



focus

May 2016

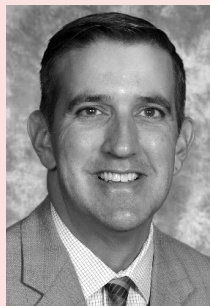
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From the Superintendent Concluding the School Year the Way We Began: With Enthusiasm



Superintendent Behm

What a tremendous year of learning for our students, staff, and community. We started out the year with high hopes, visions, and aspirations for everyone, and I can confidently say we exceeded our expectations. I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our more than 10,000 students, 2,000 plus staff members, the board of education, our school families and community members for your support of education during this school year. Although we are on the "home stretch" of this school year, I'm encouraged by the willingness of our staff and students to end on a strong, positive note, and leave our schools in the way they first began—with enthusiasm, spirit and joy, and a dedication to do and be their best. I know this enthusiasm continues as we will confer over 800

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Shadow a Student Day is Exhausting Yet Insightful to FHPS Teachers

"My frairn is bried!"

No, that is not a typo. It's exactly how one teacher felt when she participated in this year's Shadow a Student challenge. Ingrid Fournier, sixth-grade teacher at Northern Trails 5/6 School literally became a student for the day and walked in the shoes of Northern Trails student, Nour Hamed. Fournier joined eight other teachers in different Forest Hills schools for this empathy-building and eye-opening experience. According to Fournier and the other teachers who participated in this challenge, what they learned about education from experiencing it through another "lens" (a student's viewpoint) helps teachers make purposeful decisions about collaboration, homework, breaks, and perhaps, as one teacher put it, "just letting kids be kids."

To really get a glimpse into the day of a life of a student, Fournier journaled her experience and wrote about her day. What her journal reveals, and what happened following the day for all teachers, continues to have a positive impact. Take a look at what the teachers learned and how they are implementing some small changes.



While waiting anxiously for the big yellow school bus to arrive, I double checked the



Nour Hamed, a fifth-grade student at Northern Trails 5/6 School (right), shows Ingrid Fournier, sixth-grade teacher also at Northern Trails (left), how to open a school locker and find their way in the hall.

address then looked around for any other kids. No one. "Let's drive up the way a bit and see if we see anyone else," I suggested. Dutifully, my husband moved the car slowly ahead. Sure enough, we saw some other students waiting at the drive by their apartment complex. By the time we circled back to our stop, a few students had arrived. I kissed my husband on the cheek, grabbed my backpack and shut the door. "Hi everyone!" I exclaimed a bit too enthusiastically for 8 a.m. The students grunted in response.

It had been a long time since I'd ridden a bus to school in the morning. I was 10 years old the last time I'd done that. I'm now 49.

This week I participated in the Shadow a Student challenge. My task was to shadow a fifth-grade student in the school where (continued on page 2)

Concluding the School Year

(continued from page 1)

diplomas to the graduating class of 2016. Enthusiasm will abound with the rest of the student body on June 10—the last day of school, and yes, even our teachers when they’ve submitted grades and finalized their classrooms for the summer.

This edition of the “Focus” highlights many student accomplishments that couldn’t be made possible without our caring, compassionate, nurturing staff and families. The next edition will highlight all of our 4.0 graduates and senior accomplishments. I’m ever so grateful for the outpouring of support and involvement in our schools and most importantly for people putting our students’ needs first. Thank you for helping us realize our vision, and for helping all learners achieve their true potential.

With warm regards,

Daniel Behm, Superintendent

Now Accepting Nominations 2016 Ben Emdin Award Nomination Form



The Ben Emdin Guiding Principles in Action Award recognizes individuals who have had a long-term commitment to Forest Hills Public Schools, have started a project of long-term ben-

efit, and/or have consistently demonstrated the district’s guiding principles of respect, caring, collaboration, diversity, learning, trust, open communication, and high expectations. The award recognizes individuals in three categories: student, community, and business. Residents of the district are invited to nominate anyone who has made a significant contribution to the greater FHPS community. To complete a form, go online to www.fhps.net.

Questions pertaining to the 2016 Ben Emdin Award should be directed to Tricia Karnes, (616) 493-8800 or email: tkarnes@fhps.net.

Shadow a Student Day

(continued from page 1)

I am a sixth-grade teacher so that I could see the world through her eyes. On the bus, we played games on one of the girls’ cell phones. We took pictures that made our faces look really wide, then really thin. One app made a rainbow come out of our mouths and our eyeballs bulge to cartoon character size. Oh we laughed. We laughed a lot.

While being entertained by my new friends, I couldn’t help but notice that many of my English Language Learner (ELL) students were on this route. In fact, many of them had gotten on at the apartment complex where my Shadow Buddy lives. She is an ELL student and I had the pleasure of teaching her brother last year.

As the bus continued on its route, we meandered through neighborhoods with medium-sized houses and picked up a few students. Then we went by the golf course where the houses seemed to get larger and the lawns a bit more pristine. The children who got on the bus from those houses didn’t sit with us. Finally, we went to one house by a lake. Those houses were huge. The boy who got on from that neighborhood is a nice, young man I teach. I didn’t know he lived in that neighborhood.

Once we got to school, I was greeted with a smile and handshake from my new teacher. We started out watching “CNN Student News” where they talked about the Flint water crisis (our own state on national news), then went to our next class where the teacher also greeted me with a smile and a handshake.

The rest of the day was like a whirlwind. We wrote a prompt about a cute little chipmunk, learned the difference between arguable claims and undisputed facts, chose a persuasive essay theme, brainstormed claims and facts to support our topic, wrote examples on a sticky note, posted it on a chart as an exit ticket, packed up, and then went to math.

Here, we did double digit multiplication, then reduced fractions, which is sometimes difficult to grasp, and wrapped up for recess where we stood outside by the benches because we hadn’t turned in homework. After 15 minutes, we went back into our classroom where my Shadow Buddy was asked to read a booklet for a Running Re-

cord and was assessed on how she read and how long it took her to read. She explained what she had read by answering questions. We then went to a different room and my Shadow Buddy read aloud from her own book.

LUNCH! I couldn’t believe how often I thought of food in the morning until we finally got to lunch. I bought the school special lunch of turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, cranberry sauce, and milk (and had a flashback to a school cafeteria in 1976 and eating a very similar meal). We ate in the allotted 15 minutes time, chatted with the other girls at our table—many of whom had been on the bus with us—and raised our hands to get approval from the lunch aide to be dismissed for recess. Of the six girls at the table, all of us bought our lunches. While throwing away our Styrofoam trays, I noticed that three of the girls never opened their milk or juice and threw the unopened cartons in the trash. Most of the girls had other uneaten food that ended up in the garbage bins as well. This made me wonder if we need to examine the waste and find a solution.

RECESS! By far the highlight of the day. While my food was still digesting, we played on the monkey bars, zipped on the zip line, played a “find the fishy” game of hide-n-go-seek with a group of girls from another class and laughed and laughed and ran around for 15 minutes. I was not ready to go back inside when the whistle blew.

The afternoon went faster than the morning. In social studies we learned about slavery during colonial times. Then, we worked as a group to act out being slaves in the tobacco fields and deciding if we wanted to risk our lives and run, or stay and hope that we would earn our freedom through our good behavior and work. We realized that neither choice was easy. We had difficulty coming to a unanimous decision. After summarizing our learning, we went back to homeroom and practiced for our science presentation on dissolved oxygen and then headed to gym class.

I had been dreading this all day because the students spend a lot of time talking about the hard effort we exert in gym class. We did pushups, and all kinds of stretching,

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Upcoming District Events

Calendar Listing of Community-Wide School Events

May

- 23 FHE Senior Recognition, 9:30 a.m., FHE Gym
- 23 FHN Graduation, 7 p.m., Sunshine Community Church
- 23 Central Woodlands 6th Grade/Central Middle School Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FHC Auditorium
- 24 Thornapple Elementary 4th Grade Recorder Concert, 2:40 p.m., Thornapple Gym
- 24 FHC Graduation, 7 p.m., Sunshine Community Church
- 25 Healthy Living Lecture Series. 12:30 p.m., FAC
- 25 FHE Graduation, 7 p.m., Sunshine Community Church
- 30 No School/Memorial Day
- 31 Northern Hills Middle/Northern Trails Spring Band Concert, 7 p.m., FAC

June

- 1 Northern Hills Middle/Northern Trails Spring Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 2 Kathleen Mohl Artist Reception, 6 p.m., FAC
- 2 Central Middle School 8th Grade Celebration, 7 p.m., FAC
- 2 Eastern Middle School 8th Grade Class Night, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 3 Ada Vista Talent Show, Grades 1-2, 8:30 a.m., Ada Vista Cafeteria
- 6 Ada Vista Talent Show, Grades 3-4, 8:30 a.m., Ada Vista Cafeteria
- 6 Knapp Forest and Orchard View 6th Grade Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 6 Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., FAC
- 7 Knapp Forest and Orchard View 6th Grade Band/Choir Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 7 Pine Ridge 4th Grade Musical, 7 p.m., Pine Ridge Gymnasium
- 8 K-6 Students Full Day / Exams: 7-12 Students Half Day a.m.
- 8 Meadow Brook 4th Grade Awards Ceremony and Recorder Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 9 K-6 Students Half Day a.m. / Exams: 7-12 Students Half Day a.m.
- 9 Ada Elementary Talent Show, 9:15 a.m., Ada Gym
- 9 Northern Hills Middle 8th Grade Class Night, 7 p.m., FAC
- 10 Last Day K-6 Students Half Day a.m. / Exams: 7-12 Students Half Day a.m.
- 15 FHPSF Charlie Anderson Memorial Golf Tournament, 11:30 a.m., Thornapple Point, RSVP
- 23 Vivian and Jeff Grill Artist Reception, 6 p.m., FAC

July

- 13-15 Summerstock's "The Addams Family," 7:30 p.m. each day and 3 p.m. Fri. matinee, FAC

For additional community activities, sports camps, volunteer opportunities and more during the summer months, visit the "Community Fliers" page on www.fhps.net.

Eat to Ace:

Three Nutrition Tips for Exam Week Success

Finals weeks are about to begin and students will be hitting the books extra hard in preparation. Sound nutritional eats may help students focus, maintain energy levels, and boost memory function. Below are three nutritional tips from the Forest Hills food service department for increasing the odds of doing well on 2016 school final exams.

- **Eat breakfast.** A balanced breakfast of carbohydrates, protein, and healthy fats is the best combo first thing in the morning. Try toast and peanut butter with a banana and low fat milk, fruit smoothie, oatmeal and Greek yogurt, or an egg scramble.

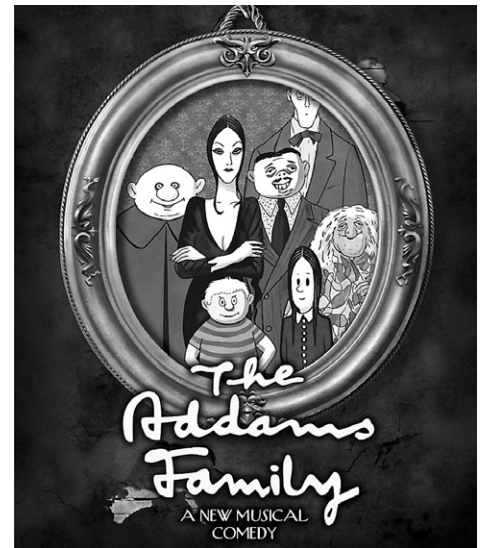
- **Snack smart.** Small and frequent eats can help a student maintain energy levels while

studying. Try an apple with a cheese stick and whole grain crackers, small yogurt with a piece of fruit, or half of a nut butter sandwich.

- **Limit sugar.** Energy drinks, cookies, and candy all lead to sugar jitters and lowered concentration levels. If students are stressed and craving sugar, try unsweetened dried fruit. Tea or even six ounces of black coffee (for teens only), is a better alternative to sugary and highly-caffeinated energy drinks.

Finally, don't forget: adequate sleep and proper hydration are also important to fuel the brain and body.

For more healthy eating tips, visit www.fhps.net, and search "Food Service."



Summer Stock 2016 Musical "The Addams Family"

July 13-15, 7:30 p.m.

July 15, 3 p.m.

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

Join your favorite frightful, funny family, the Addams family, and the ultimate princess of darkness daughter, Wednesday. Follow her young-love story as she falls head-over-heels for a "normal" boy. Join Gomez, Morticia, Uncle Fester, Lurch, Grand-mama, Pugsley and Thing as they navigate Wednesday's new love interest. Things will certainly get interesting when the Addams host a dinner party for Wednesday's boyfriend and his parents. It's a musical that's fun for the whole family!

Summer Stock is Forest Hills' annual musical theater summer study program for ninth- through 12th-graders. Enjoy wonderful singing and dancing performed by our talented students! Tickets are available starting the third week of June at the Fine Arts Center Box Office (in person ticket sales only) or online at Showtix4u.com.

Cover Photo

Northern Trails 5/6 School students from left, Ethan Shi, Andrew Gawrych, Taylor Young, and Lauren Halverson, help their teacher Klara Patrick safely capture smolt from their fish tank. The students, along with their peers, participated in the Salmon in the Classroom initiative coordinated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Read more about this project and its successful conclusion on page 9.

Orchard View and GRCC Create Award-Winning Service Learning Project

Orchard View Elementary School partnered with Grand Rapids Community College in a service learning project to build computer science education awareness. The partnership, now in its second year, pairs GRCC computer science students with fifth-grade students at Orchard View to teach the fifth-graders computer coding. Recently, the two schools learned that this project received a first place Armen Award, given by GRCC to inspire best practices for teaching and learning. The award recognizes GRCC faculty and community organizations which come together to design and implement service learning projects that equally align course and institutional learning outcomes with community partner needs.

"When Katie Vander Meer, professor of computer information systems from GRCC, approached us at Orchard View wondering if we'd be interested in this partnership, of course we said yes," said Laurie Gibson, Orchard View fifth-grade teacher. Gibson explained that the teachers had hoped that it would be a good learning experience for their students and, "We had hoped the college students would deliver the content to our students in a meaningful and accessible way. We got just that, and more.

"Not only have our students shown an increased enthusiasm in computers and coding, but it was great seeing the college students as role models as they shared their expertise with the younger students," Gibson said. "All in all it has been a great ex-



A GRCC student looks on while Orchard View students (from left) Alice Christenson, Lauren Walls, and Samuel Kondrack make "squishy circuits" using Play-Doh.

perience for our students and we are so appreciative of the time and energy put forth by the GRCC students and Katie (Vander Meer)."

The director of the department of experiential learning at GRCC, Michael Schavey, echoed Gibson's sentiments. "I have been so impressed, over the past two years, of this service learning project," Schavey said. "Oftentimes, these experiences can be very difficult to get up off the ground, let alone be successful and sustainable. Kudos to everyone involved. It's a testament to such a great partnership."

Gibson and Vander Meer plan to continue to expand the program next year at Orchard View. "With two years of the program being in place, we've seen great results and are excited to continue this partnership in the future," Gibson concluded.

To see a video about the coding program at Orchard View, visit: www.fhps.net, and search "Armen Award."



The service learning computer programming class at Orchard View Elementary School received the Grand Rapids Community College's Armen Award. Along with the award, the project received additional financial support from GRCC to continue the educational program with both schools. According to Vander Meer, the \$3,000 award will be divided equally: one-third will be given to the GRCC students who participated; one-third Vander Meer will set aside for future technology projects, and one-third will be given to Orchard View for future technology initiatives. Pictured here are GRCC computer students along with Orchard View sixth-grade student, Owen Danko (front row, middle), Katie Vander Meer, GRCC instructor, and Laurie Gibson, Orchard View fifth-grade teacher (front, right).



Central Woodlands students test a CPU for any leaks.

Central Woodlands Students Make 55 CPUs to Provide Clean Water in Nepal

Central Woodlands 5/6 School students recently took part in a two-day practical hands-on experience to create 55 chlorine producing units, a water purification system, that will be shipped to villages in Nepal. This service-based and project-based learning initiative began when students read the book, "A Long Walk to Water," a book based on a true story that follows the life of an 11-year-old girl and an 11-year-old boy from Sudan. After reading the book, the students engaged in numerous visible thinking routines, reports and research projects, and their learning culminated with a two-day CPU build experience. The CPUs will be shipped to Nepal by a local organization, and the CPUs ultimately will help make local water drinkable by eliminating bacteria and harmful microorganisms.



Central Woodlands students solder wires to the CPUs which are powered by a battery.

Kendall Art Students Help FHN Students in an Adaptive Arts Class Create Extraordinary Art Exhibit

The Forest Hills Public Schools administration building was home to an incredible art show which showcased the fabulous work of Northern High School students enrolled in an adaptive arts class. Over 40 high school students partnered with Kendall College of Art and Design to bring the art exhibit to life. Kendall students in their final year of college majoring in art education and enrolled in a class titled, "Art Education for Special and Diverse Populations," worked with the Northern students for several months. The Kendall students designed lesson plans and learning targets while working with the Northern students.

"It was such a rewarding experience for all involved," said Laura Madison, Northern High School art teacher. "Our Northern students thoroughly enjoyed working with the Kendall students and the Kendall students received real-world experience and so much more."

"This class was unforgettable," said Darius Baldwin, a senior at Kendall College majoring in art education. "It's one thing to be in a class, taking notes and listening to a college professor talk about art education. It's another thing to be in the classroom, working with students, applying what you're learning, and even learning more about yourself and the type of teacher you want to be."

The capstone project for the Kendall students was to coordinate an artists' reception for the Northern students and family members. The show and reception were held at the FHPS administration building, complete with a harpist, food and beverages.

"It was an extraordinary learning collaborative," Madison concluded. "It was all about celebrating courage and connections within the community, curriculum, and each other."

Pictured to the right is just a sampling of some of the Northern students and their artwork displayed during the reception.



Claudia Jane (C.J.) VanSkiver (center) welcomes family members to the art show.



Jalana Ezell proudly displays her fish masterpiece.



Madeline Lenhardt (center) excitedly shows her art to her parents, Susan and Terrence Lenhardt.



Nicholas Minnema (right) gives Stephanie Minnema, his mother, a hug during the artists' reception.

FHPS Saves Taxpayers Money by Refinancing Bonds

At the March 21, 2016, meeting of the Forest Hills Public Schools board of education, the board unanimously approved the refinancing of its 2007 bonds—ultimately saving the school district's taxpayers approximately \$5 million. By approving the refinancing of the bonds, the interest rate decreased from 5 percent to 2 percent.

"By refinancing these bonds at a lower interest rate, it allows the district to meet our other debt obligations," said Mary Vonck, school board president. "This is advantageous for the school district, our taxpayers and the community."

The board also authorized the sale of the second and final series of bonds from the November 2013 bond election when the voters approved a \$45 million bond issue to address technology, security, and building improvements. In the spring of 2014, the district issued \$25 million of the bonds at an interest rate of 2.9 percent. The bond sale for the balance of the approval secured an interest rate of 2.05 percent.

Finally, the district once again received an Aa2 rating with Moody's Investors Services, with strong financial management being a contributing factor. The district also was awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Association of Schools Business Officials International.

"These financial ratings and certificates were a large contributing factor to help acquire such low interest rates in the bond market," said Dan Behm, superintendent. "While some districts have seen a downgrade in their bond rating, Forest Hills Public Schools has maintained these exceptional financial ratings. We are extremely thankful for our community's continued support of our school district, and we greatly appreciate our staff's due diligence in sound financial management and planning. It's important that we remain good stewards of our taxpayers' financial resources and are committed to safeguarding their investment they have entrusted to us."

Publication information:

The Forest Hills Public Schools' "Focus" newsletter is published bimonthly during the school year by the FHPS Board of Education. It is mailed to all residents of the Forest Hills Public Schools district, and additional copies are sent to every district school for distribution to staff, new residents, and visitors. FHPS is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination of all its programs in relation to race, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability and genetic information.

Four OM Teams Advance to Worlds

Four Forest Hills Public Schools Odyssey of the Mind teams are heading to Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. The World Finals will be held May 25 through May 28 at Iowa State University. Additionally, two students were named recipients of this year's Odyssey of the Mind Scholarship Awards and include Emily Van Dyke-Mathews, a senior at Forest Hills Northern High School, and Isabella Rabideau, a senior at Forest Hills Central High School. The following students will represent Forest Hills Public Schools at the upcoming World event.

OM Problem: Something Fishy, Division 1

Mike and Ren Brace (coaches)
Lauren Brace—Central Woodlands 5/6
Tara Brace—Central Woodlands 5/6
William Fox—Pine Ridge Elementary
Gabriella Hendricks—Central Woodlands 5/6
Kaan Mc Cormick—Central Woodlands
Maya Rogne—Goodwillie 5/6
Jackson Savin—Pine Ridge Elementary

OM Problem: Something Fishy, Division 2

Mike Taylor (coach)
Craig Young (coach)
Isabella Faba—Central Middle
Samantha Jerow—Central Middle
Emma Logan—Central Middle
Gavin O'Meara—Central Woodlands 5/6
Benjamin Taylor—Central Woodlands 5/6
Brian Travis—Central Woodlands 5/6
Sophia Young—Central Middle

OM Problem: Something Fishy, Division 3

Jamie Kuntzman (coach)
Don Kennedy (coach)
Noah Joseph—Forest Hills Northern High
Elise Kennedy—Forest Hills Northern High
Nathan Kennedy—Forest Hills Northern High
Caroline Kuntzman—Forest Hills Northern High
Sara Prodanovic—Forest Hills Northern High

OM Problem: Stack Attack, Division 3 (continued)

Marti Atwater (coach)
Toni Martin (coach)
Steve Pastyrnak (coach)
Brooke Bacigal—Forest Hills Central
Daniel Deindorfer—Forest Hills Central
Anna Pastyrnak—Forest Hills Northern
Isabella Rabideau—Forest Hills Central
Marc Rabideau—Forest Hills Central
(continued)

OM Problem: Stack Attack, Division 3 (continued)

Emily Van Dyke-Mathews—Forest Hills Northern
Sophia Winks—Forest Hills Northern

For the Something Fishy problem, the challenge was for teams to design and operate a technical solution that simulates multiple styles of fishing. A Fisher Character will work from a designated area to "catch" three different objects that are outside of that area. The catch will be on the move and will include something expected, something unexpected, and a new discovery. For the Stack Attack problem, teams were to design, build, and test a structure, made only of balsa wood and glue that could balance and support as much weight as possible—twice.



The OM team, Something Fishy, Division 2 From left: Samantha Jerow, Sophia Young, Emma Logan, Brian Travis, Gavin O'Meara, Benjamin Taylor, Isabella Faba, and Craig Young (coach), celebrate their win.

2015-2016 Board of Education Members

Mary Vonck, President

Martha Atwater, Vice President

Susan Lenhardt, Secretary

Walter F. Perschbacher III, Treasurer

Suzanne Callahan, Trustee

Douglas Josephson, Trustee

Michael Seekell, Trustee

Daniel Behm, Superintendent



Students prepare to take the stage at the Michigan state finals and solve the Stack Attack problem. Pictured from left: Daniel Deindorfer, Anna Pastyrnak, Sophia Winks, Emily Van Dyke-Mathews, Brooke Bacigal, Isabella Rabideau and Marc Rabideau.

FHPS OM Team Takes First Place at Eurofest



Members of the Forest Hills Stack Attack team, made up of students from Forest Hills Central and Forest Hills Northern high schools, earned two first place finishes this month at the Eurofest competition held in Gdansk, Poland. The team took first place in their division for the regular OM portion of the event, holding the highest weight not just in their division, but of the entire tournament. These students also combined their talents with students from Gdynia, Poland, and Bucharest, Romania, to take a first place in the Mixed Teams competition. In the Mixed Teams part of the tournament, combined OM teams have just two-and-a-half days to solve a new problem. This year, the problem required teams to create original characters and a choreographed grand finale show as part of a humorous performance in which a vicious villain poses a threat to the world, but is thwarted by a mixed superhero possessing unique national superpowers connected with some feature typical to each of the countries represented on the Mixed Team.

Shadow a Student Day

(continued from page 2)

and upper body strengthening from the push-up position that I didn't think was humanly possible. Who can be in push-up position and simultaneously raise their right hand and left foot? Not this girl. But apparently, the 55 students around me thought of this as a piece of cake. We then ran three minutes, walked a minute, ran two minutes, walked a minute, ran two more minutes, and walked a minute.

I'm not going to lie. There were moments I thought I was going to die!

One sweet red-headed boy jogged up to me and asked how I was doing. He ran the rest of the way with me giving me words of encouragement the whole time. When we were done, many students came up and high-fived me. It was adorable. We drank water, watched some of our teammates play basketball for 10 minutes, and then headed back for science.

We presented our project about dissolved oxygen to the class, sat back down and wrote facts and observations from the other group presentations, reviewed the homework for the next day, packed up, put chairs on the desks, and got in line to go home.

I did not ride the bus home. I wish I had. Instead, I waited for my ride at parent pick-up where I was able to speak with some of my students. "How'd your day go Mrs. Fournier?" they asked eagerly. I stared at them for a bit and tried to formulate a sentence.

"My frair is bried," I said. Honestly. That's what came out of my mouth. Realizing that sounded wrong, I tried again. "Sorry, I meant to say, 'My frair is bried.'" The three students began laughing and shaking their heads knowingly.

"Your brain is fried?" one sweet sixth-grader asked me.

"Yes," I responded while staring off at the grass not able to move my eyes.

"Welcome to our world," she said.



So reflecting on this experience, what does it all mean? What perspectives, "take-aways," or "ah-ha moments," did the experience reveal? Is it harder to be a student today than it was years ago? And what about the other experiences had by the other teachers participating in the Shadow a Student chal-



It's all just a day in the life of a student for Northern Trails 5/6 School student/teacher duo, Nour Hamed (left) and Ingrid Fournier (right).

lenge, and can a school district really learn something valuable from this experience? The answer, undoubtedly, is yes.

For Fournier herself, she has been talking with colleagues in her own building on ways to collaborate across subject matters so that students' learning does not seem as fragmented. She also said, she has decreased the amount of homework she gives her students. Has it made a difference? She thinks that kids need time to be kids and be active and play after school, rather than spending hours on homework. What she has noticed since her movement to decrease homework is that there is an increase in student engagement in her class and students collaborate more to meet class goals. "The experience has made me rethink my homework load and what I am asking students to do once they leave my classroom," Fournier said.

Other teachers who participated in the challenge echoed some of Fournier's findings. Here's a sampling of what they said: "Kids need to move." "Every minute was planned and I felt rushed." "It was draining because all of the classes were taught in isolation." "Small groups were the most engaged." "Recess is necessary and 'benching' a student from recess as a consequence of not turning in homework or misbehaving should not happen."

As a follow up to their shadowing events, the teachers not only shared their findings with other teacher participants, but also have shared their findings with their colleagues. Each participating teacher made a presentation to the staff members at his or her school.

"We didn't want this experience to just be an 'event,'" said Judy Walton, FHPS chief

innovation officer. "We also were looking at some small 'take aways' that teachers could implement the remainder of the year and to try something new, and perhaps, become a change agent."

"I believe that my new-found opinion of students and what they go through, coupled with the observation notes that I compiled during my experience, make a strong case that will resonate with my colleagues to get them to think on a different level," said Rob Stefanowski, teacher at Eastern Middle School. "I think I will be able to get people to look at things in an entirely new perspective."

"My FHPS colleagues and I have started a small ripple effect in the educational pond," Fournier concluded. "This is just the beginning. In fact, since this experience, more teachers want to participate in similar "shadowing" opportunities. The day was also made possible by Destination: Innovation, a grant from the Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation which supported this initiative and paid for substitute teachers.

"It's inspiring to know that changes can be made to positively impact our students when we use the lens of empathy," Fournier concluded. "My 'frair' may have been 'bried' the day I shadowed a student, but what I have learned, and what we can possibly implement from this perspective are priceless."

FHPS Shadow a Student Day Featured by National Media

The uniqueness and outcomes surrounding the FHPS Shadow a Student Day caught the attention of American RadioWorks. In fact, American RadioWorks broadcasted an interview with Ingrid Fournier, six-grade teacher at Northern Trails 5/6 School, and student Nour Hamed, about their experiences and what they learned from the exercise. The broadcast is available online on the district's website: www.fhps.net. American RadioWorks is a documentary unit of American Public Media which creates documentaries, podcasts, and online content for public radio and the Internet.

FHPS Robotics Team Advances to World Championship After Winning State Regional Tournaments

The Forest Hills robotics team, comprised of 35 students representing all three high schools, participated in the World Championships Robotics Competition in St. Louis, Mo. Although the team didn't bring home the gold at world's, they did finish in the top 10 percent. The robotics team, called the COMETS (an acronym for Creating Outstanding Minds Embracing Technology and Science) had a fantastic year winning the Lansing and Kentwood district competitions.

Every year, high school teams build a new robot to compete in a different game designed by FIRST Robotics. This year, robots would score points by driving across obstacles and shooting balls into a tower. The COMETS' robot was designed to be good at multiple tasks. Especially challenging was getting the robot to fold down so that it could drive under the 16-inch low-bar obstacle. The creativity in the COMETS' robot won awards at all of their events including the Creativity Award at the Michigan state event.

According to Sheryl D'Amato, one of the COMETS coaches, "Being on the robotics team requires a big commitment from the

students. They meet year round, and since January they met six days a week.

"We are so very proud of this team and how they represented Forest Hills Public Schools wherever they competed," D'Amato added. "The team not only took pride in their work and worked incredibly hard, but it was great to see students from all three schools coming together for a common goal and purpose."

D'Amato explained that once FIRST Robotics announces the game in January, all teams around the country have six weeks to build the robot. Then they compete with their robots over the next eight weeks in local, regional, and state competitions garnering points to hopefully propel them to the world championships. The competition combines students' skills in computer aided design, computer programming, marketing to help acquire sponsorships, and the knowledge of metal working, motors and gears, and electronics.

To see a video of this year's medieval-inspired robotics challenge, visit our website: www.fhps.net and search "Robotics."



The FHP5 robotics team, the COMETS, is shown here after winning the regional tournament in Kentwood.

Husky Pride and Philanthropic Spirit Abound During Unity Day



FHN Unity Day organizers share their Husky pride.

Ubuntu: I am because we are. According to Forest Hills Northern High School senior, Mia Van Erp, "These words represent the bonds between a community and how the success of one is due to the success of us all." Recently this mantra was carried throughout the Grand Rapids community through Unity Day, when over 1,000 FHN students volunteered to assist nearly 30 local nonprofit organizations. From Habitat to Humanity, the American Red Cross, Heart Side Ministries, Blandford Nature Center, Kids' Food Basket, Sophia's House, Rays of Hope, Gilda's Club, Mel Trotter and much more, the Northern Husky family created and organized their own day of caring filled with volunteerism, philanthropy, and fun.

"At Forest Hills we strive to achieve Ubuntu every single day," Van Erp explained. "Our Husky family has gained strength through the ideals of Ubuntu, but we, our student body, thought it was time to spread those ideals to our greater Grand Rapids community and created FHN Unity Day." According to Van Erp, one of the student organizers, it was a lot of work to put together, but a lot of fun too, but more importantly, "We made a difference," Van Erp concluded. "Last month through partnerships with nonprofit organizations, churches, food banks, schools, hospitals, and beautification projects, Forest Hills Northern left a positive mark on the place we call home."



An FHN student tutors another student during Unity Day.



FHN students have fun making trail mix snack bags during Unity Day.

Students Participate in State Geography Bee

Six students recently participated in the state round of the National Geography Bee held at Western Michigan University. The students listed here advanced to the state round after winning their geography bees held at their school.

Evan Calderon, eighth-grader, Northern Hills Middle School

Ram Gindzin, eighth-grader, Central Middle School

Matthew Goodrich, sixth-grader, Northern Trails 5/6 School

Braxton Orban, sixth-grader, Orchard View Elementary School

Alexander Smith, eighth-grader, Eastern Middle School

Terracotta Warrior Makes Permanent Home at Meadow Brook



Terracotta Warrior Bing

There's a new guardian at Meadow Brook Elementary School. His name is Bing—or that's what the students have named him. But he's not your average guardian and protector, he's a six-foot-tall, quarter-ton replica of a soldier in the Terracotta Army in China. He's a gift to the students and school from Jason and Sejal Bennett, whose children, Alaina, a seventh-grader at Northern Hills Middle School, and Rohan, a third-grader at Meadow Brook, are in the Forest Hills Public Schools Mandarin Chinese immersion program.

The Bennetts were inspired by what they saw and experienced during a Chinese immersion trip last year, that they purchased the terracotta warrior for others to enjoy and embrace a deeper learning of the Chinese culture. Meadow Brook's parent/

teacher organization covered the cost for the permanent display case holding Bing.

In an educational lesson preparing for Bing's arrival and installation, each Meadow Brook third-grade student created their own clay horse, and each fourth-grade student created their own clay warrior. In essence, the students created their own miniature version of a Terracotta Army, which also is on display at the school.

According to Tim Shaw, principal, Meadow Brook Elementary School, "The terracotta warrior signifies the importance of embracing exploration and cultures, and it helps students to connect with their world, not just their community.

"To have our own terracotta warrior has been exciting for the kids," Shaw said. "The students continue to show a deeper respect and admiration for others. It will be a lasting, visible reminder for students and a symbol to help them make sense of the greater world around them."



Tim Shaw, principal (left), helps students Rohan and Alaina Bennett uncover the terracotta warrior.



A miniature terracotta army was created by Meadow Brook students.

Big Bernie the Smolt and More Released in Local Rivers

They took care of them. Nurtured them. Fed them. Cleaned their tank. Changed their water. Wrote journal entries about them. Studied their lifecycle and explored science units about ecology. They watched them grow from eggs, to hatchling, to smolt. They named them, and they released them in nearby rivers. Students from Pine Ridge Elementary School and Northern Trails 5/6 School recently said, "goodbye" to their smolt they had cared for, for almost the entire school year, as part of a program through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources called Salmon in the Classroom.

According to the DNR's website, Salmon in the Classroom is an educational opportunity which grants third-grade and older students the opportunity to raise, care for, and maintain salmon in their classroom from fall until spring. The program ends each spring when the students release the fish into their local watershed that feeds into one of Michigan's Great Lakes. Pine Ridge students released their smolt in the Thornapple River, and Northern Trails students released theirs in the Grand River. Each school successfully raised and released nearly 100 smolt.

For Northern Trails, it was their first year, and they had a little rocky start at first. "Unfortunately all of our eggs died," said Klara Patrick, fifth-grade teacher at Northern Trails 5/6 School. "But we weren't going to give up, and the students wanted to persevere, so we acquired more eggs, and we did it! The students were successful the second time around, and we even had a whopper of a smolt—the biggest one of them all—the students named Big Bernie."

This was the second year for Pine Ridge's involvement in the program. "During the first year, you learn a lot and it's a process of a little trial and error," said Liz Miller, fourth-grade teacher at Pine Ridge. "This



Pine Ridge fourth-graders, Peyton Ludwig and Nora Blok, get ready to release their smolt.



A smolt actively swims in a cup that Pine Ridge fourth-grader Carter Thompson holds.

being our second year, we had some experience under our belts and had a great team of teachers, students, parents and community partners to bring this project to life."

"It was a cool learning experience," said Pine Ridge fourth-grader Madison Evans. "We did a lot of fun activities with this salmon project. These kinds of activities make learning awesome."

Other schools participating in the program included Goodwillie Environmental 5/6 School and Eastern Middle School.



Uday Singh nets a smolt to safely transport to the river.

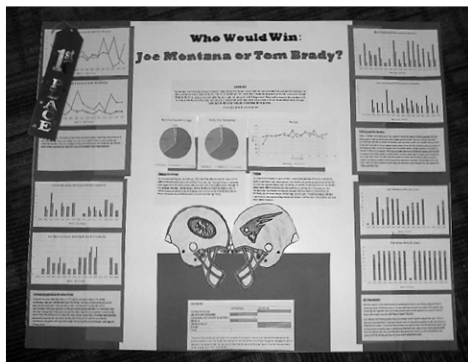


Jacob Lloyd, fourth-grade teacher at Pine Ridge, helps students net their smolt to be released in the river.

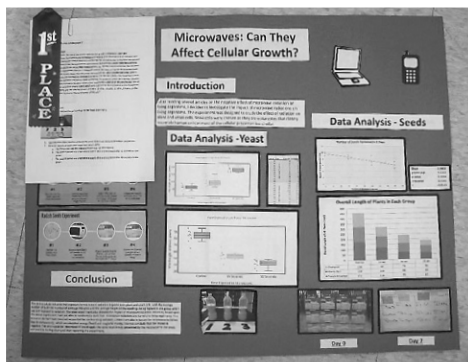
FHPS Students Among Top Place Finishers in State Statistics Poster Competition

Several students from around the district took honors in this year's Michigan Statistics Poster Competition sponsored by Grand Valley State University with support from the Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics. According to GVSU's website, the statistics poster tells the story of a data set, and numbers and graphs are used to give voice to the truth behind the data. The focus is always on the meaning behind the data. In a well-done statistics poster, the reader is able to discover the story behind the data by following the logical progression of the poster. The emphasis is on the visual display of results through well-placed graphs.

Students could work in teams or work separately and they could choose their own subject matter. The posters were judged on the overall impact of the display; the clarity of the message; and the appropriateness of the graphs for data, creativity and content. The top five posters in each grade level category are sent on to the national competition in Arizona. Congratulations to the following students.



First Place Winner, Grades 4-6: Jacob Harleton, Pine Ridge Elementary School. (Photograph courtesy of GVSU)



First Place Winner, Grades 7-9: Dorris Dagama, Forest Hills Central High School. (Photograph courtesy of GVSU)

Grades 4-6

First Place: Jacob Harleton, Pine Ridge Elementary, "Who Would Win: Joe Montana or Tom Brady?"

Second Place: Parvata Kirthivasan, Knapp Forest Elementary, "Mirror, Mirror, on the Wall, Who's the Most Famous of them All?"

Third Place: Qulani Mohammed, Maria Morales, Brookelyn Hacker, Breanna Daly, Northern Trails 5/6, "Social Media Madness"

Grades 7-9

First Place: Dorris Dagama, Forest Hills Central High School, "Microwaves: Can They Affect Cellular Growth?"

Honorable Mention

Liam Donovan, Nicholas Whitmer, Knapp Forest Elementary, "Favorite Apple Skins"

James Dempsey, Knapp Forest Elementary, "A Tale of 2 Quarterback Greats"

Morgan Pflum, Annaston Everhart, Ellie Idema, Knapp Forest Elementary, "Favorite Candy"

Landon Haid, Noah Elmouchi, Tommy Toigo, Keegan Penkevich, Knapp Forest Elementary, "Favorite NFL Team"

Davis Formsma, Gabriel Dempster, Bryce Sullivan, Knapp Forest Elementary, "Favorite Sports in 3rd Grade"

Ava Frechette, Laney Davis, Alayna Garvin, Knapp Forest Elementary, "Favorite Super Heroes of 3rd Graders"

Lauren Roelofs, Stuti Guha, Avery Vandenberg, Northern Trails 5/6, "School Time"

FHE Students Receive State Journalism Awards

The following Forest Hills Eastern High School students received awards for excellence in journalism by the Michigan Inter-scholastic Press Association. The association recognizes excellence in reporting, news photography, design and illustration. Eastern's student newspaper is called, "Hawk Herald."

"What's Stressing Us Out?"

by Lois Biggs & Beau Hunsaker

1st Place – In-Depth Feature – News Writing
1st Place – Feature Page/Spread – News Design

"A Candid Letter to Anxiety"

by Alexis Simonson

2nd Place – Bylined Opinion Article – News Writing

"Halloween Movies: How Much Spice Can You Handle?"

by Lois Biggs

3rd Place – Alternative Story Form – News Writing

"Two-Week Trip, Lifelong Vision"

by Lois Biggs & Natalie Coash

Honorable Mention – Personality Profile – News Writing

"Keep the Humanities Alive"

by Garrett Auzins

Honorable Mention – Editorial Cartoon – Art/Illustration

All Schools Participate in Earth Day Activities



Students in kindergarten through 12th grade around the district participated in Earth Day activities. Most helped to clean up their school grounds, spread mulch, pick up trash, pull weeds and plant flowers. Pictured here, Forest Hills Eastern High School students (from left) Oliver Bragdon, Elise Wassink, and Anna Keller, lend a helping hand to beautify their school's campus. At Eastern alone, it took about 1,500 hours of combined student teamwork to get the job done.

FHN Interact Club Means Business

Every Monday at 7 a.m. when most high school students are going to school, a group of Forest Hills Northern High School students are already in a meeting. They are members of the FHN Interact Club, sponsored by the Grand Rapids East Rotary. The club, launched at the beginning of the school year, has 25 members, who were recommended by FHN faculty. The Interact Club adopted two initiatives or local organizations to “adopt” this year and help them fulfill their mission—In the Image and End It.

In addition to assisting the goals of the two nonprofit organizations listed above, the students worked with Rotary mentors in small groups on writing marketing and business plans they presented to the organizations.

Charlotte Mathias, FHN junior said, “Participating with this club really helped us see the different environments people come from and the needs they have.”

In the Image links new and gently used clothing, housewares, furniture, and appliances with people in need. End It is a coalition of world organizations leading the fight for freedom from slavery including bonded labor, forced labor, and human trafficking. The FHN students designed and sold End It T-shirts, produced a video, and participated in Shine a Light on Slavery Day.

“These students are really amazing,” said Catherine Jacobs, Rotary club adviser. “We really didn’t know what to expect and have been astounded by their passion and enthusiasm all year long.”

Making a difference in the community has been the impact of this group, and Stan Moeggenborg, Rotary president agrees with Jacobs. “We have worked on many initiatives over the years and are ecstatic with our decision to launch the Interact Club at Forest Hills Northern. These kids are fine examples to us on how to make things happen.”

FHPS Students Garner Multiple Awards in National History Day Competition

Forest Hills Public Schools once again had an excellent showing at the National History Day state finals. Winning teams had students from Northern Hills Middle School, Northern High School, Eastern Middle School, and Central High School. The teams and individual students competed in one of five categories: website, documentary, exhibit, paper, or performance. The top two teams in each category and division advance to the national finals of National History Day held in June at the University of Maryland. The third place team serves as an alternate should another team be unable to attend the national finals. The following students will represent Forest Hills in Maryland.

Northern Hills Middle School State Finalists

Junior Group Documentary

Cartography: The Industry That Formed America; Winning students: Molly Fanning, Lauren TerMaat, Hazel von Maur, Olivia Wolfe

Junior Individual Documentary

A National Blessing: Hamilton’s National Bank; Winning student: Elizabeth Mathias

Junior Group Website

Nikola Tesla: Equal in Achievement and Imagination; Winning students: Jeffrey Consolla, Benjamin Griffith, Maxwell Paradiso

Junior Group Exhibit

The Evolution of Basketball: From a Game to a Sport; Winning students: Tyler Jansen, Jacob Meyer

Junior Individual Exhibit

The Accidental Invention; Winning student: Ethan Jansen

Junior Group Performance

(Third Place / Alternate for Nationals)
Radium: The Discovery of One of the World’s Most Dangerous Elements; Winning students: Gabriela Cesario, Elise Kirkwood

Northern High School State Finalists

Junior Group Documentary

A Moon-umental Exploration; Winning students: Dylan Chung, Ellie Katz, Chase Morello

Eastern Middle School State Finalists

Junior Individual Documentary

The Last Continent: The Story of Amudsen, Scott, and the Exploration of the South Pole; Winning student: Ingrid Votruba

Junior Individual Paper

Encountering, Exploring, and Exchanging New Ideas: Revolutionary War Communication; Winning student: Claire Parish

Junior Individual Website

Globalization: The Impact of the Columbian Exchange; Winning student: Lisha Chadda

Junior Individual Documentary

(Third Place / Alternate for Nationals)

From Exploration to Exploitation: The French Fur Trade in the Great Lakes; Winning students: Jill Pierangeli, Natalie Robbins

Junior Individual Paper

(Third Place / Alternate for Nationals)

The Irish Encounter: A Forgotten Force; Winning student: Kyle Korte

Central High School State Finalist

Senior Individual Website

Mike Gorman: Exploration and Exchange in the People’s Fight for the Mentally Ill; Winning student: Dorris Dagama



Northern Hills Middle School students Hazel von Maur, Olivia Wolfe, Lauren TerMaat, and Molly Fanning, along with Brent Miller, NHMS teacher, Spanish Immersion challenge social studies, were among the entries chosen to advance to nationals for their group documentary, “Cartography: The Industry that Formed America.”



Tyler Jansen and Jacob Meyer along with teacher MaryBeth McMahon, will participate in the national event with their exhibit, “The Evolution of Basketball: From a Game to a Sport.”



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Knapp Forest Students Participate in Pulsera Project—Color the World

As a culmination project to handicraft and economic lessons in the Spanish classes at Knapp Forest Elementary School, students participated in the world-wide Pulsera Project. During the week of Cinco de Mayo, or May 5, the Pulsera Project came to Knapp Forest with a resounding success. The Pulsera Project is a nonprofit organization that educates, empowers, and connects Nicaraguan artists with students in more than 1,300 U.S. schools through the sale of colorful handwoven bracelets, or “pulseras” and bags, called “bolsitas.” The pulseras and bolsitas are tagged with a picture and signature of the artist who made it, and all of the proceeds from the sale of the bracelets and bags are returned to Nicaragua to support

educational programs, scholarships, youth shelters and more. Within three days, 700 pulseras and 80 bolsitas had been sold, and the Knapp Forest students raised \$4,300 for Nicaraguan children and families.

“We are just so grateful for our students’ incredible and enthusiastic reaction to this project,” said Melissa Neely, Knapp Forest Spanish teacher. “It’s more than just a Spanish lesson or cultural lesson. It is about our students recognizing that they can have an influence on students and families on the other side of the globe, and our students realizing that all children have the same hopes and aspirations no matter where they live.”



Fifth-graders at Knapp Forest showcase pulseras and bolsitas for sale to help support families in Nicaragua. Pictured (from left): Keegan Johnson, Rohit Agarwal, Katya Siverly, Megan Bennett, Melissa Neely, teacher, Leah Hicks, and Vivian Reinink.

FHN Students Named Finalists in Competition by the Economic Club of Grand Rapids

Stuart Hart, a senior at Forest Hills Northern High School, and Artyom Archiyan, a junior at Forest Hills Northern High School, were finalists in an essay contest hosted by the Economic Club of Grand Rapids. They were selected from over 190 entries from around the county for their response to, “What is the impact of immigration policies on communities and the future of West Michigan?”

FHC’s Science Olympiad Team Advances

Forest Hills Central High School’s Science Olympiad Team competed against other top schools in Michigan at the state Science Olympiad hosted by Michigan State University. The team took 13th place and competed against 48 other high schools.

Third Time a Charm for Spelling Bee Champ



Top Speller, Aiden Mischley

Aiden Mischley, an eighth-grader at Northern Hills Middle School, won the Greater Grand Rapids Spelling Bee and will represent West Michigan in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. later this month. Mischley has participated

in spelling competitions for the last three years. In sixth grade, he finished sixth place, and last year came in fourth place, only losing to eighth-graders. His winning word was f-e-l-o-n-i-o-u-s-l-y.

Photo provided by John Corriveau.

Save the Dates for Upcoming Class Reunions

Forest Hills Northern High School Class of 1976

40th Reunion

Saturday, Aug. 6, 2016, 6 - 9 p.m.
84th Street Pub & Grill

Please share the news or email, FHN76Reunion@gmail.com to register your contact information. You may also upload pictures from the past to be used for a video. More details to come. Spread the word!

Forest Hills High School Class of 1966

50th Reunion

Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016, 6 p.m.
Watermark Country Club
RSVP Required

For more information contact Rob Beahan, (616) 446-6529, or email: rob@beahan.org; or Trish Cutler, (616) 874-8085, email: wcutler318@aol.com

Find us on Facebook: Forest Hills High School Class of 1966

Visit our Website!
www.fhps.net

FHPS Preschools Now Enrolling

Are you looking for a preschool that can offer a half-day program five days per week for your 4-year-old with the added benefit of knowing it is taught by an FHPS teacher? Ada Elementary Preschool and Knapp Forest Elementary Preschool have openings for the fall. Children must be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2016, and bathroom independent. For additional preschool information, visit, www.fhps.net, or call the Child Care office at 493-8787.

FHPS Summer Day Camp Now Enrolling

If you're looking for a fun, educational place for children this summer, consider the Forest Hills Public Schools Summer Day Camp. The fun, exciting summer program is designed to allow flexibility. Families may register a child for one week or all 11 weeks, but there is a minimum requirement of three days per week of attendance. Summer Day Camp is for children entering kindergarten through sixth grade. Most of the time spent at day camp is playing and interacting with like-aged children and an experienced group leader facilitating age-appropriate activities. The child-adult ratios comply with the State of Michigan child care regulations and it is a licensed program. Summer Day Camp is located at Central Woodlands 5/6 School and will run daily from 6:45 a.m. until 6:15 p.m. Summer Day Camp begins Wednesday, June 15, and runs through Friday, Aug. 26. For more information and to register online, go to: www.fhps.net, and search "Summer Day Camp."

Girls' Gymnastics Team Takes Second in State

Forest Hills girls' gymnastics team finished second in the state competition. They also broke the current school record for a team score with a 145.1 (which they previously set at Regionals early this year). In addition, four of the girls made All State honors by placing in the top 10 at the state competition.

Lydia Bouma
Christine Byam

Hannah Esterman
Cassidy Terhorst

Enroll Today for 2016-17 Kindergarten

**Do you have a child entering kindergarten this coming fall?
Don't delay and enroll today!**



Kindergartners enjoy a learning game at Ada Elementary.

Help us plan for the fall and our student enrollment. If you have a child who is or will be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2016, fill out the pre-enrollment and enrollment forms online and return the necessary paperwork before school gets out for the summer. We have kindergarten classes in all Forest Hills elementary schools. There also

is limited availability in the Mandarin Chinese kindergarten immersion program, and a waiting list for the Spanish kindergarten immersion program. For more enrollment information, visit, www.fhps.net.



Thornapple Elementary kindergartners make friends easily.

Summer Academy Available for Middle, High Schoolers

Forest Hills Public Schools believes that all students should have an opportunity to pursue a program of education that best fits their personal needs. For many students, this includes the option to continue their education beyond the traditional school day and beyond the traditional school calendar. The 2016 Summer Academy program information is now available online. Summer Academy classes will be held at Central Middle School. Students may take

online courses for credit recovery and credit advancement. Several face-to-face classes are also available, including Algebra I, Middle School Math, Reading Support, and Middle School—21st Century Comparative Language 8 (Spanish immersion). For additional information about the programs and enrollment, go to www.fhps.net, and search "Summer Academy" or go to the Community Services website, enjoylearning.com.

Forest Hills Sports Update

Students Committed to Playing Athletics at a College/University

FHC

Karsen Diepholz, Swimming, Illinois Institute of Technology
Peyton Dixon, Dance, Davenport University
Max Kuiper, Lacrosse, Hope College
Allyson Stapleton, Track/XC, Wheaton College
Madeleine Wilson, Swimming, Butler University

FHE

Claire Baghera, Soccer, Adrian College
Samuel Balke, Baseball, Hope College
Jay Byle, Tennis, Davenport University
Steven Harvey, Basketball, Alma College
Kaleese Jeffries, Basketball, Siena Heights University

Chase Krueger, Basketball and Football, Alma College

Camron Nelson, Track, Grand Valley State University

Andrew Pawlanta, Baseball, Hope College
Zachary Robbins, Golf, Cleveland State University

FHN

Michael Casterline, Baseball, Heidelberg University

Mia Harvey, Basketball, Alma College
Jacob Martin, Football, University of Michigan (preferred walk-on)
Samuel Schellenberg, Baseball, Calvin College

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

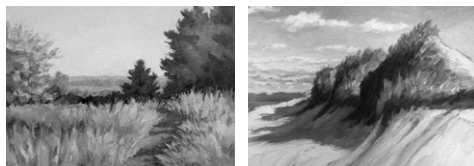
Upcoming Exhibits

Kathleen Mohl

Paintings

May 23 - June 10, 2016

Artist's Reception: June 2, 6-7 p.m.

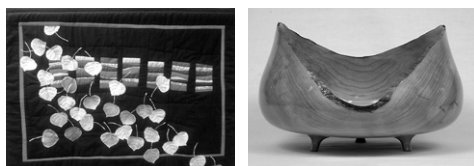


Vivian and Jeff Grill

Quilts, Wood Bowls

June 17 - July 15, 2016

Artist's Reception: June 23, 6-7 p.m.



Presenting Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsors:



FHFAC Calendar

May

25 Healthy Living Lecture Series,
12:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.

June

2 Kathleen Mohl
Artist's Reception, 6-7 p.m.

6 Board of Education Meeting
7 p.m.

23 Vivian and Jeff Grill
Artist's Reception, 6-7 p.m.

July

13-15 Summerstock presents "The
Addams Family," 7:30 p.m.

15 Summerstock presents "The
Addams Family," 3 p.m.

August

4 Madeline Kaczmarczyk
Artist's Reception, 6-7 p.m.

Visit fhfineartscenter.com for a calendar showing all upcoming events.

Fine Arts Center Displays Student Art

From hand-carved canoe paddles and ceramic vases, to drawings in chalk, charcoal, crayon and much more, students from all Forest Hills Public Schools were selected by their art teachers as among the "best of the best" from thousands of student-created masterpieces. The students' creations were on display at the Forest Hills Fine Arts Center. The show included an artists' reception—the largest reception held each year at the FAC. The kindergarten through 12th-grade art exhibit has been a tradition for Forest Hills Public Schools for over 25 years and highlights the important role art plays in our schools.



Alexis Rietema, second-grader at Thornapple Elementary School is proud of her work on display at the FAC.

FHC DECA Team Named State Finalists



The Forest Hills Central High School's DECA team was among the finalists in the state DECA competition. Three team members will compete at the national competition in Nashville, Tenn., including Jameson Rabideau for the individual sports and entertainment marketing role play event, and Joe Capozzoli and Thomas Stull for the team financial services role play event. DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges world-wide.

Thank a Teacher Grant



Colleen Dompierre, special education teacher at Forest Hills Central High School, (left), was one of 13 winners across the country of the Farmers Insurance Thank a Teacher Grant. With the \$2,500 she received, she was able to purchase six adjustable height tables which benefit a number of students including Kevin Friar (right).



FOREST HILLS

PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

May 2016

600 Forest Hill Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 • (616) 493-8500 • www.fhpsf.org

Foundation Announces Spring Grants Totaling Over \$55,000

Applicant Name | Building | Project Name | Description

Awarded Amount

Jeff Manders CHS TV Studio Microphones This grant is for five lavalier condenser microphones. The microphones will be primarily used for the broadcast students, media communication classes, and film project classes.	\$1,405.00
Jennifer Clancy, Nancy Lass, Kelly VerBerkmoes, Steve Williams THO 3rd Grade Boardgames This grant is for games that will enhance language arts, writers workshop, and math block by reinforcing skills.	\$2,500.00
Erin Gauthier EMS Technology Support This grant provides two chrome books and timers for autism special education students. They will assist them with the peer-to-peer program and general education classes.	\$700.00
Kristin O'Brien, Jayme Buchanan, Brian Johnson CHS, NHS, EHS Virtual Business Accounting This grant will purchase site licenses for all three high schools for the Virtual Business Accounting software.	\$4,100.00
Molly Rundquist MB Raz-Kids Online Guided Reading Program This grant is for implementing Raz-Kids for first grade classrooms. It is an online guided reading program for students to use both in the classroom and at home.	\$550.00
Kim Fowler THO Kindergarten Emergent Reader Library This grant will purchase a collection of emergent reader texts for the kindergarten classrooms at Thornapple.	\$3,249.00
Rena Simpson NHS NHS Algebra 1 IXL This grant is for an online math subscription for Algebra I IXL for all algebra students at Northern High.	\$2,125.00
Sara Zietz PR Pine Ridge Parent-Child Book Group This grant will purchase books for the fourth-grade parent/child book club at Pine Ridge.	\$500.00
Anne Keller OV First Lego League Robotics This grant will purchase materials needed to start a First Lego Robotics League at Orchard View.	\$1,500.00
Anne Keller OV The Benefits of Biodiversity This grant will purchase wildflowers and trees for the outback classroom. This will restore its biodiversity while students learn more about plant ecosystems.	\$700.00
Dolores Keeley EHS Edible Schoolyard Hoop House This grant is for the materials to build a hoop house as part of their edible schoolyard program. The hoop house will allow for vegetables to be grown through the winter.	\$2,009.00
Dolores Keeley, Kris Hop, John Vanderburg, Richard Butcher EHS Toss It! This grant will purchase the materials for six corn hole sets to be built. The games will be used as a way to encourage student social interaction.	\$490.00
Anne Keller OV Winter Ecology on Snowshoes This grant is for 30 pairs of snowshoes to develop a winter ecology program at Orchard View.	\$2,700.00
Penny Beatty Ada Ada-Makochon Partnership This grant will fund the printing and translation costs for books written by Ada students for their partner school in Haiti.	\$750.00
Dolores Keeley EHS Micro-Power This grant will purchase 32 LED microscopes for Eastern High.	\$9,888.00
Scott Kemperman NHS CNC Router This grant is to help fund a CNC Router for Northern High.	\$13,000.00
Liz Cotter Flex Academy Flex Academy Art Cooperative This grant will offer Flex Academy students the opportunity to engage with resident art facilitators at West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology.	\$700.00
Michelle Benjamin CW Marimba This grant will purchase a xylophone and marimba for Central Woodlands.	\$2,433.00
Joel Klamer NT Marimba This grant will purchase a xylophone and marimba for Northern Trails.	\$2,433.00
Michelle Benjamin NT Music White Boards This grant is for white boards for music classes at Northern Trails.	\$381.00
John Vanderburg EHS Digital Art Expansion II This grant will purchase materials needed for Digital Arts expansion at Eastern High—such as Pentax cameras, memory cards and photo studio lighting kit.	\$2,202.00
Amy Forslund-Amos THO Djembe Drumming This grant is for 20 Djembe drums for Thornapple.	\$1,420.00

Total Awarded \$55,735.00

Save the Dates

■ **Charlie Anderson Memorial Golf Tournament**
Wednesday, June 15, 2016, at Thornapple Pointe Golf Club

■ **The Gala**
Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2016, 6 p.m., at Frederik Meijer Gardens



Forest Hills Public Schools

6590 Cascade Road SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Phone: (616) 493-8800
www.fhps.net



POSTMASTER:

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Enroll Your Family in Youth and Adult Classes This Summer!

Aquatic Center Classes

Empower your child with the skills to enjoy the water as a lifelong activity. The Aquatic Center offers the American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim program on Saturday mornings from 9:10 a.m. to noon for ages 5 and above. Each class is 50 minutes long. For summer, classes are available in three sessions—all in the months of June and July. Preschool swimming lessons (named “Dolphins”) are offered on weekdays during the summer. For more information, visit our website, at enjoylearning.com.

Youth Classes and Sports

Safe Bridges to Kindergarten: For entering kindergartners, this class will focus on areas of safety this age group encounters: home, medicine, poisons, strangers, school bus, and more. Included is a learning experience riding three-wheel trikes in our imaginary Safety Town. Get your child ready for the big school!

Kendall College Art Classes—These classes are great for creative first- through fourth-graders. Brush Upon a Star (painting), Picasso’s Animals in Clay (sculpture), Drawing Across the Universe (sketching), and Go Wild Drawing a Zoo (sketching) round out these classes offered by Kendall instructors.

Science and Technology Classes—From Mind Boggle’s Kitchen Chemistry, to Bricks 4Kidz Advanced Junior Robotics, we have a techy class for your child ages 4 through 18! Our Minecraft Modification Boot Camps and Mobile Video Game Development Boot Camps sell out fast! Register today.

Special Interest Youth Classes—Our Etiquette for Today class is for boys and girls in third through fifth grades. Contemporary manners are blended with traditional etiquette to teach students how to be at ease in

a variety of social settings. Our Girls Garden Club Summer Fun class is filled with fun activities such as yoga, hiking, cooking, reading and gardening. Don’t miss out!

Summer Basketball Camps—Girls and boys in first grade through third grade will enjoy our Summer Basketball Skills Camp where our experienced coach will teach drills and skills to enhance their game in both knowledge and ability. For those in fourth through sixth grade, our Summer Basketball Camp is offered in two rounds: round one is open to those who are just learning the game, and round two is for those who have completed round one or who are intermediate players that want to perfect their skills.

Self-Defense Classes—For ages 5 through 15, our Peaceful Dragons Self-Defense classes focus on child safety awareness and promotes discipline rather than aggressiveness.

Midwest United Soccer Camps—All six camps build skills to enhance athletic ability and produce competitive results.

Horse Camps—Boys and girls ages 8-12 will learn how to care for horses, how to groom them, how to ride them, and how to have fun while “horsing around.” A professional horse trainer will provide a safe, fun camp.

Register for all classes at enjoylearning.com.

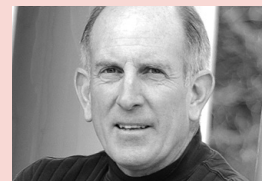
Wonderful Classes for Adults

Community Services has added many new classes this summer for the adult learner. Classes in Zentangle, oil painting, Office 2016 Word and Excel, fitness training, as well as many returning favorites, are part of our exciting lineup. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn something new. Register today through enjoylearning.com or call our office at (616) 493-8950 for more information.

HEALTHY LIVING LECTURE SERIES

May 25, 12:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

Tom Rademacher
Journalist, Speaker
Keynote, 1 p.m.



Mercy Health Lectures

- Love Your Diet, Love Your Heart 2 p.m.
- Mindfulness & Parkinson’s Disease, 3 p.m.



It’s All Free! Stay & Enjoy...

- Exhibitor booths and health screenings
- Door prizes include \$200 gift cards from Forest Hills Foods and Fuel and \$250 VISA gift cards from Old National Bank
- Healthy snacks provided in the café

Visit enjoylearning.com

Reservations not required.



Community Services
Forest Hills Public Schools