



Dear Hudsonville Community,

The 2019-2020 school year is off to a great start. The weather is changing, and the daylight hours are certainly decreasing. This is my favorite time of the year, as the leaves begin to change, and the fall temperatures create a nice break from our warm, humid summer months. The beginning of this school year has been an exciting one. Our athletic teams are off to impressive starts, with seven of our ten sports ranking in the top 10 in the state. Our marching band continues to demonstrate their hard work and dedication, as they prevail over countless competitors on the field. Even with some challenging weather, our elementary buildings had wildly successful walkathons; thank you to all of you that supported our walkers. We are also seeing tremendous success in the classroom, as we received last year's assessment rankings, and once again, Hudsonville scores in the top 10% of all schools in the western Michigan area in math and reading. This is an amazing time to celebrate our success in and out of the classroom.

While we have been blessed with a strong start to the school year, we have also been charged with focusing on 3, 4, and 5 letter terms. The terms EEE, BOND, and COUNT have been daily conversations within our district. Hudsonville Public Schools has been closely following the situation in West Michigan regarding Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). At this time, there are no reported cases of EEE in animals or humans in Ottawa County. Until we get our first freeze, we will continue to monitor the EEE situation and the impact it has on our dusk/dawn activities. We have held over 26 BOND presentations, and have several more to go before the election in November. I have appreciated the conversations and am thankful for sharing detailed information with our families. Finally, our COUNT day shows an increase of over 160 students in our schools. That brings our student population to well over 7,000 students in Hudsonville. Our elementary class sizes are consistently around the 550 range, with our largest class of 600 currently in 7th grade. We continue to be the fastest-growing district in West Michigan and are excited to see what great things this growth will bring to our school system.

I continue to be amazed at our growth as many new residents begin to call Hudsonville their home. Due to the number of families we continue to welcome to the community, our district has been studying the impact this will have on our school system. This November, we will be asking you to consider a bond issue that is intended to address the growth of our district. Hudsonville Public Schools has conducted an in-depth study of the current and projected needs of school facilities and sites to determine a long-term master plan to address the growth of our community. Using this information, supplemented with community focus groups and survey feedback from over 1,700 people, district leaders and the Board of Education are now asking the community to vote on a school bond proposal Tuesday, November 5, 2019. If approved, this bond proposal would provide \$139,925,000 for district-wide improvements and focuses on GROWING, INVESTING, and CONNECTING Hudsonville Public Schools. If voters approve the bond proposal, NO TAX RATE INCREASE is expected for Hudsonville Public Schools' taxpayers. The debt tax rate is expected to remain the same but would extend the current rate further into the future. If voters do not approve the bond proposal, no tax rate DECREASE is expected either, until 2026.

This fall has proven to be an exciting time in the lives of our staff and students. We are blessed with a beautiful community and a top-notch student body. I wish you all an amazing Fall, and let's get ready for a (hopefully) short winter.

Respectfully,

Dr. Doug Vanderjagt  
Superintendent

[For more information, visit our Bond Facts webpage](#)

## Varsity Football Players Make Impacts on and off the Field

Several classes at Park Elementary had the privilege of having a varsity high school football player help out on Fridays before playing in their big game later that night.

The players were asked to go back to their elementary school and help out one of their elementary teachers that made an impact in their life. Michael Momber, Brian Myers, and Ryan Kavaluskis helped out in the classrooms of Mrs. Faraci, Mrs. Gitler and,

Mrs. Horn. The football players have been reading with students, doing flashcards, and building relationships. The selected teachers and their classes will also be invited and recognized at our "Impact Night" during a home football game in October.

With the changing of football game times, the players were unable to help out in the classrooms for several weeks. Since they were unable to help out in the classroom, they surprised the three classes with an exclusive Hudsonville classroom football! What a great surprise for the students at Park Elementary!



## Sending Help to Hope Town!

Forest Grove Elementary has adopted Hope Town Primary School, located in Elbow Cay, Abacos Island, Bahamas, as a sister school. About a month ago, Hurricane Dorian decimated two large islands in the Bahamas. This elementary school is located on one of these islands. The settlement of Hope Town has a population of 500 and is only accessible by boat.

Forest Grove Elementary has been collecting donations through a "Coin Drive" to help Hope Town Primary start the process of rebuilding, re-supplying, and eventually re-opening their school. Our entire school community has embraced this completely voluntary effort. We are excited to share what we have collected for this internationally-focused service project with our new friends.



## Community Education Offerings

- Boys 3rd - 6th Grade Basketball League  
Begins week of January 6, 2020
- Jr. Eagles Basketball - Boys & Girls - K - 2nd  
Begins January 18, 2020
- FREE Wrestling Clinic  
Begins on October 28
- Indoor Soccer  
Begins on October 26
- Learn to Rollerblade  
Begins on October 26
- Lego Engineering  
Classes begin in November and January



Register online at  
[hudsonvillepublicschools.org](http://hudsonvillepublicschools.org)



## An Eagle Visit, A Chicken Dance, and Goat Kisses!



Alward's 2019 Walkathon was a huge success! Even with a few rain showers, our students were able to run outside, dance in the hallways, and enjoy the chicken dance performed by our amazing teachers and staff! Thank you to all of our students and families that helped us reach all three of our Walkathon fundraising goals this year! The Walkathon funds will go towards school initiatives, events, and various items for our students to use in their classrooms. Since our school reached all of our fundraising goals, Mrs. McClure participated in some fun events as a reward for our students! She led the staff in the famous chicken dance and then dressed up as the Hudsonville eagle to welcome students to school and wish them farewell at the end of the day! Now our students are anxiously awaiting the final reward...Mrs. McClure has to kiss a goat and milk it, too, at our October all school assembly! What a great way to kick-off the 2019-2020 school year!



## Student Leadership Team at Jamestown Upper

Jamestown Upper Elementary is in its 4th year of having a Student Leadership Team. Each student must fill out an application, and two from each class are selected to represent their class. The team held their first meeting of the year recently to get to know each other, talk about representative government, and set goals. The purpose of the team is for students to have a voice in what happens at Jamestown. Their primary goal is to impact JU and the community positively. We are excited to grow and cultivate the leaders of tomorrow with this experience!





## What's New at Georgetown?

This past August, we have had two new additions to our front area.

In [memory of Rhonda Fabbro](#), one of the most amazing staff members to care for our students, a maple tree was planted on the K/I playground. A few staff members and Fabbro family members were present for the planting ceremony.

The second addition is a "[little lending library](#)." This can be found at the front of our building. It is designed for children to take a book to read (free) and for community members to share books they have read and want others to read. This project was made possible by the Hudsonville High School woodshop (assembly), Parent Club Funds (equipment funding), and three talented custodians (painters and artists). Many thanks to Aubrey Hoekstra, Elaina Nibblelink, and Makaih Schuur for their painting talents!

And credit is also due to Mr. Rob, our most FANTASTIC CUSTODIAN, who prepared the playground for the tree (and supervised the planting) and made sure that the lending library was completed and installed. Georgetown is amazing because of this man --- he does more than anyone will ever know (at all hours of the day and night) to keep the building running, grounds beautiful, and staff and students cared for. Mr. Rob is also very humble -- and a one of a kind person. We are very lucky to have him!



## Who Knew Learning Could Also Be Delicious?

Third graders at Bauer Elementary celebrated Milton Hershey's birthday on September 13. Students were engaged with various math activities, all involving Hershey chocolate. They learned about area, perimeter, weight, and time by using different types of chocolate. We, of course, enjoyed eating chocolate as well. Happy Birthday, Milton Hershey.



"If you learn too much of what others have done, you may tend to take the same direction as everybody else." - Milton Hershey



## Spotlight on STEAM



This past spring, Mrs. Totten from Georgetown Elementary was recognized for her contributions to the STEAM program in Hudsonville Public Schools. She received the Air Zoo's Science Innovation Hall of Fame Educator Excellence Award. This festive and interactive event recognizes West Michigan high school students, K-12 level educators, and local organizations and individuals who have innovated and excelled within or shown exceptional support of education in the areas

of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM). To remain competitive in today's global economy, it is critical for our youth to excel in these vital disciplines. The committee was very impressed with the use of the Project Lead the Way curriculum at every grade level in the district.



## Has Your Child Ever Dreamed of Blasting Off to the Moon?

This spring, South Elementary third graders will be one step closer to soaring above the clouds ~ with a very special focus on aerospace education.

As a Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) educator, Mrs. Ernstes had the opportunity to join the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). Joining CAP gave her a chance to learn to pilot a plane! Major Michael Shoemaker showed another teacher and Mrs. Ernstes the ropes. His passion for what he does was inspiring. That's why we've invited him to come to speak to South third-graders as we kick off our "Science of Flight" unit in the spring.

This CAP membership also offers the opportunity to apply for aerospace education and STEAM materials, which will include Sphero robots. Spheros can be programmed using basic coding, and our students will have lots of fun while developing coding skills that are increasingly important in the careers of the future. Learn more about all of our South Elementary STEAM explorations by following Mrs. Ernstes on Twitter @AngieErnie.



## Looking for Rockstars! ~ Come join our team!



HPS is looking for people who love kids and would like a rewarding job driving school bus.

**All training is provided.**

Applicants can fill out an application on our web site at [hudsonvillepublicschools.org](http://hudsonvillepublicschools.org)



## Leadership and Safety Go Hand-In Hand at Georgetown Elementary



One of the great privileges for fifth graders is to work with younger students at Georgetown Elementary on helping them S.O.A.R. (Be Safe, Own it, Act Responsibly, Be Respectful) at the end of the day! Beginning on the first day of school, 5th grade and kindergarten teachers coordinate and pair up kindergartners with eager-to-help fifth graders to help model S.O.A.R. expectations on the way to the bus.

Each day before dismissal, the 5th grade students walk down the hallway to meet their excited buddies. Once inside rooms, the bus buddies chat about their days to build a relationship foundation that will last for the duration for the year. They share about their days, what they have learned, and any other exciting things that occurred during the day. Fifth graders also help tidy up work spaces and put up chairs for their buddies before they exit to the busses and head home. Once lined up, older students either hold hands or attach themselves to the backpacks of their buddies to maintain safety in and around dismissal areas. Once at the student's bus, the pairs high-five or wave goodbye and separate for the afternoon, monitoring that get on safely.



Another activity that many fifth graders enjoy is participating in the school safety program. Safety is a top priority at Georgetown and to help ensure this is always happening, we began the S.O.A.R. Home Safety program. This is a responsibility that we offer to fifth grade students as they are the most experienced with the roles and expectations that are needed to keep all kids safe at our school. This year, we are weaving our safety expectations with our S.O.A.R. initiatives as a district. These students fill out safety application forms that help students reflect on how they have been a responsible, trustworthy, and caring person. In addition, they are required to get signatures from parents and teachers indicating that they demonstrate those qualities. Hats off to these students for taking initiative and accepting responsibility for those around them!

Our fifth graders are also helping out daily in the lunchroom. On a rotating basis one student from each classroom is staying a few

minutes after lunch to help wipe down the lunchroom tables. What a great way for our students to contribute while helping keep our school building clean! All of the fifth grade teachers at Georgetown have been very impressed by the leadership qualities that we have seen in our fifth grade students this year. Keep up the good work by leading the way, fifth graders!



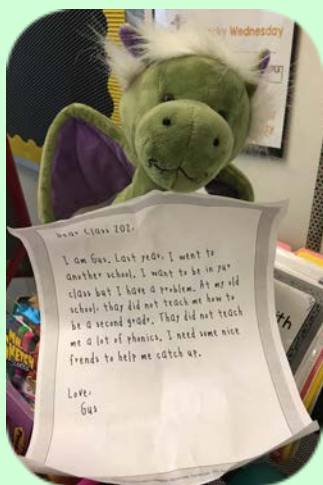
**Did you know our high school has an amazing culinary program? Here are some picks with Chef Heaton from Sullivan University cooking up some flamin' hot Mac and cheese! Our students got to taste this yummy dish and watch how it was made right in front of them!**





## Gus the Dragon Arrives to Bring Fun to Phonics

There was hype about a new student named Gus arriving at Jamestown Lower Elementary, a new student who desperately needs help with phonics! Neither teachers nor the principal knew the exact day he would be arriving, but 2nd graders were prepared to help him learn more about phonics. Finally, on a rainy morning at Jamestown Lower Elementary, Gus, the phonics mascot flew down from the sky! 2nd graders heard a knock on the window outside and then heard another at their classroom door to find Gus- a dragon!! Children cheered, and the excitement showed when they rushed to show Mrs. Stefanich that every classroom got the new student Gus.



Part of the new phonics program is to use the mascot to help illustrate phonics principles, advance a storyline, and build excitement about learning phonics. It was evident that our students were ecstatic about Gus and using him to learn more about phonics. Gus is truly part of our classrooms now; he was carried during the Walkathon, has his own locker, receives notes and gifts, has a new wardrobe, and, most importantly, is bringing FUN to phonics!

## English Learner Family Night 2019

On October 3, English Learner students and their families gathered at the Freshman Campus for the fifth annual English Learner Family Night. We had English Learners from all over the world. Some of the countries represented were the United States, Japan, Korea, Jordan, Ethiopia, Germany, Venezuela, China, Eritrea, and India. Students, teachers, and families alike enjoyed sharing a meal. After the dinner, families learned about the EL program at Hudsonville and participated in learning literacy strategies to practice at home. Our secondary students learned about the opportunity to earn the Seal of Biliteracy when they graduate.



The EL Department is excited to host the second annual International Celebration on April 17, 2020, at 5:30. All are welcome! Save-the-Date! We'd love to



see you there, so be on the lookout for more information to come this winter. For more information about the EL program, [visit their blog](#).

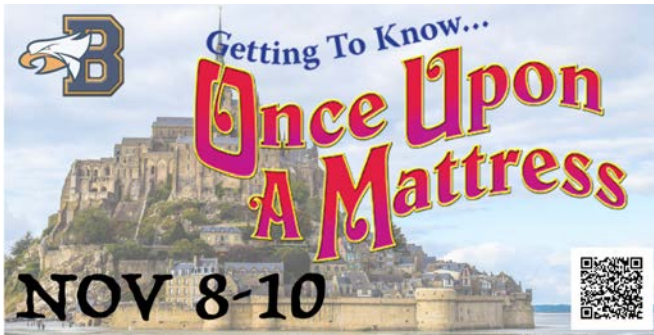


### Stay Connected!

Become a fan of Hudsonville Public Schools on Facebook and Twitter to keep up with the latest news and updates.



## Upcoming Performances That You Won't Want to Miss!



If you thought you knew the story of "The Princess and the Pea," you may be in for a walloping surprise! Did you know, for instance, that Princess Winnifred actually swam the moat to reach Prince Dauntless the Drab? Or that it may not have been the pea at all that caused the princess a sleepless night? Carried on a wave of beguiling songs, by turns hilarious and raucous, romantic and melodic, this rollicking spin on the familiar classic of royal courtship and comeuppance provides for some side-splitting shenanigans. Chances are, you'll never look at fairy tales quite the same way again!

Music by MARY RODGERS

Lyrics by MARSHALL BARER

Book by JAY THOMPSON, DEAN FULLER and MARSHALL BARER

Directed by: SARAH MAURICE & DIANE SCOTT

Venue: Hudsonville Fine Arts Auditorium, Freshman Campus

Genre: Musical, Family-Friendly

Rating: G



The members of the Mill City Players are beside themselves over the mysterious death of their leading lady, who, during a performance, was cruelly squashed by a flying sandbag. All fingers point toward her husband. It's the case of the century (or at least this past week) under the steady gavel of Judge Roy L. Been, who presides over a jury of audience members. Will the audience find the defendant guilty or not guilty?

There's only one way to find out...

by JOHN ANTHONY

Directed by: KURT McCOOL and ALEX BARRINGER

Venue: Eagle Auditorium, Hudsonville High School

Genre: Comedy, Slapstick, Courtroom

Rating: PG-13 for some language and mild adult themes

**[PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS ONLINE HERE](#)**

## Color the Park



On Friday, October 4th, Park Elementary hosted its 4th annual Color the Park color run. This event was open to the community and offered a fun, active way to support the school. Participants ran through powered color stations, and volunteers covered the runners in color!

There were lots of laughs and celebrations as people completed the fun run. Students used this opportunity to raise money for various learning projects around the school. At the end of the night, there was one last power release that filled the skies with color and celebrated another successful Color the Park event!

