



TROY School District

Volume 2, Issue 2

NEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Richard Machesky

Throughout the year, we have used a variety of ways, including this newspaper and our weekly videos to show you our progress on our Journey to World Class.

EMPOWER STUDENTS

(Blue): We've taken you inside our classrooms to see students designing smart

development alongside our City Planner, to our nature center to see others using their learning in Biology to identify and eradicate invasive species and to our auditorium stage to see budding entrepreneurs market their ideas.

PRIORITIZE LEARNING (Gold): You went along as our teachers learned the power of coding and you've seen our efforts in Early Literacy pay off as our student scores and comprehension rose and our achievement gaps narrowed.

INVEST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD (Green): You watched us break ground on a brand-new TSD Preschool, and saw more than 200 families enroll within 24 hours of our Information Night.

ATTEND TO WELL-BEING (Red): Our students themselves showed you the power of reaching out to one another through their "Tomorrow Needs You" campaign, and you saw our staff make crucial connections with students through mindfulness, peer group activities and the work of our social-emotional counselors.

We have made much progress, but our journey continues. Over the next few months, we will be looking at another aspect of student well-being as we study concerns shared with us over our school start times, especially in high school. Our Board has studied research in this area, and now it's time to dive deep into the logistics and financial realities that surround our current schedules and the possibility of making any adjustments. As always, we will engage our community in this important issue. There will be opportunities to participate in focus groups and a strategic committee to explore the benefits and costs to our current system as well as any additional options we might have. It's a complex issue, but we know that our community will help us identify priorities that guide us in our decision making.

Follow us on social media and subscribe to our You Tube Channel to make sure you are updated on every aspect of our Journey to World Class.

The best is yet to come!

Dr. Richard Machesky
Superintendent
Troy School District

TSD HOSTS 3RD MLK DAY OF SERVICE



We welcomed over 700 volunteers, who gave 58 units of blood to the Red Cross, packed 300 care boxes with hand-made cards of support for our troops overseas, and made over 400 blankets for local hospitals and non-profits. More inside.

IT'S TIME FOR CHARITY WEEK & ACTIVIST WEEK!



Troy High's Activist Week, benefitting "a Friend For Flint," is February 4 - 8. All donations will purchase gift cards and other supplies for students at Doyle Ryder

Elementary School in Flint. Students and the Troy community are invited to our after-school activities such as Mr. THS, Powerpuff Volleyball, Movie Night, and our popular Week of Restaurants, where local restaurants donate a portion of proceeds. One short week makes a huge difference to our friends in Flint and brings increased awareness to a school in need. For more information, how to participate or how to contribute, please contact mriddock@troy.k12.mi.us.



Athens students have chosen FOCUS Detroit, an organization that provides resources and basic necessities to school-aged children living in

poverty, as the recipient of this year's Charity Week activities, February 11 - 15, 2019. Exciting fundraising activities include a pancake breakfast, Mr. Athens Pageant, parent cook-off, Carnival Nite, Jail & Bail, and more. The students have established a goal of \$100,000, and encourage students and members of the public to purchase a "Charity Passport," or pay to attend each event. For more information, how to participate and how to contribute, please visit <https://athens.troy.k12.mi.us/>.

EMPOWER STUDENTS

ATHENS TACKLES FIRST TEDx

"We live in an era where the best way to make a dent on the world may no longer be to write a letter or publish a book. It may be simply to stand up and say something," says Chris Anderson, of the TED organization (which stands for technology, entertainment and design.) Twelve Athens students, organized by junior Laya Sathyan, conducted their first TEDx Event, a showcase for speakers presenting great, well-formed ideas on a community level. Students gave "talks" on topics such as the dangers of maturity, ethical decision-making, and how to think more positively from the viewpoint of a pessimist. "For our first presentation, we had lots of interest from the student body," said Sathyan. "This

format enables speakers to present relevant, well-formed ideas with compelling arguments



behind them, fostering collaboration and communication." TED's motto is "Ideas Worth Spreading," and it's safe to say that Athens has no shortage of those.

SCHROEDER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS DISSECT COW HEARTS

The atmosphere was electric, as students began filing into Schroeder Elementary School's gymnasium, set up with 24 stations at long tables, trays of dissection tools, and instruction manuals for the day's learning adventure: dissecting cow hearts.

As the 80 5th graders took their places, 55 visiting 6th graders from



Boulan Park Middle School helped investigate the oversized hearts. Some began gingerly as they got used to handling them, but as the



lesson progressed, the students became more comfortable holding, probing and slicing the hearts. "Seeing the hearts at first was kind of creepy," said 5th grader Lindsay Farhood. "But the more we worked with it, the more I wanted to see what it was all about."

Special guests arrived to help the kids move through the day, including TSD Superintendent Rich Machesky, State Senator Mallory McMorrow, and members of the TSD Board of Education, Troy City Council and Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence, who were on hand to see for themselves this world-class learning in action. In fact, this project

was made possible by a special grant from the TFEE, which was used to purchase the 24 hearts.

"The dissection was a wonderful conclusion to our science unit on the circulatory system," said fifth grade teacher Jason Cichowicz, "And it was an amazing learning opportunity and fun for our students." 5th grade student Tisya Grover agreed, saying "This experience really made an impression on me, and made me think about becoming a scientist or a doctor." Empowering students to connect learning to their world, indeed!



BARNARD STUDENTS HOLD PJ & BOOK DRIVE

Barnard Elementary's fourth grade students created a recipe for success when they combined Scholastic Books, pajamas and a fun week of activities. Just off the heels of raising money to support UNICEF, Barnard's fourth graders wanted to continue the spirit of giving by raising money to purchase new pajamas for families in the Metro Detroit Area. For this project students brainstormed ideas to encourage their peers to donate dollars throughout a week of engaging incentives.

To donate dollars, students chewed gum, wore hats, ate lunch with their teacher, and of course wore pajamas with their favorite stuffed animal to celebrate kindness and giving back. Owen, fourth grader, loved the incentives. He said, "It was

purchase 36 sets of pajamas. One Barnard family generously donated an additional 15 sets of pajamas to support the cause. In partnership with Scholastic Books, a new book was donated for each pajama set. "It makes me feel excited because I like helping other people," said Artemus, fourth grader, after the activity.



Pajamas were donated to Orchard's Children's Services, an organization that is dedicated to improving the lives of children. They were appreciative of the donation and planned to have a pajama party for the children, who will participate in a read-in with their new Scholastic books.

"We are inspired by our community of fourth graders who want to make a difference and make their world a better place for children," said Barnard Principal Melanie Morey. "We look forward to our next project when we learn about the importance of keeping Michigan waterways clean and communicating ideas to our newly elected officials."



exciting helping other kids by having a lot of fun at the same time."

Gwen Simon's, Debbie Rosenman's and Nicole Coffer's fourth graders raised \$250 to

THIS PROJECT SNOWMAN

The week before Holiday Break was busy, but Troy High's Peer Mediation class wanted to make sure everyone went into the season with a positive attitude. The 18 PM seniors in Mrs. Yax's class hand-wrote notes of encouragement for each student in the building. "It took us 2 weeks, writing 15 - 20 notes each per day," said Faith Keating. "We know the holidays can be tough, so we wanted them to know someone cared," continued Maggie Sharp. The result was 2,000+ personalized paper snowmen, which were hand delivered to each student. "We were so proud of them,"



said Yax, for reaching outside themselves to connect with others. "It made a big impact on the students, many of whom stopped by to say 'thank you' for the gift."



TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESCHOOL

COMING FALL 2019



Half-Day & Full-Day Options Available • Before and After School Care Available

EXPLORE • CREATE • CONNECT

Enroll Now at TROY.K12.MI.US

www.TROY.K12.MI.US 248.823.3000

0360-1903

INVEST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

NEW TSD PRESCHOOL IS FILLING FAST!

It was standing room only at Troy High for Information Night for the new TSD Preschool on January 15. Parents had the opportunity to hear plans for programming for the new building, as well as explore the preschool philosophy, age appropriate curriculum and benefits of a literacy-rich learning environment directly



aligned to our K-5 classrooms. The response has been overwhelming—more than 220 families have already enrolled their children for the 2019-20 school year.

The new building will open this fall, and enrollment is open now to all residents of the Troy School District. Information can be found at www.troy.k12.mi.us. Click on Preschool to learn more!



TSD STUDENTS NAMED FINALISTS FOR MHSAA SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD

Maddie Purvis, a senior at Athens High School, and Michael Song, a senior at Troy High, were named finalists for the prestigious MHSAA Scholar Athlete award. The competition recognizes just 32 varsity athletes statewide with a 3.5 GPA or greater, who are nominated by their schools, then must answer essay questions, submit two letters of recommendation and a write a 500-word essay on the importance of sportsmanship. Maddie and Michael will find out if they won the award, which comes with a \$1000 scholarship, on February 19.



TSD Honors Veterans & Military



Hamilton Elementary Students created, stuffed and sent stockings to our troops serving overseas.



Boulan Middle hosted members of the retired military on the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I (11/11/1918).



Troy Union hosted members of the military for a Veterans Day Celebration.



Troy Union Cub Scouts from Pack 1707 with Mayor Dane Slater at the Troy Veterans Day ceremony on Sunday, November 11.

TSD WELCOMES NEW BOARD TRUSTEE

Trustee Dr. Nicole Wilson has been a Troy resident for 11 years, and is married with two children attending Troy Schools (Cassandra, 7th grade at Baker; Nathan, 5th grade at



Barnard). She holds a PhD in English from Wayne State University, a MA in Teaching from Marygrove College, and a BA in English from Oakland University. "I look forward to joining the TSD Board of Education, and hope to see increased interaction between the community and the schools," said Wilson. Dr. Wilson can be reached at: nwilson@troy.k12.mi.us.

ATTEND TO WELL-BEING

THS STUDENTS PLAY DODGEBALL FOR ASHLEY'S DREAM

The Personal Communications class at Troy High School sponsored their 4th annual schoolwide Dodgeball tournament for charity, with proceeds benefitting the Ashley's Dream Foundation. Ashley's Dream is a non-profit organization that raises money and awareness for drunk and distracted driving, named for THS student Ashley Easterbrook, who was killed by a drunk driver 20 years ago, days before her graduation.

Personal Comms student Liana Bucaro was proud of their choice: "Giving back to

the Easterbrook family, who have been such a part of our school community, was really important. And distracted driving is still a big issue." Shirts were emblazoned with



"Dodging Distracted Driving" on the back, and on the front: "Ashley's Dream is our dream too. Always a Colt."

The event was attended by all 2,000+ students and raised over \$10,000. Previous years' Dodgeball charity recipients have been Mental Health Awareness, Mast Cell Disease, and Dodging Cancer.



TROY TECH TALKS PRESENT PROGRAMS



On January 27, Troy Tech Talks in partnership with Troy Youth Assistance and Kensington Church hosted an encore viewing of the documentary "Screenagers," at Kensington, and held a panel discussion about the dangers and pitfalls of social media, technology, and raising kids and students in a digital world. A panel of local experts

including Oakland County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Paul Walton, TPD Resource Officer John Julian, Troy High Wellness Intervention Specialist Elizabeth Gumbis and Kensington Student Ministries Director Aaron Gross took questions from hundreds in the audience comprised of parents, teachers, students and community members.

On March 13 at 7 pm at the at the Troy Services Building (4420

Livernois Rd. in Troy) Troy Tech Talks will host a followup presentation by Assistant Prosecutor Walton, which will include topics like technology and the law, monitoring and filtering software, cyberbullying and sexting. This session is specifically for parents (no students please), space is limited, RSVP to <https://bit.ly/2slmAlp>

Tricia Albery, co-founder of Troy Tech Talks, summed up: "Technology education is no longer an elective, it is a vital part of our students' education. They must become proficient in order to be successful in our technology-driven world. Parents need to help them navigate both the positive and negative sides of technology." For more information about Troy Tech Talks, visit them on Facebook.



ATTEND TO WELL-BEING

BUDDY BENCHES COMING SOON TO A PLAYGROUND NEAR YOU

It is widely known that a sense of belonging can prevent bullying, even for our youngest students. The Troy Rotary Club, in cooperation with the Troy School District, has initiated a project to help school children cope with loneliness, foster friendships, and confront bullying. This spring, with the help and financial support of community business partners, they will be installing "Buddy Benches" at each Troy Elementary School (plus the Troy Boys and Girls Club.) Several of our schools already have Buddy Benches, but this will mean there are two benches at every elementary school in the District. "Buddy Benches are safe places for kids to sit, talk and work things out," said Rotary president Rene Pothetes. "This project

exemplifies Rotary's core values of kindness and peace. Together, we can stop bullying and create



an atmosphere of inclusion and compassion!" For more information, or how you can help, visit www.TroyRotary.net

TFFEE SAVE THE DATE

June 21st, 2019 is the 17th annual Tony Spagnola Memorial Golf Classic. This yearly event is hosted by the Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence, a non-profit organization that funds school programs across the District. Last year's event raised over \$30,000, which went directly back into classrooms in the form of teacher grants.



KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Spring is around the corner, and with that, it's time to begin preparing for the 2019-2020 school year and the excitement that comes for our new Kindergarten students.

Do you have a child in your home or know of one in your neighborhood who is eligible for Kindergarten and will be five years old on or before September 1, 2019? If so, it is important that a parent call the attendance area school the child will be attending, and request that the student be added to the Kindergarten list. Once on the list, a Kindergarten enrollment packet will be sent via US Mail to your home the week of January 7, 2019. This packet contains vital information that will guide you through the entire enrollment process. If you live at an apartment building or are unsure of your attendance area building, please call Central Enrollment at 248-823-4002 or 248-823-4004, and they will be happy to assist you.

Through the month of February, Central Enrollment Staff will begin meeting with all incoming Kindergarten parents to complete the process. For additional information on enrollment, please visit the Troy School District website www.troy.k12.mi.us and click on "New Student Enrollment."

We look forward to working with each of you and becoming an integral part of your child's educational journey. The Troy School District is committed to providing the best resources available to prepare your student for their future!



SCHOOL BOARD CORNER



**Karl Schmidt, President
Board of Education**

Ever wonder how the Troy School District creates a balanced budget every year? In June, the Board of Education reviews and approves the District budget for the following year and submits it to the State. It's a little tricky, because we have to base our anticipated State revenue on the number of students that will be enrolled in Troy during the next school year—two months after we submit our budget. We rely on a forecasting professional who looks at birth trends, new home builds, and economic factors, then provides us with his best estimate of our student count for the next year. We also use that forecast to set up classrooms and hire staff for the upcoming school year. Based on our June estimates this year, we established a budget of \$154 million for the 2018-19 school year.

For the past seven years, we have had more kids enroll than what was predicted. Those extra students required us to do some scrambling at the start of the school year in terms of facilities and teachers—but they also provided us with a little extra State revenue and a small financial cushion. This year, however, our actual student count was slightly lower than forecast. As a result, our initial budget exceeded our actual State revenue by about 1%, or \$1.8 million. We will apply last year's minor surplus and defer some planned purchases to fix this year's deficit. We will also look for sustainable ways to balance next year's budget if the State per-student revenue doesn't keep up with inflation (a problem we have faced since 2008). One reason the Board makes sure



the District maintains a healthy fund balance (15% of our annual budget or better) is to help us weather these minor variations in student counts.

While balancing the books is probably not the Board's favorite annual activity, it is an essential way we protect the quality of education our kids receive every year.

SMITH STUDENTS ARE U-KNIGHTED

Each month students at Smith Middle School work on social-emotional skills to help every student be more successful in their relationships with themselves and others. "U-Knighted" is a multi-grade level homeroom-style class inspired by the red pillar of the Troy School District's strategic plan. Throughout the year students learn about the importance of positive social media, how to identify and confront bullying, and the power of intentional gratitude. In December, they focused on giving back to the community by choosing 3 different charities for each grade and put a plan together to collect items for each: Lighthouse of Pontiac, All Worthy of Love, and Children's Hospital.

Students and families were asked to contribute toiletries and personal care items for adults, and activities and personal care items for children. During the U-Knighted day, students and teachers prepared care bags for the 3 charities with over 6,000 donated items! At the end of that December day, Smith Knights bundled hundreds of bags for friends and neighbors in need throughout our community.

Smith School Counselors Mrs. Hartenburg

and Mr. Denyes delivered the bundled bags to the charities when students returned from holiday break and the feedback from all of the organizations was overwhelmingly positive. The Lighthouse in Pontiac was especially so grateful for the school supplies donated for the children they support because most people don't think about school supplies when thinking of children in need.

"For many Smith Students it was the first time they participated in a large-scale community service project. Every student was able to take ownership of the project and our entire school felt a great deal of pride in the results; it created a much more meaningful experience," said Georgia Sebastian, Teacher and Parent at Smith.





2019 MLK DAY



On Monday, January 21, 750 people braved the cold to show up at Athens High School for our 3rd annual MLK Day of Service---held in cooperation by the Troy School District, City of Troy, and TSD Superintendent Student Advisory Board. State Representative Padma Kuppa, State Senator Mallory McMorrow and U.S. Congresswoman Haley Stevens came to lend their support as well as over 70 volunteers from HAP (Health Alliance Plan.)

After breakfast and a student presentation about the life and legacy of Dr. King, volunteers eagerly headed into the gym to begin the various hands-on service projects. Many people made the day a family affair and stayed for the duration of the event. Parents said they were proud to help their children realize the importance of giving back and more than three hundred students pitched in to recognize Dr. King with a “day on, rather than a day off.”

The results were outstanding: volunteers made



AY OF SERVICE



So many people arrived to lend a hand that the projects were completed swiftly, and thanks to members of the Athens Boys Basketball team, cleanup was quick. TSD Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives Kerry Birmingham said, “Our entire community came together--students, parents, staff and residents of City of Troy--to make a difference for those around us. We are very proud of our Student Advisory Board students, who planned and executed the entire day. But most of all, we want to thank the greater Troy community for helping us help others and honor Dr. King in such a dramatic and important way.”



Students Giving Back

Hamilton 2nd & 5th graders wrote cards and created and filled stockings for Army soldiers who weren't home for the holidays.



The Hammerheads 226 Robotics team built a robot to ring the Salvation Army bell at Oakland Mall, and raised over \$100.



Students from **Athens** helped our Troy Police Department sort and package up food for Troy families in need, via Operation Blue Sleigh.



Troy High Theatre Ensemble members, led by junior Sean Hodges, cheer up the pediatric patients at Royal Oak Beaumont by creating Magical Memories with TTE Friends.



Hamilton's Student Council collected 3 boxes of books and \$900 for Read to a Child, a literacy non-profit that fosters a love for reading, helps improve literacy skills and empowers underserved children!



TCCHS Students collected over 2,000 books for PEACE Academy in Pontiac, as part of a Student Leadership initiative, and delivered them personally.



Baker Middle School students recently learned about global food inequality, and used their knowledge to collect enough food to feed 100 local families for 8 months.



Martell students collected over 300 toys for Detroit Charity "Courage Kids," and loaded them up for delivery onto a Troy Fire Department fire truck!



Larson band students invited the public to fill the Salvation Army kettle, while small ensembles played holiday songs at the end of their winter concert. They raised \$963.10.

IA East students participated in the Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams event at Royal Oak Beaumont, shining flashlights into the rooms of pediatric patients to boost their spirits.



EMPOWER STUDENTS

TCCHS STUDENTS LEAD AND READ AT PEACE ACADEMY

After donating books in November, students from Troy College & Career High School returned to Frost PEACE Academy in Pontiac last month to read some of the preschoolers' favorite holiday books to them.

Dressed in holiday style clothes and bearing candy canes, TCCHS Leadership students said the two groups connected quickly.

"I really liked the fact that students saw us as Santa's helpers," Austin Johnson, Student Leadership member, said. "I have gratitude and appreciation



for younger kids. They are bright with limitless potential, and we wanted to read to them to be a role model for academic success. I want to see them succeed."

Maiya Miller, Student Leadership member and future teacher, said she loved the opportunity to bring spread some holiday joy.

"I enjoyed seeing the smiles on the

kids' faces while we read stories to them. We have made a real connection with them, and we want to continue to do this kind of thing with these students," Miller said.

The book drive and reading event were completely student-driven, according to Jason Garza, Student Leadership Advisor, who said he also looks forward to more activities like this with PEACE students.

"This was a nice way to culminate our Book Drive and start a relationship to expand upon with this school. We want to encourage literacy by not only supplying books, but modeling it for the preschoolers, as well," Garza said.

Nicole Harris, principal of PEACE Academy, said that the TCCHS donations have added to teacher classroom libraries. Preschoolers have taken books home, and even parents obtained books for their older students.

"The kids from TCCHS who came in to read were so great with our little people. It was just a very positive experience for everyone," Harris said.



IAE TURNS POOL SPACE INTO CLASSROOMS

Ground has been broken at IA East and the Troy Center for Transition this past month in the old pool facility space, which has been closed for over a decade. In its place, new classrooms are being constructed, and a major part of that construction will include a new larger music room for all IA East ensembles. "This is an exciting project," stated associate principal Ryan Brinks, "and will have a significant impact on our students as over 350 students, approximately 60% of our student body, participates in our music program." The Troy Center for Transition is also undergoing additions to better support students in the building as the program continues to grow. Both projects are scheduled to be completed for the start of the 2019-2020 school year.



EMPOWER STUDENTS

COSTELLO ELEMENTARY HOSTS FIRST INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

By Guest Journalist Eric Olsen Stayer

Students, staff, and family were all invited to the first International Night at Costello Elementary School, where participants got to learn about different countries and their cultures. Everyone received a "passport," and got stamps for stopping by different countries, which were represented by tables, displays and even food. All of this was made possible by student, parent, and community volunteers. The delegates worked tirelessly throughout the night to educate everyone in attendance. The people made native food, performed ethnic dances, and wore native clothes.

This reporter asked all of the people at the tables the question, "What makes your country special?" Here are some examples:

- The Egyptian delegate said, "Egypt's pyramids and Sphinx shows that it is the longest lasting civilization that now exceeds over 7,000 years!"
- A member of the Indonesian table stated, "Lots of ethnic groups live there, but are all united by one language."
- "Did you know Slovakia is the center of Europe?" one delegate was overheard saying to a group

- of students gathered at her table.
- "The land is so beautiful!" explained the Brazilian representative, as I ate an amazing treat that melted in my mouth.
- The Bangladeshi table even had written numbers for you to attempt to copy. It was extremely hard, unlike your average 1,2,3s.

This reporter watched an Ethiopian dance and realized that Troy has so many unique cultures. The International Night was a fun place to learn about countries and the fascinating people who inhabit them.

This article was written by guest reporter Eric Olsen Stayer, a 5th grader at Costello Elementary School, who is interested in pursuing a career in journalism.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: THS TEACHER MEG FOSTER

It started out as a hobby, born of a love of writing and a shift in life. “Writing has always been healing for me and I quietly began a blog, called ‘Meg in the Mid,’ on Wordpress,” said THS AP Capstone teacher Meg Foster. At the time, Foster didn’t have a firm handle on social media or freelance writing, but began submitting her blogs to various periodicals for guest publication. Her first acceptance was for ADDitude magazine.

Project Happiness, a non-profit organization that “empowers people to create greater well-being within themselves and the world” accepted her next submission, a Thanksgiving Day-themed blog on gratitude entitled “Let’s Talk Turkey—Gratitude Gravy.” The blog went live in November to rave reviews.

Foster was then contacted by New York City’s *Millennium Magazine*, a high end regional publication, inviting her to use her voice and blog personality to review products on social media. “I’m loving it! I receive all sorts of products including clothing, maps, art, jewelry, makeup, books, furniture, and tech.” (At press time, Foster is testing a new Intel podcast app called “Chirp.”) *Millennium* then invited her to join their staff as Creative Content Producer, yet another outlet for Foster’s writing.

“I would have never had these opportunities had I not ‘put myself out there.’ But perhaps the best lesson of all was that Foster heeded the advice she gives to her own students, that taking risks and pursuing your passions can open new doors. “My intention is to show them through action how to overcome obstacles, feel inspiration, utilize their talents, collaborate, and share their voices with the world, with purpose and mindfulness.” You could say Meg started out in the mid, but now the sky is the limit. (@meg.in.the.mid and www.meginthemid.com).



Spring Theatre Preview

COMING TO A STAGE NEAR YOU!

The Troy Theatre Ensemble presents Disney’s classic **“Beauty and the Beast”** The Musical, on March 1, 2, 8 & 9 at 7 pm, and March 3 & 10 at 3 pm. The online box office opens Feb. 4; tickets are \$15 for adults, and \$10 for students and seniors. Tickets will be available at www.ttensemble.weebly.com, or at the box office ½ hour before each show.



Athens Theatre Company presents **“West Side Story,”** the classic musical tale of cross-town lovers caught between two New York street gangs on March 15, 16, 22 & 23 at 8 pm, and March 17 at 3 pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students, and \$5 for seniors, and can be ordered by requesting a form from kmanfredi@troy.k12.mi.us or by phone at 248-823-2923. For more information, visit www.athenstheatrecompany.weebly.com.



TROY STUDENTS ENCOURAGE GIRLS TO CODE

In celebration of the United Nation’s International Day of the Girl, girls from Bemis Elementary School, Grand Blanc East Middle School, Troy High School, and University of Michigan in Dearborn attended a “Girls in Robotics” event at the Troy Community Center.

This event was led by Bemis Elementary’s Girl Powered VEX IQ Robotics Teams, and their goal was to attract as many girls interested in STEM as possible. Last year, Bemis only had two teams, with two girls out of 12 students total (16%). This year, Bemis had enough students to create 11 teams including 11 girls out of 43 students total (25%). At the event, kids and professionals made presentations about their different STEM experiences and conducted workshops to teach participants basic manual robot control and programming. The main point of this event was to get other girls excited about



joining a local robotics program and possibly pursuing STEM careers when they grow up.

Bemis 5th graders Anna Wang, Karen Zeng, Rae Yu, and 4th graders Hrudya Pingili, Sahasrashree Raghavendra, Keerthi Reddy, and Isabel Thommana shared their experiences in VEX IQ. “Our team thinks Girl Power is important because in Michigan there are 3.4 men for every 1 woman participating in STEM programs. Girls should be able to have access to the same knowledge,” said Wang. “We think STEM teaches a lot of things, and is very useful for every kid’s future.” The STEM program examples included building, driving and programming a robot, and the workshop allowed visitors to try out these three different attributes. Troy High School students concluded the day by talking about the First Robotics competition. The Bemis girls were thrilled to have hosted this Girl Powered event and had lots of fun meeting everyone who attended.

ATTEND TO WELL-BEING

ATHENS KIWANIS KEY CLUB FUNDS LEARNING SPACES

The Troy Kiwanis Club is partnering with Athens via the “Key Club” model to create an outdoor classroom and learning space. Component ideas include workstations, pergolas, flowerpots, and umbrellas surrounding concrete or stone benches. The learning areas will incorporate electricity for high-tech and water, and would be available for all classes to sign up and use. The project is estimated at \$10 – 25K, which will come from fundraising efforts by the Club that are scheduled to happen later in the calendar year. Stay tuned!



A.P.T. TO SUCCEED INTERVIEWERS NEEDED

Start thinking now about volunteering for the TSD’s “A.P.T. to Succeed” program! A.P.T. to Succeed is a project in which all 8th grade students take part in a professional interview with members of the Troy community. Students present digital portfolios of their classwork, awards, extracurriculars and volunteer work, showing the growth they have achieved in middle school, and are prepared to answer questions about their future plans, both academically and career-wise. This program depends on volunteer interviewers, and we are SO grateful from the support we receive from members of the Troy Chamber of Commerce and the community!

Interviews will take place in May, with numerous days to choose from. Online signups will be available soon; for more information, contact Kerry Birmingham at kbirmingham@troy.k12.mi.us.

PRIORITIZE LEARNING

TEACHERS TEACH OTHERS AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

This Fall, Curriculum Instructional Specialists Jo O’Brien and Natalie Haezebrouck along with Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Instruction Kristine Griffor were invited to present at the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project at Columbia University. “Our district vision is to establish learning partnerships with experts in the field and prioritize the learning of our people,” said Griffor.

The presentation showcased the work of the districtwide implementation of literacy instruction and highlighted the work of job-embedded professional learning that has students at the center. “TCRWP at Columbia is an exceptional example of a team of researchers that help us refine our craft as educators,” continued Griffor. TCRWP works with educators around the world on implementing teaching methods that are best practices for all students.



SPORTS ROUNDUP

Athens: The Athens Competitive Cheer program continues to build on their team chemistry and won the Athens Cheer Invite on January 12th. The Boys and Girls Basketball teams have been playing hard against some very difficult competition, recently against Troy High and U of D. Red Hawk bowling is coming off a great day in the Oakland County Championships, while the Boys Swim team continues to plow thru the water and post good times in the pool. The Wrestling team, a young team, has been very competitive this season and is looking forward to Team Districts at Athens on February 7th.



The TSD is pleased to recognize the following students for being named All State Athletes for Fall of 2018 by the Michigan High School Athletic Association:

Sean McConnell (12, AHS Soccer)
 Jason Kemp (11, AHS Soccer)
 Jacob Slimak (12, AHS Soccer)
 TJ Renaud (10, AHS Soccer)
 Ahmed Dakrouni (11, THS Soccer)
 Gabe Brown (10, AHS Tennis)
 Brennan Cimpeanu (11, THS Tennis)
 Michael Song (12, THS Tennis)
 Aniket Dagar (12, THS Tennis)
 Jagan Nallani (11, THS Tennis)
 Jessica Robinson (12, THS Volleyball)

Troy: A great tournament this season for the THS Boys Varsity Bowling team, who are runners up in the County Bowling Championship. Synchronized Swimming beat Grosse Pointe in a Figures meet 56-30. Troy High Boys Varsity Basketball Coach Gary Fralick logged his 400th win in December, a huge milestone for a high school coach. And a reminder that the Troy High Athletic Boosters are looking for parents of Student Athletes to join their program, which financially supports students in all 28 varsity sports.





DISTRICT ROUND UP



Athens High: Civic Action Projects connect students and government by identifying a problem-asking for bike lanes around schools and parks-and proposing solutions through research and work with community experts and City planners.

IAE: Sophomores hosted their annual Personal Capstone Project Exhibition that allows students to demonstrate the skills they've learned in the program with a topic of their choosing.

TCCHS: 20 students began winter semester college classes at OCC, taking up to four courses to earn college credit free of charge while completing high school requirements in their Dual Enrollment program.

Troy High School: Freshman Roger Wang won the MTNA state-level piano competition for Michigan, went on to win the East Central Division, and will compete at the MTNA National Finals in March.

Troy Center for Transition: TCT students teamed up with Technology Services to dismantle 30 pallets from the tech warehouse, and worked at Smith Middle to create a woodwork project.

Baker Middle: Troy Youth Assistance partnered with Baker and Wattles for a Youth Involvement Mentoring Party. The Wattles students were paired with Baker peer mentors to create a positive connection prior to their transition to Middle School.

Boulan Middle: 7th graders experienced the PlastiVan program; a hands-on science and technology program that helped increase their knowledge and encourage engineering careers.



Larson Middle: Larson 8th Graders started a new recycling program, and have pledged to use reusable metal water bottles instead of plastics.

Smith Middle: Over 20 Smith parents played against the 7th & 8th grade basketball teams in their annual student/parent face-off. Parents won 78 to 77!

Barnard Elementary: 4th graders learned about UNICEF's important work around the world to protect children. They put their knowledge to use and collected \$1,104 for the charity.

Bemis Elementary: Students learned about the "Homeless Project," and how they could help homeless people of Detroit. They raised money, collected food and other items, made cards and packed care packages in lieu of a holiday party.

Costello Elementary: PTO hosts the 14th Annual Adults Night Auction on Friday, March 1st at the San Marino Club including dinner, live and silent auctions, raffles, and much more

Hamilton Elementary: The PTA sponsored 'Pastries with Parents' in December and January. Students brought parents in early for pastries and coffee to start their day on a sweet note!

Hill Elementary: Kindergarten teachers spent time with Literacy Specialist Jen Chambers and Reading Recovery Teacher Leader Kris Piotrowski focusing learning on strategy groups and small group interventions that support our emerging readers.



Leonard Elementary: 3rd graders visited with live owls from the Stage Nature Center. By dissecting owl pellets, our scientists generated questions and documented their discoveries.

Martell Elementary: 5th graders welcomed guest speaker Channel 4 newscaster Evrod Cassimy as the culminating activity in their Journalism unit.

Morse Elementary: Invites Therapy Dogs International so students can practice reading in an atmosphere where they can read and speak with confidence to a great listener.

Schroeder Elementary: The Science Alive program presenters visited each classroom, and enabled students to hear, see and touch live animals from all over the world.

Troy Union Elementary: Thanks the TFEE Foundation for financial support to jumpstart their community Makers Movement, which encourages learning-through-doing (active learning) in a social environment.

Wass Elementary: Wass recently hosted a Wellness Night for 330 students and their parents to explore yoga, challenge their parents to physical fitness exercises, and learn more about living a healthy lifestyle.

Wattles Elementary: PTO hosted 'Donuts for D.O.G.S.' (Dads of Great Students) to remind fathers and/or father figures how their presence in school makes a difference for students and the staff by being great role models.

