



focus



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Twenty-three Forest Hills Seniors Recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program

Last month, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 61st annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Forest Hills Public Schools again ranked among the top high schools in Michigan for high school seniors being recognized at the highest levels of achievement. This year, 12 Forest Hills students were named National Merit Semifinalists and 11 were named Commended Students. These academically-talented seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be offered in the spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title. Although Commended Students do not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, some of these students do become candidates for special scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.

How does one become recognized as a National Merit Semifinalist or Commended

(continued on page 5, column 1)

Central High School



Semifinalists, from left: Jack Boezwinkle, Joshua Kooistra, Allyson Stapleton, Ruchir Gupta, and Cooper James.

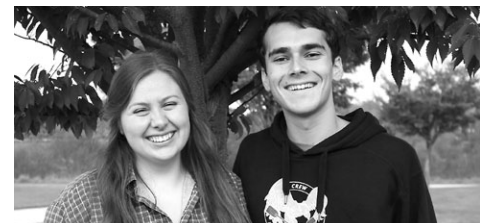


Commended Students, from left: Benjamin Fox, Maria Nasser, Samuel Dolphin, Colleen Hillard, Brooke Bacigal, and Sofia Stanesco-Bellu. Not pictured: Timothy Bennett.

Eastern High School



Semifinalists, from left: Lois Biggs and Elise Wassink.



Commended Students, from left: Pearl Chapman and Samuel Hostetter.

Northern High School



Semifinalists, from left: Samuel Schellenberg, Harris Spungen, Marc Anastasiu, Natalie Brown, and Raymond Engle.



Commended Students, from left: Ashley Peuler and Gregory Poole.

Dr. James Fahner Honored for 12 Years of Service on the Board of Education

Dr. James Fahner was recently honored for his 12 years of service and dedication on the Forest Hills Public Schools board of education. Trustee, past vice president and president of the board of education, Dr. Fahner resigned from his seat on the board of education at the end of September.

According to Superintendent Dan Behm, "Dr. Fahner deeply loves this district and the Forest Hills 'family' and has been a stalwart supporter of FHPS and public education. He's a man of incredible character and intellect, and one of the finest examples of selfless public service I have ever witnessed."

Dr. Fahner is the founding physician and chief of the award-winning pediatric hematology and oncology division for the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. With his expanded responsibilities at the children's hospital and his leadership roles in other nonprofit groups, such as the Van Andel Institute, Hospice of Michigan, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Foundation, Spectrum Health Foundation, and more, Dr. Fahner has decided to pass the baton of service on to another member of the Forest Hills community.



Dr. Fahner, former FHPS board of education member, is pictured here interacting with former students from Ada Vista Elementary School and Central High School. Although the photo was taken two years ago, it exudes Dr. Fahner's interest in students' learning and his dedication to education.

"We sincerely thank Dr. Fahner for his 12 years of service and commitment to the children, staff, and community of the Forest Hills Public Schools and his leadership on the board of education," said Doug Josephson, president, FHPS board of education. "We wish him well and he will be deeply missed."

At the time of this publication, another board member has not yet been appointed; however, the vacancy should be filled by the end of October. For additional board updates, please visit our website: www.fhps.net.

FHC Senior Obtains Perfect Score on ACT

Forest Hills Central High School senior, Kristin Lewis, earned a top composite score of 36 on the ACT test. Nationally, while the actual number of students earning a composite score of 36 varies from year to year, on average, less than one-tenth of 1 percent of students who take the ACT earns the top score. The ACT consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science. Each test is scored on a scale of 1-36, and a student's composite score is the average of the four test scores. ACT test scores are accepted by all major U.S. colleges. Lewis plans to pursue a degree in biomedical or chemical engineering. She would like to attend either the University of Michigan, Purdue University, Northwestern University, or Carnegie Mellon University.

FHPS Social Worker Named Region Social Worker of the Year

Ginny Grit, Forest Hills Public Schools social worker, has been named School Social Worker of the Year by the Michigan Association of School Social Workers, Region C. She will be recognized at the MASSW annual conference in Lansing later this month.

"I have witnessed Ginny's tireless work ethic, her dedication to children and families, and her commitment to go above and beyond with every challenge she is presented," said colleague, and FHPS social worker, Colleen Ray. "She is driven, and hardworking, and I can't think of anyone who deserves this honor more than Ginny."

According to Grit, "The award means the world to me for so many different reasons. I am so blessed to work for a wonderful district with amazing colleagues, staff, students and families who motivate me to do my personal best every day. My hope is that people realize the award is not about me,



Ginny Grit pushes Meadow Brook Elementary School student Cameron Weatherford across the finish line during the "My Team Triumph" race this summer.

but that it brings to light the incredible work that school social workers do on a daily basis, and the impact that they have on children, schools, and families."

Grit and her colleagues have been instrumental in the development of the LINKS program which pairs general education students with special education students.

(continued on page 4, column 3)

Upcoming District Events

Calendar Listing of Community-Wide School Events

October

- 26 FHC/FHE/FHN Vocal Jazz Festival, 7 p.m., FAC
- 27 FHN Jazz Band & Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FHN Auditorium
- 28 FHC Orchestra Fall Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 29 Thornapple Elementary Fourth-Grade Musical, 7 p.m., FAC
- 29 FHN Halloween Concert, 7 p.m., FHN Auditorium

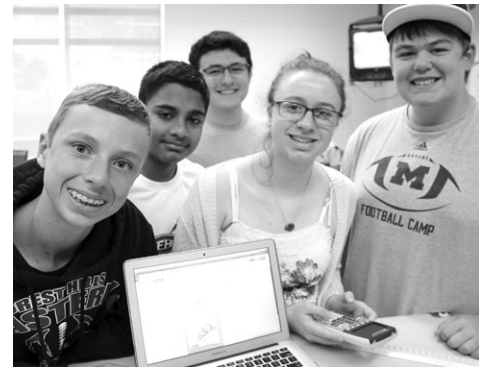
November

- 1 FAC Presents, "Molly Ringwald Revisits the Club," 7:30 p.m., FAC
- 3 FHPS Middle School String Extravaganza, 6:30 p.m., FAC
- 5 Knapp Forest First-Grade Choir Concert, 7 p.m., Knapp Forest Gym
- 5-7 FHE Presents "The Snow Queen," 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 6 Thornapple Elementary "King's Feast," 5 p.m., Thornapple Elementary Multipurpose Room
- 7 Fall Clean-Up Date, 9 a.m., Orchard View Elementary
- 7 FHE Holiday Expo, 9 a.m., FHE Great Hall/Middle School Gym
- 11 FHN Veteran's Day Assembly, 9:25 a.m., FHN North Gym
- 12 Jan Vonk Artist Reception, 6 p.m., FAC
- 12-14 FHC Presents "Anne of Green Gables," 7:30 p.m., FHC Auditorium
- 16 Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Orchard View Elementary
- 17 Northern Trails Sixth-Grade Band Concert, 7 p.m., FHN Auditorium
- 18 The Foundation Gala, 6-9:30 p.m., Frederik Meijer Gardens, RSVP required
- 19-21 FHN Presents "Mary Poppins" 7:30 p.m., 3 p.m. Sat. Matinee, FAC
- 24 FHN International Fair, 9:30 a.m.-1:45 p.m., FHN Commons & Gym
- 25-27 Thanksgiving Break
- 30 Collins Elementary Second-Grade Musical, 6:30 p.m., FHN Auditorium
- 30 Our Kids' Well Being Speaker Series, "The Emotional Side of Change," Featuring Nancy Anne Colflesh, 7 p.m., FAC

December

- 1 Orchard View Second-Grade Music Performance, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
 - 1 Central Middle School Orchestra Winter Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
 - 2 FHE Singers/Orchard View and Knapp Forest Sixth-Grade Combined Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
 - 3 Collins Elementary Third-Grade Musical, 6:30 p.m., FHN Auditorium
 - 3 Central Woodlands Sixth-Grade and Central Middle School Winter Choir Concert, 7 p.m., FHC Auditorium
 - 5 FHN Band in Ada Holiday Parade, Downtown Ada, 11 a.m.
 - 5-6 West Mich. Youth Ballet presents "The Nutcracker," 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Sat, 1 p.m. Sun, FAC
 - 7 FHE Winter Jazz Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
 - 7 Northern Trails Sixth-Grade and NHMS Winter Choir Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
 - 8 Orchard View and Knapp Forest Sixth-Grade Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
 - 8 FHN/NHMS Winter Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
 - 9 Staff & Community Artist Reception, 6 p.m., FAC
 - 9 EMS Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
 - 9 NHMS Winter Band concert, 7 p.m., FHN Auditorium
 - 10 Knapp Forest Third-Grade Choir Concert, 7 p.m., Knapp Forest Gym
 - 10 Thornapple Elementary Third-Grade Musical, 7 p.m., Thornapple Elementary Gym
 - 10 EMS Winter Choir Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
 - 10 FHC Collage Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
 - 13 Forest Hills Adult Community Band Winter Concert, 2:30 p.m., FHE Auditorium
 - 14 FAC Presents, "The Kenny G Holiday Show," 7:30 p.m., FAC
 - 14 EMS, Orchard View and Knapp Forest Sixth-Grade, Combined Winter Band Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
 - 15 Northern Trails Sixth-Grade Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., Northern Trails Cafe
 - 15 FHE Winter Band Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
 - 16 FHE Winter Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
 - 16 FHN Winter Band Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
 - 17 FHN Winter Choir Concert, 7:30 p.m., FAC
 - 17 FHE Choir Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
 - 21 Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Transportation Department
- Dec. 21 – Jan. 1 Winter Break

For the most up-to-date district and school calendars, visit our website: www.fhps.net/district-calendar/.



Cover Photo

Students in the new STEM Academy (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) work together on projects, solving problems and creating solutions. Pictured on the cover are (from left): Jack Skoog from Eastern High School, Rithik Sawant from Central High School, Matthew Palmer from Central High School, Hope Baker from Eastern High School, and John Jendrasiak from Northern High School. The Academy is a new initiative in Forest Hills Public Schools. Although it is housed at Forest Hills Northern High School, it is open, by application, to students who attend any of the three Forest Hills high schools. The STEM Academy is a four-year advanced program offering an innovative and collaborative curriculum based on real-world themes.



Christina Chiazza, from Central High School, works on a STEM Academy project utilizing her geometry and science skills.

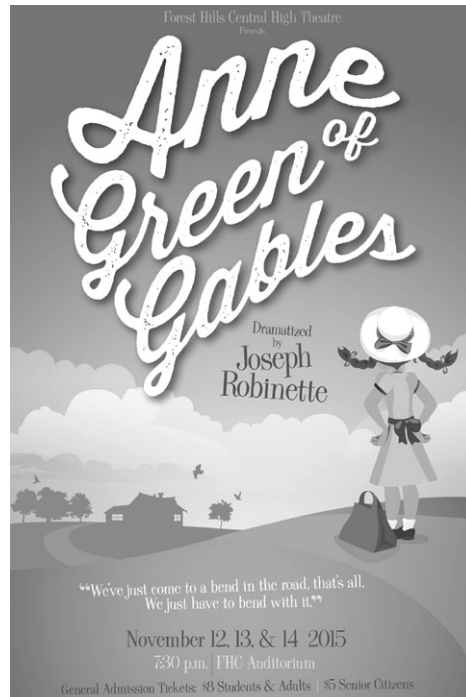
FH Adult Community Band Concert Schedule

All concerts are located at Forest Hills Eastern auditorium and are free of charge. The community is invited to attend! For more information, please visit our website, www.fhacb.org.

- Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015, 2:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 22, 2016, 2:30 p.m.

► More upcoming productions are listed on page 4.

Upcoming High School Theatrical Productions



Need Tickets?
Visit showtix4u.com

First Presentation of Our Kids' Well-Being Speaker Series for 2015-16!

"Successfully Navigating Change and the Array of Emotions"

Monday, Nov. 30, at 7 p.m.
Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

Everyone experiences change or goes through various transitions in life. Whether it is moving to a new home, a death in the family, an illness, financial matters, divorce, or attending a new school, these events have multiple effects. Changes and transitions in life bring a whirlwind of emotions and feelings, and how we respond during these times can have a cascading effect on other individuals and future events.

Set aside a couple of hours and attend the fall Our Kids' Well-Being speaker series featuring Nancy Anne Colflesh, Ph.D. She is the lead learning advocate for the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association's Leadership Matters Specialty Endorsement Program. She also is an assistant professor in the College of Education, Department of Educational Administration at Michigan State University. Colflesh owns and operates her own educational consulting company, Colflesh & Associates.

Following Colflesh's presentation, various breakout sessions will occur where attend-



ees will have the opportunity to go more in depth about how to handle specific events and life changes. The event is not only geared toward adults, but students in middle and high school will also benefit.

More information about her visit and the evening of Nov. 30 will be posted online: www.fhps.net. This event is free.

If you'd like additional information from previous speakers and programs coordinated by our AAA team, visit: www.fhps.net/mental-health-information.

Presented by:

Sponsored by the
Forest Hills Public Schools
Parent Group
**Awareness
Acceptance
Advocacy of Mental Health**

Social Worker

(continued from page 2)

She was instrumental in receiving a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and Special Olympics Michigan called Project Unify. The grant has helped fund a program at Meadow Brook Elementary School. Last year, lieutenant governor, Brian Calley, visited the school and played bocce ball with the students as part of the Project Unify program. Presently she is the school social worker assigned to Meadow Brook and Knapp Forest elementary schools and Ada Christian School as well. She serves on the Educational Leaders Network for Special Olympics Michigan and recently was invited to be on a special education task force formed by Calley.

Grit received her undergraduate degree from Grand Valley State University and did an internship at Lincoln School. She went on to receive her graduate degree from Western Michigan University and did an internship at Forest Hills Central High School. While in graduate school she was hired as a long-term substitute social worker for Pine Ridge Elementary School. Following graduate school, she worked for the Okemos Public Schools and Shiawassee Regional Educational Service District and worked a year in Williamston Public Schools as a behavior specialist. This is her 11th year as a school social worker, and her sixth year at FHPS.

National Merit Scholarship Program

(continued from page 1)

Student? About 1.5 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2015-2016 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state. The number of Semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors. Congratulations to this year's 23 seniors who made this prestigious group.

National Merit Semifinalists

Central High School

Jack Boezwinkle, son of Ronald and Jennifer Boezwinkle

Ruchir Gupta, son of Girish and Anamkia Gupta

Cooper James, son of John and Deena James

Joshua Kooistra, son of Jeffrey and Dorothy Kooistra

Allyson Stapleton, daughter of Mike and Barb Stapleton

Eastern High School

Lois Biggs, daughter of Courtney and Bonnie Biggs

Elise Wassink, daughter of Christopher and Elizabeth Wassink

Northern High School

Marc Anastasiu, son of Christian and Ingrid Anastasiu

Northern High School (continued)

Natalie Brown, daughter of Paul and Lisa Brown

Raymond Engle, son of Chris and Kim Engle

Samuel Schellenberg, son of Daniel and Michelle Schellenberg

Harris Spungen, son of Eric and Sharon Spungen

National Merit Commended Students

Central High School

Brooke Bacigal, daughter of Mark and Tracy Bacigal

Timothy Bennett, son of Byard and Shalini Bennett

Samuel Dolphin, son of Tim Dolphin

Benjamin Fox, son of Philip and Cheri Fox

Colleen Hillard, daughter of Martin Hillard and Catherine Winick

Maria Nasser, daughter of Michael and Vicky Nasser

Sofia Stanesco-Bellu, daughter of Florin and Elena Stanesco-Bellu

Eastern High School

Pearl Chapman, daughter of Teresa Chapman

Samuel Hostetter, son of Galen and Elana Hostetter

Northern High School

Ashley Peuler, daughter of Todd and Wendy Peuler

Gregory Poole, son of Michael and Claire Poole

Families of Incoming 2016 Kindergartners: Explore Immersion

It's not too early to begin thinking about kindergarten for next fall. Whether the avenue is total Spanish immersion or 50/50 immersion in Mandarin Chinese, there are pathways to bilingualism and bi-literacy through immersion education beginning in kindergarten.

Kindergarten- through 12th-grade language immersion programming is designed intentionally, providing learners with time and intensity in a target language to encourage bilingualism and bi-literacy. Students experience daily core content instruction through the means of a target language. As part of this content instruction, students acquire skills unique to the target language, with the overarching goal of developing student performance and proficiency over time. This means that the language is not the sole content of instruction itself, but rather it serves as the vehicle through which content knowledge and skills are accessed and engaged. There are three goals of dual language immersion education:

- Achievement of grade level content expectations (Michigan Academic Standards / FHPS Curriculum Standards).
- Attainment of high levels of target language performance and proficiency.
- Awareness, appreciation, and sensitivity for world cultures.

The Spanish immersion program begins in kindergarten at Ada Vista Elementary School and the Mandarin Chinese program begins in kindergarten at Meadow Brook Elementary School.

There are two ways Forest Hills residents are accepted into the FHPS dual language immersion programs. One is through siblings currently enrolled as immersion students, and the other is the in-district lottery. Sibling registration begins this year on Nov. 30, 2015, and ends Friday, Dec. 18. New student lottery registration begins Jan. 4, 2016, and ends Friday, Jan. 22, 2016.

Both Ada Vista and Meadow Brook elementary schools have many opportunities for families to explore more about immersion programs, to attend events, and to tour the programs. For additional information on up-

(continued on page 6, column 3)

Bond Update



Work continues on the additional gymnasium on the campus of Eastern high and middle schools. Construction is in the home-stretch, and it is anticipated that the project will be completed by the end of December. This project is made possible due to the generosity of our residents and their approval of a \$45 million bond issue in 2013.

Creative, Collaborative Learning Spaces Intentionally Popping Up Throughout the District, Having a Positive Impact on Learning Outcomes

Do you remember those days when you walked into a classroom and all the student desks (the combo desk attached to a chair) were lined up in straight, neat lines all facing the chalkboard? If you walk into a classroom today, you may find something similar, or you may find spaces with bean bag chairs, reading centers, neighborhoods in hallways with work stations, desks arranged in circles, or even students sitting on exercise balls while taking notes. Classrooms still serve the purpose for delivering education and instruction, and the chalkboards have made way to dry-erase boards. But now, more than ever, today's classroom spaces promote creative collaboration, foster the exchange of dialogue and open communication, and teachers are reimagining their four walls.

Here in Forest Hills, many teachers throughout the district are rethinking their learning spaces. On one end of the spectrum is the new Active Learning Center at Forest Hills Northern High School, made possible through a grant from Steelcase. Northern High School teachers and staff, who helped pioneer the district-wide STEM Academy, were awarded an Active Learning Center Grant from Steelcase for over \$40,000. Northern was one of 12 schools, out of 535 applicants, to be awarded this grant. The Active Learning Center grant covered the furniture, integrated technology, design, installation and post-occupancy evaluation for one of three classroom types designed for up to 32 students. Although the space primarily is used for the Academy, the space is open to other staff and students as a collaborative learning space.

On the other end of the innovative learning space spectrum is a project in the initial stages with high school industrial arts and bench woods classes. The goal is to enlist and engage high school students to help create some innovative desk and table designs for collaborative furniture that can be used in the classroom. It is anticipated that this will be achieved during the second semester.

So what's in the middle of the spectrum for collaborative spaces? Somewhere in the middle between making your own space



New furniture, provided by a Steelcase grant, is located in one of the STEM Academy classrooms at Northern High School. Tables and chairs are on casters which allow for easy movement for small group and large group discussions and collaboration.

from the ground up, and receiving a grant, many principals and teachers are bringing their imaginations together to create space with the desired effect of enhancing student learning. For example, Eastern High School is repurposing a classroom as its Innovation Room. Orchard View Elementary School is doing the same and enlisting students to co-create a Learning Studio at the end of the sixth-grade hallway.

In Central Middle School, a portion of a conference room in the vicinity of the front office has been outfitted as a filming "booth" area for teachers to record themselves as they talk about a recently-read book. The video is then available to colleagues to view later. Directions for the talk, as well as camera use are posted so that teachers are able to be self-sufficient. Finally, at Collins Elementary School, they are repurposing a classroom as the district's Center for Innovators Design Thinking Studio. Although in its initial stages, according to Judy Walton, chief innovation officer, "This space is full of potential."

"We are asking questions such as, how might we engage the Collins community of learners with design thinking?" Walton added. "How might we use the space to bring in high school students and ask them to explore new possibilities? How might we invite our Destination: Innovation grant recipients to leverage their learning?"

She continued saying that as a district, teachers and principals are really beginning to look at ways of creating physical conditions that facilitate and support effective teaching and learning. Staff are working

together to determine, for example, "What do they want learners to see when they enter or leave the room?" "What seating arrangements best encourage discussion and productive interaction?" "Can eye contact be made with each learner?"

"The possibilities are limitless and the ideas are numerous," Walton added. "It's exciting to see how the use of space really can enhance student learning. To paraphrase from a book titled, 'How to Set the Stage for Creative Collaboration,' by David Kelley, it really doesn't matter whether the space is a classroom or it is in the offices of a billion-dollar company. Space is something to think of as a mechanism to help foster innovation and collaboration."

If you'd like additional information on how Forest Hills is using and developing collaborative learning environments, and/or have suggestions or ideas that you'd like to share with the Center for Innovators, please email Walton at: jwalton@fhps.net.



Smaller round cut-out tables and bean bag chairs help elementary students work together.

Explore Immersion

(continued from page 5)

coming tour dates and times, and for more information about the enrollment process, please visit the immersion pages on our website: www.fhps.net/immersion.



Like Us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/fhps.net



FOREST HILLS

PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

October / November 2015

"The Innovation Insider"

We are excited to announce the creation of a newsletter to highlight innovation throughout the district. We will focus on what innovation means, why it is important, and how it is making an impact on Forest Hills students. We will produce six issues a year with the first issue slated for late October. If you would like to receive this newsletter, please visit www.fhpsf.org. The newsletter signup form is located at the bottom of the homepage.

Destination: Innovation

We are over half way to our fundraising goal, and we need your help to finish the campaign. We are excited to report that we've raised \$300,000 of the initial goal of \$500,000. Please consider a gift to support Destination: Innovation, an advancement campaign to fund exploration of new learning methods, structures and ideas. These funds will enrich teachers with essential resources—such as time, training and technology—so they can deliver a new type of learning in a new way.

Give securely online at www.fhpsf.org or contact Jana Siminski at 493-8954 or jsimin-ski@fhps.net.

Save the Dates!

■ New! Business Breakfast

Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2016, 7:30 a.m.,
Watermark Country Club

■ State of the District Luncheon

Thursday, May 5, 2016, 11:45 a.m. –
1:15 p.m., Watermark Country Club

■ Charlie Anderson Memorial Golf Tournament

Wednesday, June 15, 2016,
Thornapple Pointe Golf Club



Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015

6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**Frederik Meijer Gardens
and Sculpture Park**

The 2015 Gala is officially sold out, but there is still a way for you to support the school(s) of your choice.

Support Our Schools

At the Gala, we promote the Support our Schools initiative. Administrators at each school have identified needs at their school. Guests at the Gala will have the opportunity to support the schools by funding those needs. If you're unable to attend the Gala, but would like to support this initiative, you may do so online at www.fhpsf.org. Support our Schools donation forms will also be available at each school building prior to the event.

Schools' Identified Needs

Ada Elementary

Jr. Library Guild subscriptions & Overdrive titles; Buddy Bench

Ada Vista Elementary

Jr. Library Guild subscriptions & Overdrive titles; T-stools; Wiggle cushion seats; chewy bangle bracelets and Finger Fidgets

Collins Elementary

Jr. Library Guild subscriptions & Overdrive titles; sensory equipment; Expect Respect/Kindness Counts

Knapp Forest Elementary

Jr. Library Guild subscriptions & Overdrive titles; iBook Capstone Experience

Meadow Brook Elementary

Jr. Library Guild subscriptions & Overdrive titles; and TNT Technology Navigation Team

Orchard View Elementary

Jr. Library Guild subscriptions & Overdrive titles; the Outback Shed

Pine Ridge Elementary

Jr. Library Guild subscriptions & Overdrive titles; music, PE, and art equipment

Thornapple Elementary

Jr. Library Guild subscriptions & Overdrive titles; positive behavior supports; Hokki stools/alternative seating; Theraputty

Central Woodlands 5/6 School

Jr. Library Guild subscriptions & Overdrive titles; Epson multimedia projector

Goodwillie Environmental School

Jr. Library Guild subscriptions & Overdrive titles; Olympus OMD-EMIO camera; Pro-scope portable microscope

Northern Trails 5/6 School

Jr. Library Guild subscriptions & Overdrive titles; Teacher's College Running Record Kits; Wild About Instrumental Music for All

Central Middle School

Jr. Library Guild subscriptions & Overdrive titles; CMS Ranger Up program

Eastern Middle School

Jr. Library Guild subscriptions & Overdrive titles; iPads in math department

Northern Hills Middle School

Jr. Library Guild subscriptions & Overdrive titles; HP color printer and toner; flashlights and barometers

Central High School

Jr. Library Guild subscriptions & Overdrive titles; Logitech headset; World Languages

Eastern High School

Jr. Library Guild subscriptions & Overdrive titles; materials for collaborative learning; classroom supplies/materials

Northern High School

Jr. Library Guild subscriptions & Overdrive titles; classroom headphones; speakers for computers; mobile podium

Transitions Center

Jr. Library Guild subscriptions & Overdrive titles; automatic soap dispensers

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

BE A Part Of It

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center 2015-16 Season



Molly Ringwald REVISITS THE CLUB

**Sunday,
November 1, 2015
7:30 pm**

\$29 • \$39 • \$49 • \$80**

Delight in a 30th anniversary screening of everyone's favorite coming-of-age dramedy, *The Breakfast Club**, followed by an interactive discussion and Q&A with Molly Ringwald herself.



The Kenny G HOLIDAY SHOW

**Monday,
December 14, 2015
7:30 pm**

\$42 • \$46 • \$50 • \$60

Kenny G's unparalleled instrumental chops and indelible melodies continue as he performs many of his career hits and songs of the holiday.



STOMP

**Sunday,
March 6, 2016
7:30 pm**

\$38 • \$40 • \$44 • \$56

STOMP is explosive, provocative, utterly unique and appeals to audiences of all ages. The return of the percussive hit also brings some new surprises.

STOMP. See what all the noise is about.



Indigo Girls

**Friday,
March 25, 2016
7:30 pm**

\$38 • \$42 • \$48 • \$55

The Indigo Girls are going strong after thirty-five years performing together, sixteen albums, a Grammy, seven Grammy nominations and touring arenas, festivals, and clubs the world over.

Season Tickets on Sale Now

Season subscriptions close on Friday, October 30 at 5 pm. Season Tickets can be purchased using several methods: calling 616-493-8966 or 616-493-8965 during office hours (credit card orders only), stopping in person at the FHFAC Box Office, faxing the form in to 616-493-8969 (credit card orders only), mailing the form in to the box office. Season forms can be found at www.fhfineartscenter.com. Fine Arts Center Box Office: 600 Forest Hill Ave., SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

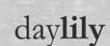
Single Tickets

Single Tickets on sale now for Molly Ringwald. All remaining single tickets on sale Monday, November 9, 2015 at 9am. Single tickets can be purchased in person only at the FAC Box Office, at any Ticketmaster outlet, by calling 800-745-3000 or at ticketmaster.com.

* For mature audiences.

** VIP Event with Molly Ringwald. The first 50 people purchasing \$80 ticket will be invited to attend a private event with Molly Ringwald on the night of the show.

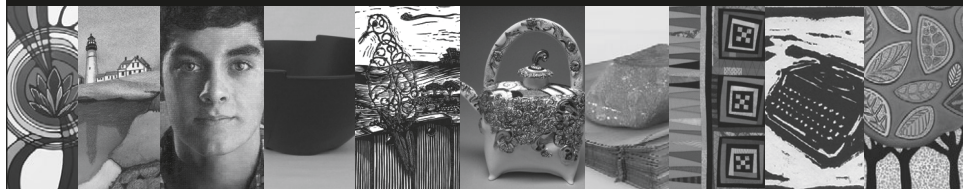
Season Sponsors



Season materials designed by

atmediastudio
Be seen, heard & remembered.

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center 15/16 Artist-in-Residence & Exhibit Schedule



ANTHONY MEAD & STEVEN RAINEY

September 7 – 25, 2015

Reception: Thursday, September 10, 2015

JODY WILLIAMS

October 1 – 23, 2015

Reception: Thursday, October 8, 2015

JAN G. VONK

Celebration of an Artist's Life

October 30 – November 20, 2015

Reception: Thursday, November 12, 2015

FHPS STAFF & COMMUNITY EXHIBIT

December 2 – 16, 2015

Reception: Wednesday, December 9, 2015

THERESA BRAVATA

January 8 – 29, 2016

Reception: Thursday, January 14, 2016

GEORGIA TARDY

February 1 – 26, 2016

Reception: Thursday, February 11, 2016

ALYNN GUERRA

March 4 – 25, 2016

Reception: Thursday, March 10, 2016

FHPS STUDENT EXHIBIT

April 15 – May 12, 2016

Reception: Thursday, April 21, 2016

KATHY MOHL

May 23 – June 10, 2016

Reception: Thursday, June 2, 2016

VIVIAN & JEFF GRILL

June 17 – July 15, 2016

Reception: Thursday, June 23, 2016

MADELINE KACZMARCZYK

July 27 – August 19, 2016

Reception: Thursday, August 4, 2016



Artist Exhibit and Reception at FHFAC for the Designer of the FHPS Logo



Jan G. Vonk

The community is invited to attend the Jan G. Vonk, "Celebration of an Artist's Life" exhibit at the Fine Arts Center from Oct. 30 through Nov. 20, 2015. A reception will be held Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015, from 6-7 p.m., in the FAC

lobby. Vonk passed away in 2014, but his legacy, artwork and dedication to graphic design lives on through his work within Forest Hills Public Schools and at Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University.

Vonk earned his associate degree from Kendall College of Art and Design, a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Michigan, and taught art at Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University. He was an instructor from 1966 until his retirement in 2005, and developed the talents of thousands of students as a professor of graphic design.

In Forest Hills, many residents will know his work associated with the schools, which he did on a volunteer basis. He not only created the FHPS logo freehand, with his script handwriting, but he also created bond election campaign logos, programs for building dedications, newsletter nameplates, t-shirt designs for athletic teams and bands, and numerous other Forest Hills organizations.

According to his son, Charlie Vonk, assistant principal of Central Middle School, "His first love was his kids, and he also loved this school district. He always created things from the heart. More specifically, he knew that a simple graphic, like the Forest Hills Public Schools logo, could communicate a clear, simple, unified message."

Come get a glimpse of the lasting impression Vonk has made in education and the Forest Hills community. His photography, logo designs, drawings and much more will be on display at the FAC, from Oct. 30 through Nov. 20. The FAC is open to the public, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



600 Forest Hill Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Phone: 616.493.8965 Box Office: 616.493.8966
www.fhfineartscenter.com

All exhibits are free to the public, everyone is welcome.

Exhibit Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday

Summer Exhibit Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday - Thursday

Artist Receptions: 6pm - 7pm in the FHFAC lobby.

Presenting Sponsor for the 15/16 Exhibit & Artist-in-Residence Program



AIR/Exhibit Supporting Sponsors



FHFAC Calendar

November

- 1 FHFAC presents Molly Ringwald **Revisits the Club**, 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Jan G. Vonk artist's reception, 6 - 7 p.m.

December

- 9 FHPS Staff and Community artists' reception, 6 - 7 p.m.
- 14 FHFAC presents **The Kenny G Holiday Show**, 7:30 p.m.

Please visit www.fhfineartscenter.com for a complete listing of FHFAC events.

Fine Arts Center Volunteer of the Year



Congratulations to Elaine Simmons, recipient of the 2015 Forest Hills Fine Arts Center Volunteer of the Year Award. This award is bestowed upon the volunteer who not only maintains the largest number of hours since training, but also to the individual that exemplifies the highest professional standards. Thank you Elaine for your hard work and dedication to the arts.

FHPS Urgent Notifications Are at Your Fingertips



Forest Hills Public Schools uses a communication system called SchoolMessenger to notify families of school closings or delays due to inclement weather and alert them of school emergencies. Families can receive the news via a text, email, or phone call notification. Since this communication system is linked to the Parent Portal section of PowerSchool, the computerized student records database, SchoolMessenger is for families with students enrolled in the district. Parent Portal letters were sent to all students' families at the end of September to explain how to set up an account. Once an account has been established, families can update their SchoolMessenger preferences in Parent Portal to control the messages they receive.

To receive text messages from SchoolMessenger, families must opt in and indicate their willingness to receive text messages. To do so, text "YES" to 68453. If FHPS already has your cell phone number, and you have not yet opted in, you will receive an automated text message. Families will know if they were successful if they receive a reply message. Families can repeat the opt-in process for any other wireless numbers families wish to include. Please note, that FHPS is not responsible for any text message charges people may incur by opting in to this service. Families should check with their wireless provider as rates may apply.

Finally, parents should always contact their child's school to update their phone number and email contact information if or when a change occurs. Additional information and resources about SchoolMessenger are available online: www.fhps.net/technology-department/schoolmessenger. Families having questions about Parent Portal or SchoolMessenger, should email: schoolmessenger@fhps.net, or email: parentportal@fhps.net.

Make Sure You Have the Updated School Calendar

Last month, the 2015-2016 school calendar for Forest Hills Public Schools was changed to reflect an announcement made by the Michigan Department of Education. Although the change directly impacts high school students, it is important that all of our families know of the change and to make sure families have the most accurate copy of the school calendar.

No longer is April 12, 2016, a state test day only for 11th-grade students. It is now a state test day for ninth- and 10th-grade students. April 12, 2016, is a full day for all students in all grades except 12th-grade. On this day, the SAT will be given to 11th-graders, and the PSAT will be given to ninth- and 10th-graders. If you have any questions, please contact your school. Here's the updated district calendar for the remainder of the year.

2015

Nov. 6 (Fri.)	K-6 students half day a.m. / K-6 record marking p.m. / 7-12 students full day
Nov. 25 - 27	No school / Thanksgiving recess
Dec. 4 (Fri.)	Two-hour delay for students / staff professional learning
Dec. 18 (Fri.)	Last day for students before break
Dec 21 - Jan.1	No school / holiday recess (10 days)

2016

Jan. 4 (Mon.)	School resumes
Jan. 26 (Tue.)	K-6 students full day / Exams: 7-12 students half day a.m. / 7-12 record marking p.m.
Jan. 27 (Wed.)	K-6 students full day / Exams: 7-12 students half day a.m. / 7-12 record marking p.m.
Jan. 28 (Thu.)	K-6 students half day / Exams: 7-12 students half day a.m.
Jan. 29 (Fri.)	No school for K-12 students / end of semester
Feb. 15 (Mon.)	No school for students / mid-winter break / staff professional learning
Mar. 31 (Thu.)	No school for students / staff professional learning
Apr. 1 - 8	No school for students / spring recess
Apr. 11 (Mon.)	School resumes
Apr. 12 (Tue.)*	No school for students in Grade 12 / Full day for Grades 9, 10, 11 for state testing
May 30 (Mon.)	No school / Memorial Day
June 8 (Wed.)	K-6 students full day / Exams: 7-12 students half day a.m.
June 9 (Thu.)	K-6 students half day a.m. / Exams: 7-12 students half day a.m.
June 10 (Fri.)	Last day K-6 students half day a.m. / Exams: 7-12 students half day a.m.

High School Graduations:

Monday, May 23, 2016 Northern High School Graduation Sunshine Church
 Tuesday, May 24, 2016 Central High School Graduation Sunshine Church
 Wednesday, May 25, 2016 Eastern High School Graduation Sunshine Church

*Updated Sept. 15, 2015, to reflect changes made by the Michigan Department of Education.

Sign Up for Emailed News Bulletins!

It's easy! Just go to the district website: www.fhps.net. Click on the "Subscribe to Emailed News" button on the right-hand side of the homepage. If you are a first-time subscriber, click on the

corresponding link and follow the directions. There also are directions on this page if you need to change or update your emailed subscriptions.

FHPS Has Stellar Showing in ArtPrize

ArtPrize Seven is now in the history books for Grand Rapids, but the memories will remain for more than 7,000 Forest Hills Public Schools students, teachers and community members who created the Forest Hills Public Schools' ArtPrize entry called "Connectivities." It was a nearly 85-foot L-shaped hanging sculpture, conceived by retired Forest Hills art teacher Bob Penning. Penning collaborated with art teachers throughout the district to create the piece made from yarn and foil. "Connectivities" was on display at the Downtown Farmer's Market, and was suspended from the second floor of the building.

"The piece reflects individuality, but yet portrays how everyone's individuality is interconnected and intertwined with each other creating a cohesive unit," Penning said. "Everyone touches everyone else, and collectively all are better than one alone."

Laura Madison, a Forest Hills Northern art teacher who played an organizing—and certainly artistic—role in the project, said the piece achieves "what art is all about. More than the outcome, it's about coming together. That's what we love to see in our art rooms."

This is the third time FHPS has entered ArtPrize. Their previous exhibits were titled, "7,000 Loves" in 2011, and in 2013,



Pam Jasperse, right, art teacher from Meadow Brook Elementary School, and student teacher Naomi Poel, from Kendall College of Art and Design, help on installation day.

the entry was "7,000 Leaves of Love." According to Penning, "It's been a rewarding experience to have students, staff, families and the community come together to not only create ArtPrize entries over the years, but also support the wonderful educational programs occurring every day in our classrooms throughout Forest Hills."

As for the future of this year's "Connectivities," it will be moved and installed in the main entrance hallway at Meadow Brook Elementary School. Supplies used to create "Connectivities" and additional funding was provided by a grant from the Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation. To view additional photos and stories about "Connectivities," visit: www.fhps.net.

Facts and Figures About "Connectivities:"

- About 7,000 individually wrapped "widgets" or pieces were put together to create the finished piece.
- It is 85 feet long when put together. The piece comes in 10 sections; each section is over 8 feet long.
- Nine miles of yarn were used.
- Sixty rolls of aluminum created the individual pieces under the wrapped yarn.
- Two miles of electric fence wire were used to put the pieces together.
- It took approximately 8,000 hours to create the piece.



"Connectivities" was suspended from the second floor of the Grand Rapids Downtown Market.



**FHE
Holiday Expo
& ARTISANS
MARKET**

**Forest Hills Eastern High
2200 Pettis Ave.**

**Saturday, November 7, 2015
9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**A holiday and personal shopping event
featuring hand-crafted and boutique items,
gourmet foods, along with local businesses
and distributors.**

Contact Lisa Keller at holidayexpo@fheseniors.com
Or
Register at www.fheseniors.com/holiday-expo

Sponsored by the Class of 2016

Support FHN Class of 2016: Apple Pie Sale!

The Forest Hills Northern High School senior class will host its annual apple pie sale to raise funds for their graduation party celebration. Purchase 9-inch deep-dish apple pies that are ready-to-bake or can be frozen and baked when needed. Pies are \$9 each or three for \$25.

You also may choose to donate your pies. Donated pies will be delivered to God's Kitchen, Gilda's Club, Mel Trotter Ministries, Degage Ministries, Ronald McDonald House, YMCA Domestic Crisis Center, and Renucci House at Spectrum Health.

Order by Nov. 7 by visiting the website, www.fhnapplepie.com. Pay using PayPal or your credit card. Pies will be ready to be picked up Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Forest Hills Northern High School, 3801 Leonard NE. Pies are made fresh that day. Questions? Email Laura Cox at lauracoxfamily@me.com.



Thanksgiving Break November 25-27



Forest Hills Public Schools

6590 Cascade Road SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

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



POSTMASTER:

This publication contains dated material. Please deliver to homes no later than October 23, 2015.

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Community Services Offers Exciting Classes/Sports in the Coming Months

Aquatic Classes

Lifeguarding Classes (Age 15+)

Two American Red Cross waterfront life-guarding classes will be offered this spring:

- Starts Feb. 17 and ends March 23, 2016.
Course code: 16WPLGT.
- Starts April 13 and ends May 18, 2016.
Course code: 16SPLGT.

Both classes meet Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5-8 p.m., and each course meets 11 times. Save \$10 if you register at least seven days prior to the start of the course.

Swimming Lessons for Children

Do you have a child who doesn't like the water, or doesn't know how to swim? Help them be prepared and give them the skills they need. The Aquatic Center offers the American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim program, and swim lessons are on Saturdays starting Jan. 16, 2016, and meet for nine consecutive weeks, ending March 12. Classes are offered at 9:10 a.m., 10:10 a.m. and 11:10 a.m. To register for any swim class and for additional information, visit: www.enjoylearning.com.

Youth Classes and Sports

We are offering several exciting classes for the late fall and winter months, including:

- Mindcraft Modification Boot Camp
- Kendall College's Superhero Drawing
- Fencing for Beginners • Volleyball Camp
- Civic Theater's "Freckled Face Strawberry"
- Energy Burn for Boys, for Girls
- SAT Seminars • Beginning Ballet
- Free Throw Contest (Basketball)
- Baseball Concepts' Baseball Boot Camp

Several more classes start soon. Visit our website, www.enjoylearning.com, for complete class listings and registration.

Middle School Sports

Co-ed Swimming and Diving: This class starts on Nov. 2 and meets for 28 sessions (Monday through Thursday). Join the middle school swim and dive season. A complete practice and meet calendar will be given out on the first day of practice. Please call 493-8950 to register for this class.

Awesome Classes for Adults

We are offering numerous classes that start in late October and November, including:

- Developing Your Drawing Skills
- Zentangle 205 • Impressionism in Oil
- Open Painting • Party Planning 101
- Ballroom and Latin Dance: Beginners
- QuickBooks • Twitter • Pinterest 101
- Viruses, Worms and Malware • LinkedIn
- Wealth Management 101 • Medicare

Several more classes start soon. Visit our website, www.enjoylearning.com, for complete class listings and registration.

Learning Cafés for Seniors

Brass Ensemble Music Performance

Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2015; Lunch at 12 p.m.

The Calvin College Academy of Lifelong Learning Brass Ensemble will perform classical, spiritual and jazz music selections.

No Barriers

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2015; Lunch at 12 p.m.

Learn about the life of a deaf-blind adventurer who helps people around the world overcome the challenges in their lives. This program is presented by Bill Barkeley and sponsored by Home Instead.

To register, or for additional details, program costs, and menu items, call (616) 493-8950 or visit www.enjoylearning.com.

FHPS Community Services Special Event for Girls!

An Evening in Paris

Save the date, Saturday, Jan. 29, 2016, for our new dance, An Evening in Paris. Girls in grades kindergarten through sixth, along with an adult, will dance the night away at Frederik Meijer Gardens. Visit the Community Services website, enjoylearning.com, for more information.



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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.