



Dear Community Members,

It appears mother nature wants to wait a bit for our typical Michigan snowfall. With limited snow on the ground, the days for skiing, sledding, and making snowmen have been sparse. However, we still could see our fair share of snow in the next few weeks, so don't put those snow pants away just yet. During these winter months, we continue to plan for the future and celebrate all that Hudsonville has to offer. Over the next several weeks we will be seeking feedback from our community, reminding you to vote in May on the annual non-homestead millage, and expressing a heartfelt thank you to our Board of Education for their dedication to our school community.

First, over the next few months, we will be seeking input as we explore the growth of the district and how our facilities can maintain the population of students entering our buildings. During January, we have established focus groups to help explore ideas on where development is needed to support the future of Hudsonville. These groups will represent various members in the Hudsonville community, including parents of students attending Hudsonville Public Schools, senior citizens, booster members, and business representatives. Focus groups are established to ensure an understanding of the various needs of our district in 2019 and beyond. We will use the information from the focus groups to generate a survey that will be administered to our entire school community. This survey will include a multitude of subjects ranging from thoughts on building size, program opportunities, and financial responsibilities. In February, this community survey will be available on our website, and we ask for your feedback to help drive the future planning of Hudsonville Public Schools. The results of this survey will be the key component in providing the Board of Education information to determine the best course of action to address our growing district.

Also of great importance is an upcoming vote this spring. On May 7, Hudsonville School 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 \$4.4 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 that day.

Finally, School Board members tackle a difficult job and shoulder enormous responsibilities. These men and women are elected to establish the policies that provide the framework for Hudsonville Public Schools. They provide vision and leadership in their roles as advocates, and they will continue to stand up for public education. The countless hours they give to the students of Hudsonville is greatly appreciated. From subcommittee work to regular Board meetings, their dedication to our district and community speaks volumes about the character and passion they have for the youth of our community. If you happen to connect with a Board member (hudsonvillepublicschools.org/boe/), please express to them the gratitude we all have for their commitment to Hudsonville Public Schools.



I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and a great start to 2019. Thank you for making Hudsonville an amazing place to live and grow.

Best regards,

Doug Vanderjagt, Ph.D,
Superintendent

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

2019-2020

Kindergarten Enrollment Information

Enrollment forms are available at any of our Hudsonville Public School elementary buildings for families wishing to enroll their child in prekindergarten (prek) or kindergarten for the 2019-20 school year. To be eligible, children must be five years of age on or before December 1, 2019.* Please fill out the forms included in the packet and return the completed information to your attendance area building at the registration meetings on January 24, 2019.

- ☒ Registration form
- ☒ Provide a birth certificate (must be certified with raised seal)
- ☒ Provide photo proof of identity of parent/guardian who is enrolling
- ☒ Provide proof of residency (i.e. utility bill, tax statement, house buy/sell agreement, lease agreement)
- ☒ Health appraisal form which includes dates of immunizations and vision/hearing testing
(information completed no later than August 16, 2019)
- ☒ Waiver request for students with birth dates between Sept. 2 - Dec. 1, 2014
- ☒ Internet use authorization form
- ☒ Equipment use authorization form
- ☒ Concussion awareness acknowledgement form
- ☒ Family-school compact form



Placement Preference

Registration forms will include a place for parents to indicate their placement preference. If undecided, the building principal will contact parent to schedule a screening.

- * Full day/every day kindergarten (all buildings)
- * Full day/every day prekindergarten (north & south end elementary school locations TBD)

All kindergarten placement requests will be honored. Prekindergarten placement requests will be honored based on section availability. If sections fill, preference will be given to students with birth dates between September 1 - December 1. **Parents will be notified of placement decision by May 31, 2019.** Information about future orientation meetings for students will be included in the notification letter.

Registration Meetings

Registration meetings will be held for parents on Thursday, January 24, 2019. The meeting will offer important information regarding preparation for prek/kindergarten. The locations and times of the meetings are as follows:

<u>Meeting Location</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Meeting Location</u>	<u>Times</u>
Alward Elementary	7:00 p.m.	Jamestown Elementary	7:00 p.m.
Bauer Elementary	7:00 p.m.	Park Elementary	7:00 p.m.
Forest Grove Elementary	7:00 p.m.	South Elementary	10:00 a.m. OR 7:00 p.m.
Georgetown Elementary	7:00 p.m.		

Information will be the same at each time/location so parents are welcome to attend the time that works best for them. If you attend in another location, please drop off the registration form at your attendance area building.

Screening Information

After attending the registration meeting, parents who remain uncertain about placement and desire additional information to help guide the decision can request a screening by contacting their building secretary. Screening is recommended for students with birth dates after June 1, and **required for students with birthdates after September 1.** Screening will be held in each of the elementary buildings in February. The teacher will provide a summary of the child's readiness skills following screening.

We welcome your child with open arms and thank you for the privilege of working with your family!



Alward's first fall Family Literacy Night huge success!

Camp Read-a-Lot provided families with multiple opportunities to read together and learn about different reading strategies that they can use at home with their children. Some of the activities included a "book tasting" and reading together in our Camp-Read-a-Lot's Tent Town. Students really enjoyed reading by flashlight cuddled together with their parents!

It was also the perfect night to roast smore's as students used their five senses to describe the tasty smore's they made. Don't worry! We were extra safe around the campfires thanks to the Georgetown Township Fire Department. They volunteered at our event to promote Fire Safety, allow students to check out their fire truck and all of their safety gear, and to get to know our Alward families better!



The Scholastic book Fair was also a popular stop for our families that night to grow their home libraries. Clifford even made a guest appearance to help us promote reading and help guests find their way from event to event! Finally, our families were able to capture a few memories by participating in the Camp-Read-a-Lot photo booth! This event not only showed us how our families support reading, but allowed our time time to interact together and get to know our staff and each other better!



Thank you to our Reading Committee for planning and organizing a fun-filled evening at Camp Read-a-Lot! We would also like to send a special shout out to our HHS NHS students for volunteering to help support this great event. We couldn't have done it without you! #growingreaders

Busy Builders at South Elementary Creating the City of Hudsonville

South Elementary second graders from Mrs. Kissane, Mrs. Broek, and Mrs. Hoekema's classes were assigned to build one special building or location found within our Hudsonville community. Each second-grade student placed their building on the appropriate 'roads' on the gym floor. This created a giant map of the city of Hudsonville. The activity allowed second graders to explore a map of their local community and better understand the spatial organization of their community by applying concepts of relative location, distance, direction and scale. Parents were invited to help with the set-up of the city. All teachers were then invited to bring their classes down for a tour of our city. Students were shocked to see how realistic the buildings looked. This was an exciting and educational project that was fun for both students and their families!



Elementary Food Drive Collects Over 30,000 Items!



Shortly before the holiday break, all eight of our elementary buildings wrapped up the 12th Annual Hudsonville Public Schools P.E. C.A.R.E.S. (Physical Education - Collecting And Re-Giving Essential Supplies) food drive. As a group, our elementary schools collectively donated an astonishing 32,643 items! All elementary schools participated in this community service project to bring in non-perishable goods, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, winter coats, boots, gloves, etc. for those in need. Food was then distributed to families in need in our schools! Supplies and food were also donated to local churches and food pantries including HQ Teen Shelter; Holton Community Center; Hand2Hand, St. Luke's Food Parish, Jehovah Jireh, and Love INC. It was a perfect hands-on extension of the student learning in PE, of the five food groups, and the value of proper daily nutrition and exercise. It is also a great opportunity



for us to discuss the importance of having compassion for those less fortunate, and how happy it makes all of us to give, share, care, and love, even when we don't know who we're helping.

The class in each of our elementary schools that donated the most food was also awarded P.E. CARES t-shirts and a bowling

field trip made possible by Hudsonville Lanes! Thank you to Hudsonville Lanes for donating our bowling trips and all families who gave! We are so blessed to be part of such a caring and generous community. What a great way to teach our kids compassion and caring for others!

Retired Librarian Shares Her Love of Books with Bauer Elementary Students



For the second year in a row, Miss Ellie, a retired librarian/storyteller, has visited Bauer Elementary to share her love of stories and books with students. Once a month she visits and tells stories to each of the first grade classrooms, as well as the lower el ASD classroom.

Students always look forward to Miss Ellie's visits. She shares songs, skits, stories and more, all centered around a monthly theme. She keeps students engaged and moving during her time in each classroom. What a gift it is to have Miss Ellie share her love of stories with Bauer students!

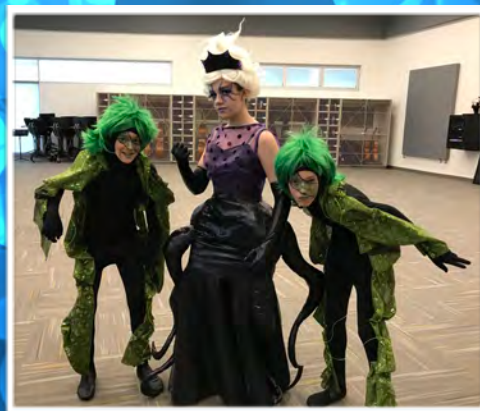




Baldwin Street Middle School Musical Performance in Front of a Packed Auditorium

Baldwin Street Middle School's students put on a fantastic production of Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr. in November. The production involved 38 cast members, 7 dancers and 25 crew members.

Performers spent three months preparing lines, learning choreography and music as well as refining their acting skills. Crew members built sets, created and organized props, made costumes and ran all of the technical elements of the show including moving sets, props and curtains along with costume changes, sound and lighting. The students presented three shows to a full house and received an enthusiastic responses from those who attended.



The Hudsonville Education Foundation Seeking Nominations For Inductees Into The Distinguished Alumni Hall Of Fame

The Hudsonville Education Foundation is looking for "Distinguished Alumni" of Hudsonville to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Nominations are being accepted through April 1, 2019 for the following criteria:

- 1) Cultural/Performing Arts
- 2) Career accomplishments (This can include military recognition)
- 3) Service to Hudsonville Public Schools/Community
- 4) Honorary Achievement-Contribution to the Hudsonville Public Schools/Community (Hudsonville graduation is not a requirement in this category)



Posthumous awards may be granted in all categories.

Those chosen will be inducted into the Hall of Fame at the 3rd Annual Eagles of Excellence Gala scheduled for Monday, October 28, 2019 which will be held at the Pinnacle Center. [Click for further criteria description & nomination form.](#)



Is your student able to read, write, listen, and speak in a language other than English? If so, he/she can try to earn a Michigan Seal of Biliteracy. If your student earns it, he/she will receive a certificate from the State of Michigan and a gold seal on his/her diploma. More importantly, your student will be recognized by employers and educational organizations as being biliterate. For more information please complete the [Seal of Biliteracy Interest Form](#) or talk to your student's counselor or Mrs. Manzer 616-669-1740 ext 24330. rmanzer@hpseagles.net



Joy of Giving

Second graders at South Elementary were introduced to the “Joy of Giving” by working together to complete a community project. In place of a classroom gift exchange this year, the teachers decided they would like to teach the second graders the joy of giving this holiday season. Children were asked to send an unwrapped toy or book to school. These gifts

were donated to the Toys for Tots program to provide toys, books, and other gifts to less fortunate children. A big focus in second grade is community and through these donations student were taught to support others in their own community. The second graders collected over 100 toys & books!



Raise Your Voice Peer Program

In December, twenty-five students from HHS visited 6th grade classrooms at both Baldwin and Riley Street Middle Schools to share a presentation called Raise Your Voice. The goal of this presentation is to help students have more effective communication, gain stress management strategies, and to learn peer refusal skills to help prevent bullying and substance abuse. Prior to the classroom visits, the high school students spent two days training with social workers from Arbor Circle. The high schoolers created the presentations which included skits, ice-breakers, and

interactive activities which encouraged a lot of conversation with the middle school students. The high school students hope that the 6th graders left Raise Your Voice feeling encouraged to make positive and healthy choices as they navigate their way through the challenges of middle school and high school.



Bauer 5th grade students finished their informational essays this week. They presented their essays in two ways, one of which was using Google Slides to create a presentation that they shared with students and staff. They turned out great!



Stay Connected!



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



30 SECOND TIMEOUT “CHASING AFTER THE WIND”

-By Kevin Wolma, Athletic Director

Wind. We often hear this word in many different phrases. When you want someone to run fast, you will tell them to run like the wind. When you take a risk in life without worrying about negative results you may find yourself saying, “I am throwing caution to the wind.” There are other times in our lives when we may say something is “gone with the wind” when things disappear forever. What do you think about when you hear the phrase “chasing after the wind”? In the literal sense, “chasing after the wind” is an impossible task to complete because the goal is to capture whatever you are chasing. The next time you are outside, try to capture the wind with your hands. It’s impossible.

How often as parents do we “chase after the wind” in regards to our kid’s involvement with youth/high school sports? I remember when our twins were born; one of the first gifts we got them was a Little Tykes basketball hoop. They could barely even hold a ball, let alone shoot it. Without a doubt, I knew they were going to be good. They had no choice. Their dad was the varsity basketball coach and since basketball was my vocational identity, surely basketball would become their identity as well. Now as juniors in high school, neither of them play. I was “chasing after the wind.”

As a 22-year-old varsity basketball coach, I felt as if the sky was the limit. Conference, District, Regional, and State Championships were all going to be a part of my Hall of Fame Career. Nine years later, I was not coaching high school basketball any longer. Again, I found myself “chasing after the wind.” It was not until my kids were older did I realize that stressing performance was no different than “chasing after the wind.” The same can be said in the latter part of my coaching career when I realized the performance of my teams was also like “chasing after the wind.” An athlete may have a tremendous work ethic and still get beat out for a spot on the team because someone else who also works hard is a superior athlete. One injury can derail an athletic career to a point that the athlete may never play at the same level again, if at all. Multiple injuries on a team may shatter championship dreams. Sometimes the expectations for our kids are unrealistic and can never be achieved. Performance and results cannot be captured because there are too many variables that are out of our control, much like “chasing after the wind.”

What if we stopped “chasing after the wind” and began to “catch the wind?” By simply changing one word we change the entire meaning of the phrase. “Catching the wind” means to gain knowledge or better understanding of something. When our kids get beat out by a better player, get injured, or never live up to our expectations, there is much knowledge to be gained and areas to grow. Attitude, integrity, grit, perseverance, and work ethic are all behaviors that can be controlled and developed by everyone.

For every result that happens in sports, there is an opportunity to “catch the wind.” Think of how much more enjoyable navigating through youth sports would be if we just took the time to “catch the wind” rather than “chasing after the wind.” According to a recent article in the *Washington Post*, 70% of kids quit sports before the age of thirteen because it is no longer fun. The reason it is no longer fun is that performance standards have become more important than learned behaviors. Looking back, did I put too much emphasis on performance with my kids in regards to basketball? Is that why they are not playing anymore? As parents, we only have one shot at making this experience a positive one for them.



“Catching the wind” has taken the backseat to “chasing the wind.” Think of our kids as kites: When parents hang on tight and allow the kite to catch the wind it creates an adventurous but exhilarating experience with no regrets. When we let go of the kite and chase after it, the end result will be that the kite will crash and become destroyed. Now is the time to hang on tight and enjoy the ride. No more chasing after the wind.



We've Got Spirit!

The Hudsonville High School Varsity Competitive Cheer Team was welcomed to Forest Grove Elementary School to kick off the new year. These amazing student-athletes volunteered their time to read books/stories about teamwork and to challenge our student body about goal setting, working hard and always

striving to be and to do their best. After they read about and discussed the importance of teamwork there was lively discussion about everything from what makes a great competitive cheer routine and how hard practice is to the importance of being a committed student in the classroom, first and foremost. Elementary students even learned about how scary and fun it is to tumble and to do flips. Thank you "Cheer Friends" for inspiring, encouraging and firing up our younger EAGLES!



WRITER'S MUSEUM AT ALWARD ELEMENTARY

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!



Bringing PBIS, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, to the ECC

Throughout this school year, the Early Childhood Center has been working to implement PBIS, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, a behavior system that will support all students by providing three simple rules for our school; "Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Your Best." All student develop and learn social, emotional, and behavioral competence, supporting their academic engagement through PBIS. Our leadership team, made up of teachers and administrators from ECC attended multiple days of training at the ISD to ensure they were ready to lead the charge. In organizing the rollout of this program, our team collected numerous additional hours of preparation.

Students will be taught lessons specific to each area of the building. The program will use these three rules to break down expectations for students and staff throughout different areas of the building. We are excited to see the growth and development of this program within the ECC and its positive impact on our kids.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our students be HPS students at their best!



Non-Fiction Fun!

The second graders at Georgetown recently had fun exploring and researching nonfiction topics. They spent several weeks studying nonfiction books as readers and writers. They learned how readers use text features such as headings, bold words, and diagrams to better understand their topics. These second graders also noticed how authors hook their readers with an interesting introduction and wrap up their topics with a strong conclusion.



After choosing and researching a topic, students had the chance to create their own nonfiction books in a Google Slide presentation! They learned how to jot facts in their own words, create a slide, change formatting, type text, upload and resize pictures, and add captions. For the grand finale, they shared their knowledge with their classmates through oral presentations. This was a fun challenge that really made these second grade brains grow!

KINDERGARTEN READING PARTNERSHIPS AT PARK ELEMENTARY

You can tell it is January in the kindergarten classes at Park Elementary. Reading Workshop is underway and all students have an understanding about the workshop routine and expectations. In order for the workshop to be successful, students have worked hard to establish long term partnerships. Partnerships help promote engagement and reading stamina. The kindergarten students spend half of their reading time reading in partnerships. Partners not only read together, but they also talk about their books with one another. You will find partners sitting side by side, with one book in the middle. Students see-saw read back and forth. They stack their books together on their reading mats and try to read through their books over and over. You will hear students sharing their favorite part, talking about things they found interesting and talking about the characters in their books. You will also hear them helping each other figure out any tricky words they come across and encourage each other to keep trying. By being in a partnership the students challenge each other to become better readers. Partnerships have been a huge success and it has been fun watching the students grow and learn together.



BAUER SCHOOL FAMILIES TEACH POWERFUL HABITS

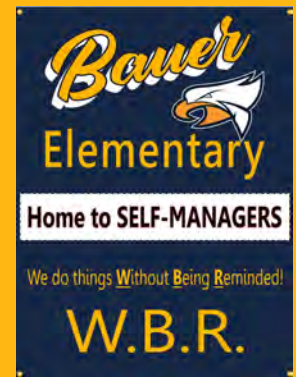
During each month on early release day, Bauer students leave their normal classrooms and grade levels to congregate into school families. In these diverse classroom settings students from all grades participate in lessons focusing on the *Seven Habits of Happy Kids*.

During the month of December school families participated in a lesson demonstrating the power and importance of the adage 'Put First Things First'. This lesson involved jars, rocks, sand, and pebbles. Students filled cups in an incorrect order and as a result, there was not enough room for everything. This allowed students to see first hand why work must come before play and why some things in life are more of a priority than others.

This January students again participated in school families to study the need to 'Think Win-Win'. Students were shown a picture of donkeys and how they illustrated a 'Win-Win' mindset (below). Students also worked together through conflict resolution scenarios to brainstorm possible 'Win-Win' solutions.



To support these seven habits specific language is used at Bauer to encourage students to become *SELF*-managers. Displays and posters around Bauer remind students of these powerful concepts as well. Teaching students to take ownership and solve their problems empowers them and gives them the necessary confidence needed to be independent and successful in life!



JAMESTOWN CARES

Once a month, students gather in their "school family." At Jamestown Lower, that means students in grades K-2 are mixed together for an activity. At Jamestown Upper, students in grades 3-5 are spread out so they can meet with students and staff members they may not interact with on a daily basis. Not only does this give our students an additional staff member who knows and cares about them, but it gives us a chance to work towards goals together.

The theme for our school family time this year has been "service." Each school family time has been focused on doing some type of service to make our school, community, and world a better place. Over the last two months, we brought in tens of thousands of items for the "P.E. Cares Food Drive" and enough winter gear to fill up two mitten trees. Currently, staff and students are finding eyeglasses that are not in use and turning those in. The eyeglasses will be turned in to the

Lions Club who has a program to refurbish those and take them to people around the world who are in need.



While teaching our students the curriculum is always a priority, nothing is more important than helping them to become better people. Our school family time is a fantastic way for our staff to support students toward that goal.