



Dear Community Members,

This fall has been busy with our fine arts programs and athletic teams experiencing tremendous success! Congratulations to all of our young adults as they represent our district and community in an incredible fashion. As we complete the first third of the school year, we want to celebrate the passing of the Enhancement Millage, begin discussions regarding district growth, and finally mention the impact the weather could have on our operations.

First of all, just a few short weeks ago, our community went to the polls and expressed their support of several candidates and ballot proposals. While we continue to debate the impact of such decisions, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our community members for approving funding requests for public schools throughout our region that will benefit our students for years to come. The support our community continues to show for the schools in the area, by passing the Ottawa Area ISD Enhancement Millage, is amazing! We are pleased to have area residents recognize the important work our schools are doing to prepare students for future success and develop their full human potential. It has become common practice for schools throughout our region to collaborate for the greater good of our students and families, and this is just one more example of the cooperative culture that exists in the Ottawa area.

The enhancement millage funds will give Hudsonville Public Schools a locally generated and reliable source of revenue to expand efforts to ensure student safety, to provide assistance for students with greater mental/emotional health needs, and for programs that support all students. This is especially important since state funding has not kept pace with inflation.

Over the next several months, Hudsonville Public Schools will continue to evaluate programs and do our part to ensure these funds are spent in a way that will have the greatest impact on student learning, provide added security measures, and assist students both mentally and physically.

Second, we will also be exploring the growth needs of the district and how we will adjust to our expanding student population. With the steady increase of students enrolling in our district, we want to ensure that our facilities are prepared for this increase in volume. Our district spans over 80 square miles and with new home construction occurring throughout the district, growth is projected to continue. With new families and a growing student base, facilities master planning is necessary. A major component of our planning process is seeking the input of our students, parents, staff, and residents. Over the next few months, we will explore growth options as we form focus groups to begin the conversation on what Hudsonville Public Schools will look like in the next 5-10 years. If you are randomly selected to attend one of these focus groups, we look forward to your participation and insight.

Finally, with Michigan weather, the roads may become challenging over the next several months. Rest assured that we take the safety of our students and staff as our number one priority. Please review school delays and closing information on our website and also noted later in this edition of Appleseed.

As we enter the winter holiday season, I wish you all the best life has to offer as we enter 2019. Enjoy the holidays; family, friends, fellowship, and food!

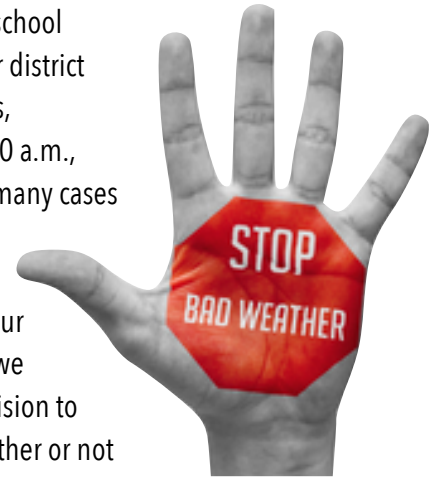
Best regards,

Doug VanderJagt, Ph.D.
Superintendent

CLOSING SCHOOL OR IMPLEMENTING A TWO-HOUR DELAY?

Ready or not, last week, we experienced our first snowfall in Michigan. Hudsonville Public Schools clearly understands the issues a snow day and/or a two-hour delay causes students, parents, and staff. Our decision to close school or implement a two-hour delay is based on the safety of our students, parents, and staff.

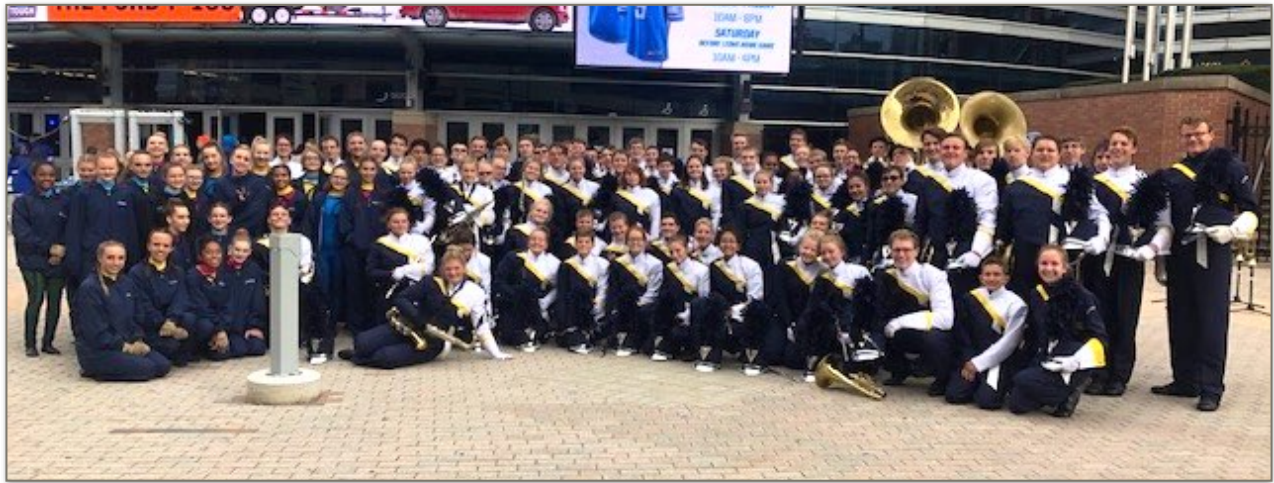
We have a few of us responsible for checking the roads and driving conditions well before school begins, during the winter months. We drive throughout the nearly 100 square miles of our district checking for problematic roads – gravel roads as well as main thoroughfares. In some cases, conditions can vary greatly from one side of the district to the other. Beginning around 5:00 a.m., in constant contact with the additional central office staff, the Director of Transportation, in many cases the Ottawa County Road Commission and local weather stations, as well as other school superintendents. Collectively we discuss the conditions of the roads and what we feel is best for our students. Our goal is to make a decision to close school or implement a two-hour delay prior to 5:30 a.m. so parents can make plans for the day. However, as you know, the weather may become inclement later in the early morning, and as a result, that complicates the decision to close or implement a two-hour delay. In any case, here are the following ways to learn whether or not schools are closed or delayed:



1. **Media Outlets:** Hudsonville Public Schools sends information to media outlets about any closure or delay.
2. **Automated Phone Calls/Texts:** We notify all parents with an automated phone call and/or text. To ensure you are receiving calls and texts, please check with your school to make sure your contact information is up-to-date.
3. **Email:** We send out an email message to all parents who have an email in our system. Again, please check with your school to make sure your contact information is up-to-date.
4. **Website/Facebook/Twitter:** We post all closings on the district website (www.hudsonvillepublicschools.org), Facebook (www.facebook.com/hudsonvilleps/), and Twitter (@HPSEagles or @dvanderjagt70). You are encouraged to "follow" one or both of our Twitter handles for closures as well as news and information about the district.

Driving a school bus through the snow is not a problem – for the bus driver or the bus. Our bus drivers are highly trained to maneuver in many types of weather and road conditions. Our professional drivers are all very sensitive to the varied driving skills of others on the road as well. Ice, however, presents some additional challenges. Your child is much safer riding in a school bus than a private vehicle due to the height and weight of a bus. School buses are manufactured under strict guidelines from the State and Federal Government and are designed with high, padded seats to protect students. What this means is simply keeping students within the framework of their personal seating area. This is why it is so important that students stay seated while the bus is in motion.

Closing school or delaying the start is always a tough decision, but please be assured, as your superintendent, I rely on the information from several people and will always put safety first in my decision.



On November 3, 2018 the Hudsonville Marching Band completed another successful season by competing at the 2018 MCBA State Championship Contest. This season the band performed in four competitions, played at all the home football games, performed in two concerts, and will be performing at the Holiday Parade in Hudsonville (weather permitting).

The 2018 Marching Band qualified for state finals for the third year in a row. Our band has now made state finals 24 times in the last 27 years. The band finished 8th (up three spots from last year) competing against the largest and best bands in the state. Congratulations!

Alward Successfully Kicks Off Student Champion Character Ed Program

In September, we kicked off our character education program by introducing students to the Alward Student Champion character traits during an all school assembly. This year, students will be working on exhibiting these traits in and out of school. The Character Education Committee did a phenomenal job getting students excited about the traits by getting into "character."



Students were introduced to the traits by our hostess, Smiley O'Reilly (Mrs. LePard). The traits included Ms. Always Polite (Ms. Baker), Mrs. Always Listening (Mrs. Harmsen), Ms. Willing to Be Helpful (Ms. VanSlooten), Mrs. Sunny Positivity (Mrs. Bandstra), Ms. Respect (Mrs. VanderWall) and Ms. Daring To Care (Ms. Terpstra). The assembly was dj'd by none other than DJ Stoke Jam (Ms. Stokes). At the end of the assembly, the traits, students, and staff sang the Alward Pledge Song which includes all of the character traits! All students were given a booklet of the Student Champion character traits to discuss as a class and take home to share with their families! Each month, one student will be nominated by each teacher as the Student Champion of the Month and receive an Alward Student Champion medal for their efforts! We are excited to see all the great things that our students do at Alward and out in the community representing our school! This event even caught the attention of Maranda from WOODTV8. She and her camera crew came out to visit during the November Student Champion award ceremony and shot an amazing news story. [View the Maranda segment.](#)



HPS Early Childhood Programs - Open House/Registration Night or the 2019-2020 School Year and 2019 Summer Program

Registration/Open House Night:

Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at the Early Childhood Center from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Early Childhood Center is located at: 5535 School Ave.

(main entrance off Madison Ave.)

Programs include: 3 and 4 year old Preschool, Young Fives, Before/After School Care, and Summer Care.

*This is a chance to gather information about the programs, meet staff, and visit the Early Childhood Center. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. There is no formal presentation and children are welcome.

Registration forms are accepted that evening with a \$40.00 non-refundable registration fee per child and a \$100.00 non-refundable deposit per family. *Enrollment fills quickly.*

For more information, please call the Early Childhood office at 616-797-0842, ext. 1.



Shine Bright, Georgetown Artists



Diamonds have been shining at Georgetown this fall! Artists from kindergarten to fifth grade had the opportunity to add their unique touch to a diamond-shaped piece of paper. The diamonds were then assembled to create one large piece of art resembling a quilt. The project reminds artists that each of them is a unique, important member of our school community, just as their shining diamond is a unique, important part of our collaborative piece of art.



Each grade level used the same paper color to create unity, and to emphasize that each grade level adds to our school as a whole. See if you can spot the rainbow effect this had on our giant work of art!



Homeschool Students

Homeschool students in the 11th grade that are interested in taking the MME (SAT, ACT WorkKeys, & M-STEP) or 9th & 10 grade students that wish to take the PSAT, please contact Kristi Fellows for more information at 669-1500, ext. 20403, or kfellow@hpseagles.net.

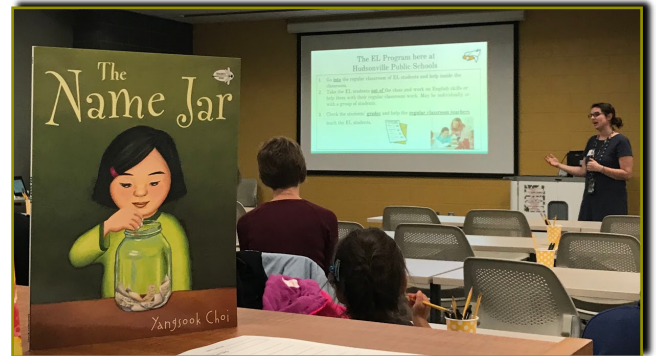
English Learner Family Night 2018



On October 11, English Learner students and their families gathered at the Freshman Campus for the fourth annual English Learner Family Night. This year included a pizza dinner; students, teachers, and families alike enjoyed sharing a meal together. The theme of the evening was What's Your Name? Students were encouraged to take pride in their name, its meaning, and where they come from. A craft and a story were used to celebrate the unique students we have at HPS. As you can see from the map, many cultures and languages were represented. After the dinner, families learned about the EL program at Hudsonville and participated



in learning literacy strategies to practice at home. The EL Department is excited to host an International Celebration May 10, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. Stay tuned for more details. For more information about the EL program, please [visit our blog](#).



This year the theme at Park Elementary is "Be". Each month the students and staff focus on one trait they want to be. The traits include; be responsible, thankful, generous, inspiring, caring, confident, green, and happy. These are just some of the attributes that the Park family wants to be known by.



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 “YOU SEE WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE”

-By Kevin Wolma, Athletic Director

Number 81. Every Saturday afternoon for the last two seasons, I watch number 81 play for the Arizona Wildcat football team. Occasionally during a game, he is on the line of scrimmage and I can't see his number, but I am still able to locate him because he has a white towel hanging from the back of his pants. I love watching my nephew Bryce compete, but I find my focus is solely on him every single play. Sometimes I will watch him block and I don't even know who has the ball. When he runs a passing route, I instinctively believe he is the only one open. I watch the entire game with tunnel vision, only focusing on one thing: Number 81.

How often do we do that with our own kids? We watch every move they make every second of every game. As parents, we should consider a couple of interesting perspectives when we do this. For example, when I just watch my own kid, I might focus on every good thing he or she does, whether or not it has any impact on the game. However, when my kid is on the bench, I watch the game differently. Now the attention goes to the other players, and I might find myself watching for any mistakes they make in order to validate why my kid should be playing. I will see what I want to see. This is called tunnel vision. Tunnel vision becomes a dangerous way to watch our kids play because it becomes all about them and less about the team.

This has become the million dollar question in high school athletics: Do I want my son/daughter to play all the time on a poor team or be a role player on a championship team? I often have these conversations with student-athletes who struggle with the perception that when they are not “seen” they are not considered a valued member of the team. In reality, they are “seen” by their coaches and teammates every day, helping their team become the best it can be during practice. The hope is that the memories they create with their

teammates while winning championships far outweighs seeing their name in newspaper clippings.

As an athletic director over the last eight years, I have had the opportunity to watch thousands of games from a different perspective. I love watching the dig that leads to a set and then a kill. I love the hustle play in basketball that leads to a fast break. I love the extra pass in a soccer game that leads to a goal. I love watching the ball move side to side in water polo ending with a pass in the hole and an eventual goal. I love watching the kids on the deck of a swim meet cheer on the last leg of a relay. I love watching a player bunt to score a runner on third. I love to watch a defensive end in football force a quarterback to move up into the pocket where the linebacker meets him for a sack. I love to watch a wrestler come from behind in the closing seconds of a match, his teammates stomping in support on the wood bleachers. I love to watch a lacrosse player fight for a ground ball then pass it to a teammate on the other end of the field for a goal. I love to watch a doubles player hit an incredible return that leads to an overhead winner by his/her partner. I love to watch a hurdler in track and then be amazed by the 3200-meter distance runner. I love to watch a bowler throw a strike and have both teams congratulate him/her on the way off the lane. I love to watch cheer execute a stunt because of the incredible teamwork that involves. I love to watch every skater on the ice touch the puck that finds the back of the net. I love watching the long ball in golf, along with the up and down sand save...

Yes, I love watching my nephew play football, but lately, I have grown an appreciation for how much better the team has been playing from the beginning of the year to the end. That improvement is not based on one player alone, but rather a collection of guys committed to getting better each and every day for the success of the team. Sports are a beautiful thing to watch when we are able to eliminate tunnel vision and see the periphery as much as what is directly in front of us. The next time you are at a game, I challenge each of you to watch the *whole* game. The experience will be better and your anxiety as a parent will go down. Let's all see as much as we can possibly see.

HEF Now Accepting Nominations for the Eagles of Excellence Gala

The Hudsonville Education Foundation is looking for Distinguished Alumni of Hudsonville to recognize at the Eagles of Excellence Gala in 2019. Below are the category descriptions and criteria. If you know of a deserving individual, please complete and submit a [Distinguished Alumni of Hudsonville nomination form](#).

The deadline for nominations is April 1, 2019. If you have any questions, please call 616-669-1740 or email contact@hudsonvilleeducationfoundation.org

The Hudsonville Public Schools' (HPS) Alumni Hall of Fame, in partnership with the Hudsonville Education Foundation (HEF) has been established to celebrate the achievements and talents of our distinguished alumni. The HPS Alumni Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have made exceptional achievements in their field, significant contributions to Hudsonville Public Schools, and/or unique contributions to their communities on a local, state, national or global level. The selection of these individuals is intended to recognize and encourage a tradition of excellence, achievement, commitment, and dedication.

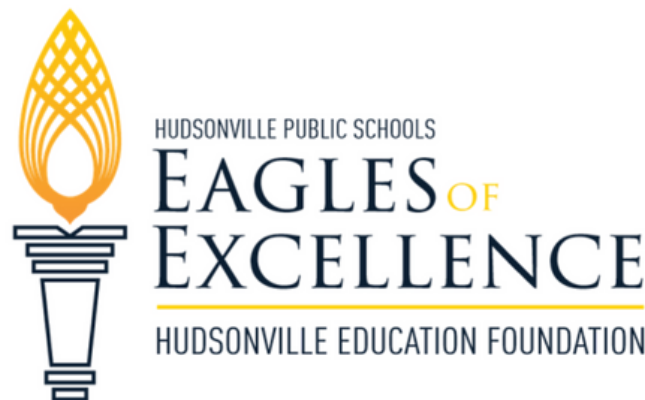
The current categories of recognition are:

- Cultural/Performing Art
- Career accomplishments (may include military recognition)
- Service to HPS/Community
- Honorary Achievement-Contribution to HPS/Community

Anyone can nominate a candidate for induction into the HPS Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame.

New inductees will be selected and honored annually. Commemorative plaques will be presented to the inductee at the annual Eagles of Excellence Gala. Recognition of the distinguished alumni will be displayed on the Academic Wall of Excellence located in the vestibule of the northwest entrance of Hudsonville High School.

Nominees in the categories of Cultural/Performing Arts, Career Accomplishments, or Service to Hudsonville Public Schools/Community must have graduated from Hudsonville High School at least five years prior to nomination.



Posthumous awards may be granted in all categories.

The HEF will carefully review each nomination and select a minimum of 4 inductees. Nominees not selected for induction will not carry over into the next year.

Inductees do not need to be one from each category. (All may be from one category depending on the nominations)

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Cultural/Performing Arts – This individual is a graduate of HPS and recognized for achievements in the cultural, visual, or performing arts and/or contributions to the promotion of cultural activities on a local, state, national, or global level.

Career accomplishments (This can include military recognition) – This individual is a graduate of HPS and recognized for achievement in his or her profession which has resulted in a direct and significant impact in his or her field. The nominee has demonstrated unique talents and/or accomplishments.

Service to Hudsonville Public Schools/Community – This individual is a graduate of HPS and recognized for service to the Hudsonville Public Schools or to community or society by sustained example or contribution, and by serving as a major influence in the lives of Hudsonville students or in the community/society through acts of leadership.

Honorary Achievement/Contribution to the Hudsonville Public Schools/Community – This individual is recognized for service to the Hudsonville Public Schools by sustained example or contribution, and by serving as a major influence in the lives of Hudsonville students through acts of leadership. Hudsonville High School graduation is not a requirement in this category.

Georgetown 1st Grade Word Study

Our first graders have been loving our Word Study portion of the school day! We spend this time of the day studying words, letters, sounds, syllables, etc. To guide us through our lessons, we have a class mascot that is a lion named Rasheed. Rasheed has been helping us build a routine of looking for certain word features every time we look at a new word.

We've paid close attention to vowels and all the sounds a vowel can make. We introduced the idea that two letters can blend themselves together (BLENDS = cl, st, dr, etc.) and two letters can work together to create a whole new sound (DIGRAPHS = th, sh, ch, wh, etc.). The kids have loved the adventures that come along with studying words closely.



4th-Grade Job Fair at Jamestown!

Jamestown Upper Elementary recently welcomed 15 local businesses into our school for the annual 4th-grade job fair! We hope to provide relevant learning experiences for our students that align curriculum with real world opportunities. This event allows our students the opportunity to see what jobs are available in our area, begin to consider their interests, and see what it takes to get a job.



Fourth grade students were responsible for writing a resume and cover letter, applying for jobs with businesses they were interested in working for, and then being interviewed by those business leaders. Business leaders were welcomed into our school by the Student Leadership Team. They set up a spot in the gym and then interviewed students applying to work for their business.



At the conclusion of that interview, they were able to give a job offer to students who were found worthy.

Thank you to Michelle and the Hudsonville Chamber of Commerce for helping to contact and organize local businesses! We also appreciate all the business leaders who took time out of their day to provide this meaningful experience to our students.

Unified Soccer Matches A Huge Success!

On October 18, Baldwin Street Middle School participated in the first ever Unified Soccer games at Cityside Middle School in Zeeland. Unified Soccer combines both students with and without disabilities to form an amazing team. During the games, 4 students with disabilities and 3 partner students are on the floor at all times. The students work together and learn from each other. About 47 athletes making up 4 teams from BMS participated in this event. The students displayed kindness and outstanding sportsmanship!



Special Education Update

On behalf of the Special Services department, we are so grateful to have the tremendous honor of educating children within the district who have unique and exceptional needs. We do this work in partnership with school teams, community agencies, and most importantly, families. While staff in the Special Education department continually work to stay updated on available resources within the community and at large, we'd like to share with you one resource that comes from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). The MDE's Office of Special Education has developed an outreach effort called Family Matters. This effort and online platform includes newsletters, resources, and updates from the MDE's Office of Special Education. One resource of particular interest are the "Fact Sheets" that share concise information on topics such as the initial evaluation process and the Individualized Education Program.

TITLE I PARENT INFORMATION

Each year, the federal government provides funding for support services and materials for students identified as falling behind in grade level content standards and expectations. District assessment and standardized test scores are indicators of those students who would most benefit from these services. If your child has been identified for receiving the services provided in the building, you will receive a letter in the mail from your child's building principal or staff member. A plan will be put in place to assure your child will receive the appropriate support in order to achieve the academic goals of that grade level or course in the areas of reading, writing, or math. The support received may be short term or long term depending on the individual needs of each student. We believe each and every student can be successful in their academic journey if provided the right opportunities and with the help and support of parents.

As a parent of a student identified to receive support services, you are strongly encouraged to be involved in any of the planning for your child's success. On the Hudsonville Public Schools district website, you will find a tab for Title I. Under this tab, you will find our Board Policy language on Title I parent involvement and your rights as a parent to ask questions and be involved. Please contact your building principal if you would like to discuss how to be involved. Title I information meetings will be announced for you to attend in your child's building.

The Hudsonville Public Schools staff devote their time and effort to helping all students be successful. We are grateful for federal and state funding that allows us to add support services for any student falling behind. We know the power of working together as staff, students, and parents as we blend our contributions for the same common goal.

Fifty+ Year Tradition at Forest Grove Elementary Still Going Strong!

Forest Grove Elementary recently hosted a community outreach called a Thanksgiving Feast and International Exchange. The staff and students enjoyed a Thanksgiving Feast (turkey gravy and all the fixins' from HPS food service) where the whole school eats together in the gym the day before they depart for Thanksgiving break. The staff serves the student body as a tangible THANK YOU for being such great kids to work with every day at school. This is a great tradition that has occurred at Forest Grove for the last 50+ years. In recent years, we have expanded this annual activity to include a large group of international college-age students that are a part of the English Language School (ELS) that is affiliated with GVSU.

This group of 75 guests joined our multi-aged character education groups, called Friendship Teams, for a good old fashioned learning exchange after enjoying a meal with us all. During their visit, we share about the unique American holiday of Thanksgiving and how we celebrate it. Then our new friends share about their favorite holiday and how they celebrate it in their home country. We also participate in some world geography and American history lessons, a holiday craft, games, and other get-to-know-you type activities during this visit. The purpose of this exchange is for our ELS friends to practice their English skills and for both groups to learn more about other countries and cultures in a unique, engaging, and fun ways.



What a terrific way to kick-off this holiday season – by making new friends, celebrating a national holiday focused on gratitude, and expanding our knowledge of and exposure to other cultures, languages, and perspectives!



Pre-K at Jamestown Lower Practices Mat Man

PreK has been working hard to learn how to draw a person. To do this, we use the help of Mat Man. Mat Man is a unique classroom character from our Handwriting Without Tears curriculum that helps the children learn to draw all the body parts. Mat Man is built using curved and straight wooden pieces for the head, arms, legs, etc., and a blue rectangular mat for the body.



At the beginning of the year, the kids all sit in a circle and the teacher builds Mat Man in the center while the kids are learning the Mat Man song. Soon the teacher will pass out these pieces and the kids take turns building Mat Man together while singing the song. As the kids get better at building him, they begin to learn how to draw him by remembering all the pieces that they used to build him.

This Fall, we used a lot of nature items: leaves, acorns, sticks, pine cones and allowed the kids to play with these items along with our Mat Man wood pieces to build a Fall Mat Man. The kids mixed the wood pieces with our Mat Man building pieces and created such cute fall people! The kids had so much fun with creating their own characters!



Outdoor Discovery Center is a hit at the Early Childhood Center

We were excited to open our new Outdoor Discovery Area at the Early Childhood Center off of School Ave. This unique addition will be utilized as a classroom, learning space, playground, and a



place to explore nature. The Discovery Center includes several learning areas; Homestead, Sandpit, Theater, and Bridge. We are looking forward to expanding this project next year with additional areas.

A special thanks goes to the Hudsonville Education Foundation (H.E.F.) for their generosity in funding the Theater learning space within the playground.



As a celebration of the space, each of our classrooms planted perennials and bulbs marked with their room names to watch for them to bloom in the Spring. The students had so much fun taking turns to scoop out the dirt to plant them.

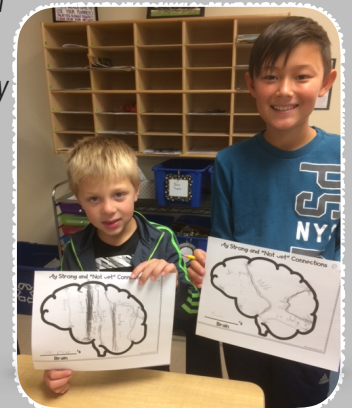


Thank you to HPS community for the support of our Early Childhood Programs of Hudsonville!

Fourth grade students at Bauer Elementary welcomed State Representative, Roger Victory. He spoke on behalf of our state government. Students spent the past month studying local, state, and national government concepts and were excited to apply their knowledge with a real-life candidate and winning representative.



Students at South Elementary are learning what a growth mindset is. This month, students worked with their South PRIDE partner classes to learn how our brain works. Students were able to identify STRONG connections in their brain and NOTYET connections. Our growth mindset lessons are helping students learn that with hard work their brains can GROW!



Hudsonville Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, height, weight, marital status, handicap, disability, or limited English proficiency in any of its programs or activities. The following office has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, 3886 Van Buren, Hudsonville, MI. 49426, (616) 669-1740