



A Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

November 4, 2016

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Superintendent

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AT A GLANCE

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- Facility and Infrastructure Planning Among District Priorities
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IMPORTANT DATES

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

- Tuesday, November 15, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Northville High School
- Tuesday, November 29, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Hillside Middle School (Forum)

NHS Community Open House

- 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 6, 2016

Election Day (No School)

- Tuesday, November 8, 2016
Polls Open 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Thanksgiving Recess

- November 23 (half-day), 24 & 25, 2016

Superintendent Community Coffee

- Wednesday, November 30, 2016
6:30-7:45 p.m.
Board of Education Office
501 West Main Street, Northville

DEAR NORTHVILLE SCHOOL FAMILIES, STAFF AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The first quarter of the 2016-17 school year has flown by! Our classroom communities have re-formed, and the work of learning and leadership is evident across our classrooms and schools. As Thanksgiving approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing Northville Public Schools and for entrusting us with your children each day. We are grateful for the incredible support of the Northville community, which values exemplary programs for all our students — whether it is in academic arenas, in the arts, on our fields of play, or in the extraordinary range of extracurricular and/or community service opportunities our students seek.

We are likewise grateful for the collective work of our students, teachers and administrators in collaboration with parents, toward a vision of success for all students. We are called

upon to reflect on, and improve our practice of educating children, to give one another feedback, to work collaboratively and to deepen our efforts to unleash each and every child's potential. Our teachers and principals have been asked to adapt to new processes as we continually seek to apply best practice instruction and to empower students to be active participants in their learning. There is no greater work than impacting the lives of our students in powerful and meaningful ways, and we are committed to creating the best possible learning environment in our classrooms, in our schools, and in all that we do as we seek to advance our *Tradition of Excellence* and truly open *A World of Possibilities* for and with each of our students.

This newsletter includes reminders of several upcoming opportunities, along with highlights of some of the great things happening in our schools!

BOARD OF EDUCATION, EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT MILLAGE ON NOV. 8TH BALLOT

Along with the lengthy federal, state and local ballot, Northville Public Schools voters will consider two important issues impacting the Northville school community when they go to the polls in the upcoming **General Election on Tuesday, November 8, 2016**.

Five candidates are vying for four open, four-year terms on the Northville school board. To view profiles of the five candidates, click below.

- [Laurie Doner](#)
- [Scott Frush](#)
- [Cynthia Jankowski](#)
- [Sarah Prescott](#)
- [Matthew Wilk](#)



For more information, view the October 4, 2016 Board of Education [Candidates Forum](#), hosted by the Northville PTA Legislative Action Network (LAN) representatives.

In addition, voters from school districts across Wayne County — including Northville Public Schools' residents, regardless of county of residence — are being asked to consider a county-wide, two-mill, six-year **Education Enhancement millage**. For more information about the Enhancement millage proposal and its impact on Northville school district taxpayers go to [Enhancement Millage](#).

The deadline to get an Absentee Ballot via the mail, for those unable to get to the polls on November 8th, is Saturday, November 5, 2016. Contact your city or township clerk's office for office hours on November 5th. Information about voting precincts and locations on Election Day are available by contacting your clerk's office.

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day – Tuesday, November 8, 2016

FACILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING AMONG DISTRICT PRIORITIES

While the Sinking Fund millage – first approved by voters in 2011 and renewed in 2015 – has been essential in addressing the district's most critical facility repairs, our aging buildings and shifting student enrollment has made long-term facility and infrastructure planning a top priority for the 2016-17 school year. Continued growth in the northwest sector of the district, with several new neighborhoods under construction, is straining capacity at Moraine Elementary School and enrollment is increasing at Northville High School as larger classes move from middle school to high school.

To proactively address pending capacity issues at Moraine, last year the Northville Board of Education approved an elementary school boundary adjustment that reassigns undeveloped

property and homes under construction in certain areas of the Moraine attendance boundary to Thornton Creek and Ridge Wood elementary schools. In the coming weeks, the Board may consider additional proactive attendance boundary adjustments for Moraine and/or Thornton Creek, as more new neighborhoods and homes break ground.

In addition, the district recently received proposals for the possible redevelopment of two of the district's oldest facilities, with the goal of finding a fiscally responsible solution that is in the best interest of the school district as well as the community. Located in downtown Northville, our oldest building, Old Village School, was closed in 2012 in order to reduce costs and better coordinate the district's special education center program. The



adjacent Maine Street facility (formerly Main Street School) houses the district's Central Office functions and several Early Childhood classes. In June, the Board of Education approved a contract with the Great Northern Consulting Group for pre-sale and marketing services. The scope of the work includes the preparation, distribution and evaluation of Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and developer/builder responses to the RFPs. The RFPs were released in September and responses were received in late October. Because both buildings are in the city's historic district, any plans to significantly change and/or build on these sites is subject to review by the Northville Historic District Commission, as well as the city's Planning Commission.

As the district continues to develop its long-term facility and infrastructure plan,

consideration is also being given to the potential relocation of the Central Office and Early Childhood classes currently housed at Main Street; options for addressing capacity concerns at Northville High School and Moraine; significant facility and infrastructure needs at Hillside Middle School; remaining infrastructure needs in other buildings; along with classroom learning environment/furniture replacement; and other needs across the district in the areas of classroom learning environments, safety and security and athletics, for example.

As consideration is given to proposals regarding Old Village and Main Street, as well as the broader long-term facility and infrastructure planning process, the Board of Education will provide opportunities for parent, staff and community feedback.

ALICE TRAINING EMPOWERS ADULTS AND STUDENTS WITH STRATEGIES TO STAY SAFE

Many of you are aware that Northville Public Schools – in consultation with local police agencies and the ALICE Training Institute, along with guidance from various federal agencies – has adopted the ALICE protocol to enhance our existing safety and security procedures specifically in regard to a violent intruder response. ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evaluate) training empowers adults and students with strategies to keep themselves and each other safe through access to more information, a greater emphasis on evacuating when possible, enhancing lockdown protocols, and providing age-appropriate lessons and information to students.

In June, district administrators, principals and other key staff members, together with police liaisons, participated in two full days of on-site instructor training facilitated by the ALICE Institute, in addition to online instructor training. Online training modules were also provided to the entire Northville Public Schools staff, in addition to on-site scenario training, led by principals and our local police liaisons. Parents also have the opportunity

to attend informational meetings including a review of the information that will be shared with students during their ALICE training and enhanced lockdown drills.



- Alert
- Lockdown
- Inform
- Counter
- Evacuate

We extend our gratitude to the Northville Township Police Department for its leadership and partnership in this effort, together with the City of Northville and City of Novi police departments. We also appreciate the support of Mothers' Club of Northville, which donated a copy of the children's book, *I'm not Scared, I'm Prepared* for each pre-kindergarten and elementary classroom, and Home Depot of Northville, which donated 500 five-gallon buckets to assist with emergency preparedness materials in each classroom across the district.

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE TO SHOWCASE NORTHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

The third annual Northville High School Community Open House on this coming Sunday, November 6, 2016 from 1-3 p.m. will offer a wonderful opportunity for future students, families and community members to see first-hand all that Northville High School and Northville Public Schools has to offer. Those attending will have the opportunity to tour the award-winning, technology-equipped high school with student leaders as their guides. They also will have the chance to meet with academic department chairs, as well as current students, administrators and parents.



Scholar competitors. Northville High School, along with the district's two middle schools, is fully authorized as an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School offering the Middle Years and Diploma Programs, with the first class of 19 IB Diploma Program candidates graduating in June 2016.

While the open house is geared toward incoming freshmen for the 2017-18 academic year, families with students of all ages, as well as community members, are welcome to attend. Join us and learn

Northville Public Schools' commitment to excellence is evident throughout its comprehensive programming in academics, the arts, athletics and extra-curricular opportunities. Northville Public Schools' students consistently score near the top on Michigan Department of Education assessments, ACT and SAT performance, and Advanced Placement assessments. The Class of 2017 alone includes 40 National Merit

how Northville High School and Northville Public Schools are building on a strong *Tradition of Excellence* by opening *A World of Possibilities* for all students. Northville High School is located at 45700 Six Mile Road, Northville, Michigan, 48168. For more information, call 248-344-3800 or visit the high school's website at <http://nhs.northvilleschools.org/>.

FAMILIES ENCOURAGED TO SIGN UP FOR BUS TRACKER APP

I want to take this opportunity to thank our parents, students, staff and community members for their incredible patience as our Transportation team has worked to adjust bus routes and pick-up/drop-off times – sometimes with very short notice from construction crews – to address the significant road construction projects taking place across the community. As a school district, we take seriously our responsibility to ensure the safe transport of our students between home and school on a timely basis.

With this in mind, I want to encourage parents and guardians to take advantage of the Durham Bus Tracker App. This application provides real-time information

on the location of your child's assigned bus relative to his or her bus stop. Information on how to download this secure app and access your students' bus information, is available at [Durham Bus Tracker](#).

Please note: the identification number required to access the Bus Tracker App can be found by logging into the MISTAR ParentPortal.



COMMUNITY SPEAKER SERIES AND PARENT CAMP OFFER INSIGHTS ON WHAT KIDS FACE TODAY

The Northville Public Schools Office of Instruction is offering a **Community Speaker Series** and **Parent Camp** this school year where families and students can gain insights into the many issues facing kids today. Sessions planned for the Community Speaker Series include:

- *Bullying: What You Should Know and What You Can Do*, led by Julie McDaniel, PhD, Consultant for Oakland Schools – Thursday, November 17, 2016.
- *Beating Addiction – One Man’s Journey to Recovery and Helping Families Recognize the Symptoms*, led by Scott Masi, Administrator at the St. John Providence Brighton Center for Recovery – Thursday, January 12, 2017.
- *Culture and Our Community: An Open Dialogue*, a two-part series led by Jay B. Marks, PhD, Consultant for Oakland Schools – Thursday, March 15, 2017 (Part 1) and Thursday, May 11, 2017 (Part 2).

All of the sessions will take place at Northville High School beginning at 6 p.m.

On **Saturday, February 11, 2017** the Office of Instruction will host its **second annual Parent Camp** at Northville High School. The event will offer a day filled with sessions on topics of interest to you as parents. The keynote session will feature a panel of college admissions representatives from a variety of colleges and universities who will offer insights into the college admissions process and the need to balance your child’s

emotional and physical wellbeing with coursework and activities. Following the keynote session, Northville Public Schools’ educators and community members will offer breakout sessions on a variety of topics relevant to parents from preschool to graduation including managing anxiety, making the transition from elementary to middle school and middle school to high school, instructional technology tools, and much, much more. Stay tuned in the coming weeks for more information on breakout session topics.

Registration and refreshments will begin at 8:30 a.m. on February 11th, with the keynote session starting at 9:00 a.m. followed by the breakout sessions. All sessions will conclude by 2 p.m.

In addition, the Office of Instruction will repeat its popular **Curriculum Series** first offered last year and focused on helping parents and students navigate the wide range of academic opportunities available at Northville High School and the district’s two middle schools to ensure our students are college- and career-ready in the 21st century. The Curriculum Series, which will begin in February, will include three sessions covering topics including the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years and Diploma Programs and Advanced Placement curriculum, along with the wide array of athletic, artistic and extracurricular endeavors available to students. Stay tuned for the dates, times and locations for the Curriculum Series sessions.

TAKING A TRIP BACK IN TIME

Northville third graders took a trip back in time during the recent Heritage Festival (formerly the Victorian Festival) field trip that is the culmination of their study of local history. This marks the 28th year for downtown Northville’s popular weekend-long festival, as well as the unique hands-on learning experience for students. The 500 some students, dressed in Victorian costumes toured Northville on the Friday morning before the festival opened to the public, participating in a variety of activities coordinated by Northville Public Schools with support from the Northville Chamber of Commerce, the Northville Educational Foundation, local businesses and the City of Northville, as well as numerous community volunteers and school district teachers, staff and students. In their travels, students played Victorian-era children’s games, heard stories about our community’s past, enjoyed an interactive experience with a magician, listened to Victorian songs sung by the Northville High School choirs, and took guided tours of Mill Race Historical Village where they examined Victorian architecture, culture and community. Northville High School National Honor Society students also donned

Victorian wear to serve as tour guides at Mill Race, sharing skits depicting life in Northville more than a century ago.

I can’t think of a more meaningful experience for our community’s third graders from both our public and private schools. This interactive learning experience brings history to life in authentic ways for these students. I am proud that our entire community unites behind such an outstanding event.



THANK YOU TO OUR KIDS AGAINST HUNGER AND KIDS HELPING KIDS SPONSORS

At Northville Public Schools, we believe strongly that the Kids Against Hunger and Kids Helping Kids experiences for our students are powerful. These food packaging events bring together elementary students from Northville and Detroit/Hamtramck to work side-by-side to learn more



about world hunger, and most importantly, do something about it. Just as we value exemplary academics, athletics, the arts and extracurricular activities – the opportunity to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with students from inner-city communities in service to others empowers our students, strengthens relationships, and builds awareness of our global society.

We are incredibly grateful for the continuing generosity of our business and community group sponsors, who make this opportunity possible for elementary students across

Northville and our partner schools. Our sponsors include:

GOLD SPONSORS

- Patti Mullen & Associates
- Remerica
- Hometown One
- Rotary Club of Northville
- Community Financial

SILVER SPONSORS

- Clark Hill PLC
- Durham School Services
- Grand Rapids Building Supply, Inc.
- Mothers’ Club of Northville

BRONZE SPONSORS

- Stifel-Nicolaus & Company, Inc.
- Tom Holzer Ford

Wright and Hunter Technology Consultants

There are more sponsorship opportunities available to support this worthwhile program. If interested, contact Meghan Irving in the Office of the Superintendent at irvingme@northvilleschools.org or 248-344-3508.



2015-16 NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS YEAR-END REPORT, 2014-19 DISTRICT GOALS AVAILABLE ONLINE

I want to take this opportunity to share with you the school district's 2015-16 Year-End Report, which was presented and accepted by the Board of Education at its September 13, 2016 meeting. The Year-End Report serves as a permanent record of the 2015-16 school year. Each member of our Central Office Leadership Team – including the Superintendent's Office, the Office of Instructional Services, the Finance and Operations Office, the Office of Special Services, and the Human Resources Office – took this opportunity to reflect on and learn from the experiences of their respective departments including the accomplishments, issues, challenges and concerns from the

past school year. To view the complete report go to [2015-16 Year-End Report](#). In addition, the Northville Board of Education in October reaffirmed the 2014-19 District Goals, along with the Key Focus Areas for the 2016-17 school year that support our vision that "All students will graduate from Northville Public Schools with the skills and dispositions necessary to maximize their potential as contributing members of a global society." For a detailed description of the 2014-19 District Goals, along with the Key Focus Areas for 2016-17, go to [2014-19 District Goals](#) on the website.

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE FOR NEF CASH FOR COLLEGE RAFFLE

Time is running out to get your tickets for the Northville Educational Foundation's Cash for College Raffle taking place November 18, 2016 at the tree lighting ceremony in downtown Northville's Town Square. Only 700 tickets at \$75 per ticket will be sold for the \$25,000 grand prize. Participants can purchase tickets online or by mail-in order form through the Northville Educational Foundation website at www.SupportNEF.org. (Please note, if fewer than 667 tickets are sold, the prize will revert to a 50/50 drawing.) The fundraiser helps support the efforts of the Northville Educational Foundation, a 501(c)3 charitable organization dedicated to supporting enrichment programs to benefit Northville students in academics, the arts and athletics. Over the past 16 years, the Foundation

has raised and granted more than \$2.4 million to Northville Public Schools. Through donations from parents, teachers, businesses and community members, the Foundation was able to grant more than \$90,000 during the 2015-16 school year. For more information about the Northville Educational Foundation visit SupportNEF.org.



POINTS OF PRIDE FROM ACROSS THE DISTRICT

Every day in our classrooms, through the arts, on our fields of play, and through extracurricular endeavors, our students and teachers from across Northville Public Schools give us much to celebrate. Here are just a few recent highlights.

- A record 40 Northville High School seniors have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as academically outstanding based on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test taken their junior year. Twenty three of these students are National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists, ranking them among the top 1 percent of their peers nationwide academically and giving them the opportunity to continue in the competition for 8,000 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$35 million that will be offered in the spring. Semi-Finalists include Ancheng Da, Rohan Dalvi, John Duan, Kelsey Evans, Lauren Fane, Stephen Freeman, Logan Goering, Emily Guo, Daniel Kargilis, Mark Kim, Jason Lu, Brian Lucido, Simran Malik, Shachi Salvi, Eliza Turnage, Madison Wickett, Kyle Wierzbicki, Carolyn Wu, Austin Xie, Aaron Youmans, Michael Zhang, Amy Zhao, and Lawrence Zhao. In addition, 17 members of the Northville Class of 2017 earned National Merit Scholar Commended honors, ranking them among the top 5 percent of their peers academically, nationwide. Commended students include: Macy Afsari, Nicholas Barba, Shazeen Biviji, Adithya Boddu, Samantha Cantie, Hersh Desai, Marin Furuyama, Ishita Ghosh, Alec Hopkins, Sean Joseph, Thomas Newman, Samantha Noles, Aarti Patel, Emily Peck, Jonathan Tong, Derek Wen and Jacob Zion.

eighth grade authors questions about their books and the writing process. In addition, Hillside English teacher Jason Brooks read some children's poetry selections and shared the book "The Wolves in the Walls," by Neil Gaiman, which had the audience members on the edge of their seats. Along with the Hillside event, the Thornton Creek and Neinas pen pals enjoyed lunch together at Thornton Creek. (For media coverage and photos from this great event go to [Children share stories with pen pals](#).) My sincere thanks to all those who worked behind the scenes to make this incredible opportunity available to our elementary and middle school students, including our friends from Neinas. A special thank you to Northville school parent and Bridgepointe volunteer Susan Evans for coordinating the Neinas visit.

- Second graders at Thornton Creek Elementary School and their pen pals from Neinas Elementary School in Detroit gathered recently in the Hillside Middle School auditorium as our eighth graders read with flair from children's books written and illustrated by the students for their eighth grade English Enrichment class. Authors included Sophie Smith (left) who read her book "Geoffrey the Hippo" and Sydney Stojov (right), who read her book "Mikey the Vampire." The second graders also had the opportunity to ask the



- On Saturday, November 5, 2016, the Northville High School Model United Nations Team will host the annual Southeast Michigan Model United Nations Association (SEMMUNA) Conference. The gathering, offered in partnership with Bloomfield Hills High School, is the largest conference of its kind in the state of Michigan. Model United Nations (Model UN) is an esteemed association comprised of collegiate and high school delegates from across the United States and around the world. As its name suggests, the club serves as a simulation of the United Nations. The purpose of Model UN is multidimensional – provide students with a global perspective and international mindedness; build knowledge about foreign diplomacy and cooperation; and inspire and empower the youth of today to solve the issues of tomorrow. At each Conference, students take on the role of a country on a specific United Nations committee





(DISEC, SOCHUM, etc.) and address a specific topic (Cyberterrorism, Women's Rights, Clean Energy, Healthcare in War Zones, etc.) The students then discuss the topic and innovate solutions to pressing issues in modern global politics. The SEMMUNA Conference delegate turn-out continues to grow each year, with more than 920 students expected to attend this year from 33 school districts across the state. This year's Conference will take place on **Saturday, November 5, 2016 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Northville High School, 45700 Six Mile Road in Northville.** For more information visit the Northville Model UN website or the SEMMUNA website at www.semmuna.org.

- Please join me in congratulating Northville Board of Education members **Roland Hwang** (Board Secretary) and **Ann Kalass** (Board Trustee) who were recognized recently for their professional accomplishments and expertise. Mr. Hwang, a longtime adjunct instructor in Asian/Pacific Islander



Roland Hwang



Ann Kalass

American Studies at the University of Michigan has been honored with the **Champion for Justice Award** by the State Bar of Michigan for his civil rights advocacy and teaching. Mr. Hwang was recognized in September at the State Bar of Michigan annual convention. Ms. Kalass was recently appointed to Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder's **21st Century Education Commission** in her role as Chief Executive

Officer of Starfish Family Services, a private, nonprofit agency serving vulnerable children and families in metropolitan Detroit. The Commission will focus on how best to organize, govern, fund and create a system of public education that leads to academic and career success for Michigan residents.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

I would like to formally invite Northville school parents, guardians, and community members to my next **Superintendent Community Coffee on Wednesday, November 30, 2016, 6:30-7:45 p.m.**, at the **Northville Public Schools Board of Education Office, 501 West Main Street, Northville.** Deanna Barash, **Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services**, will also participate. These informal coffees offer school families and community members the opportunity to ask questions, offer input and learn more about the district in a small group setting. Those attending are welcome to come and go at any time during the specified timeframe.

We have much to be proud of, and grateful for, as we continue to work toward providing the best possible educational experiences for all of our students. Best wishes to all our students, teachers, staff and families for a school year filled with incredible learning experiences and opportunities.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Gallagher
Superintendent

Please Join Us for the Next

Superintendent Community Coffee

with Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher
& Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Deanna Barash

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

6:30-7:45 p.m.

Board of Education Office

501 West Main Street, Northville

