



Celebrating Success



In an effort to elevate the positive initiatives that take place in the district, the Board of Education moved to add a new agenda item to each meeting called "Celebrating Success." The Superintendent selects one or more items to bring to the attention of the board as a representation of student, staff and program success. Following are the items that have been highlighted at the board of education meetings.

January 2010

- Erickson Elementary School was awarded a \$1,000 mini grant from the National Center for Safe Routes to School. The mini-grant will be used by the school's student council to promote safe travel to and from Erickson. This month the Student Council is conducting a logo and slogan contest to promote safety in the Erickson neighborhood. The winning entry will be reproduced on yard signs and will be distributed to some 50 households to post. The Student Council will also purchase bike helmets and/or bike locks to be dispersed at various events throughout the school year. Media Specialist Jan Duncan applied for the grant.
- One of our high school students, sophomore Brianna Williams, is competing Jan. 28th in the Midwestern Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Brianna is part of the Ann Arbor Ice Team called "The Hockettes" and it is her 4th year with the team. We wish her the best as she takes to the ice.
- First, Forest School, the county-wide alternative program, is the benefactor of a National Science Foundation grant which was received by Detroit Public Television and the Ann Arbor Hands on Museum. This partnership is one of only nine in the country. Students will explore the connections between music and the human body, mind and natural world. These activities are based on the two-hour PBS documentary, "The Music Instinct: Science and Song." The principal at Forest, Jan Sturdivant, is very excited about this opportunity for her students.
- Next, congratulations to our student board liaison, James Barmore for being named the grand prize winner in the Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest. James will be one of the guests of honor at the annual EMU President's Luncheon at Eastern Michigan University, Jan. 18. The other essay winners were: First Place, Brianna Jackson and Second Place Kelcie White. All three students will be honored at the YPS District Equity Expo in March.

- Finally, good news to report about the clothing drive that took place Dec. 17 at Chapelle. The teacher that coordinated the drive, Jason Malloy, reported that over 90 families visited and were assisted through the Everyone Values Everyone Clothing Drive

December 2009

- Tonight I would like to recognize 10 Ypsilanti High School seniors who received Scholar Athlete Awards from the Southeastern Conference. This award is given to students who played four years of fall sports and during that time maintained a 3.25 or higher GPA. The students are:
 - Megan Bayham
 - Kevin Chung
 - Carolina Fuentes
 - Paul Good
 - Samuel Guevara
 - Mariah Hawkins
 - Brianna Jackson
 - Katie Mattie
 - Bridgette Rudolph
 - Jennifer Starr

Congratulations to these outstanding Scholar Athletes

November 2009

- It is with extreme pride that I inform you that Mr. Hans Sowder, science teacher at Ypsilanti High School, was named 2010 High School Science Teacher of the Year by the Board of the Michigan Science Teachers Association. Hans was chosen for modeling best practices, inspiring his students, demonstrating innovative teaching strategies, being an excellent role model for students and other teachers, demonstrating leadership and exhibiting a passion for science and for teaching. Hans will be honored at a Lansing luncheon in March.
- Wrapping up the fall athletic program, three YHS students qualified for state competition.
 - In men's tennis, **Gabriel Araujo**, (a-rah-who), senior, lost in the quarterfinals of the State finals to the number three seed of the tournament, Juan Guerrera from Midland Dow, 6-4, 6-4.
 - In Cross Country, thousands of runners attempt to qualify for the state finals and only about 250 make the cut. This year YHS had two individuals who made it to the top state competition and they are: YHS senior, **Kyle Woodyard** who finished 117th in a field of 249 runners and **Anna**

Kluitenberg, a junior who finished 107th in a field of 246 runners. Anna has a 4.00 GPA and finished in the top half of the field, which means she earned an **ALL STATE ALL ACADEMIC** award from the Michigan Interscholastic Track Coaches association.

Congratulations to our outstanding student athletes.

- Also, the Y-Awards were hosted last week by the YHS counseling office. Current 10-12th graders who received all As and Bs during the 2008-09 school year were honored with a breakfast and then given a certificate, Varsity letter or chevron, if they were a past Y-Award winner. There were 46 sophomores, 22 juniors and 22 seniors who earned Y-Awards.
We are very proud of our academic standouts.

September 2009

- Our students were equipped to start the school year with an abundance of school supplies, thanks to many generous donors.
- **Costco**, in Livonia, supplied every student at Adams STEM Academy with a back pack filled with school supplies. **The "Stuff the Bus"** initiative organized by Washtenaw United Way, and the Pittsfield Township Target Store, collected thousands of supplies that were divided between four elementary schools and our middle schools. Plus **WAAM Radio** collected school supplies through their "Tools for Schools" campaign, and a portion of those supplies were given to our district.
- Many components contribute to success in the classroom and certainly having the appropriate tools is part of that equation. We are very fortunate to have community partners that care about the success of our students.

June 2009

- District Science and Math Curriculum Specialist Paula Sizemore can now add "author" to her resume. Paula has been an YPS educator for 15 years, most of that time spent at East Middle as a science teacher. Her novel, "Tales of the Winglord Kingdom" was released this month and is a historically based Christian fantasy set in the ancient kingdom of Moravia. This tale of deceit and redemption is an action-packed, page turning, soul searching story.

Paula's love for writing has benefited our students. She previously sponsored an after school writing club at East that culminated in the publishing of some 50 students' written works. She also coordinates the district's Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest and in the past has

worked with the HOPE program and the U-M Summer Science Institute.

Paula will have copies of her book at the National Baptist Convention hosted at Cobo Hall, June 22 – 26, 2009 and her book can be purchased directly from her or on Amazon.com or Borders.com

January 2009

- West Middle School health educator, Amelia Skwiers-Brady, has been named a "Rising Star" by the Michigan Department of Education's Team Nutrition Program. She was recognized for modeling healthy eating and physical activity habits along with enthusiastically encouraging others to do the same. The MDE's Team Nutrition is a United States Department of Agriculture initiative that teaches students and families to make food and physical activity choices for a quality lifestyle. Currently over 800 schools in Michigan are enrolled in the program.
- The first place winners of the Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest, in grade categories are:
 - **First Grade (tie):** Patrick Good and Marcie Angeli, both are students at Estabrook
 - **Second Grade:** Illana Hall-Vit, Erickson
 - **Third Grade:** Trinity Kelso, Erickson
 - **Fourth Grade:** Chevaun Johnson, Erickson
 - **Fifth Grade:** Caleb Roberts
 - **Seventh Grade:** Daniel Blakely, East Middle
 - **Eleventh Grade:** Stephanie Sweeney

The Over all Grand Prize winner is Caleb Roberts, a fifth grade student at Erickson. All of these students and their parents have been invited to attend the EMU Martin Luther King Day President's Luncheon on Jan. 19. We congratulate these fine young people on their efforts.

- Jason Malloy a 5th grade teacher at Chapelle, organized an "Everyone Values Everyone Clothing Drive" during the weeks preceding the district's winter break. On Dec. 18, with the support and help from Chapelle Principal Joe Guillien and the Chapelle staff, over 130 families were able to receive coats and clothes. Many of the items were brand new. This was a huge blessing for the many families who have been affected by the down turn in the economy. This was one of the many initiatives that occurred throughout our district prior to the holidays and is a stellar example of the generosity of the YPS staff.

March 2008

- East and West Middle Schools were recognized as "Schools of Distinction" in the Healthy School Environment Recognition Program
- The YHS Wind Symphony band received a "one" or superior rating at band festival. The Symphonic and Varsity bands each received a two, which is considered excellent
- Students from the RCTC Auto Collision and Repair program competed in the Regional Collision Repair Skills USA competition at Washtenaw Community College and the six student participants captured four of the top six events.
- RCTC students participated in the Detroit Autorama competition and took second place in the student division
- YHS student Emanuel Gombos took first place in the Construction Tech SkillsUSA competition and will move on to the state competition
- RCTC Computer Systems Technology students took five of the six top places in the regional SkillsUSA competition that took place in February

February 2008

- First grade Estabrook Elementary teacher Deborah Wilbanks was named a "Teacher of the Year" by the Michigan American Legion

January 2008

- East Middle School eighth grade student Emma Swanson was a first place winner in the Weekly Reader/U.S. Chamber of Commerce national poster contest "Fight the Fakes." East Middle also had several second place winners: Israel Boone, Sharzay Fields, Samantha Hall, Daniel Hampton, Anna Sangster and Kayla Vawters
- Support staff involved in compiling and reporting student count data were recognized for a near perfect audit
- Richard Weigel, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Quality was awarded the Michigan Association of School Administrator's 2008 "Winner's Circle Award"
- The YHS creative arts magazine, The Palladian, received a second place award from the American Scholastic Press

December 2007

- The East Middle School National Junior Honor Society's participation in the "Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl" and placing 22nd out of 189 middle schools in the state

November 2007

- Bus Load of Hope – Students and Staff gathered over 110 boxes of food and household goods that were collected building by building using a YPS bus. The items were then delivered to the Hope Clinic,

- a nonprofit, for their food bank
- Regional Career Technical Center's Auto Repair/Collision program receives the prestigious National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation certification