



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 work through some of the challenges that Covid-19 has caused. I would like to bring a few items to your attention.

As you are aware, Hudsonville Public Schools continue to grow. As we are challenged with adding capacity to our buildings, the design and construction of additional facilities are imperative. Due to increased enrollment on the north end of our district, we are in the process of building a 5/6 building near Baldwin Middle School. I would like to share some of the details of that building:

- Design of the building is complete
- The contractor bids have been received and Board approved
- The building will house 5th and 6th graders (mostly comprised from Alward, Bauer, Georgetown, and Park Elementary 5th graders and Baldwin Middle School 6th graders)
- Capacity of the building is 750 students, but most likely will open with 675 students
- Upon site approval, earthwork could begin as early as this winter
- Construction of the building will begin late summer of 2021
- Completion is expected in early 2023
- Students will occupy the building beginning the fall of 2023

The additions to the high school complex will also begin shortly after the snow melts. This project, which adds a fieldhouse on the south side and connects the high school to the Freshman Campus, is expected to also be completed by the fall of 2023.

The mental health of our staff and students has always been a focus as we continue to navigate this pandemic. I would encourage you to spend time with your child(ren) regarding how they are navigating this challenging time. Melissa Bernard, our Student Services Coordinator, continues to develop material to help support our students. Please take time to visit the HPS website under the "[Family Resources](#)" tab to see the latest version of the SOARce. Highlights from this edition include an alternative to New Year's resolutions, positively acknowledging children at home, listening with empathy, and looking beyond behavior to develop regulation.

As a district, some of our SOAR IV goals relate to the values of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging. Through the remainder of this school year, we will develop a long-term vision and plans to increase our awareness, skills, and actions to embrace the differences that we all possess. As we enter the month of February, Black History Month, we have the opportunity as a learning community to further increase our students' awareness of impactful men and women of color. Our hope and goal is that every student will expand their awareness of the people and events in black history through intentional teaching opportunities.

Also of great importance is an upcoming vote this spring. On May 4, 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 26 years and would generate approximately \$5.5 million dollars of operating revenue for our school district. Please note, this is not a tax on primary residences and is not a new tax. Please 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](#), please express to them the gratitude we all have for their commitment to Hudsonville Public Schools.

Thank you for your continued support of Hudsonville Public Schools.

Dr. Vanderjagt  
Superintendent

**Stay Connected!**



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



## HUDSONVILLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION "GRANT SNAPSHOTS"

Each year, the Hudsonville Education Foundation (HEF) provides classroom grants that benefit the students and staff of Hudsonville Public Schools. The HEF is currently sharing **Grant Snapshots** from last year's grant cycle. Last year, the HEF was able to award over \$8,000 in grants. Visit the HEF's [Facebook page](#) or [Twitter account](#) to see snapshots of these grants in action.



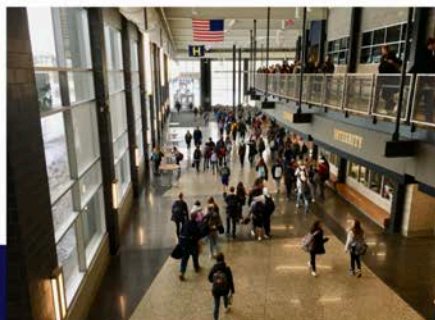
The HEF is currently raising the next round of funds for our spring grant cycle. Learn more about how to support the mission of the HEF here: [hudsonvillefound.org](https://hudsonvillefound.org).

The Hudsonville Education Foundation (HEF) was established in 2003 to foster educational opportunities for Hudsonville Public School (HPS) students. The HEF provides funding for projects that enhance education and encourage innovative learning. Each year, the HEF awards grants to HPS teachers, honors an innovative HPS staff member, recognizes distinguished alumni, and presents scholarships to Hudsonville High School seniors. Find out more about the HEF by visiting our [website](#), liking us on [Facebook](#), or following along on [Twitter](#).



# SAVE THE DATE!

WEDNESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 24TH  
HUDSONVILLE HS  
8TH GRADE  
PARENT MEETING  
& SHOWCASE



7-8 PM

YOUTUBE LIVE CHANNEL  
EAGLE EYE HHS

Students and Parents,  
Please join us for a virtual  
showcase of courses, clubs,  
and extracurricular activities  
and also learn important  
information about registering  
for courses at Hudsonville HS.

### SCHEDULE

YOUTUBE LIVE - 7-7:30pm

- Welcome/Introduction
- Registration/4-Year Plan

### OPTIONAL VIDEO TOURS

- Courses
- Athletics
- Clubs





## KINDNESS GROWS AT PARK ELEMENTARY



2020 was a difficult year for everyone. It showed how much our world is in need of kindness and compassion. As we enter 2021, the staff and students at Park Elementary are trying to do their part to make it a better year. One way they are doing this is by focusing on the idea of kindness. Growing Kindness is a project focused on providing students the opportunity to learn and share goodwill with those around them.

Staff will spend time each week discussing the idea of kindness with their classes. Through the use of books and other resources, teachers will talk with students about tangible ways they can share generosity and compassion with others. When students have witnessed an act of kindness at school, they will write it down on a heart. These hearts are then hung up on a Kindness Tree hanging at the crossroads of the main hallway. Each day students will add more and more of these heart-shaped leaves to the tree.

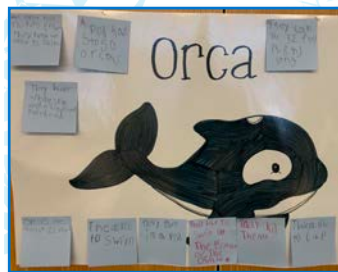
Ultimately, the hope is that this will be a student lead project where small and large acts of kindness are recognized daily. One day, the tree may grow the length of the hall and be a colorful, joyful symbol of the kindnesses at Park Elementary.



## FIRST GRADE STUDENTS AT GEORGETOWN EXPLORE THE ARCTIC



Miss Hutchison's first graders were in for a surprise one Friday morning when they walked into the classroom only to find that the room had been transformed into an ARCTIC tundra! Students spent the day being Arctic explorers as they did science experiments, researched Arctic animals, and participated in other hands-on activities. Here's a glimpse at a few portions of their day:



Students participated in a STEAM challenge to build igloos using sugar cubes and mini marshmallows. They then made penguins out of Oreos and went "ice fishing" for goldfish!

Each table group was assigned a different Arctic animal to research. Students wrote facts on sticky notes and added them to their animal's poster. They then used this research to write nonfiction teaching books during writer's workshop.



Our first graders learned about blubber by seeing how long they could keep their "plain" hands in ice-cold water...not very long! But, when we covered one of our fingers with "blubber," our fingers stayed warm even when they were placed in the ice water. This is why Arctic animals need blubber to keep them warm!







## Creative Use of Technology Makes Park Elementary's Holiday Program Extraordinary

During this extraordinary school year,  
music class was faced with the challenge

of not being allowed to do "in-person" performances. All of the Hudsonville elementary schools decided to release virtual music programs (recorded performances). Although this was incredibly new and different, like so many things have been this year, we wanted to bring holiday cheer and our young musicians' amazing talents to our Hudsonville family. Specifically, at Park Elementary, students were recorded within the music room and outside of the building. It was similar to preparing for the in-person holiday program but included the aspect of being in a recording studio. Each grade level recorded multiple versions of one song. After audio and video production, these individual class video recordings, were combined with grade level recordings of the same song, and a full Park school (all grades) combined video were posted for our Park family. One of my favorite

memories is while showing the final all-school video to classes: Students were so impressed with other grade level performances that they would cheer and clap after each performance. I'm so impressed and struck by the kindness and supportive attitude of the Park Elementary students. Through their enduring work ethic and perseverance, students at Park continue to grow musicianship and spread love to our community. Bravo to these outstanding young musicians!



## Art Goes Multicultural

Students at Jamestown Upper and Lower Elementary have been experiencing a cultural focus on Native American art this year. All grade levels have participated in learning about the art forms that are unique to Native Americans. We have created weavings, totem poles, teepees, and Adobe dwellings. We have discovered how exciting it is to examine and create art from different cultures!



## DOES YOUR STUDENT POSSIBLY NEED AN ALTERNATIVE STATE ASSESSMENT?

Each year, Michigan schools are accountable for delivering state assessments for all students in select grade levels. For a small number of students with disabilities, taking an alternate state assessment may be determined to be an appropriate measure of achievement. This is decided upon by a team of persons knowledgeable of the student, i.e. the IEP Team. The alternate state assessment aligns to modified content standards, called Essential Elements, and is called the [MI-ACCESS](#). Teams must use a variety of data sources and [state guidance](#) to determine whether the standard or alternate state assessment is more appropriate. To learn more about this decision point, please see resources provided by the Michigan Department of Education at [www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde).





## This Is the Spirit of Giving. This Is Jamestown.

There is nothing quite like the spirit of giving during the holiday season. This is Anna Hubbard, a 5th-grader in Mrs. Oldebekking's class. Anna doesn't want this attention but agreed to let me share her story as it could inspire others to similar acts.

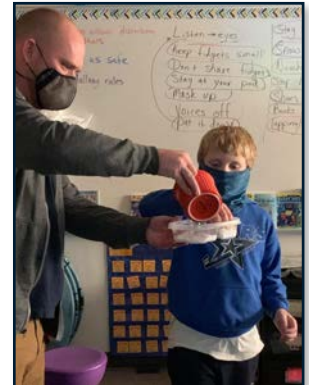


This fall, she started her own clothing brand with the intent of making a substantial donation to those in our community in need. Anna was responsible for the shirt design, working on getting them printed, and advertising/selling.

Anna and her mom met with Mr. Secor to decide on how to use the funds best. It was decided to purchase books for those kids right here at Jamestown Upper and Lower who do not have them at home. Anna donated over \$400, which was enough to purchase books for over 20 students this holiday season.

## STUDENTS CAPTIVATED BY VIRTUAL WEATHER LESSON

Alward's third-grade classes had the opportunity to participate in a virtual weather experience with Ellen Bacca and the crew from Wood TV8. Our kids had a great time and learned so much about thunderstorms, wind, tornadoes, and snow! Throughout the virtual experience, students participated in various interactive activities that got them up and moving. Their teachers also modeled multiple science experiments to explain the different weather phenomena they were learning about. To end the virtual experience, students were able to ask questions and speak with Ellen Bacca! Ellen and the crew from Wood TV8 did such a great job captivating our third-grade learners attention and keeping them engaged! Thank you, Wood TV8, for allowing our students to participate! They had an amazing time!



## Hudsonville Sophomore Chosen to Join All-State Orchestra

Sophomore, Lillian Zielinski was selected as a member of the 2021 Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) High School All-State Orchestra. Lily, who plays the viola, was one of 16 high school violists from throughout the state of Michigan to be selected for this honor. To earn this placement, Lily had to participate in an online audition recording session that required her to perform scales and sections of pieces by Brahms and Mendelssohn. Congratulations Lily on this achievement!



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