



A Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

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AT A GLANCE

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IMPORTANT DATES

September/October

Board of Education Meetings

Tuesday, September 9, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Hillside Middle School (Forum)

Tuesday, September 23, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Moraine Elementary School

Tuesday, October 14, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Hillside Middle School (Forum)

Tuesday, October 28, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Silver Springs Elementary School

Northville High School Homecoming

Friday & Saturday
October 10 & 11, 2014

Superintendent Community Coffee

Thursday, October 2, 2014
1-2:30 p.m.

Next Chapter Bookstore & Bistro
141 East Main Street

DEAR NORTHVILLE SCHOOL FAMILIES, STAFF AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Welcome to the 2014-15 school year! With the first week of school under our belt, we are off to a great start. Our sincere thanks to our students, teachers, staff and families for your patience as we have worked through the few minor glitches that often come with the start of a new school year.

As I have meandered the halls of our schools over the past week, and heard back from our principals and staff members welcoming back familiar friends and greeting new students, families and staff members, I cannot help but be delighted at the promise of what is to come in the months ahead. School is a place where our young people learn the skills and dispositions that will help them throughout the rest of their lives. It is also a place where they make friends, form lasting relationships, and have experiences and opportunities that will make them better people. At Northville Public Schools, we are committed to deepening our comprehensive curriculum, while continuing to educate the whole child – intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally – through initiatives including *The Leader In Me* process at our elementary schools and the International Baccalaureate Middle Years and Diploma Programs at our middle and high schools, along with robust programs in the arts, athletics and a host of extracurricular activities. We are truly **Advancing Our Tradition of Excellence and Opening a World of Possibilities** as we work



collectively to prepare our students for a global workplace.

With this in mind, our team of teachers, administrators and support staff gathered for an **All Staff Welcome Back** held in the Northville High School auditorium on Wednesday, August 27, 2014, that featured a “surprise” visit from the 252-member Mustang Marching Band that had us all on our feet, as well as powerful, inspiring (and sometimes humorous) insights on the new school year offered by students from our preschool programs through high school that reminded us all that there is no greater work than impacting the lives of our students in meaningful ways. That same day, our teachers and ancillary staff took part in a full day of professional development that included an array of workshops generously facilitated by 38 of our fellow teachers, principals and administrators. All-in-all a great way to kick off the school year!

As our school year gets underway, I want to take this opportunity to share updates in a number of areas and draw your attention to some of the great things happening in our schools.

NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS, DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS



Please join me in welcoming two new Assistant Principals (serving Northville High School and Hillside Middle School) and our new Director of Instructional Programs and Services to our leadership team.

Previously a Response to Intervention Coordinator at Seaholm High School in Birmingham, Michigan, **Billy Shellenbarger** has joined the administrative team as Assistant Principal at Northville High School. Mr. Shellenbarger succeeds Katie Shirk, who moved into the Assistant Supervisor role at Cooke School over the summer.



In addition, **Melissa Provo**, who brings teaching as well as administrative experience as a middle school Assistant Principal in Monroe, Michigan to her new role, is serving in a shared Assistant Principal position at NHS and Hillside. Ms. Provo's shared duties will help manage the higher student enrollment at Hillside and address the need for additional administrative support at the high school. This position is the result of reallocating assistant principal support from Ridge Wood Elementary School to Hillside/NHS based on student enrollment.



Billy Shellenbarger



Melissa Provo



Dr. Sandra Brock

Northville Public Schools graduate **Dr. Sandra Brock**, most recently a Middle School Principal with Wayne-Westland Community Schools, joins Northville Public Schools as Director of Instructional Programs and Services. She succeeds Curriculum Coordinator Janice Henderson who will retire in October. All three of these individuals serve in important roles on our leadership team as we move forward in our vision of success for all students. Each of them brings a depth of knowledge and demonstrated leadership to the district. We are fortunate to have them as part of our leadership team.

In addition to these administrative appointments, I also am pleased to report that **16 new professional staff members** have joined the Northville team for the 2014-15 school year. These individuals fill existing positions left open due to retirement or by those who have left the district to pursue other job opportunities, as well as new positions added to address class-size issues at individual schools. Among our new staff members are three special education teachers, two elementary school teachers, three middle school teachers, four high school teachers, one counselor, one speech pathologist, one art teacher, and one music teacher.

LONGTIME NORTHVILLE EDUCATOR JANICE HENDERSON RETIRING IN OCTOBER

As I mentioned above, longtime Northville educator **Janice Henderson** will retire in October after 44 years with the district. Ms. Henderson joined Northville Public Schools fresh out of Michigan State University. She spent the next 29 years moving between Northville's Amerman and Silver Springs elementary schools, teaching second through fifth grade students, including teaching in the district's elementary gifted program, ALPS (Alternative Learning Program for Students). For the past 15 years, she has served as Curriculum Facilitator and then Curriculum Coordinator for the district. During her tenure with Northville Public Schools, Janice's leadership has been instrumental in ensuring that our



teachers and staff have the tools they need to help our students continue to learn and grow, most recently through her work with the Common Core State Standards and in her role as the district's International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program Coordinator. Throughout her work, Janice has exemplified a commitment to professional growth and learning. On behalf of the entire Northville school community, I want to thank Janice for her tireless commitment and passion with which she has served our students, teachers, and families for forty-four years!

FAMILIES ENCOURAGED TO SIGN UP FOR BUS TRACKER MOBILE APP

I am pleased to report that many of our school families are taking advantage of the new Durham "Bus Tracker" Mobile App. The secure system allows parents and guardians to view their child(ren)'s current bus location, as well as information about the route in real time, including the scheduled arrival of their child(ren) at their bus stop. Use of the application is completely voluntary, and is being made available at no cost to the district or to families. For information on how to download the secure app and access

your students' bus information, visit the district website at <http://www.northvilleschools.org/node/6398>. Details are also available at elementary school open houses. We encourage families to take advantage of this new tool. We also appreciate your patience as we resolve data interface issues, upload new student data into the system, and equip our newly purchased buses with the required technology. Please note that all bus route information is posted on the District website at <http://www.northvilleschools.org/busroutes>.

EXPLORING OUR VICTORIAN ROOTS

Northville third graders will once again travel back in time on Friday, September 12, 2014, during the annual Victorian Festival field trip that is the culmination of their study of local history. This year marks the 26th 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, will tour Northville on that Friday morning before the festival opens to the public, participating in a variety of activities coordinated by Northville Public Schools with support from the Northville



Chamber of Commerce, 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 will play Victorian-era children's games, hear stories about our community's past, enjoy an interactive experience with a magician, listen to Victorian songs sung by the high school choirs, and take a guided tour of Mill Race Historical Village, where they will examine Victorian architecture, culture and community. Northville High School National Honor Society students also will don 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 the public and private schools. This interactive learning experience allows history to come to life in authentic ways for these students. This is our community's opportunity to spark their interest in learning more



about their personal heritage and the vibrant history of Northville. I am proud that our entire community unites behind such an outstanding event. I encourage our Northville school students and families to also take advantage of the Victorian Festival weekend activities, including the Friday night parade through downtown Northville.

FOUR CANDIDATES VIE FOR THREE OPEN BOARD OF EDUCATION SEATS

Four candidates will vie for three open Board of Education seats in the up-coming November 4, 2014, statewide election. These individuals include incumbent **James Mazurek**, current Board President, who is running for his second four-year term; incumbent **Ann Kalass**, who was appointed as a Board Trustee in January 2014, and is seeking to retain her seat; Northville school district resident and school parent **Roland Hwang**, who is running for his first term on the Board; and Northville school district resident and school parent **Scott Frush**, who is also running for his first term. Look for the fall issue of the district's newsletter to the community, *Connections*, to arrive in your

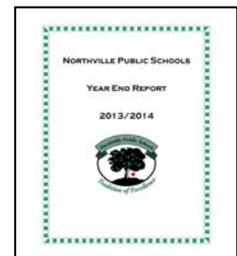
mailboxes in late-October with candidate profiles and voting information. I also want to take this occasion to express, on behalf of the entire Northville school community, our heartfelt thanks to outgoing Board of Education member **Ken Roth** for his wisdom, compassion and ongoing dedication to Northville's young people over these past 12 ½ years of service on the school board. Ken will be honored at the Tuesday, December 9, 2014 Board of Education Meeting. While he is stepping down from the Board of Education, we look forward to Ken's continued support of Northville Public Schools, and the Northville community.

2013-14 NORTHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS YEAR-END REPORT AVAILABLE ONLINE

As we launch into a new school year, I also want to take this opportunity to share with you the school district's **2013-14 Year-End Report**, which was presented and accepted by the Board of Education at its August 26, 2014 meeting. The Year-End Report serves as a permanent record of the 2013-14 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 review the complete report visit the district website at:

www.northvilleschools.org.



ROTARY CLUB OF NORTHVILLE'S INAUGURAL TOUR DE VILLE TO BENEFIT NPS/KIDS AGAINST HUNGER

Adding to the Victorian Festival weekend festivities, bicyclists from novice to expert are invited to enjoy the Rotary Club of Northville's inaugural **Tour de Ville bicycle tour** on Sunday, September 14, 2014. Riders can choose from three courses – 10

miles, 30 miles or 75 miles. All routes begin and end in downtown Northville and wind along historic Hines Drive and throughout the Wayne County Parks system. One-hundred percent of the proceeds from the Tour de Ville will go to



charities including the Rotary Foundation, which provides support for world eradication of polio and clean water projects in Third World countries, along with other efforts; and Rotary Club of Northville, which supports Northville Civic Concern, provides scholarships, and supports local exchange student programs and other local initiatives.

We are delighted that Rotary will also allocate a portion of the proceeds from Tour De Ville to help support Northville Public Schools' continued participation in the Kids' Against Hunger effort. Each year, students from all six Northville Public Schools elementary schools join forces with Detroit students to

learn more about world hunger and, more importantly, do something about it through the Kids Against Hunger and Kids Helping Kids food packaging events.

The rider entry fee for the Tour de Ville is \$35 and all registered riders receive a t-shirt, light breakfast and a free lunch. For more information about the Tour de Ville, including how to register in advance, visit www.tourdeville.org. Registration the day of the ride begins at 7 a.m. on September 14, 2014. The Tour de Ville courses will open at 7:30 a.m. and close at 3 p.m.

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 highlights.

- The Northville High School Class of 2014 recorded a very competitive average ACT composite score of 24.9, with 52 percent of students meeting the "college ready" benchmark – a target set by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder. In comparison, the statewide average ACT composite score for the Class of 2014 was 20.1, with 22 percent of Michigan students college-ready.
- It comes as no surprise that many of our teachers and staff members took time over the summer to take part in a variety of professional development opportunities. **The Curriculum & Assessment and Technology Design Teams** continued their work during the summer; teachers at our elementary



schools took part in a number of workshops focused on **The Leader In Me** process; middle and high school teachers took **International Baccalaureate** courses; and a number teacher took part in book studies, taught classes in summer programs, or took a class themselves. This work strengthens what we have to offer our students.

- Please join me in congratulating **Northville High School Social Studies teacher Joseph Cislo** on being named the Michigan Council for History Education (MCHE) Annette and Jim McConnell **Secondary History Teacher of the Year**. Joe will receive the award as part of the Great Lakes History Conference on October 10-11, 2014, in Grand Rapids. The conference is sponsored by MCHE and the Grand Valley State University History Department. Congratulations Joe!

Woo Hoo!! Way to go!!



COFFEE AND CONVERSATION WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

Finally, I would like to personally invite Northville school parents, guardians and community members for coffee and informal conversation at my first **Superintendent Community Coffee** of the school year on **Thursday, October 2, 2014, 1-2:30 p.m. at the Next Chapter Bookstore & Bistro**, 141 East Main Street, in downtown Northville. These regular coffees offer school families and community members the opportunity to ask questions, offer input, and learn more about the school district in a small group setting. I also am always eager to hear from school families and residents about those issues and concerns that are most important to them. The coffees have an informal format, and may be joined by other members of the Central Office Leadership Team and/or members of the Board of Education. Those attending are welcome to come and go at any time during the specified time frame.

Best wishes to all our students, teachers, staff and families for an outstanding school year filled with incredible learning experiences and opportunities!

Sincerely,

Mary K. Gallagher

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Superintendent

