

A Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

March 7, 2016

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AT A GLANCE

STEAM Fair – April 20, 2016

Welcome Class of 2029

Join Us for Parent Camp – March 12

Hillside, Meads Mill Celebrate
Cultural Richness

Partnership Offers Students
Hands-On Experiences

Ridge Wood Named Lighthouse School

Meads Mill Student
Earns International Honors

Thank You Kids Against Hunger, Kids
Helping Kids Donors and Sponsors

NEF Awards Grants –
A Night for Northville, March 12

2016 Board of Education Officers

Points of Pride from Across the District

IMPORTANT DATES

Board of Education Meetings

Tuesday, March 8, 2016
7 p.m.

Hillside Middle School (Forum)

Tuesday, March 22, 2016
7 p.m.

Amerman Elementary School

Parent Camp

Saturday, March 12, 2016
8:30 a.m.-Noon
Northville High School

A Night for Northville

Saturday, March 12, 2016
7-11 p.m.

VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft

International Nights – 6:30 -8 p.m.

Friday, April 15 2016 – Hillside
Monday, April 18, 2016 – Meads Mill

STEAM Fair

Wednesday, April 20, 2016
Hillside Middle School

DEAR NORTHVILLE SCHOOL FAMILIES, STAFF AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

As we emerge from a few late winter storms, and look forward to the arrival of spring, I would like to take this opportunity to share updates in a number of areas and draw your attention to some

great things happening in our schools. I hope you'll take part in the myriad of upcoming opportunities and events that highlight the vibrant learning community that is Northville!

SECOND ANNUAL STEAM FAIR – APRIL 20, 2016

Mark your calendars for the second annual STEAM Fair on **Wednesday, April 20, 2016, at Hillside Middle School, 775 North Center Street.** This year's theme is "Recycle, Upcycle, Freecycle" and will feature new uses for milk jugs, water bottles, plastic bags and much more. More than 1,000 Northville fourth and seventh graders will participate in the one-day Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) Fair. Partnering on the event, Northville Public Schools and the **Northville Educational Foundation** are committed to encouraging and inspiring Northville students to become interested in pursuing STEAM degrees and careers.

During the daylong event, students will be led through numerous recycling-themed activities and demonstrations provided by partnering companies and more than a dozen teams of students of all ages. These demonstrations will bring to life what our fourth and seventh graders are learning in the classroom. In the evening, from 6-8 p.m., parents and students from across the district, as well as community members, are invited to participate and check out the projects the student teams have created. These projects will provide students with independent learning experiences, allowing them to start from scratch and end with an activity that



they can explain to others and of which they can be proud.

The STEAM Fair is being entirely supported by the community through the Northville Educational Foundation, sponsorships and volunteers. For more information about the Fair and how you or your company can support the event, go to: www.northvillesteamfair.com. Sponsors for this year's STEAM Fair include presenting sponsor **Community Choice Credit Union**, fourth and seventh grade class sponsor **Advanced Disposal**, and student project sponsor **Community Financial Credit Union**.

WELCOME CLASS OF 2029 – KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT UNDERWAY FOR 2016-17

Northville Public Schools is accepting kindergarten enrollment for the 2016-17 school year. If you have a child who will be five years of age on or before September 1, 2016, we want your student and family to become part of the culture of learning and leadership that exemplifies Northville Public Schools. To enroll your child for Fall 2016, please schedule an appointment with the staff from the Office of Student Data by visiting www.northvilleschools.org and clicking on the "Enroll" button.

The Pre-Enrollment Process will walk you through the steps for enrolling your kindergartner and provide you with the forms you will

need to complete before your appointment. Those unable to meet during the Enrollment Appointment dates and times for their child's school, should contact the Office of Student Data at studentdata@northvilleschools.org to make other arrangements. Those unsure about which elementary school their child will attend, can view the Attendance Boundary Map on the district website by clicking on the "Schools" button. Parents will receive dates and times for Parent Orientation and Kindergarten Round-Up at their child's school during the Enrollment Appointment. For more information, contact your child's school or the Office of Instruction at 248-344-3520.

JOIN US FOR PARENT CAMP – SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016

On Saturday, March 12, 2016, Northville Public Schools will host our first-ever *Parent Camp* at Northville High School! The event will feature a morning filled with sessions on topics that matter to you as a parent. **Dr. Patrick O'Connor – college counselor and author of the book *College is Yours 2.0* – will be the keynote speaker**, sponsored by the Northville High School PTSA. Registration and refreshments will be available at 8:30 a.m. Dr. O'Connor's keynote address will begin at 9 a.m. and all sessions will conclude by noon.

Following Dr. O'Connor's opening remarks, Northville Public Schools' educators and community members will offer break-out sessions on a variety of topics relevant to parents from preschool to graduation, including "Social Media/Digital Footprint – Safe Use," "PSAT/SAT Information Session," "Transition Between Elementary School, Middle School, High School," "What's Up With Middle School Boys?" and "Reading Strategies to Support Learning at Home." In his keynote



address, "College Admissions Process: What Parents Need to Know," Dr. O'Connor will share the keys to a successful, family-focused approach to college selection. He also will offer insights for preparing, searching, and applying for college in a way that is

exciting, sane, and student-centered. For questions about *Parent Camp*, e-mail Deanna Barash, Northville Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, at: barashde@northvilleschools.org.

HILLSIDE AND MEADS MILL MIDDLE SCHOOLS CELEBRATE CULTURAL RICHNESS

The students, families, staff and PTAs at Hillside Middle School and Meads Mill Middle School will celebrate the cultural richness of their school communities during **International Night** events slated to take place from 6:30-8 p.m. at Hillside on Friday, April 15, 2016, and at Meads Mill on Monday, April 18, 2016. The two evenings will feature a variety of presentations, demonstrations, foods, artifacts, music and dances by the families and staff at each school that are representative of their international school communities. Meads Mill will also host a 25-foot by 36-foot traveling map of

South America on loan from National Geographic. Throughout the two evenings, those students, families and staff in attendance will be encouraged to inquire into how families, friends, communities and cultures vary around the world and how personal experiences and perspectives enrich cultural awareness in our community. Whether your family is the first generation to come here from another country or has been here for generations, these two International Nights offer an incredible learning opportunity for our middle school students, families and staff.

THE VILLAGE WORKSHOP PARTNERSHIP OFFERS STUDENTS HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES

Students in Northville High School's Engineering and Design class are getting hands-on experience in what it takes to build something from design to the final product thanks to a new partnership between The Village Workshop and Northville Public Schools. The partnership provides students with access to the state-of-the-art equipment needed to design and build a product, including woodworking, milling and sheet metal tools, along with a computer numeric control (CNC) routing table that uses CAD/CAM software, all under the supervision of The Village Workshop staff. In addition, students must first take safety courses and pass any required safety tests before they can use the equipment. Located at 455 East Cady Street in downtown Northville, The Village Workshop opened in March 2015 with the vision to provide real-world, relevant learning opportunities to the community. It offers more than 23,000 square feet of space and more than \$1 million in state-of-the-art tools and equipment, as well as classes and workshops open to the public.

aluminum dice and tool caddies to use for future projects. Through this partnership, students are learning how to model and design, and more importantly how to prototype and build a product – giving them the concepts and skills they need to get a project from inception to completion. This opportunity at The Village Workshop is giving our students real-life experiences that will broaden their horizons to the possibilities of design, as well as help them to understand the work and skill needed to financially, and mechanically produce a product.

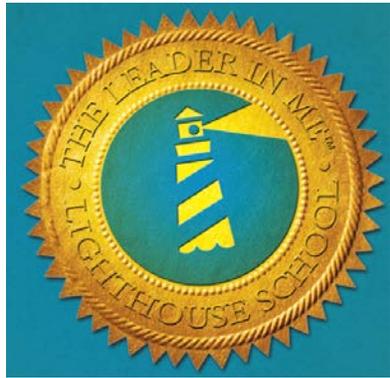


Access to the tools and technology available through The Village Workshop enables students to not only design a product, but to bring that design to life in a tangible finished product – something that hasn't always been possible in the past for students in our Engineering and Design class. The 19 students in the class attend The Village Workshop two to four times each month during their regular class time to work on their projects. In addition to the final product, students in the class must also create an Engineering Notebook, which details the design process, along with computer generated 3D models and sketches for the product they are building. Some of the products being built by students this semester include wood tables and stools,

Along with the Engineering and Design class, plans are also underway, through the partnership, for other classes at Northville High School, as well as the district's two middle schools, to take advantage of the hands-on learning experiences available at The Village Workshop in areas including 3D scanning and printing, electronics, welding, laser engraving, screen printing, vinyl plotter and textiles. In addition to the partnership, the high school's FIRST Robotics team, the Robostangs, has forged a relationship with The Village Workshop to use its technology and equipment.

RIDGE WOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NAMED A THE LEADER IN ME LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOL

I am thrilled to share that Ridge Wood Elementary School has earned the prestigious "Lighthouse School" status as part of the transformational *The Leader in Me* framework for schools based on Stephen Covey's *7 Habits of Highly Effective People* and designed to teach leadership to students. Of the more than 2,400 *The Leader in Me* schools worldwide, Ridge Wood is one of 170 to achieve Lighthouse status and only the ninth in Michigan – along with Northville's Moraine and Silver Springs elementary schools, which earned the Lighthouse designation in 2013 and 2014, respectively.



their learning. It integrates leadership development into existing school programs, curriculum, and traditions; and helps students learn how to become self-reliant, take initiative, set and track goals, prioritize their time, express their viewpoint persuasively, value differences, resolve conflicts, and find creative solutions. The Lighthouse School designation represents a significant benchmark in *The Leader in Me* journey that recognizes outstanding results in school and student outcomes across all these areas.

The Leader in Me is a whole-school transformation framework – developed in partnership with educators – that empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in the 21st century. *The Leader in Me* starts with the powerful premise that every child possesses unique strengths and has the ability to be a leader and have a voice in

We applaud the entire Ridge Wood community for achieving the distinction as a Lighthouse School in their *The Leader in Me* journey. This is powerful work that brings students, teachers, parents and families together with the collective focus on learning in a way that unleashes the leadership capacity and potential within every learner. This work aligns with our district goal to foster a culture of learning and leadership in every school that empowers learners, develops leaders and fosters intellectual curiosity. We are pleased that each of our elementary schools is using this powerful framework to help guide their work. To have three of the nine Lighthouse schools in Michigan is a remarkable achievement. It underscores the meaningful work underway across our learning community from early childhood through graduation to prepare our students for a bright future in the 21st century world.



MEADS MILL SIXTH GRADER EARNS INTERNATIONAL HONORS IN LIONS CLUB PEACE POSTER CONTEST

Congratulations to Meads Mill Middle School sixth grader Hamin Park, who has been selected as a merit award winner in the 28th Annual Lions Club International Peace Poster Contest. Using acrylics, markers and pencils, Hamin's colorful poster depicts hands of different cultures embracing the world globe. Approximately 400,000 children from 65 countries participated in this year's Peace Poster Contest, including 284 Meads Mill and Hillside middle school sixth graders. This marks the first time a Meads Mill student has made it to the international level. The posters were judged first at the local level by the Northville Lions Club and then moved on to the district and state levels before reaching the international level, at which point the entries were narrowed to 129 posters. Based on creativity, originality and portrayal of the contest theme, "Share Peace," Hamin's entry was chosen as one of 23 international merit award winners from countries including China, Colombia, Cyprus, England, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Multiple District 300 Taiwan, Romania, Spain and the United States. The grand prize winner will be announced on Lions Day with United Nations in New York City on Saturday March 12, 2016. Good luck Hamin!



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

At Northville Public Schools, we believe strongly that the Kids Against Hunger and Kids Helping Kids experiences for our elementary school students are an integral part of what makes our schools and our community strong, as we strive to open A World of Possibilities for all students. Just as we value exemplary academics, athletics, the arts, and extra-curricular opportunities, the chance to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with students from inner-city communities in service to others empowers our students, strengthens relationships, builds awareness of our global society, and offers a service opportunity that our students can actively engage in beyond simply offering a contribution of food, supplies or money.

Through Kids Against Hunger and Kids Helping Kids, students learn that hunger is a world problem and that we all have a responsibility to contribute to its solution. Building relationships between students and their community helps children understand that working together for a common purpose is an important way to make a difference. Ultimately, these children experience the joy of hands-on giving – a lesson we believe will influence a lifetime of thinking and behavior. In addition, building relationships between the city and suburbs helps children from both communities understand their similarities and celebrate their differences.

The opportunity for our students to participate in these powerful experiences is made possible through the generous support of our business sponsors, together with

contributions from our school families, and the fundraising efforts of our students. We are incredibly grateful for the continuing generosity of our business and community sponsors who make this opportunity possible for elementary students across Northville and our partner schools:

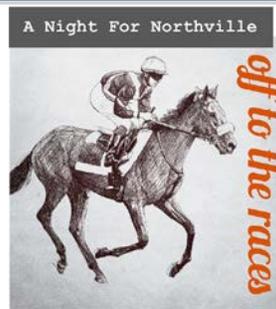
- Patti Mullen & Associates Remerica Hometown One (Gold Sponsor)
- Rotary Club of Northville (Gold Sponsor)
- Clark Hill PLC (Silver Sponsor)
- Mothers' Club of Northville (Silver Sponsor)
- Durham School Services (Silver Sponsor)
- Grand Rapids Building Supply, Inc. (Silver Sponsor)
- Tom Holzer Ford (Bronze Sponsor)
- Stifel-Nicolaus & Company, Inc. (Bronze Sponsor)

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. This year's packing events begin in March and will go through May.

NEF AWARDS TEACHER GRANTS – A NIGHT FOR NORTHVILLE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 12TH

I am delighted to share that the Northville Educational Foundation recently awarded 49 teachers (and 20 projects) from across Northville Public Schools with Innovative Grants totaling nearly \$28,000. Each year, these grants support unique school and classroom programs and initiatives that enhance the education of our students and support innovative approaches to teaching. Our congratulations and sincere appreciation are extended to each of this year's grant recipients for bringing these exciting opportunities to our students.

I also want to make you aware of the Northville Educational Foundation's A Night for Northville: Off to the Races fundraiser on Saturday, March 12, 2016, from 7-11 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Highway, Livonia.



The evening will be hosted by Community Financial Credit Union and will feature a unique "Off to the Races" theme, with video horse racing, along with hors d'oeuvres from Schoolcraft's culinary artists, a \$1,000 prize raffle, a silent auction and a cash bar. Tickets are \$50 each (\$15 is tax deductible) and includes "funny money" for betting. Tickets and information can be found at www.NightForNorthville.com. Hope to see you there!

2016 BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICERS



The Northville Public Schools Board of Education in January elected its officers for 2016. They are: Adam Phelps, President; Cynthia Jankowski, Vice President; Roland Hwang, Secretary; and Matthew Wilk, Treasurer. Also serving on the Board are Trustees Ann Kalass, James Mazurek, and Sarah Prescott. Board of Education meetings are held generally twice per month on Tuesday evenings. Meetings are open to the public and each meeting offers an opportunity for community members to address the Board of Education. For more information about the Board of Education or to view the meeting calendar, visit www.northvilleschools.org and click on "Board."

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 some recent highlights:

- A huge congratulations to Northville High School senior Yannis Bi on being selected as a candidate for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program competition. Annually, 161 students nationwide are chosen from among outstanding graduating seniors to become U.S. Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. Scholars are chosen on the basis of their accomplishments in many areas – academic and artistic success, leadership, and involvement in the school community.

- Early Childhood Center teacher Jodi Fabian has received a \$500 grant from the Michigan Foundation for Agriculture to help integrate agriculture into her classroom. Jodi raises monarch butterflies in her classroom to teach her pre-kindergarten students about life cycles, pollination, geography and differences between living and non-living things. She plans to use the grant funds to expand these lessons by building a butterfly garden. She hopes to engage students through real-life examples of pollinators at work, and equip her classroom with additional books, puppets and lesson materials about plant and butterfly life cycles. What a wonderful real-world experience for our youngest learners!



- I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank and recognize Northville High School junior Peter Weir, social studies teacher Tim Dalton and all the students in Mr. Dalton's classes. Years ago, Peter started a charity called Peter's Pals to raise money to purchase gifts for children in local hospitals. For the last three years, Mr. Dalton and his students have collected toys to support Peter's cause. This year, Mr. Dalton's students collected nearly 500 toys that were delivered to three local children's hospitals in time for Christmas. What a beautiful, touching example of the meaningful ways our students are impacting the lives of others!

- The Northville High School DECA Team has returned from the District 5 competition victorious! The team sent 74 students to compete in 27 categories and returned with 61 state qualifiers in 26 categories. Kudos to the entire team, along with their coaches, and good luck in the state competition, which will take place March 11-13, 2016, at Cobo Hall in Detroit!



- Amerman Elementary School third grade teacher Juliann Mooney and student, Charlotte McGuire, got their star turns during Mid-Winter Break when they appeared on the WDIV Channel 4 morning program "Live in the D." Charlotte had written in to the station entering her teacher, Ms. Mooney, in a contest to win tickets to *Mathilda The Musical*. Charlotte and her classmates had studied the book in Ms. Mooney's class and Charlotte had so enjoyed the experience she decided to enter her teacher in the contest. What a wonderful, fun honor for both!

- Northville High School senior Logan Bye (and partner Chloe Lewis) recently won the Silver Medal for Team USA in the Figure Skating Ice Dance competition at the Lillehammer 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games! The duo was in third after the short dance, but was able to climb into second with a strong free dance. The ice dance team's silver marks Team USA's first figure skating medal in Youth Olympic history. What an AWESOME accomplishment!



- Congratulations also is in order for several Northville Public Schools alumni and staff. Mallory Weber, Northville High School Class of 2012 (and Penn State Class of 2016) has been drafted by the New York Flash women's soccer team, part of National Women's Soccer League; and Fatai Alashe, Northville Class of 2011 and member of the San Jose Earthquakes men's professional soccer team, was recently invited to take part in the U.S. Men's National Team Camp. In addition, Moraine staff member, Isaac J. Hood, Sr., was recently inducted into the Indiana Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame as part of the 1966 Indiana State Track and Field Championship Team.

- Students in our special education center program at Cooke School recently delivered 40 planting kits to a school in Detroit, 60 story starter kits to the Front Porch Project, 125 puppets to the University of Michigan Medical Brigade, and 320 cookies to the PBJ Mission in Detroit through ConnectUS, a nonprofit



organization that provides quality programming for individuals with severe multiple disabilities. The students also sent 60 Valentine cards to a local nursing home. Cooke students work on ConnectUS service learning projects each Wednesday morning and on the third Saturday of each month, working in partnership with a buddy to complete each step in a process to contribute to a larger project. What a great example for us all of how everyone (even the least able) has something to give!

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

I would like to formally invite Northville parents, guardians and community members to my next Superintendent Community Coffee on Thursday, April 28, 2016, 1:30-3 p.m. at the Northville Senior Community Center, 303 West Main Street in downtown Northville. Deanna Barash, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services also will participate. These informal coffees offer our school families and community members the opportunity to ask questions, offer input and learn more about school district in a small group setting. Those attending are welcome to come and go at any time during the specified time period.

At Northville Public Schools, we have so much to be proud of as we continue to advance our *Tradition of Excellence* and open *A World of Possibilities* for each and every student. Thank you to our teachers, students, staff, families and community members for making this possible.

Sincerely,

 Mary K. Gallagher
 Superintendent