

Muskegon

M I R R O R

W I B B O B



MHS Choir provides Holiday cheer to board meeting.



Muskegon Public Schools Newsletter • Vol. 46 • January 2019

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SUPERINTENDENTS ARTICLE by Justin M. Jennings



Justin M. Jennings
Superintendent, Ed.S
Muskegon Public Schools

Dear Muskegon Big Red Family,

The first marking period of the 2018-2019 school year is almost over, and winter sports are warming up. The school district's state and national testing will be on the top of our agenda as we start the new year. As we head toward 2020-2021, we are seeking input from the community and staff about our facility and academic needs. This preparation will help us plan ahead for a possible school bond election. A steering committee is in place, and several smaller District Comprehensive Planning Committees will be formed from the larger group. We are looking for parents, scholars, staff, and

community members who want to work together to create the Muskegon Public Schools of the future. Please call 231-720-2004 if you are interested in participating in these small workgroups. If you are unable to volunteer for committee work, there will be several town hall meetings scheduled in February where you can provide input. We welcome your ideas and will announce the times and dates for these town halls soon.

If you have not had the chance to see the beautiful renovation of our high school auditorium, please take time to visit. We are excited about what the future holds for our scholars, staff, and families. Our district will continue to value and promote each scholars' ability to self-regulate their academic pursuits and success. I am dedicated to ensuring that our students have a voice in our district. MPS is currently working on adding a scholar representative to the school board, and we would like our scholars to be able to advocate for themselves and have input on items that impact them every day. Muskegon Public Schools will continue to ask students to challenge themselves academically, administration and staff to test themselves professionally, and encourage the entire community to get excited about the future of Muskegon Public Schools.

We believe educating our young scholars is the most important work done in our society. Our commitment to the community is to promote every educational opportunity for our scholars while providing a safe and nurturing environment for all. We still have work to do, not only locally but in Lansing as well. We are proud of our district and the collaborative efforts made in and out of the classroom that impact our scholars. Our scholars and staff take pride in their schools, their community, and in each other. We believe that together we can make a difference in the lives of every scholar, staff and community member within our district boundaries.

Please browse our website (www.muskegonpublicschools.org) to find schedules, policies, and information about our schools and activities. I invite you to learn more about our school district. There are many opportunities to have a face-to-face conversation with me. Please join me for one of our small group gatherings. We have a *Coffee with Superintendent* starting at 7:30 a.m. and an *Iced Tea and Conversation with Superintendent* beginning at 5:30 p.m. on the following dates: January 9, 2019, February 20, 2019, March 13, 2019, April 10, 2019, and May 15, 2019. To sign up for one of these face-to-face meetings, RSVP to ilopez@mpsk12.net or call 231-720-2004, to ensure the coffee and iced tea is plentiful. I am looking forward to the conversations!

To help stay connected, you can follow me on Twitter **@JustinJennings6** and follow our school district **@MuskegonSchools** and on Facebook at **Muskegon Public Schools** for the latest information. I also update school closings here! I am also working on a monthly community blog to keep you informed of all MPS happenings.

Please contact us if we can be of service to you.

Have a wonderful New Year!

Sincerely,

Justin M. Jennings, Ed.Sp
MPS Superintendent of Schools



ARTICLE FROM PRESIDENT LARSON by Cindy Larson



Cindy Larson
President
Muskegon Public Schools
Board of Education

Welcome to winter! I knew it was coming but was stubbornly in denial. For those of you who enjoy winter sports and outdoor activities, I applaud you! For me, all this snow is good for is hiding the remaining leaves that never got raked up. I will now "pep talk" my way through winter with good books and hot tea!

I'm certain there is some disappointment on the part of our Big Red football team, but all I can say is CONGRATULATIONS to our players and coaches. For those of us who are outside the confines of the football field, it was indeed a job well done.

If you have seen or heard the press release from Superintendent Jennings, you know that discussions have begun to assess the needs of

our district, all of which are tied to academics. Turnout at the first meeting was impressive and the input that night only reinforced this community's commitment and passion for MPS. It also reinforced the fact that we **are** moving forward – something for which we can all be very proud.

This is an incredibly busy time of year for so many. I hope we can all take a few moments to reflect on our many blessings and maybe throw in a random act of kindness. I wish you a safe and peaceful holiday season. Thank you **all** for everything you do.

- Cindy Larson, MPS Board President



MPS STUDENTS HAVE NEW FRIENDS FROM CHINA



All Muskegon Public School buildings have sister schools in China! Students in grades 5 through 8 have written to their Chinese pen pals introducing themselves, describing the Muskegon community and sharing their feelings about the Thanksgiving tradition. The Chinese schools are all located in the Jiangsu Province, which is a coastal Chinese province north of Shanghai. In the south, the city of Suzhou is renowned for its elaborate gardens. These include the Humble Administrator's Garden, with its network of pools linked by pagodas and pavilions, and the Lion Grove Garden, featuring a tall, rocky maze. On the outskirts of the neighboring city of Wuxi, to the northwest, is the towering Grand Buddha at Ling Shan.

This spring, three Chinese sister schools will be sending 50 student delegates to Muskegon to learn about the American education experience, our customs and our beautiful community. The visitors will spend each week day in Marquette and Muskegon Middle School classrooms with their pen pals and experience our historical sites and activities for the 12 day visit. Many exciting events and learning activities are planned for our MPS students and their new Chinese friends.

NEW PROGRAMS COMING TO MUSKEGON HIGH SCHOOL IN 2019

Two new innovative programs will be offered to MHS students Fall 2019. The first new course option, *Geometry in Construction*, will be available to sophomores who are interested in a two-hour block class that includes learning geometry while also applying their knowledge to building construction projects. This collaborative effort is a result of hard work from Mr. Dan Fishel, MHS math teacher, Ms. Kimi George, builder for *Community enCompass*, and the leadership of the MAISD Career and Technical Center.

The other new course offering, *Teacher Preparatory Academy*, will be available to freshmen and sophomores interested in a career in K-16 education. The program includes teaching and developing lessons, an assignment in an elementary school for several hours a week, college coursework from Western Michigan University, paid summer teaching internships and experiences in hard-to-fill educational positions, such as special education and career and technical education courses. Students who successfully complete the coursework will have the opportunity to spend their senior year in a work-based learning experience. Special thanks to Mr. Carlson and Mrs. Ego, MHS teachers, Dr. Manley from WMU, and the leadership team at the MAISD Career and Technical Center.

MUSKEGON STUDENTS ARE 'OUT ON THE TOWN' WITH PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

Second grade teachers at three of our buildings have been piloting project-based social studies units this year. These units cover all the state standards for social studies and incorporate strategies for deeper learning, real-life activities, field trips, reading and writing. Our Project P.L.A.C.E. classes at Moon, Marquette and Lakeside have finished their economics unit and are now moving into their geography unit. Highlights include walking field trips to Lakeside Emporium and Ryke's Bakery. Students toured these facilities, spoke to those working in these businesses and learned about business operations. They were then able to take what they learned and use it to start up their own venture! Students made and sold Superhero Suckers, Halloween candy bags, Thanksgiving wreaths and lemonade. Each class decided to do something different with their profits. Lastly, teachers had students show their learning by creating a "how-to" booklet and taking a vocabulary quiz with words from the unit. Our next unit will include a bus tour highlighting important locations in Muskegon and mapping activities showing all the sites we have visited. MPS second-graders are learning through experience and practice, and enjoying themselves along the way!

NEW: PROJECT LEAD THE WAY CLASSES AT MUSKEGON MIDDLE SCHOOL



At Muskegon Middle School (MMS), we have a new class called Project Lead the Way, or PLTW. In this class, students experience science, technology and engineering all at the same time; unlike a traditional class, students work with all of the subjects sometimes at once. Students learn basic computer coding, entry-level robotics and other applied technologies. In one unit, students create basic programs and then are able activate the programs using computers and electric boards.

The world is changing. Business and industry are looking for students who are able to use all of the core subjects in new ways. Our goal at MMS is to provide as many students as possible with experiences in the areas of science, technology and engineering, so they are able to make informed choices about career pathways when they enter high school. The Career Technical Center, for example, offers programs to high school students that will make them competitive in many careers, including computer programming and computer application (app) creation as well as working in the field of renewable energy. Our PLTW classes prepare students for the future and, more importantly, student learning is hands-on!

Welcome! NEW STAFF

Donna Allen.....	Outreach Coordinator.....	Nelson
Matthew Beld.....	Speech Language Pathologist.....	Lakeside
Ladiedre Bell.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Moon
Dedrie Boyles.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Moon
Jill Brewer.....	Teacher.....	Lakeside
Starr Britton.....	Teacher.....	Moon
Rachel Burr.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Sally Calkins.....	Reading Specialist.....	Marquette
Alicia Camacho.....	Interventionist.....	Marquette
Joy Cooper.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Karen Cross.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Lakeside
Joy Cooper.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Karen Cross.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Lakeside
William Donson.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Moon
Michelle Eisenbarth.....	Private School Tutor	
Tiffany Flory.....	Teacher.....	Oakview
Stephanie Greydanus.....	Private School Tutor	
Pamela Gunderson.....	Teacher.....	Nelson
Velma Guy.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Oakview
Timothy Hall.....	Teacher.....	High School
Brett Heppler.....	Teacher.....	Oakview
Rhonda Hill.....	Private School Tutor	
Nicholas Humilier.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
William Huth.....	Teacher.....	Moon
Karen Johnson.....	Reading Specialist.....	Nelson
Hilary Joslin.....	Teacher.....	Oakview
Anthony Kartes.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Shaylie LaPres.....	Reading Specialist.....	Marquette
Gerald Mabrito.....	Private School Tutor	
Michelle Majocho.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Karen Mendiola.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Lakeside
Tahmelia Miller.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Marquette
Meagan Moye.....	Interventionist.....	Oakview
Kelly Napierala.....	Private School Tutor	
Ciara Nash McGee.....	Interventionist.....	Lakeside
Theresa Page.....	Teacher.....	Nelson
Shtisa Patterson.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Nelson
Angela Poe.....	Teacher.....	Nelson
Jacquelyn Robarge Fleener.....	Interventionist.....	Marquette
Pacia Savage.....	Para Educator.....	Moon
Michelle Schuitema.....	Teacher.....	Marquette
Laura Shafer.....	Teacher.....	High School
Patrick Shipe.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Brian Sikkenga.....	Teacher.....	Marquette
Aaron Simmons.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Kimberly Tangney.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Christopher Toth.....	Teacher.....	Oakview
Tara Turner.....	Teacher.....	Oakview
Stacy Vandeburg.....	Teacher.....	Moon
Nicholas Voyt.....	Teacher.....	Middle School
Courtney Waid.....	Teacher.....	Marquette
Kashayla Wallace.....	Lunchroom Aide.....	Moon
Shashu Wells.....	Para Educator.....	Moon
Justin Wierengo.....	Teacher.....	High School
Diane Wiggers.....	Secretary.....	Nelson
Elizabeth Witt-Kreiner.....	Teacher.....	Nelson
Kelly Wright.....	Teacher.....	Moon
Amy Zeef.....	Teacher.....	Marquette

WORK PERMITS

MUSKEGON HIGH SCHOOL	MUSKEGON MIDDLE SCHOOL
80 W. SOUTHERN AVENUE	1150 AMITY AVENUE
8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.	8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.



Each year we bid farewell to a few of our respected educators and staff members as they retire from their career in education. We thank them once again for their service to Muskegon Public Schools and the parents, students, and community members that have been impacted throughout their careers.

- Cindy Bennett** • Teacher • Lakeside/Oakview • 7 Years
- Jean Botting** • Pupil Accounting & Data Specialist • Hackley Building • 35 Years
- Lisa Chester** • Teacher • Oakview • 17 Years
- Brenda Davis** • Speech & Language Pathologist • Oakview • 24 Years
- Nickolas Davros** • Special Education Teacher • Nelson • 39 Years
- Leanne Duplissis** • Teacher • Lakeside • 30 Years
- Debora Green** • Special Education Teacher • Lakeside • 25 Years
- Jan Irwin** • Tutorial Teacher • Hackley Building • 12 Years
- Lisa Kolbe** • Teacher • Muskegon High School • 29 Years
- Kathy Kuharevicz** • Teacher • Lakeside • 28 Years
- Karen Malenfant** • Teacher • Lakeside • 20 Years
- Olivia Mancilla** • Student Services Admin. Specialist • Hackley Building • 29 Years
- Tresa Northuis** • Teacher • Lakeside • 36 Years
- Karen Parker** • Teacher • Muskegon High School • 13 Years

HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE
 Hackley Administration Bldg- Room 104
Open Mon. - Fri., • 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Jennifer Hammond Director of Academic Services and Talent Management for Professional Staff	Sheila Brown Office Manager/Admin. Assistant 231-720-2025 sbrown@mpsk12.net	Susan Start Benefits Specialist 231-720-2056 sstart@mpsk12.net
Catherine Kloska Chief Financial Officer and Talent Management for Support Staff	Debbie Fox Administrative Assistant 231-720-2008 dfox@mpsk12.net	Betty Barnes Payroll Specialist 231-720-2022 bbarnes@mpsk12.net

EMPLOYMENT PARTNERS:

EDUStaff www.edustaff.org	Dean Transportation www.deantransportation.com
Enviro-Clean Services www.enviro-clean.com	Chartwells www.chartwellsjobs.com

HIRING SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS & SUPPORT STAFF

Requirements to work as a substitute teacher:

- Official transcripts with a total of 60+ credit hours and a minimum 2.0 GPA from accredited colleges/universities
- Fingerprinting and background check required
- Contact EDUStaff for more information

2018-2019 EDUStaff Teacher Substitute Rates for Muskegon Public Schools:

- \$100 per day
- \$110 per day (21st consecutive day)
- \$120 per day (61st consecutive day)

Nelson Elementary:

- \$120 per day

MPS Retired Teacher:

- \$110 per day
- \$200 per day (21-60 days)

Support Staff Substitutes:

- \$10.75 – Classroom Assistant
- \$9.75 – Lunchroom Aide
- \$11.27 – Secretary
- \$12.15 – Secretary (21st consecutive day)





Jerry Johnson
Director of Instructional
Technology

HAPPY NEW YEAR

from the Instructional Technology Department!

We are almost halfway through the year already, which is very hard to believe! Our initiative to provide a Chromebook to each student (1:1 computing) at the high school has been a success. Our scholars are doing a very good job of being responsible for the devices. In talking with the administration and teachers at Muskegon High School, we would encourage our parents, guardians and caregivers to make sure the children come prepared for school with their Chromebooks charged and ready to go in case the teacher has plans to use them. If you are reading this from a parent or community member's perspective, computers, especially one for each student, may seem foreign. This was just a dream that was not even possible years ago. However,



expectations for being prepared for school haven't changed. As you think back to your time as a student, you were expected to have the class book, a pencil and paper handy and ready to go when you came to class. Now, there is a new tool that is expected to be ready, which is a computer. There is no difference. It's just a new learning tool.

This is our first time with a large rollout of this nature. We've learned a great deal along the way and will continue to improve our practices around the use of technology, not only at the high school, but across the district as well. One thing to always remember about technology: technology is a tool, not a learning outcome.



One of the things that has also been launched at MHS this year is the *Sprint 1Million Project*. This project is a county-wide collaborative program that provides a "hotspot" or internet connection to those students in grades 9-12 who do not have internet or connectivity at home. To be eligible, the parent or guardian

must sign out a permission slip and our department delivers a device to the high school. Once the device is delivered, the student will have wifi connectivity at their home. This is to help bridge the digital divide which occurs in many homes across America. The digital "homework gap," as it's known, is basically an inequity between students who have devices or connectivity at home and those that do not and struggle to complete digital homework or assignments. If you are a high school parent, guardian or scholar without wifi at home, please talk with your teachers and/or counselor at the high school.

Another exciting feature that we've installed this year as a pilot program is wifi connectivity on two of Muskegon Public Schools' busses. These busses are going to be primarily used for long bus trips at the high school level when our student-athletes have a long trip. The wifi connection on the bus will allow them to complete their homework or assignments, if necessary, to and from an athletic event. Many school districts across the United States are starting to move in this direction. We are one of the only districts in Muskegon County to begin a project like this. It is a small project sponsored and supported by Dean Transportation. At the end of the year, we will look at the data for the use of the devices in order to make decisions about the future of our wifi bus fleet.



Have a wonderful winter and stay warm!

Jerry Johnson
Director of Instructional Technology
#BIGREDPRIDE

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

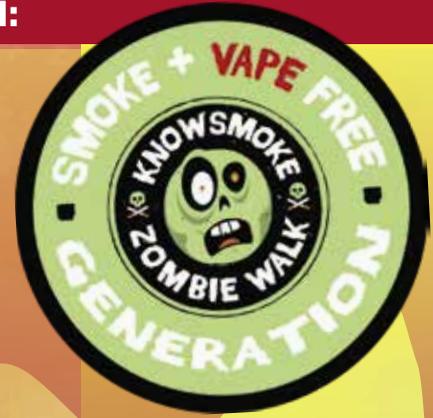
THE OFFICE OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES GIVES THANKS TO OAKVIEW ELEMENTARY

On Tuesday, Nov. 20, Oakview Elementary's K-6 multi-age class, headed by Megan Olsen, hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for parents, family and friends. It. Was. Delicious!

The class would like to thank everyone for coming, especially fifth grade teacher Mrs. Emmons, who not only helps them all the time, but who worked with them to make it an amazing event. The scholars made menus, took orders and delivered meals to staff who couldn't stop by. They have been learning all semester about reading a recipe, measuring and practicing kitchen safety in order to prepare for this event. Job well done, Mrs. Olsen and crew! We are grateful for you!

Thank-You!!

KNOWSMOKE ZOMBIE WALK



On Saturday, Oct. 6, Muskegon students, teachers, health workers and community members gathered to participate in the KnowSmoke Zombie Walk. Attendees dressed as zombies and took to the streets to increase awareness about the dangers of tobacco and e-cigarettes.

While adolescent cigarette smoking rates have decreased, the use of e-cigarettes has continued to rise. According to the 2017-18 Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth, 24.9 percent of high school students reported using an electronic vapor product.



Muskegon High School theater students used makeup to help participants create their finished looks.

Kicking off at Heritage Landing, the Zombies roamed the shoreline before participating in a choreographed monster dance, zombie costume contest and other fun activities. Health information was provided by a variety of Muskegon-based organizations and a representative from 70x7 Muskegon spoke about addiction.



Talk about exciting, innovative learning experiences!

In conjunction with the daily focus of growing our scholars' academic skills in reading and math through homework help, one-to-one tutoring and individualized instruction and practice, IMPACT has a variety of PHENOMENAL enrichment offerings for students after school!

COLLEGE AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Monica Banks, IMPACT coordinator at Marquette Elementary, is excited to introduce her students to the area of college and career prep.

"Elementary school is a crucial time for our students to begin developing career awareness and motivating them to see how critical education is relative to the career they desire for themselves," she says. "Activities to support this will include college tours, a career fair, guest speakers and a spirit week ending with a Decision Day. Over 15 local and national colleges have supported our efforts."

MONARCHY AND MEDIEVAL TIMES

This area of focus was based on a conversation with students after a field trip to see Disney Princess Belle. Some students wanted to know more about princesses – if they were real and how they could become one.



"I chuckled and thought, this would be a great area to explore with them," shared Shalon Rankin, IMPACT coordinator at Oakview Elementary.

"Along with this study, we're introducing students to a variety of activities, such as equestrianism, jousting, chess, and ballroom and liturgical dance."

Students will also experience fun and learning at Medieval Times Tournament in Chicago and end the year with a Royal Court Coronation Ball!

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Rashonda McDaniels, IMPACT coordinator at Moon Elementary, is thrilled to engage her students in understanding the importance of making smart decisions with their money!

"We've done activities with our students where they earn, learn to save and then spend. They've also participated in activities where they are assigned fictitious life situations and asked to create household budgets," she says. "Various banks from the community will come and share with our students and their families. One objective is to involve the parents in opening student saving accounts as the students are learning good money habits and understanding that economic management is necessary now."



CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD

IMPACT scholars at Lakeside are having a great time learning about cultures around the world. They are focusing on Spain, France, Nigeria, and Senegal!

Coordinator Shanay Clark says, *"I am excited to see the students learn the cultural similarities and differences and understand the importance of respecting cultural diversity."*

Currently, students are speaking simple phrases from the countries assigned to their group and are learning about the different holidays that are celebrated during this time of the year.

LEGO ROBOTICS

Jackie Williams, lead supervisor of IMPACT Nelson, is excited to see her students learning the skill of Lego robotics.



"In my opinion, the students are building moving masterpieces! And I love it!" she says. "I love seeing the excitement in their faces when they realized they've created something from nothing! That's what this is about – watching the greatness that's within them being manifested to them!"



MUSKEGON MIDDLE SCHOOL BLOOM YOUTH

Muskegon Middle School Bloom Youth is a group of students that are developing their leadership skills while engaging in nutrition and garden education. These students focus on making healthy food choices to improve their physical health, develop stronger relationships and positively impact their academic achievements. Garden education gives these students hands-on learning experiences while allowing them the space to clear their heads and enjoy the outdoors after school. These engaging, hands-on experiences foster new growth and discovery while being exciting and fun.

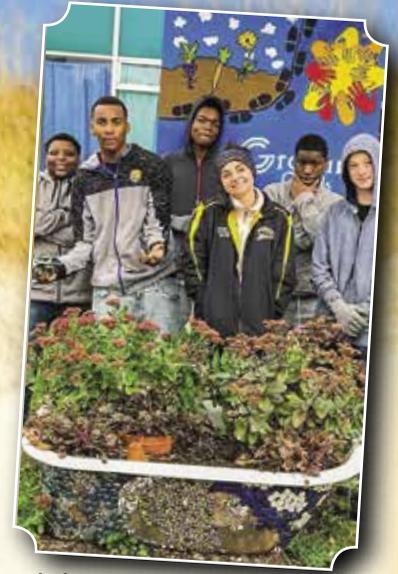
In October, Bloom Youth had the

opportunity to attend the Michigan Middle School Leadership Initiative Camp in Miniwanca. They spent five days hiking trails, building new relationships, playing team-building games, sharing meals and discovering who they are as leaders. Through thought-provoking discussions and trust-building activities, these students learned what it meant to be a leader in their school and how to create an effective team.

Throughout the camp, Bloom Youth assessed the needs of their school and thought of some ways they can facilitate change as leaders. Working together, these students developed a civic action project –

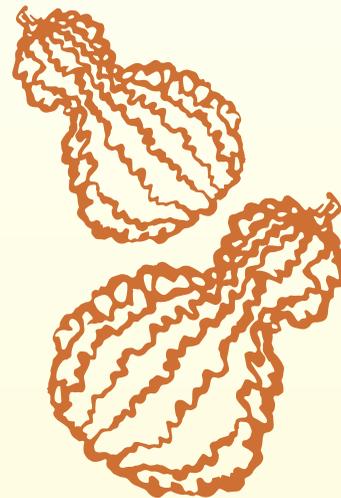
finding the broken chairs in MMS, replacing them and marking the new chairs with cushions. They state:

"Our learning matters: it is time for a change. Making changes will get us ready for being brave leaders and better learners. Being brave can help us become creative thinkers and better planners."





Our FoodCorp Service Worker Shayna Robison and her 8th grade helper Terri Berry provided our middle school scholars with a tasting, exposing students to different things you can do with your veggies, such as a carrot and orange juice smoothie. Edries Jenkins, our chef, provided support and partook in the tasting, he gave it a like.



MPS and FoodCorps' partnership is to connect our scholars to healthy food by providing opportunity and exposure. We recently had a roasted butternut squash taste test. It was a success!



During a FoodCorps lesson with our middle school scholars, we used healthy food choices, math, ELA and science while incorporating diversity, inclusion and history. Our scholars made a salsa using fresh herbs and a "molcajete," or mortar and pestle. Nothing like disguised learning – it's fun and we get to eat it too!

**2018 MLIVE FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR
CAMERON MARTINEZ**

We would like to congratulate Cameron Martinez being named the 2018 MLive Football Player of the Year. He was honored on Tuesday, Nov. 20, in the Redmond-Potter Gymnasium at Muskegon High School. He is the first high school junior to win the award. Cameron was also a finalist for the Hungry Howie's Mr. Football Award and is still in the running for Michigan Football Gatorade Player of the Year.



2018 MUSKEGON BIG RED FOOTBALL

This year, the Big Red football team went 13-1 with the season ending again in the State Finals at Ford Field. Along the way, the Big Reds captured O-K Black, District and Regional Championship trophies. This season also saw the Big Reds prolong their 27 game win streak. This was another highly successful year for the coaches and players of the Big Red program. Congratulations on a very successful 2018 season. **Go Big Reds!!!**



2018 FALL COLLEGE SIGNEES

The Athletic Department would like to congratulate the following student-athletes on signing their National Letters of Intent this November:

BASKETBALL

- Brianna Alexander - Olivet College
- Brionne Crews - Aquinas College
- De'Airrus Ware - Northwood University
- Alyza Winston - Michigan State University



2018 FALL O-K BLACK ALL-CONFERENCE

The Athletic Department would like to congratulate and recognize the following scholar-athletes on achieving 2018 O-K Black All-Conference Fall honors:

FOOTBALL

- Cameron Martinez
- Hyrosha Wilson
- Anthony Bradford
- Jeremiah Lockhart
- Marquis Cooper
- Jordan Porter
- Lamarion Sherrill
- Nathan Hunter III
- Ali'Vonta Wallace
- D'Andre Mills-Ellis
- Jakobie Harris
- Da'Quarious Johnson



VOLLEYBALL

- Brionne Crews - Honorable Mention

2019 BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HACKLEY Public Library **EVENTS 2019**
 To find more information on all the BHM programs call: 231-722-8000 or visit: hackleylibrary.org

FEB. 2 • SAT. 2:00

The 5th Annual Black History Month Trivia Contest
 Grab your friends and come to test your Black History knowledge against other teams, in this trivia contest hosted by Mickey Wallace. Prizes will be available for the winning team. Register your team at hackleylibrary.org/events or by calling 231-722-8011.

FEB. 9 • SAT. 2:00 • Sweet Soul Food Dessert Competition ~ Life is better with a little sweet soul food! Embrace HPL's Black History Dessert Contest where adults and children can enter to win extraordinary prizes. Come to watch the competition unfold and enjoy tasty treats! If you wish to compete, you can register your dessert at hackleylibrary.org/events, or by calling 231-722-8011. Registration opens one month before the event.



FEB. 11 • MON. 6:00

The Legacy of the Negro Leagues
 Dan D'Addonna, Holland Sentinel Sports Editor, will give a conversational style talk on the history of the League, particularly the impact it had on baseball and American culture, from its inception through major league integration.

FEB. 12 • TUES. 6:00 • Barbers Hair Care Clinic and Books ~ Put your best foot forward with the freshest cut. Experts Kenny Terrell of *Ken's Anointed Hands* and Yancey Harris of *Fancy Yancey's Barber Shop* will share their expertise on hair care for men and boys along with a demonstration of proper cutting techniques.

FEB. 16 • SAT. 2:00 • Curtis Taylor Jazz



Grammy Award-winning trumpeter, Curtis Taylor, will be back again for an engaging jazz performance lecture. Hear his unique blend of soulfulness, harmonic sensibilities, and rhythm for an unforgettable sound that directly connects with the soul.

FEB. 23 • SAT. 2:00 • The Diatribe

The Diatribe poetry group strives to use performing arts to empower people to share their stories, raise awareness of social issues, and be active members of the community. Experience their inspiring performance poetry at HPL.



FEB. 26 • TUES. 6:00

'The Hate U Give' Book Discussion
 You are invited to read this unforgettable, award-winning book and then join us for an intergenerational book discussion led by Mickey Wallace and HPL librarians. The library will have extra copies of the book available for check out. Attendees are also welcome to bring their own.



2019 Black History Month events are brought to the community through a generous bequest from **Bess Commodore** and our supporters:

- The Friends of Hackley Public Library
- WUVS 103.7 "The Community Station" the Beat
- WVIB 100.1 "R & B Hits and Old School"



316 W. WEBSTER AVE., MUSKEGON, MI 49440 • 231-722-8000 • HACKLEYLIBRARY.ORG



GLENSIDE PRESCHOOL - THE RIGHT RECIPE FOR SUCCESS



The preschool children at Glenside have the right recipe for success; they attend Glenside Early Childhood Programs and are preparing to attend Muskegon Public Schools.

The children are learning how to read recipes step by step to make a Friendship Salad. It is explained to the children that the bowl represents the classroom and the fruit they are cutting up represents different skills – problem-solving, kindness and compassion, sharing and taking turns, cooperation, equality, and the happiness they feel at school.



There are 20 different food experiences during the year. These experiences are hands-on, self-help and skill-developing food activities. A food experience is an opportunity for the child to "experience" a new skill, like introducing a new fruit or vegetables with new flavors or textures. The fine motor skills used in cutting, slicing and spreading help prepare children for writing. Math skills, such as counting pieces, measuring amounts and following the sequence in which the recipe goes, are also used. The children are learning literacy skills with new vocabulary words, familiarity with print and recognizing the use of various types of text. The children learn manners in passing food items to each other, taking turns and working together to make a snack to enjoy as a classroom family.

If you have enrollment questions for our preschool programs, please call 720-2540.

M GO MUSKEGON BIG REDS!

HACKLEY COMMUNITY CARE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

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Muskegon Teen Health Center

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 J Building, Room E113
 Call for appointment: 231.733.6680
 Monday - Thursday 8am-4:30pm, Friday 8am-3pm

Poppen Programs, Inc. is an incredible opportunity available only to Muskegon Public Schools students, and we are happy to spread the news!

We are lucky to have funding available in the Nancy K. Poppen Program for fine and performing arts lessons, such as visual art, creative writing, dance, private music lessons and theatre. Muskegon Public Schools students currently in third through 11th grades may apply.

The next application deadline is Feb. 1, 2019, with an additional deadline of May 1, 2019. Applications are available in your school's front office, the Poppen Programs Office at the Hackley Administration Building or online at poppenprograms.org

Applications for the Sherman R. Poppen college scholarships are also due Feb. 1. These scholarships are available to MHS seniors currently active in the Nancy K. Poppen program who intend to major in their fine or performing art field in college. Contact Program Director Claire Root Benson at 231-720-2040 for more details.

We have had a wonderful fall in the programs, taking juniors and seniors on college tours, supporting studies and materials, and accepting 13 new students into the program! Our students are dedicated and motivated to become better artists, citizens and critical thinkers, and it shows!



Current Nancy K. Poppen students are invited to join us for an evening at the West Michigan Symphony on Feb. 1, which includes a meet and greet with conductor Scott Speck. Contact Claire to reserve a ticket for yourself and a parent/guardian.

POPPEL PROGRAMS, INC.

Claire Root Benson (231) 720-2040
email: cbenson@mpsk12.net



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

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Paul Kurdziel
Muskegon Middle
School Principal

At Muskegon Middle School (MMS), we have a new class called *Project Lead the Way*, or PLTW. In this class, students experience science, technology and engineering all at the same time; unlike a traditional class, students sometimes work with all of the subjects at once. Students learn basic computer coding, entry-level robotics and other applied technologies. In one unit, students create basic programs and then are able activate the programs using computers and electric boards.



The world is changing – business and industry are looking for students who are able to use all of the core subjects in



new ways. Our goal at MMS is to provide as many students as possible with experiences in the areas of science, technology and engineering, so they are able to make informed choices about career pathways when they enter high school. The Career Technical Center, for example, offers programs to high school students that will make them competitive in many career fields, including computer programming, computer application (app) creation and renewable energy. Our PLTW classes prepare students for the future but, more importantly, student learning is hands-on!



Kiara Lane, Western Michigan University

We ARE career and college bound.



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CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE.



Nick Kortman, University of Michigan



THE FIRST TEE GOLF AND TUTORING PROGRAM IS AVAILABLE THIS WINTER

Homework & Hitting, the First Tee's winter golf instruction and homework assistance program, is available for any student age 7-17 in Muskegon County. The First Tee is a nonprofit that teaches golf and values to all students, regardless of family income. Sign up for Homework & Hitting – a drop-in program that works with your schedule (come as much as you can) – at one of our two convenient locations in Muskegon.

Cost: \$70 for the entire winter (through mid-March), or just \$5 if the child is eligible for free or reduced-price lunch

Locations: Sessions available this winter at Kingdom Embassy Covenant Church (3025 Glenside Boulevard, Muskegon, MI 49441) or at Oakridge Upper Elementary School (481 Wolf Lake Road, Muskegon, MI 49442)



LOCATION:	DAY	DATES	TIME
Kingdom Embassy Covenant Church	Mondays	Jan. 7 - March 11	4-6 p.m.
Oakridge Upper Elementary School	Wednesdays	Jan. 9 - March 13	3:30-6 p.m.



REGISTER

for classes by visiting: thefirstteewestmichigan.org

or by emailing: info@thefirstteewestmichigan.org



CODE CLUB

AT MARQUETTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Students at Marquette Elementary are spending their time after school learning how to code. Under the leadership of third grade teacher Mr. Amado Perez, 27 students are busy trying to advance to the next level of challenge. Sound like a video game? It is so much more! These students are learning the process that is involved in creating video games! You can find students, such as Lillian, Jorge, Natalia and Precious, engaged in coding every Monday and Wednesday afternoon.



Mary Scott
Marquette Elementary
School Principal



When asked what was their favorite part of the club, these were some of their responses:

- "My favorite thing is to create games and be at your own level."*
- "You can create code and then your character moves when you push run!"*
- "It is fun!"*

When asked how this skill will help you in the future, they responded:

- "This will prepare me for robotics."*
- "This will help me get a job in the technology field."*
- "Coding teaches me to challenge myself and not give up!"*

The mission of **Code.org** is to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities. The vision of the program is that every student in every school has the opportunity to learn computer science, just like any of the other subjects. We are thankful that students at Marquette are allowed this opportunity. Plans are in the making to grow this program and extend the opportunity to more students in the near future. The program will be highlighted at a STEM evening family event on March 7. Look for more details coming soon!





Jennifer Halverson
Lakeside Elementary
School Principal

Lakeside Elementary is using Positivity Project for building stronger relationships with each other under the principle that other people matter. At the beginning of the school year, Mrs. Skoglund and Mrs. Cooper organized a fundraiser for one of our school friends bravely fighting cancer and to raise money to fight pediatric cancer.

POSITIVITY PROJECT FAMILY INFORMATION

"I can sum up positive psychology in just three words—other people matter. Period. Anything that builds relationships between and among people is going to make you happy." -Dr. Chris Peterson

WHAT IS THE POSITIVITY PROJECT?

The Positivity Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to helping America's youth build stronger relationships by recognizing the character strengths in themselves and others. Their vision is to create citizens and leaders who will enhance our communities and country by internalizing the belief that "Other People Matter." Positive psychology's scientifically validated 24 character strengths serve as its foundation. Positive psychology teaches that people have all 24 strengths within them and that character is not just skills or behaviors, but rather an intrinsic part of each of us.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF IMPLEMENTING THE POSITIVITY PROJECT?

The Positivity Project ideals evolve throughout a student's whole school career. The 24 character strengths develop and gain more meaning for students as they grow. Once students learn the meaning of each strength and what it looks like, they can then be embedded into the curriculum in every subject area. The character strengths become a part of a common language and they will see them in everything that they do.

The Project teaches children by acknowledging that the 24 character strengths are already a part of who they are as people. It helps them to realize that each and every one of them have these strengths. There is no system in place to reward students who demonstrate "Good Character." Rewards are fun to earn but they are finite because they are external. We want children to internalize the traits that society honors. Acknowledgement to oneself and realizing that you have the power to affect others in a positive way is much more meaningful and rewarding.

Positive character strengths can and should be acknowledged in the classroom, as it gives students a richer understanding of what the character strength looks like in their peer group. Students understand that they have their own "Super Power" and they will be acknowledged and valued for their own character strengths.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We would love for you to take an active role in your child's character strength education. By using the character strengths vocabulary and having discussions about the concepts, you will help your child understand the character in themselves and others in a different light. You can follow our social media handles to see what we're doing each day – and please feel free to reach out for more information or visit www.posproject.org



**THE
POSITIVITY
PROJECT**





Lakisha Loudermill
Oakview Elementary
School Principal

PARENT LITERACY NIGHT

Oakview Elementary held a fun-filled Family Literacy Night on Dec. 5. Oakview’s Leadership Team planned several literacy stations for parents and their children to promote strong readers and “Cozy Up with a Good Book.” Families viewed a short video outlining positive ways to support their growing reader, designed a colorful bookmark, shared fun stories in a reading nook, completed a school survey, visited Santa Claus and enjoyed a delicious dinner and plenty of fellowship together. In addition, seven lucky students won a family-centered book/movie goodie basket.

Oakview Elementary is prioritizing parent involvement as they adopt the Essential

Schoolwide Practices in Literacy. The Essential Practices are research-informed and supported by Oakview’s involvement with the HIL Grant partnered by Western Michigan University, General Education Leadership Network and Reading Now Network. Two additional family events are planned for late January and early March. Collaboration and focus on student literacy is a key to student success!



Thanksgiving Feast

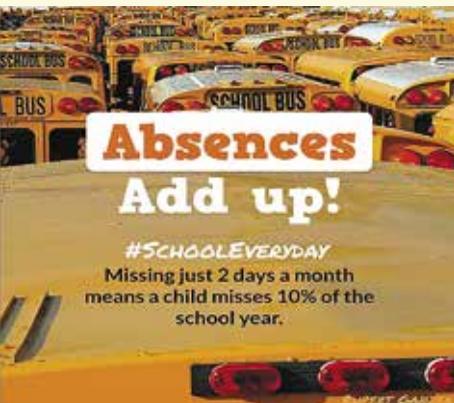
Dining and conversing over a holiday meal prepared by the Level III Staff at Oakview, students, parents and staff were presented with a spread of turkey and dressing, green beans, mashed potatoes, corn casserole, rolls, cranberry sauce and more. Mrs. Megan Olsen shared that the academic objectives for her students were to master fine-dining table etiquette, develop oral language and experience a variety of food groups.

The Thanksgiving Feast also provided an opportunity for parents to come in and see what their child is learning. The Level III Program focuses on life skills so that students can learn to be independent adults in the future. Our students also have the opportunity to participate in the General Education Program with their grade-level peers. This allows our scholars to build relationships with the teachers and students in their grade level while accessing the curriculum.



In addition to being exposed to the curriculum, Mrs. Olsen teaches students how to prepare healthy meals and snacks. Students will take field trips to local businesses in our community throughout the school year. Our Level III classroom is taught by Mrs. Megan Olsen and supported by the classroom assistants: Mr. Charles Carson, Mrs. Markeia Hardy and Mrs. Ondreya Maddox.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE IS A PRIORITY



One of our focus areas this school year is student attendance. Classrooms that meet the monthly building goal of having all of their students attend school 95 percent for the month are recognized at our Big Red Assemblies by our Dean of Students Tracey Knight, Principal LaKisha Loudermill, our DHHS Pathways 2 Potential Coach Ammi Lara and Superintendent Justin Jennings.

Ms. Sherry Chapman’s kindergarten students were recognized for the months of September and October. Mrs. Kristen Emmons’ fifth grade class was also recognized for the month of October. Both classes were awarded a plaque and prizes from Superintendent Jennings.

It is our hope that all of our classrooms are recognized each month. Parents, please help your student(s) by:

- Scheduling appointments before or after school, during holiday breaks or on half days.
- Making sure that your child attends school on half days.



Okeelah McBride
Moon Elementary
School Principal

HIGH IMPACT LITERACY (HIL) PROJECT AT MOON

Moon Elementary is one of 75 schools in West Michigan and one of seven elementary schools in Muskegon County that is being supported by the *High Impact Leadership (HIL) Project Grant*. The HIL Project is funded by a three-year U.S. Department of Education grant award, awarded to Western Michigan University, in collaboration with the Reading Now Network and the MAISA General Education Leadership Network.

The HIL grant offers support for each participating school through three means:

- The implementation facilitator and on-site support
- Leadership summits for the principal and teacher leaders
- Monetary support

The HIL Project Grant allows Moon staff to accomplish several impactful goals, such as quality classroom libraries, curricular alignment and family engagement. These goals have led to student learning improvement in past years and we look forward to future success with the HIL Project. Thanks for believing in us here at Moon!



SECOND GRADE PROJECT-BASED LEARNING AT MOON

Moon's second grade classrooms are part of a new learning initiative in social studies. This year, they are using a project-based learning structure called *Project PLACE*. These units include all of the Michigan state standards for social studies and are giving our students so many real-life experiences! Social studies often includes the things that happen around us everyday, and this is what our kids are learning!



To date, Moon teachers have completed their economics unit. In this unit, students had the opportunity to visit a small business, *Ryke's Bakery*, where they toured the facility and learned about their operations. After seeing how a small business runs, classrooms created their own business and sold their products, which included a candy sale, a lemonade sale and a sale of Thanksgiving wreaths. The profits from these sales were donated to two local charitable organizations, *Sacred Suds* and the *McLaughlin Grows Community Garden*. The second-graders will now continue their learning with a geography unit! We look forward to learning all about our city!

HANDS-ON ENGINEERING FUN

Mrs. DeWit's second grade class spent an afternoon working on the concept that all matter is made up of small particles. Students, working in engineering teams, were challenged to take apart a structure and rearrange the pieces to make a new structure. Students were told that they could not add new pieces and they had to use ALL the original parts. As you can see, our students were up for the challenge. Way to go second-graders!





TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

My name is Troy Vos and I am the *Kids Helping Kids* Specialist here with Kids' Food Basket. For nearly three years, I have had the opportunity to interact, engage and empower tens of thousands of students across West Michigan to better their communities. Before my role here at Kids' Food Basket, I was a Positive Behavioral Intervention Specialist and after-school program coordinator for almost eight years. With all my years working with youth, I can unequivocally say that the students of Nelson Elementary whom I had a chance to talk and work with were nothing but amazing. I would like to share a few instances below:

In October, I was asked to attend and facilitate a trail mix repack project with students and parents from Nelson Elementary. While setting up, a few students came down to assist. Without hesitation they asked how they could help and conversed with our staff. Conversation ranged from light hearted jokes about drinking coffee as a kid to getting constructive feedback about what goes into the sack supper we serve every day.

After the project was complete, I was given the opportunity to visit four different classes to briefly introduce myself from Kids' Food Basket, talk to the students about what they want to be when they grow up and, lastly, address the issue of waste. From the first classroom I walked into to the last, each teacher had full attention and respect from their students. When I asked what happens to food not used from the sack suppers each day, a few of students told me they would share with a friend or sibling, while others told me they would hold onto it and use it for snack the following day in fear they would not have one available.

Addressing food waste with students is one of the most common problems brought forward to our team from school officials. For the last six months, I have periodically worked with the students and staff across West Michigan and can say Nelson students were some of the most professional in discussing this issue. They were not shy of telling me the truth. A lot of them did not know what to do with food they didn't like, they brought forward opinions of food they would like to try and suggested that having more garbage cans around their school would help. Most students either joke or become distant to this problem, but the students I spoke with at Nelson approached it with a very professional manner.

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" is the most common question I ask students. Answers range from football players, doctors, teachers, vets and superheroes. Nelson students had a lot of the same answers, but I also heard, more than ever, "I want to work at Kids' Food Basket and help like you." Or students would specifically name the teacher they aspire to be. One student professed to his class that he was going to be a great superstar like LeBron James, and while most kids laughed out loud, I overheard that student's seat partner quietly tell him that he is already great at basketball and can be anything he wants to be when he grows up.

Lastly, while leaving the school and walking through the hallways, my intern and I were approached by one of the first students we interacted with. He had helped us with the trail mix project setup. Without hesitation or without any other Nelson staff present, he wholeheartedly thanked us individually and then initiated a handshake.

The fact that I work with so many students, I am always asked which school is my favorite. While my standard and honest answer is that I do not have a favorite, Nelson may have changed that. It was an absolute privilege to talk and interact with the students. In whatever capacity my team can assist to make sure these students succeed and reach their full potential, we are here to do so.

Best,
Troy Vos
Kids Helping Kids Specialist



Brian Gamm
Nelson Elementary
School Principal

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Justin M. Jennings, Superintendent

Muskegon Board of Education

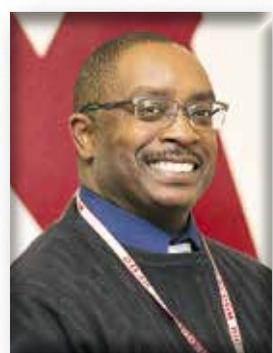
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HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Arthur Garner
Muskegon High
School Principal

Happy New Year Big Red Families!

This New Year we wish the best to our friends, neighbors and the entire Muskegon community.

MHS is moving toward new horizons. 2019 will bring students many opportunities to be involved in the school culture. We have started a Rotary Interact Club. This club will provide students an opportunity to serve the local community and work with surrounding area schools to better engage with our community as a whole.

We have also started a new Peer Mentor Group. This group is called M17, which stands for Muskegon 17 Acts of Kindness. Students in the group will mentor other students who struggle with school, academically and socially. Our goal is to

support through small groups to make success for all the #1 priority.

We also offer tutoring for our students. The days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:05-4:15 p.m. Students should use this time to work on homework, make up missing assignments or study for assessments. Students that take advantage of tutoring will be more successful in passing all of their classes.

*The future looks bright for
Muskegon High School!*



M
**GO MUSKEGON
BIG REDS!!**