



Dear Community:

I was hoping to send out communication about how nice the warmer weather is, but it appears we are still a few weeks away from spring. This winter has been challenging, and we appreciate your understanding as we work through cancellations, delays and potentially adjusting the school calendar.

We are still learning more from the state legislators in regards how many snow days we need to make up. At this point, we are discussing having to make up one (1) school day in June, specifically June 10 (this will not affect the start time of the middle school East Coast Trip). If you have summer plans, I apologize for the inconvenience this will cause. If you have not made plans, we ask that you understand that we may have to extend the school year. As soon as we hear more from our legislators, we will be sure to relay such information.

Thank you to those who completed our Bond Survey a few weeks ago. With over 1700 responses, we have a great picture of how our community perceives the growth in Hudsonville can best be addressed. The Board of Education will be reviewing data and working through plans in the next few months as we plan for future growth. We know that any plan for expansion will take several years to complete, but we are excited to be talking about our growing district.

We have a very important issue on the ballot this spring. On May 7, Hudsonville Schools parents and community members will have the chance to vote on our annual Non-Homestead Millage renewal. This is an annual renewal request that voters have approved for the past 24 years and would generate approximately \$4.8 million of operating revenue for our school district. Please note, this is not a tax on primary residences and is not a new tax. Please get out and vote on May 7!

Several conversations have begun about the next school year. Parents are starting to enroll their children in kindergarten and 8th graders are finalizing their course requests to begin their high school careers. Hard to believe, but next year's senior class will be the class of 2020. Where does time go? Even though there is snow on the ground, we are already excited for our next school year. Most of our school calendar will look the same, but we will be starting school on Monday, August 26 (one day earlier than last year). When the complete calendar is finalized, it can be found on our website at [hudsonvillepublicschools.org](http://hudsonvillepublicschools.org).

This is undoubtedly an exciting time for our district and our community. We have amazing students doing impressive things in the classroom and performing in our co-curricular opportunities. We had one of the most successful winter seasons, with remarkable results by our Robotics teams, theatre productions, and our athletic teams. We know that our community support at our events is imperative, and we thank you for your continued attendance.

Thank you for making Hudsonville such a special place!



Doug Vanderjagt, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

## A Legacy of Leadership at South Elementary

South PRIDE Mentorship Academy is a program linking fifth-grade students as mentors to students in kindergarten through third grade. Mentors apply for the position and are matched with younger students who may benefit from peer modeling and friendship. Mentors volunteer their recess twice per week to join their mentee in the classroom, on the playground, or in the cafeteria. Mentors also attend monthly meetings to share celebrations, concerns and troubleshoot any problems with Social Worker, Mrs. Dykstra. At their monthly meeting in February, students were surprised by guest speaker, Superintendent Dr. Doug Vanderjagt!

Dr. Vanderjagt talked about the value and importance of mentorship and imparted words of wisdom. "You're not making decisions for somebody; you're modeling behavior that helps them make their own good choices." Students enjoyed hearing Dr. Vanderjagt talk about his own mentorship experiences. He thanked Mentors for their time and leadership as he encouraged them to consider mentorship a lifelong pursuit.



Initial observations of the South PRIDE Mentorship Academy noted by lower elementary teachers were improved behavior and increased social confidence of their students. Mrs. Corrigan, Kindergarten Teacher, stated "I am so impressed with how respectful, patient, kind, and engaging Gwen is with Naeomi (pictured here) and my other students. She plays the whole recess time with them and is happy to push them on the swings or play whatever they want to play. What a great role model!" Mentors are showing South PRIDE, and all teachers appreciate the ripple effect of positive behavior.

*Students in Mrs. Kopka's 4th-grade class at Bauer showed what it means to spread love to others during their Valentine's Party! Mrs. Noble (4th-grade parent) organized a craft that the 4th graders would never forget. With donations from class parents, students used half of their party time to create 36 gift bags for the Child Life Specialist center at the Children's Hospital. These gift bags will brighten a sick boy or girl's day! We are so grateful for having this opportunity to show compassion for other children!*







This year, over \$4,500 was raised at the annual Never Forgotten Game for the Wes Leonard Heart Team. The Wes Leonard Heart Team provides schools in Michigan with AEDs if they don't have one. With the students' hard work getting sponsors, running fundraisers and putting on the event, they helped place at least 3 AEDs in Michigan schools.



## Stay Connected!

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



Hudsonville High School recently had a Phillips Heart Start AED donated to the school by the School Emergency Response Coalition along with AMR of Grand Rapids. The new AED has been placed in the Fitness Center on the high school campus which will house strength training and cardio classes.



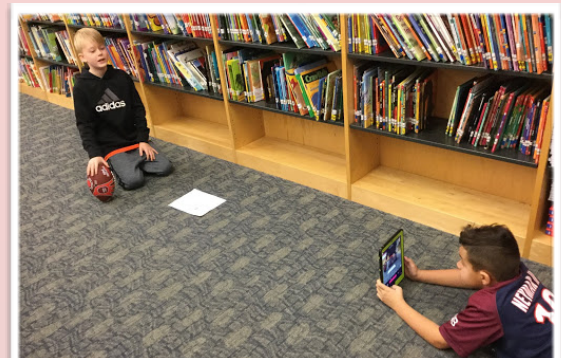


Kindergarten authors celebrated their first annual Writers' Museum at Alward Elementary. The kindergarteners welcomed family members and other distinguished guests to read their personal narratives and acknowledge their growth. Authors proudly read their stories and answered questions about their pieces. The "fancy attire" event concluded with apple juice toasts from teachers, students, and the superintendent complimenting the authors. Congratulations, kindergarteners! Hear, hear!



## Public Service Announcements Courtesy of Georgetown Elementary!

Do you know the signs of a concussion or how to prevent getting one? Our fourth-grade students created videos and podcasts to teach their peers all about concussions in the STEAM Studio. We used the app Clips to create impressive videos, and we used Garageband to record engaging podcasts. Students spent several weeks learning about the parts of the brain and then researched facts about concussions. They created a storyboard to plan out their project and brought in cue cards and props to make it authentic. The classes were then ready to record and show off their acting skills! After all of the videos and podcasts were complete, we shared the projects as a class and offered feedback as we continue to work on building a growth mindset! In the words of one of our fourth-grade students - "This is the best unit I have ever done!"





## Hudsonville High students bring 'Les Misérables School Edition' to life!

This March, the students of Hudsonville High School will take the stage in perhaps the most epic of all Broadway musicals, the Tony Award-winning Les Misérables. This is the school edition, which is an adaptation of the classic musical by Alan Boublil and Claude-Michel Schoneberg, based on the novel by Victor Hugo. The school edition includes every song in the original musical with some music shortened for the sake of time and some of the language has been adapted for a younger audience.

The saga of Les Mis recounts the struggle against adversity in the 19th century France. Imprisoned for stealing a loaf of bread, the petty thief, Jean Valjean, is released from his nineteen- year prison term only to become an honest man. Now the mayor of a prosperous town and a loving adoptive father of Cosette, Valjean violates his parole and is hunted by the relentless Inspector Javert. During the Paris student uprising of 1832, Javert must confront his ideals after Valjean spares his life and saves that of the student revolutionary who has captured the heart of Valjean's adopted daughter. Winner of more than 100 international awards and seen by over 70 million people, Les Misérables has grossed more than \$1.8 billion and is the world's longest-running musical and the third longest-running musical on Broadway (New York). This classic tale of struggle, loss, and redemption is sure to touch every heart.

The Hudsonville Les Misérables cast includes 70 high school students, three middle school students, and three elementary students, for a whopping total of 76 cast members! A crew of over 80 students will handle all of the behind-the-scenes and will completely run the show.

Dr. Charles Norris, GVSU Music Professor, will direct the professional orchestra and serves as Music Director for this production. This show will include Victor Hugo's own ink drawings and a thirty-foot revolving stage. Yes, the entire stage will revolve just as the original London production of Les Misérables. Hudsonville is not holding back with this masterpiece! Les Misérables' Director and Producer, Deb Andre, brought back Broadway musicals to HHS in 2006 after a 30-year hiatus.

"The community of Hudsonville has so generously supported our school's Fine Arts Program and has built a gorgeous Fine Arts Auditorium, it is such an honor for our students to perform in such a tremendous space. We are now able to bring sophisticated and elaborate productions to our community and give our students world-class performing opportunities. I am forever grateful to Hudsonville and hope to bring quality music and theater to our community for years to come." says Andre.

This show is rated PG-13 for language & adult themes.

### Performances:

Thursday, March 14 @ 7:00 pm

(Our Community Preview Night- All Tickets are only \$8)

Friday, March 15 @ 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 16 @ 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 17 @ 3:00 pm (Matinee)

### 2nd Weekend:

Friday, March 22 @ 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 23 @ 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 24 @ 3:00 pm (Matinee)



*Pictured: Aiden Gemmen (Junior) as Jean Valjean and Lily Wressell (Junior) as Fantine in*

*"Fantine's Death" Photograph by Andrea Otto*

**Purchase Tickets Here**

Tickets may also be purchased through our website, [hudsonvillepublicschools.org](http://hudsonvillepublicschools.org) and visit the Fine Arts Department.

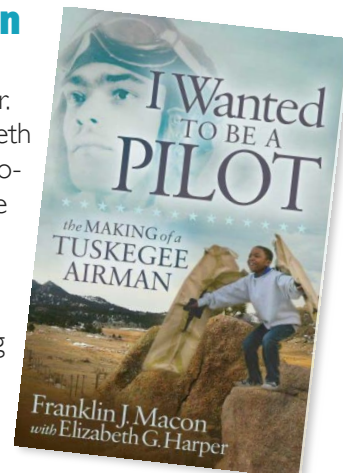


## Forest Grove Students Talk with Famous Tuskegee Airman

Two Forest Grove Elementary students were the catalyst for a recent special guest presenter. Their aunt from Colorado is a co-author of a book entitled, "I Wanted To Be A Pilot." Elizabeth G. Harper shared about being an author and answered questions about her book that she co-authored with a famous Tuskegee Airman named Franklin J. Macon. The book is about his life story that covers everything from his early struggles at learning how to read and growing up during the Great Depression to helping to change the course of aviation history as an



airplane mechanic, pilot, and researcher for future pilots and astronauts. Franklin is one of the fewer than 100 living Documented Original Tuskegee Airmen, and his story is both inspirational and highly engaging. The students were able to Skype with "Frank" and ask him questions about his life as he was not able to make the trip to Michigan due to health reasons. Did we mention that he is 95 years old? One of the highlights was how he showed the students how to make a self-propelled toy car out of a spool of thread, some sticks, and a rubber band. This is something he made as a child and played with while growing up during the Great Depression. His story of hard work, overcoming obstacles and having an unwavering commitment to his "dream" of being a pilot is truly motivational and heart-warming. We are thankful for the opportunity to have this unique and meaningful experience for our students. Who knows what great "dreams" this may prompt in our student body that might change history?



## Lock-In and Read

Almost 200 students at Jamestown Upper have volunteered to take part in the "Battle of the Books" reading program. The purpose of the program is to encourage students to read good books and have fun while competing with their peers. The students gain knowledge and enjoyment from reading books of various genres,

sharing them with friends, parents, and teachers, plus the fun of competing in the "battle."



The program runs for two months, has bi-weekly book club meetings, a lock-in, and a relay style "battle" during the week before spring break. The goal is to read ten books on their grade level list during those two months. Students of all reading levels can participate.

One of the events students look forward to the most is the lock-in, which took place on Friday, February 22nd. Students set up tents, forts, and comfortable spaces to read in any room of the school. They spread out all over with many choosing Mr. Secor's office, the teachers' lounge, hallways, classrooms, or the gym. It speaks to the culture of literacy that exists in the building that 170 students stayed after school on a Friday to read for a couple of hours and enjoy some pizza.

The "Battle of the Books" program will wrap up the week of March 25th as students show off what they've learned during a three-day competition.







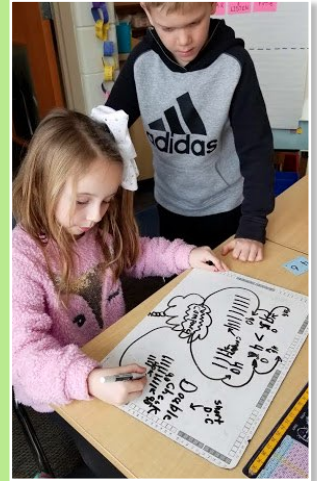
## Math Tasks at Jamestown Lower Strengthen Skills

Jamestown Lower first graders are hard at work every day developing and deepening their understanding of math concepts and problem-solving skills during math workshop. Each day, students are given a math task that requires them to develop strategies to work through the function.



Students use concrete tools, pictorial representations, and abstract strategies to problem solve. But this is only the tip of the iceberg. Students also engage in mathematical discourse in partnerships by sharing their strategies, listening to peers, posing questions to each other, and learning together through mistakes.

These first-grade students hold the belief that mistakes and challenging tasks are essential for learning. During all parts of our day, students are provided with opportunities to reflect on ways to have a growth mindset, and they know that with hard work and perseverance, our brains continue to grow! Students work daily to respectfully share their thinking with others and think flexibly with numbers. Way to go first graders!



## Alward's Family Genius Night 2019 Huge Success!

Over 400 people came out to learn about and participate in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math activities with their families! Some of the highlights included: fake snow, unicorn poop (slime), Cupid houses (frosting and graham cracker houses), rockets, snakes, robots, circuits, K-9 unit for Ottawa County, and so much more! Thank you to our STEAM Committee for all of their hard work planning this event for our families. What a great hands-on experience for our families!





## Park Fifth Graders Read for Camp

The 5th graders at Park Elementary are eagerly waiting for the calendar to flip to May; that's when they get to attend fifth-grade camp. To help prepare for camp, the students have been busy trying to earn some money, most recently through a read-a-thon. Students were encouraged to collect pledges for their reading efforts that took place throughout an entire day. The day was rounded out with a guest reader and pizza lunch. Prizes and books were earned for their excellent behavior. This was a great way to kick off our "March is Reading Month" campaign at Park! Way to go, 5th graders!



### Sign up to receive texts from HPS

Hudsonville Public Schools has text messaging capabilities. To sign-up, please text the word "YES" to 68453 from each phone or device from which they wish to receive texts.

## GMB/Eagle 5K Brian Carlson Memorial Run



The Hudsonville Athletic Boosters are presenting the GMB/Eagle 5k "Brian Carlson Memorial Run" on March 23, 2019 at 9:00 am. The event will take place at Hudsonville High School with the route running through the city of Hudsonville. Each year, the Hudsonville Athletic Boosters seeks to supplement the athletics program with thousands of dollars through various fundraising activities, including the GMB Eagle 5K, whose proceeds will go to athletic scholarships. As an organization, we give ten \$1,000 scholarships a year to outstanding student-athletes who are pursuing a college education.

Be sure to sign up on line at [www.classicrace.com](http://www.classicrace.com) or visit our website [www.hudsonville5k.com](http://www.hudsonville5k.com) for more information and registration. Online registration only. Packet pickup and late registration will be at Harvest Health March 22 from 4-6pm and Race day morning from 7:00 am to 8:50 am. Be sure to check out and LIKE our Facebook page (GMB Eagle 5k race) also for all updates. All runners will receive lots of post-race refreshments.





## HPS SPRING ART SHOW

Check out their latest works of art at the annual district wide Student Art Show!

The 19th annual Hudsonville Student Art Show will be held April 23 through May 1st at the Hudsonville City Hall Community Room. The show will be open to the public during City Hall business hours from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM during the week and artist receptions will be held from 5:30 - 7:30 PM Monday through Thursday. The district-wide show features student work from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade and includes outstanding pieces in clay, paint, pastel, and a variety of other mixed media. The show is free and open to the public!

Additional information and reception dates for each school can be found on the [Art Department website](#).



## Hudsonville Community Education News

It's hard to think about planning for summer when spring hasn't even arrived yet, but we have been hard at work to schedule fun activities for your children to take part in. We will have something for everyone!

The annual Hudsonville Community Education summer brochure will be sent home with your kids after they arrive back from spring break.

Below are some of the offerings that we have lined up:

Boater Safety Classes  
Babysitting Class  
Tennis  
Softball  
Lacrosse  
Soccer  
Volleyball  
Football  
Water Aerobics  
Quarterback Camp

Guitar Clinic  
Jr. Robotics  
Cheer Camp  
Baseball  
Science  
VEX Robotics  
Hockey  
Swim Lessons  
Water Polo  
Gymnastics

Home Alone Class  
Lego Engineering  
Stunt Camp  
Fencing  
Art  
Golf Lessons  
Boys & Girls Basketball  
Diving  
HEAT Swim Team  
Dance

Learn to Wakeboard/  
Kneeboard/Water Ski  
Nature Week DIY Crafts  
Science Week Camp  
Fun with Painting

