

## **Porteous Academic Center - A New Name and More** by Tim Webster, Principal – Reed City Middle School

As with all new beginnings, the start of the 2006-2007 school year at Reed City Area Public Schools brought its share of changes. Many changes were small and uneventful, but some were accompanied with much celebration.

On September 19, 2006, members of the Board of Education of Reed City Area Public Schools renamed the HS/MS Media Center, "The William and Mable Porteous Academic Center." Many Porteous family members, friends, neighbors, and school staff joined the Board and Superintendent Steven Westhoff in recognizing the contributions made to the school on behalf of the Porteous family.



Somewhat overshadowed was the change of leadership of the Porteous Academic Center. Joanne Boyer is our new Director of the Porteous Academic Center (PAC). Joanne comes to us with much energy and a solid vision for the PAC. She has over seven years of experience as a librarian/media specialist and has worked in both public and school sectors. Joanne has over 18 years' experience as Director of Training for several companies including three Fortune 500 companies, namely, Pfizer, National City, and Stryker Medical.

Joanne earned her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and her Bachelor's Degree in English and Library Science from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. It was there that she raised her three children, Tamara, Lora, and Brian. Tamara, now Dr. Tamara Moutsatson, and her husband, Michael, are both physicians (internist and orthopedic surgeon, respectively) in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. Gabrielle Moutsatson, Joanne's granddaughter, is 16 months old, and the doctors are expecting another child in June 2007. Lora Boyer is a psychologist and has her own practice in Baltimore, Maryland. Lora and her fiancée, Dr. Christopher Vaughan, a clinical psychologist, are to be wed in June 2007. Brian (Canard) is located in Tampa, Florida, and is serving his seventh year in the Air National Guard as a Satellite Communications Technician. He has completed two of his five-year Master's program in Architecture from the University of Florida in Tampa and plans to graduate in 2010.

As with any new endeavor, Joanne is acclimating herself to the staff, students, and her new position as Director. Some changes can already be seen such as the floor layout and the beautiful plants that add just the right welcoming touch to the center. Joanne has been very energetic in getting schedules set and has already established great rapport with staff and made it clear that students and staff are welcome into her world.

Long-term goals include establishing a high school fiction section and a middle school fiction section, updating the reference collection, and aligning the non-fiction materials to the curriculum.

Joanne is off to a wonderful start and it is very apparent that she is truly one who will go the extra mile for our kids and be smiling all the while. She is one of those people who truly enjoys her work and contribution to the community. We all wish Joanne much success as she works toward accomplishing her many goals, and we are happy to have her on board at Reed City Area Public Schools.