



# TROY School District

Volume 3, Issue 2

## NEWS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Richard Machesky**

The Troy School District is losing a passionate advocate for students after longtime Board of Education trustee Paula Fleming resigned January 21. Miss Paula, as she is known, is moving to Arkansas with her family after almost forty years here in Troy. Though we congratulate her on her new adventure, we will certainly miss her compassion and generous spirit and her dedicated leadership on the Board for more than 19 years.

Paula Fleming's impact on our community cannot be overstated. In addition to the TSD Board, she served on numerous committees and initiatives designed to provide opportunities for young people, including the Troy Community Coalition and the Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence. When needed, Paula never missed an opportunity to jump in and do her part to volunteer.



Although they are big shoes to fill, we are now looking for a new trustee to fill the vacancy created by her resignation. If you have a desire to serve, please visit the TSD website, [www.troy.k12.mi.us](http://www.troy.k12.mi.us) for a description of the process and what is needed to apply. All applications are due by February 4, and the Board will appoint a new trustee at a special meeting on February 18.

There is no doubt that Paula will be missed but she would be the first to insist that as far as the Troy School District is concerned—*the best is yet to come!*

**Dr. Richard Machesky**  
Superintendent  
Troy School District

## TSD HOSTS 4<sup>TH</sup> MLK DAY OF SERVICE



Over 1,000 volunteers packed 250 care boxes for our troops overseas, made hundreds of fleece blankets for hospital patients, processed miles of plastic yarn (plarn) to make waterproof mats for the homeless and gave 55 units of blood to the Red Cross.

## IT'S TIME FOR CHARITY WEEK & ACTIVIST WEEK!



Troy High's Activist Week, benefitting "Pals for Pontiac," is February 3 - 7. All donations will purchase Kindles, gift cards, and other supplies for students at Walt

Whitman Elementary School in Pontiac. All are invited to after-school activities such as Mr. THS on Monday, powerpuff volleyball on Wednesday, a cookie bake-off during lunch on Thursday, and restaurant nights. One short week makes a huge difference to our pals in Pontiac and brings increased awareness to a school in need, so close to home. For more information, how to participate or how to contribute, please contact [mriddock@troy.k12.mi.us](mailto:mriddock@troy.k12.mi.us) or call 248-823-2700.



Athens students have chosen Elli's House, an organization that combats human trafficking by providing shelter, mental health support, and

education to victims as the recipient of this year's Charity Week activities, February 10 - 14. Exciting fundraising activities include a pancake breakfast, Mr. Athens Pageant, parent cook-off, restaurant nights, ice skating, and more. Redhawks' goal is \$100,000 and encourage students and members of the public to purchase a "Charity Passport" or pay to attend each event. Visit <https://athens.troy.k12.mi.us/>, click on Quicklinks on the left, and click Payschools, or call 248-823-2900.

## TSD MUSICIANS IMPRESS AT MMC

Troy Schools sent many middle and high school musicians to the 15th annual Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids, who were featured as follows:

- Troy High School Symphonic Band with Brian Nutting and Jake Greenwood
- All-State Middle School Orchestra: Emily Baek, Brian Kim, Ashley Park, Benjamin Sheng, and Claire Wu.
- All-State Middle School Band: Jonathan Floarea, Brandon Mendoza, Sahana Mukund, Matthew Schwiderson, and Jay Shyn.
- All-State High School Orchestra: Lisa Baek, Mitchell Chang, Ethan Fang, Vatsal Joshi, Angela Lee, Gary Xu, and Katherine Zhao.
- All-State Honorable Mention: Micah Hermiz, Danielle Leight, Matthew Yemmans and Aditi Kashi.
- Conference Presenter: Alan MacNair and members of the THS Symphony Orchestra
- Conference Panel Member: Brian Nutting
- 2020 ASTA Administrator of the Year: IAE principal Ryan Brinks





SCHOOL BOARD CORNER

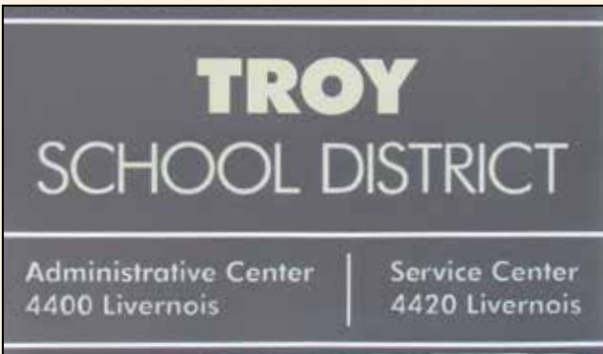


Karl Schmidt, President  
Board of Education

You have probably heard news recently about a potential annexation of the Clawson School District with the Troy District. In October, the Clawson Board of Education indicated a desire to merge with Troy. Since then, we have received some letters from concerned citizens about this possible change. To keep everyone up to date, we want to share some basic information about this matter. Please trust that the merger of these two school districts is in no way a “done deal.” In fact, the Troy School District Central Administration team is still in the process of completing due diligence on the financial and organizational challenges that would be associated with this change. We anticipate a detailed report from our team at a Board Workshop in early spring.

In the meantime, here’s what you should

know: First, a merger of the two districts will not result in Troy residents subsidizing or funding the education of Clawson students, nor will Clawson kids be bussed to Troy buildings. Clawson taxpayers will continue to fund Clawson students—in fact, a merger will require a property tax increase in Clawson in order to equalize per-pupil



funding between the two cities. Next, the Troy Board will not pursue this merger if we cannot identify concrete benefits for current Troy District students as well as Clawson

students. We also need to be confident that a merger will not detract from our strategic goal of becoming a world class district.

There are financial barriers as well. Even if we determine that a merged district will provide ongoing operational savings, there are significant one-time transitional costs associated with this type of merger. We are working with our state legislators to identify additional state funding to cover these transitional costs so the state can realize long-term savings from the merged district; nevertheless, this request may not gain traction in Lansing. Finally, even if the Troy Board determines a merger would be a positive development for Troy, we can only recommend this course of action by bringing the option to our voters as a ballot proposal. Ultimately, the voters in both Troy and Clawson will decide if this merger comes to pass.

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we work to discern the best decision for our kids!



Festival of Song  
Unites District Choirs

Just before winter break, Athens High School’s auditorium came alive with vocal music for four straight nights, for the annual ONETroy Festival of Song. Each night featured approximately 250 singers from 3 elementary (5th grade) choirs, their corresponding middle school choir, and one of the high school A Capella clubs.

Highlights included the AHS Hawkapellas singing “Jazzy Carol of the Bells” and “Happy Together” on Wednesday night, and the THS A Capella Club singing “Mary, Did You Know?” and “That’s Christmas To Me” on Thursday night. Elementary and middle school choirs sang a final selection together at the end of each performance called “Dancing on the Rooftop.”

“The Festival of Song is always such a great event because it gives the younger kids a chance to see what their hard work and practice can turn into if they stick with choir,” said Troy Director of Choirs Adrienne Covian. “The high school kids really love seeing the young singers and remembering when they were that age and how excited they were to get to high school so they could be

in ‘the big kid choir.’”

New this year for high and middle school choirs is “Vocal Arts Day” in April, where singers will come together to learn some music, get acquainted, bond, and then perform the songs all in one day, “giving middle school kids a taste of what high school choir is all about, and giving high schoolers a chance to mentor and inspire young singers,” concluded Covian. Stay tuned!



TWO TROY TEAMS  
“FOCUS ON THE ROAD”

Two teams from Troy High were big winners in the Suburban Collection’s “Focus on the Road” Distracted Driving Contest. This annual contest challenges students to create video public safety announcements (PSAs) about the perils of distracted driving. New guidelines pooled entries from all districts together instead of just awarding winners in every district, so our students had to beat out multiple teams from a half dozen other districts. Representatives from Suburban surprised our students with the news and giant checks.

First place winners (sharing \$2,500) were seniors John Dannug & Richard Li, whose film

was titled “Don’t Take a Chance,” and the third place winners (sharing \$1,000) were seniors Jennifer Won, Carol Zhang and Shannon Li’s whose entry was titled “Make it There Alive.” (not pictured: Shannon Li)

ATTEND TO WELL-BEING





# ENROLL NOW



**COME EXPERIENCE THE "TROY DIFFERENCE"**  
**AND SEE WHAT OUR WORLD CLASS PROGRAM CAN DO FOR YOUR CHILD!**

**Half-Day & Full-Day Options Available**  
**Before & After School Care Available**



Visit our site for additional information: [tsdpreschool.troy.k12.mi.us](https://tsdpreschool.troy.k12.mi.us)

**(248) 823-3000**

**EXPLORE**

**CREATE**

**CONNECT**

**INVEST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD**

## PRESCHOOLERS RETURN FOR YEAR 2

Over 100 “returning” families have already enrolled for 2020-21 with 200 families attending our Information Night. Families were thrilled with the world class facility, tailored specifically to 3, 4 & 5-year-olds, and had the opportunity to meet teachers and learn more about what sets TSD Preschool apart. Said Preschool Director Erin Keyser: “Families that are eligible to return are making the choice to return. That speaks volumes to our programming and the work our teachers are committed to for each child in our preschool programs.”

Enrollment for new students is now open at <https://tsdpreschool.troy.k12.mi.us/>

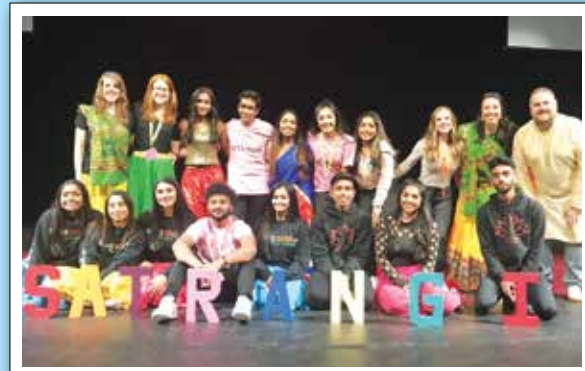


## IASA Satrangi “Seven Colors”

The snow outside couldn't dampen the spirits or the colors inside Athens' auditorium, as the combined International Academies East, Central and West presented their annual IASA (Indian American Student Association) program, aptly entitled Satrangi, or “Seven Colors.”



South Indian: Lydia Mathews, Venkata Chinmayee Mannava, Leanne Mathews



IASA Student Board & Advisors



Garba: Kanal Patel, Sunidhi Shintre, Vrinda Khullar, Khushi Acharya

Nearly 1,000 guests attended, with proceeds going to the IA Build On club, helping build schools in underserved areas of the world.



## 2020 NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN LITERACY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Instruction Kris Griffor was awarded the prestigious 2020 National Excellence in Literacy Leadership Award. This award is presented by Reading Recovery Teacher Leaders across the country to one administrator who has displayed a strong commitment to expand and maintain the high standards of Reading Recovery and made significant contributions to implementation beyond the local level.



## TCCHS OFFERS DUAL ENROLLMENT

When he receives his high school diploma in June, Elisha Griffin will have earned 30 college credits from Oakland Community College as a dual enrollment student.

Griffin is one of 22 TCCHS and Intersect students who are currently taking between one and three classes at OCC or Macomb Community College, earning between three and nine credits for the Winter 2020 semester. New to the program this year, Nafisa Ahmed will earn 15 credits before she becomes a TCCHS graduate who has been attending college while finishing up her high school credits.

"I've been through AP and IB classes, and dual enrollment is such an efficient way to get my credits completed. It's free, and I'm guaranteed to get my credits as long as I pass the classes," Ahmed said. She has a 4.0 GPA at OCC and has already been accepted into five Michigan universities



that she will need to choose from to study computer science next fall.

Dual Enrollment students complete a College Prep course to get them ready for post-secondary education, and once in college they enroll in a seminar class at TCCHS in which they receive personal assistance with essay writing, study and test-taking skills, career planning, scholarship applications, and much more.

For more information about the Dual Enrollment program at TCCHS, please call (248) 823-5156.

## TRIBUTE TO TROY HIGH THEATRE DIRECTOR RICK BODICK

"Ovation," oh-vey-shun, noun: Public recognition of a person marked by loud and prolonged enthusiastic applause.

This past November, current and former members of the Troy Theatre Ensemble paid tribute to Director Rick Bodick, who passed away in August. "Ovation" was like a theatre family reunion, with TTE students from across the years performing selections from Bodick's musical productions over a 34-year career. Tony award-winner and TTE alumna Sutton Foster headlined the celebration, and was joined by other alumni, who came



from near and far to be a part of this very special event.

THS Personal Communications teacher Harriet Clark and Director of Troy Choirs Adrienne Covian put together the very special show. Said Clark: "It is bittersweet that he

is not here to celebrate his legacy; to see the outpouring of love from alumni going back to 1987. But I know Rick would want the show to go on, and will be smiling down at each and every one of his 'kids.'"

Foster agreed. "His legacy will live on in all the students he has taught, and how we all have connected and become a family."

And at the end of the 18-number set, the audience joined in singing an apropos number from one of Bodick's favorite shows, *Carousel*: "You'll Never Walk Alone." And gave Rick one final standing ovation.

## AT BOULAN, EVERY KID GETS A WHITEBOARD

First came collaborative seating, but now that's been taken to the next level with collaborative white-boarding. Because let's face it, algebra is hard, but learning it can be made easier with hands-on, visual learning. Boulan Park Honors Algebra 1 teacher Jen Smith saw a need to change up how she taught algebra and has installed whiteboards on all of the vertical surfaces in her classroom, so every kid has their own space to practice their work as they develop new skills. "Students help each other as they work," says Smith, "and I can see immediately when a student could use my help." This makes a big difference for students speaking up because they may be

shy or unaware they are misunderstanding. "I get to help my friends with hard concepts,"



said one 8th grade student. "And they can give me pointers, too."

## SAVE THE DATE



### The Tony Spagnola Memorial TFEE Golf Classic XVIII

*In support of student leadership, excellence, and creative teaching in the Troy School District.*

**Friday, June 19, 2020**  
Sanctuary Lake – Troy, MI

*Invitation to Follow*

Individual and Corporate Sponsorships Available

[www.troyfoundation.org](http://www.troyfoundation.org)



## TIME FOR KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

With Spring just around the corner, it's time to begin preparing for the 2020-2021 school year and the excitement that comes with new Kindergarten students! Do you have a child in your home or know a child in your neighborhood who is eligible for Kindergarten? To be eligible, your student must be five (5) years old on or before September 1, 2020.

To begin the enrollment process, it is important that a parent or legal guardian call the attendance area school the child will be attending and request that the student be included on the building's prospective Kindergarten list. Starting in January, Kindergarten enrollment packets will be sent via US Mail to each student's home with vital information that will guide you through the entire enrollment process and provide in person enrollment dates and times which will occur in February.

If you reside within 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 with the child's placement.

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



ATTEND TO WELL-BEING

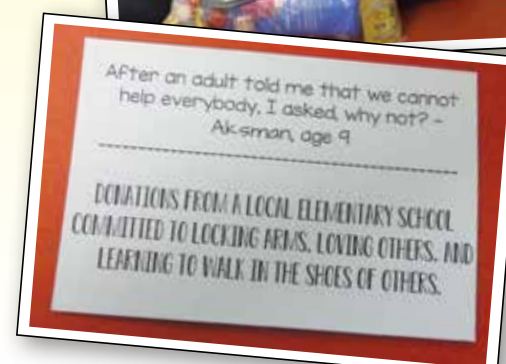
## HILL STUDENT ASKS "WHY NOT?"

Kids are known for asking WHY. Why is the sky blue? Why does it rain? Why do I have to go to bed? One student at Hill Elementary turned that question on its head when encountering a homeless person on the way home from the movies with his family. "I asked my dad if we could give him something," said 4th grader Aksel Hegdal, "and he said we can't help everyone." Why not?

At Hill, students, staff, teachers and administrators are referred to as friends. And when everyone is considered a friend, it is hard to look past those in need. Principal Shari Pawlus saw the opportunity for a teachable moment, which then became a movement.

"We challenged our students ('friends') to come up with good reasons 'why not' to help others, and we created 120 'care bags,'" said Pawlus. Each grade was responsible for collecting specific items, like socks, toothbrushes, food, flashlights to fill the bags—which were then given to students to carry in their parents' cars. The idea was to hand out a bag when seeing a homeless person, to make an immediate impact and a positive change, and to help a "friend" they saw in need.

"We've learned to show kindness where we can, to whoever needs it," said Hegdal. And Hill friends have learned no problem is too big, when one approaches it with compassion and kindness.



PRIORITIZE LEARNING

## READING RECOVERY REUNION

It was a reading recovery reunion as over 30 current and former TSD Reading Recovery Specialists (RRS) gathered in December, excited to see their long-time mentor, Dr. Lee Skandalaris—a pioneer of Reading Recovery programs—come back for a visit.

Retired RRS (Hamilton) Monica Lamb remembered, "She taught us that what our students need is what we need to teach, not teaching them what we wanted them to learn—which made our program truly student-driven." RRS Karen Reese (Morse and Costello) looked forward to Skandalaris' visits. "Lee linked what was going on in the classroom to what we were doing in one-on-one sessions."

Rhona Gorosh (RRS Bemis) was in the second wave of educators trained by Lee. "In the 'old days,' we had the same kids year after year," said Gorosh. "We needed to change our mindset and realize that when a student moves on, we've done it right." RRS at Leonard Sheryl Fragomani agreed. "Moving on is the definition of success. Lee told us to 'never do for them what they can do for themselves.'"

Lee recalled seeing the same kids she taught in reading recovery drop out of high school, and that propelled her different way of teaching. "The struggle was predicted back then. We have to do better." Current Wass Reading Recovery Specialist (RRS), Kristyn Cubitt, remembered meeting and being trained by Skandalaris when she was working at Utica Schools, and summed it up well: "It was always about what's best for children, what they needed always came first."

Concluded Lamb: "Lee was the essence of my success with students, because she modeled, sat side by side with the most powerful instruction I've ever experienced."







# 2020 ONE Troy M

On Monday, January 20, a record turnout of over 1,000 people showed up at Athens High School for our 4th annual MLK Day of Service---held in cooperation by the TSD, City of Troy, and TSD Superintendent Student Advisory Board. U.S. Congresswoman Haley Stevens and State Representative Padma Kuppa participated, along with Troy Mayor Ethan Baker, members of City Council, Troy School Board, and 65 lavender-clad members of the Superintendent Student Advisory Board.

After breakfast, there was a dynamic poetry presentation by members of the Athens Black Student Association, and students from first grade up until high school shared what it means to them to “Walk in Dr. King’s Dream.” Then, volunteers headed into the gyms to begin the various hands-on service projects.

The results were truly amazing: volunteers made





# ALK Day of Service



hundreds of blankets for hospital patients and community organizations; assembled over 250 care packages for our troops overseas, including hand-made cards of encouragement; processed miles of plastic yarn ("plarn") which will be used to create waterproof mats for the homeless, and donated 55 units of blood (including 16 first time donors), which impacted over 165 lives!

So many people arrived to lend a hand—including 100 volunteers from HAP (Health Alliance Plan)--that the projects were completed swiftly, and thanks to members of the Athens Boys Basketball team, NHS, and Project Lead, cleanup was quick. TSD Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives Kerry Birmingham said, "One thing is very clear on a day like today--the ONE Troy Community is truly World Class! Students, parents, staff and residents of Troy came together to honor Dr. King and made a BIG difference for those around us."





# Students Giving Back

**Schroeder** students raised \$900 to make 80 gift bags to support our troops from Michigan who are stationed overseas. Four service members came to say “thank you” and collect the bags. Hugs from home!



**Athens** Cheer provided a great Christmas for TWO Salvation Army families this holiday season! ❤️❤️



**Baker** students held an amazing food drive, which will go to stock food pantries and feed families in Troy for an entire school year.



Members of Red Hawks girls' basketball team rang the bell for the Salvation Army at Oakland Mall, in the spirit of the season.



**Larson** Bands shared music and raised \$912.29 for the Salvation Army.

**THS** Personal Communications classes raised just under \$10,000 from their dodgeball fundraiser for the Downtown Boxing Gym in Detroit—which provides academic support, life skills and physical conditioning for Detroit kids.



**The Martell** community filled an entire fire truck with toys for children in Detroit, made possible by a partnership with the Troy Fire Department.



**TCCHS** students, families, and staff collected and wrapped gifts from their “Giving Tree” for a single mother and her six-year-old daughter for the holidays.



**Wass** students donated 223 pajamas for children in need, partnering with Scholastic Book Company who matched their donations with books.



**Troy** Colt Bands invited guests to their holiday concert to bring in non-perishables for Gleaners. They collected over 300 pounds of food.



**Athens'** Project Lead “built” 36 teddy bears for Children’s Hospital.





## 13 TSD SENIORS COMPETE FOR COCA-COLA SCHOLARSHIPS

Thirteen Troy School District high school seniors at Troy High, Athens High, and International Academy East are among only 51 semifinalists in the state of Michigan for the 2020 class of the Coca-Cola Scholars Program, moving to the next round of the selection process. The Coca-Cola Scholars Program is the largest corporate-sponsored, achievement-based scholarship program in the United States. With the addition of the 2020 class, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation will have provided

Madhav Ramesh; and IAE-- Lauryn Collins and Aishani Gargapati

Semifinalists will complete Phase 2 applications, which include essays, recommendations, and transcripts.



more than 6,300 Coke Scholars nationwide with over \$72 million in scholarships over the course of 32 years.

These students are (alphabetical by high school): THS-- Divya Aggarwal, Matthew Dong, Andy Feng, Julia Genord, Amogh Gowda, Gurish Sharma, Pratham Soni and Jennifer Won; AHS-- Nadia Imam, Nithya Jaisankar, and



Following Regionals, Coca-Cola Scholars will be announced and will receive \$20,000 in scholarships.

Superintendent Dr. Rich Machesky feels it is a point of pride to have such a large group of students represent the TSD. "It is really quite amazing. I'm extremely impressed and proud of these wonderful students who will be incredible ambassadors for not only our District, but for the entire City of Troy."

## Larson Students are Rebels WITH a Cause

ATTEND TO WELL-BEING



It started out as an idea during one 8th grade science class' unit on evolution. As Larson students ("Rebels") learned of environmental factors that caused malaria, they wanted to know how they could help people in affected areas who are not able to protect themselves against disease-carrying mosquitoes. They found the non-profit "Nothing But Nets," which provides bed nets to communities in Africa to prevent malaria by preventing mosquito bites. 15 Larson students pitched the idea to principal Joe Duda, who approved their fundraising plan. They rallied their classmates, and as a school raised \$1,085 through Penny Wars, enough to buy 215 bed nets. Students received a 'gratitude package' from "Nothing But Nets," and Skyped with members of the organization, putting a face to who they were helping. Said Larson science teacher Shannon Dziwanowski: "Our Rebels made a positive change in the world. This will be a lesson they will never forget."

EMPOWER STUDENTS

## BPMS ENGLISH LEARNERS LEARN ABOUT, CALL TROY HOME

When you're new in town, the best way to learn about your surroundings is to visit people and places of interest. When you're also new to the English language and culture, this becomes a bit trickier. At Boulan Park Middle School, 15 students make up the English Learners (EL) group and have been doing just that with the help of some dedicated teachers and friends. All 15 have lived in America for less than a year, and represent 9 countries, 8 languages and 4 religions.

They took three trips around Troy to introduce them to their new home. First was to City Hall to see the Police and Fire Departments and Civic and Community Centers. Trip #2 was to Bowers Farm to learn about nature and see what makes a rural community. Last was the Troy Historic Museum to learn about Troy's history.

"We are excited to integrate these learning experiences for our students," said Boulan's

English Language Development Specialist Stephanie Hyska. The trips have been a big hit with the group. "I smiled and laughed at the Halloween decorations," said 6th grader Maja Peters, from Germany. "We enjoyed learning about Thanksgiving and school hundreds of years ago."

"It takes a dedicated team to plan and execute these visits," continued Hyska, including LS History teacher Michelle Slaviero, LS Science teacher Abeer Afana, and ELD/LS Parapro Nahla Asmar. "It is a joy to watch these students not only learn about Troy, but about themselves," said Slaviero, "and how they interact with their new surroundings, connecting learning to their world."





## LEONARD ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY CONNECTS THROUGH "ONE BOOK, ONE SCHOOL"

Everywhere you looked at Leonard Elementary, people were talking about the book *Riding Freedom*. In the cafeteria, on the playground, in the library, on the morning announcements, and even on the bus! Leonard's Literary Specialist, Nancy Haboush, used literacy as a means to connect for their First Annual One Book, One School event and chose this book because "the appeal of the horse and the main character's journey worked well for our younger readers and her struggle with female equal rights and the right to vote were perfect for our older readers."

Leonard's PTO purchased copies of *Riding Freedom* for all students and staff (including teachers, bus drivers, support staff, EVERYONE) and Leonard families participated in read-aloud events from their homes. A staff fashion show kicked off the book's setting and time period, and trivia contests occurred in classrooms and even on buses.

"My bus driver, Mr. Chris, was even reading our book!" said one excited reader. Students also learned about caring for horses, and were empowered to connect learning to their world when first grade teacher, Amanda Kalinowsky (owner of Oakwood Acres, a horse farm located in Ortonville, MI) brought horses to school for all students to see and

touch! Haboush knew she had a winning book on her hands when her students could not wait for the next chapter. "Our objective was to bring families together around literacy. Students are already asking what our book title will be for next time!" concluded Haboush.

"Our goal was to share the joy of literacy with everyone," said principal Dr. Erin Detmer. A quote from the book says, 'Every time you fall, you learn somethin' new 'bout your horse. You learn what not to do next time.' "We want all of our Leonard Learners to be thinkers and problem solvers. When we can combine that with literacy, it is a home run!"



## Spring Theatre Preview

### COMING TO A STAGE NEAR YOU!

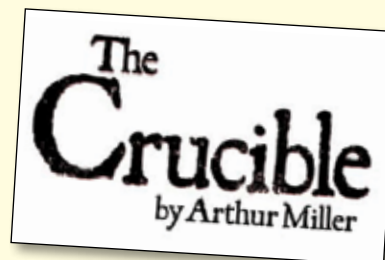
#### The Troy Theatre Ensemble

presents Disney's "**Mary Poppins**", the endearing story of the Banks family and their new quirky nanny, on Fridays & Saturdays March 20, 21, 27 & 28 at 7 pm, and Sundays March 22 & 29 at 3 pm. Visit [www.ttensemble.weebly.com](http://www.ttensemble.weebly.com) for information and online tickets, which will be available starting Feb. 24. Tickets are \$15 for adults, and \$10 for students and seniors. Box office opens ½ hour before each show (if any tickets remain).



#### Athens Theatre Company presents

"**The Crucible**", the classic tale about the Salem witch trials, on March 6, 7, 13 & 14 at 8 pm, and Sunday, March 8 at 3:00 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](mailto:kmanfredi@troy.k12.mi.us) or by phone at 248-823-2923. For more information, visit [www.athenstheatrecompany.weebly.com](http://www.athenstheatrecompany.weebly.com).



## TWO TSD MIDDLE SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAMS ADVANCE TO WORLD COMPETITION

Twenty-seven Troy teams began this school year's FIRST Tech Challenge middle school robotics program. Of these, fourteen TSD middle school teams advanced to the State level contest--the most from any district in the state. The fourteen Troy teams came from all four middle schools: Baker: 11717 Circuit Breakers, 15004 Tech KNOW Logic, 16883 DinoByte!; Boulan: 12912 Robo Kids, 14638 Infinity & Beyond, 14657 Robo Warriors, 15200 Robo Bots, 16358 Cheezb0tz, 16536 M3B, 16607 Midnight Creators; Larson: 12548 Rebel Droids; and Smith: 13462 Digital Owls, 15182 Magamtron, 15256 Techno Knights.

Of those teams, two teams have advanced to the FTC World Competition: The Baker Circuit Breakers, who won the State Design Award and received 3rd place for the Inspire Award; and

the Boulan Robo Warriors, who were undefeated during the qualification rounds and received 2nd place in both the Promote and Controls awards. These two teams will join 13 other Michigan middle school teams at World Championships in Detroit on April 29th – May 2nd, where they will compete against other FTC teams from around the world. To prepare for competition, these teams are meeting weekly with members of the Troy/Athens High School robotics team, the 226 Hammerheads.

The Baker Circuit Breakers team 11717 (in green, L to R) are: Chetana Gopu, Sahej Dhaliwal, Lily Wingblad, Nainika Jasti, Alexander Cholette, Aubrianna Cox, Rohan Gajula-Ghosh, Isaac Hatfield, Nirav Batlada. Not pictured: Harish Sangeetham, Sohan Aitharaju, Nicholas Carranza, Nishan Inampudi



The Boulan Robo Warriors team 14657 (in blue, L to R) are: David Chen, Austin Xiao, Claire Mao, Retta Zhou, and Grace Sun. Not pictured: Anthony Li



ONE

TROY

SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPORTS

# ATHENS VARSITY SOCCER ARE STATE CHAMPS

Athens Varsity Soccer team were state champions this season. This is the first time they have achieved this milestone since 1997, when current coach Todd Heugh himself was a player. Said Coach Heugh: “This moment is so well-deserved and so important because last year they were upset in the finals, and that gave them the motivation to practice and work together to go further.” They were recognized for this outstanding achievement by the Troy School Board, Troy City Council, and on the floor of the State Senate.



# UNIFIED BASKETBALL COMES TO TROY & ATHENS

ATTEND TO WELL-BEING

Unified Basketball joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team and allows them to represent their school while building lifelong friendships. Both Athens and Troy High School have teams; Troy is coached by Dave Aldinger, while Athens is coached by Christina Coden and Zach Downer. The teams play a six-game season, playing their games



Basketball teams.

Said Troy Athletic Director Shane Hynes: “When you watch our team play, don’t be fooled by the score -- smiles, laughs, and tears will be shared by both communities in jubilation that will vibrate across the state in an effort to make sports inclusive, not exclusive.”

Athens coach Christina Coden agreed: “All players are engaged throughout the entire game whether they are on or off the court. This team is everything life should be--the Inclusion just comes naturally. Teammates have a chance to dribble, rebound, and take shots, and are included in every aspect, from the bus ride, to passing out jerseys, to getting water. This program is an experience like no other, and has shown just how magical sports can be.”



in-between boys/girls JV and Varsity Basketball games. They will end the year on February 22nd with an end of the year tournament being held at Troy High School against other Oakland County Unified

# SIGNING DAY

It’s an exciting day in Troy as seniors participate in “signing day,” where they commit to a college sports program. For **Troy High:** Brennan Cimpeanu, Tennis at Hillsdale College; Jennifer Fry, Cheer at Davenport College; Francesca McBride, Volleyball at Mississippi State; Brianna Scillion, Soccer at Alma College



**At Athens:**  
Soccer players Samantha Slimak at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI); Alli Leonard playing for Butler University



## Congratulations to our Fall 2019 All-State Athletes

- |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jason Kemp (AHS, Soccer)         | Rafael Khoury (THS, Soccer)     |
| Andri Myftari (AHS, Soccer)      | Ahmad Dakrouni (THS, Soccer)    |
| TJ Renaud (AHS, Soccer)          | Andrew Howard (THS, Soccer)     |
| Davis DiGiovanni (AHS, Soccer)   | Brennan Cimpeanu (THS, Tennis)  |
| Gabe Bronw (AHS Tennis)          | Jagan Nallani (THS, Tennis)     |
| Shray Naik (AHS, Tennis)         | Andrew Wang (THS, Tennis)       |
| Nachi Deshmukh (AHS, Tennis)     | Rishi Shetty (THS Tennis)       |
| Ronak Mody (AHS,Tennis)          | Paige Anderson (THS, XCcountry) |
| Olivia Hemmila (AHS, Girls Golf) | Donna Yoon (THS Girls Golf)     |

## Fall 2019 Academic All-State Athletes

- |                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| AHS Men’s Soccer Team              | Rafael Khoury (THS Men’s Soccer)    |
| AHS Men’s Tennis Team              | Ethan Parpart (THS Men’s Soccer)    |
| Abby Bright (AHS Girls Golf)       | Collin McManus (THS Men’s Soccer)   |
| Miranda McKee (AHS Girls Golf)     | Srujan Koneru (THS Men’s Soccer)    |
| Sreejani Kanuri (IAE Girls Golf)   | Paige Anderson (THS XCcountry)      |
| Amelia Lin (IAE Girls Golf)        | Jack Falk (THS XCcountry)           |
| Will Hamilton (THS Men’s Soccer)   | Caitlin Henning (THS XCcountry)     |
| Nathan Morey (THS Men’s Soccer)    | Aileen Lu (THS XCcountry)           |
| Ethan Alexander (THS Men’s Soccer) | Lauren Monaghan (THS XCcountry)     |
|                                    | Ella Szczublewski, (THS Girls Golf) |



## DISTRICT ROUND UP

**Athens:** 22 Red Hawks qualified to compete March 5th – 7th at the DECA State Career Development Conference. Student events include everything from Marketing and Hospitality to Finance and Merchandising. Winners will move on to International competition in Nashville, TN.

**IAE:** Students competed in HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Regionals this past month, earning 17 gold, 19 silver, 16 bronze and 28 honorable mentions.

**TCCHS:** Students are learning about a variety of careers while networking with professionals as they attend a series of Journey 2 Jobs events hosted by Junior Achievement of Southeastern Michigan from November until May.

**Troy High:** is in the process of becoming a “School of Character”, an effort to develop core values in young people that are widely affirmed across all cultures.

**Baker Middle:** Green Team students identified building opportunities for recycling, giving back to their community through meaningful service. Bobcats shared the importance of positive actions that impact our environment.

**Boulan Middle:** 8th graders presented their National History Day projects, where the theme for this year’s projects was “Breaking Barriers In History.”

**Larson Middle:** Student Council organized a Personal Care Drive in December, collecting nearly 1,500 toiletries and essential care items for Troy People Concerned.

**Smith Middle:** Smith students and families donated over 9,000 non-perishable food items and toiletries for Lighthouse of Pontiac, which were personally delivered by staff and a few amazing student volunteers.

**Barnard Elementary:** On trash-free Tuesdays, students are encouraged to bring lunch that has only reusable and washable containers, bottles, silverware, etc.

**Bemis Elementary:** Bemis students replaced their holiday parties with student service projects, impacting our students who loved reaching out to others vs focusing on themselves.

**Costello Elementary:** The Costello community raised money for Care Packages for our troops overseas by shopping at the Book Fair and eating flying pancakes, activities made possible by Costello’s PTO, Student Council, and our awesome parents!

**Hamilton Elementary:** Channel 4 Meteorologist Paul Gross talked to 4th graders about the weather, and how he became interested after a second-grade teacher took him to the school’s library and helped him find books about weather and meteorology—sparking a life-long passion and career.

**Hill Elementary:** 3rd graders participated in Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams at Royal Oak Beaumont, and invited the rest of their school to show love to patients who were not able to be home for the holidays.

**Leonard Elementary:** Using games from Math Recovery, 4th graders were matched up with first and third graders to play fun math games that reinforced foundational concepts.

**Martell Elementary:** The Mustangs are raising money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society through their annual Pennies for Pasta drive; the winning class will celebrate with an Olive Garden pasta party.

**Morse Elementary:** Morse Elementary is celebrating Math Month in January by learning math during the school day and hosting a Family Math Night where kids and parents can learn together to make math fun as a family!

**Schroeder Elementary:** Students learned about the Schroeder core value of perseverance during Dragon Dens by persevering through a team challenge and learning how to persevere at school, at home, and in the community.

**Troy Union Elementary:** Troy Union has identified culTure as one word to focus direction. As part of our character education work in 2020 each Troy Union student is choosing their own individual word to create a better future.

**Wass Elementary:** Following Veteran’s Day, students opened a school store, selling supplies and spirit wear to raise money for “Wreaths Across America,” an organization that places wreaths on the graves of American servicemen and women.

**Wattles Elementary:** 5th graders shared their musical talents by performing in the district’s Festival of Choirs and hosting their first band/strings concert.

