stenciled alphabet letters at the fine

motor table. At the session's close, everyone gathers for final stretches and recites their "I am..." mantra before returning to their shoes and classroom.



Lakeside Peer Buddies work together in the Sensory Motor Room



Speaking about the Kindergarteners, Buddy Paige Nash "loves their cute faces"; Tyson Farrell likes that he "gets to know them better." And all the Peer Buddies agreed that their Principal needs to know: "We all love this and want to do it again next year!"

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: Beating the Odds

: By Marti Johnson

: The odds are 1 in 160,000+, only somewhat better than winning the Lottery.

: Savannah Manning, a Muskegon High School (MHS) senior, didn't consider those odds when she took the 2013 PSAT/NMSQT, preliminary tests which assess the critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills students need for college and beyond. She checked the answer sheet box entering her in the National Achievement® Scholarship Program (NAS), an academic competition established in 1964 to provide recognition for outstanding Black American high school students, and the 2015 National Merit® Program. The next thing she knew, the odds improved when she was named a Semi-Finalist last September and a Finalist in January. Now Savannah is one of 800 who's eligible for a National Achievement® \$2500 Scholarship or a Corporate-sponsored Achievement Scholarship award. Scholarship awards will be announced in April.

: Savannah seriously values her education; her 3.94 GPA and being

ranked 4th in her Senior class proves that commitment.



Savannah Manning, NASP Finalist

She includes her mom, sister and teacher/mentors in her support group as she prepares for college where she plans to major in criminal psychology and minor in theater. A dual-enrollee at Muskegon Community College, Savannah stays active at MHS where she is in the National Honor Society, secretary of the Gay/Straight Alliance, Secretary/Treasurer of the Masque Club, 1st base/right fielder on the Varsity Softball team and has had major roles in MHS Theatrical productions including the upcoming Spring Play "Wiley and the Hairy Man" on April 17th.

Columbia University is Savannah's choice as she has "always wanted to be in New York City. Columbia has a great law program, and the City offers such a variety of cultures and theater opportunities. NYC is a city I want to get lost in!", she exclaims. She would love to get a part in a theater production and has the aspiration of someday being on the "big screen". But realistically, that's a dream and a law career is more likely.

Whatever the future holds for Savannah, success will be a part of it. Shawndra Sain, MHS counselor, describes Savannah as "a well-rounded young lady, extremely humble, and one who doesn't take any opportunity afforded her for granted. She advocates for what is right and just with a genuine concern for others and is capable of a high level of success."

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Alumni News & Achievements

Alumni	Class	College	Degree	Major
Earvean Diggs	2009	Spring Arbor	BSW	Social Work
Leah Dodge	2009	MSU	BS	Social Science
Cecelia Bosma	2005	GVSU	BS	Biomedical Science
Katie Goss	2010	WMU	BS	Health Services
Elizabeth Marks	2010	U of M	BS	Electrical Engineering
Joni Marsaw	2007	Xavier University	Pharm.D.	Pharmacy
Dez’Raii Phillips	2008	WMU	BS	Early Childhood Education
David Spears	2008	MSU	BS	Mechanical Engineering
Katie Vanderleest	2007	Ferris State	BS	Health Care Systems Admin
Marcina Whittington	2001	Virginia State	Ph.D.	Health Psychology

Attention MHS Graduates - We would love to hear from you! Email your post-graduation information to dcarlson@mpsk12.net including your name, year you graduated from MHS, college attended, degree, major, and any other information you’d like to share. We will feature your news on Facebook, Twitter, and MPS web site. Go BIG REDS!