

# TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS

Sports, Awards, Student Voices & More

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## SUPERINTENDENT NOTES

**Dr. Richard Machesky**  
Superintendent



The best school districts in the country—and in the world—form deep bonds with the community around them. We are incredibly fortunate in the Troy School District that we have a strong and supportive community to partner with in so many ways. Nowhere is that more evident than with our citywide MLK Celebration & Day of Service.

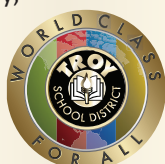
You can see photos of the event itself on page 8, but what the photos can't completely convey is the sense of unity and purpose that participants brought. More than 800 people showed up to perform acts of service—from young families to people who have lived in Troy for more than 60 years. They heard powerful words from students from the Black Student Union, Supervisor for Educational Equity, Inclusion and Community Relations, Chantelle Yancy and our keynote speaker, Fox 2 Anchor and Troy High alum, Roop Raj.

This combined sense of purpose—to have a positive impact on the world around us—is also what drives the students who work very hard to organize our MLK Day of Service. The Superintendent Student Advisory Board, or SSAB, is a group of about sixty students from all four high schools who plan the service projects, solicit donations, find supplies and facilitate volunteers for the big day. They are led by seven extraordinary students who serve as the Executive Committee for SSAB. President George Perakis, Vice President Akshitha Sahu, Secretary Marlien William and executive board members Allison Diebol, Aanvi Arora, Aanya Shah and Ray Zhang did an outstanding job spearheading preparations and executing their plan—in addition to all the other obligations that go along with being a busy student and leader in their schools.

We are very grateful to all members of the SSAB for their efforts in making this event a huge success for our community. We are also appreciative of the hundreds of people who came out to help and the businesses, organizations and individuals who donated to make this event possible, including: the Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence, Alliance Mobile Health, Big Beaver United Methodist Church, Troy Community Coalition, Troy-Area Interfaith Group, Home Depot—Madison Heights, Telly's Greenhouse & Garden Center and Troy Youth Assistance—and of course our partners in this day, the City of Troy. It was truly a community effort—and I can't think of a better way to start out the new year than in coming together and performing service in Dr. King's name.

2023 is going to be a great year, ONE Troy;  
The BEST is yet to come!

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



## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY



JAN 16TH



## DAY OF SERVICE



Check out more MLK Day of Service photos on page 8

## TROY 2022 BOND STATUS REPORT

Our team has been hard at work since the community supported the bond ballot initiative in November 2022. We are happy to announce that we will be selling the first series of bonds on February 7th and those funds will be used to support building the new Smith Middle School, upgrading Elementary playgrounds, purchasing new furniture for Elementary and Secondary Schools, investing in our outdoor athletic facilities, and performing other projects as identified in our facility assessment (i.e. roofs, paving, mechanical, electrical, etc.). Additionally,

conceptual design work will begin on the new academic wing at Athens High School in the next 24-36 months. Collaborative teams have been established and design work has begun for all of these projects. The collaborative design process is expected to take 12-18 months and the community can expect to see some projects materializing in the summer of 2024. We are grateful for the opportunity to re-envision our instructional and extra-curricular spaces and are so excited to begin delivering on the promises from the bond campaign!

PREPARING FOR TOMORROW

## MICHIGAN GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARD



### TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT WINNERS



In November, Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Community Service Commission recognized 46 individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations as recipients of the 2022 Governor's Service Awards and applauded their commitment to volunteerism, service or philanthropy. Three of those awardees were Troy School District students (L to R with the Governor): **Krish Ghosalkar** (2023, Troy High) Civic Engagement Impact Award; **Akshitha Sahu** (2023, IAE) Environmental Impact Award; **Ava Julian-na Garza Bunao** (2025, Athens) Community Impact Award and 2022 MI Hero Award.

Continued on page 4

# SCHOOL BOARD

## GORNER

Karl Schmidt  
President



Happy New Year! Last year was an exciting and eventful year for the Troy School District, including the broad support of an important bond proposal in November. Now, 2023 promises to be a

year of detailed planning for new, modern learning environments for all students. Our future plans will be driven by our 5-year strategic plan, developed by the Board of Education and Administration early in 2022. This important document ensures our entire organization moves forward with a tight focus on the goals established via that plan. Even things like new or revised learning space designs are evaluated against their ability to reinforce or advance the elements of our strategic plan's four "pillars" (Deep Learning, Building Capacity, Early Childhood to Career, and Equity and Well-Being).

Part of the challenge of relying on a strategic planning document is that (by definition) it focuses on what we adults are doing in pursuit of the best possible outcome for our students. There is a movement, nationally, for school district governing boards to create a "Portrait of a Graduate"—that is, a thoughtful document that spells out the traits all students from a district should have by the time they leave our sphere of influence. Rather than a dry list of academic deliverables, this document is meant to capture the hopes and dreams of the community for the children a district has been given the privilege to engage. Another way to think about this is simply taking the strategic plan—the "what do we do?"—and looking at it through a student lens: that is, "if we do what we think we should do, how does that translate into our students' abilities and outlook?" The Troy Board of Education is intrigued by this perspective, because it forces us as an educational community to think about how all of our actions ultimately contribute to (or detract from) the outcomes our community wishes for our kids.

Over the next few months, the Board and Administration will be embarking on listening sessions across key stakeholder groups across Troy to explore our broader community's hopes and dreams for the kids we jointly support and educate. I'll report back here at a future date to share what fascinating picture emerges from all those conversations. In the meantime, if you get an invitation to be a part of these community discussions, please make it a point to join. We are working hard to reach a true cross-section of the Troy community, confident every member will have something valuable to share.




## INDUCTING NEW BOARD MEMBERS

### Emina ALIC & Matt HAUPT

TSD's new board members are sworn in and ready to work! Trustee Emina Alic is a 30-year resident of Troy, an Athens grad, and with her husband Sanin has two children attending Troy Schools: 4th grade Besim at Schroder Elementary and 7th grade Zekija at Boulan Park Middle School. Trustee Matt Haupt has lived in Troy for 6 years and with his wife Chrissy has two children attending Troy Schools (Wass Elementary): 4th grade Peyton and 1st grade Parker. Both are attorneys, Emina's degree from U of Illinois Law and Matt's degree from Wayne State Law, and both are leaders in the business community. After a hard-fought campaign, they are looking forward to continuing Troy's tradition of excellence. School Board President Karl Schmidt is excited to welcome these two community members as Trustees: "Emina and Matt bring new unique perspectives to the Board and representation from two different geographic quadrants of the City".



 **Matt Haupt:** [mhaupt@troy.k12.mi.us](mailto:mhaupt@troy.k12.mi.us)  
**Emina Alic:** [ealic@troy.k12.mi.us](mailto:ealic@troy.k12.mi.us)

## Preschoolers BUILD | Volcanoes



Students from Athens' STEM and chemistry programs brought working replicas of volcanoes to our TSD Preschool. Each volcano was a unique work of art, and they used different compounds to achieve lava-like eruptions. This interactive, cross-grade project that paired our youngest with some of our oldest learners was a perfect example of our new and improved green pillar initiative—expanding learning opportunities from Early Childhood through Career. Our Preschool enrollment is up significantly allowing us to offer the opportunity for this kind of learning to even more young students.



## Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence

THIRTEEN GRANTS AWARDED TO TSD TEACHERS IN DECEMBER



This fall, the Troy Foundation for Educational Excellence awarded 13 grants to teachers across the Troy School District. These grants fund projects that enrich the learning for students in 16 TSD buildings, including classroom libraries at Athens and in all elementary art classrooms. Larson students will receive fund for equipment that will be used to design experiments for a NASA program. Music students at Troy High

School will create and edit their own compositions with new music notation software, and students at Hamilton will receive many new nonfiction books. At Schroeder, a TFEЕ grant will fund this year's Tournament of Books. At Athens, students will learn using new anatomical models of the eye, ear, and brain, with new sterile suturing kits, and with advanced instruments for chemistry. Martell was awarded funding for a character

education program, Troy High received funding to use soap making to teach chemistry, and Baker will once again be able to run their Mythology Arcade program.

These grants are only possible through the generous support of TFEЕ donors. To make a gift and make more enriching experiences possible for TSD students, visit [TroyFoundation.org](http://TroyFoundation.org).



# TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOASTS NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR SEMI-FINALISTS

Sixty Troy School District students were named National Merit Semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. This honor is bestowed to less than one percent of students nationwide, based on their scores on the Preliminary SAT. Over 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools take the PSAT every year, and 16,000 students across the country have been designated Semifinalists for 2023.



From the approximately 16,000 semifinalists, about 15,000 (nearly all) are expected to advance to the Finalist level where these academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$30 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition.

“We are so proud of our outstanding students and the recognition they bring to our District and City,” said Troy School District Superintendent Rich Machesky. “They will represent us well on the national stage, and we have no doubt they will continue to do great things and have a positive impact here in Troy and on the world around them.”

About 95 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and approximately half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title which will be announced in the Spring.

## National Merit® Scholarship SEMIFINALISTS

Listed in Alphabetical Order

- Aggarwal, Deepti (THS)
- Arora, Aanvi (IAE)
- Bajji, Yashwanth S (THS)
- Bendi, Srivatsav (THS)
- Bhavsar, Puja T (IAE)
- Bhide, Sarang S (THS)
- Booza, Grace E (THS)
- Chakraborty, Tridib (THS)
- Chen, Jonathan (THS)
- Chenfang, Hayley K (THS)
- Choi, Jeongwoo (THS)
- Das, Arkesh (THS)
- Dubbaka, Yashwant R (IAE)
- Dutta, Aksheet R (THS)
- Dutta, Riya (THS)
- Fan, Jiaxuan C (THS)
- Ghosalkar, Krish V (THS)
- Guan, Faye J (THS)
- Gullipalli, Shailesh K (IAE)
- Gummadi, Ananya S (THS)
- Gunukula, Akul R (THS)
- Guo, Junie Q (THS)
- Hede-Sakhardande, Rhea (THS)
- Henne, Ethan C (THS)
- Jhun, Michael S (IAE)
- Ji, Maximus Y (THS)
- Kanuri, Sreejani S (IAE)
- Kashi, Aditi (IAE)
- Katuri, Lekhana (THS)
- Komaragiri, Anurag S (THS)
- Ku, Isabell (THS)
- Lin, Jason B (THS)
- Luo, Karen C (THS)
- Magar, George A (THS)
- Mandadi, Tanvi (IAE)
- Mathew, Jessica (THS)
- Naravetla, Varun R (THS)
- Natarajan, Naveen (THS)
- Paladugu, Rithwik (IAE)
- Paul, Brojananda (IAE)
- Peela, Hrudyanth (THS)
- Penumalee, Varsha S (THS)
- Qureshi, Muhammad (THS)
- Rabbani, Haajirah F (THS)
- Salam, Naveed (AHS)
- Shanbhag, Anish (THS)
- Suthy, Nihil (THS)
- Thavamani, Ruthesh (THS)
- Tu, Huron (THS)
- Varshney, Madhur (THS)
- Verma, Vishesh (THS)
- Wang, Cynthia M (THS)
- Wang, Harry (THS)
- Wei, Lily (THS)
- Xiao, Helen P (THS)
- Xu, Sonnet H (THS)
- Yang, Dennis (THS)
- Yee, Tyler L (THS)
- Zhang-Zheng, Aaron J (THS)
- Zhu, Tianhui (THS)

### NCL Boulan Park TEACHER GIVES JOY & WINS CRUISE



Every year the Norwegian Cruise Line chooses 100 teachers from all over the country to receive a free cruise for two, via their “Giving Joy” contest. This year, contestant applications were evaluated during Teacher

Appreciation Week, to highlight the importance of travel and education and recognize educators for their unwavering dedication to inspiring students every day. Boulan Park’s Megan Luther was among this elite group of educators across the U.S. and Canada who received the most votes and won a free cruise for two on an exclusive five-day sailing aboard NCL’s newest record-breaking ship Norwegian Prima.

#### Megan’s nomination packet read in part:

“Megan is a hardworking and passionate educator and advocate. She is dedicated to helping every single one of her students and invests in them deeply. Megan is a diamond in the rough and not afraid to fight for what she knows is right. As her friend and mentor teacher, I couldn’t be prouder to work alongside her and am honored to witness the bright light and love she spreads to all.”



Santa came early for Wass Elementary School in the form of a big check from the Troy Chamber of Commerce, for winning their Winter “Step Up to the Plate” for Troy schools.

Step Up to the Plate is the Chamber’s annual “dine and save” program in partnership with the Troy School District (TSD) where families are encouraged to dine out at Troy restaurants; diners receive a 20% discount off their bill, and their receipts are tabulated by school. The school whose receipts equal the largest amount wins \$1000 to support their students.

**Wass Elementary was the winner, with \$3,711.31 in receipts!**

*Congratulations!*

# THREE TSD STUDENTS RECEIVE GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARDS



**Krish GHOSALKAR**

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT  
IMPACT AWARD**

Troy High School: 2023

**Krish Ghosalkar** began his involvement with the nonprofit Key2Finesse at the age of 10, through his sister, who co-founded it in 2015. Krish officially joined the organization in 2018 and embraced the mission - to provide platforms for students to demonstrate their writing and public speaking skills, while giving back to noble causes in their community. In 2020, Key2Finesse tackled organ donations and supported the Gift of Life Foundation. While serving on the board, Krish streamlined the fundraising efforts online to aid the contribution of \$75,198 to the Gift of Life Foundation in 2020 and \$116,100 to Angels of Hope in 2021. In the last two years, Krish has helped to expand Key2Finesse's efforts much beyond fundraising. Recognizing the need for students to learn from others, Krish helped to organize high school and career exploration symposiums over Zoom. These symposiums invited successful high schoolers, college students, and professionals to share their journeys and advice to motivated students. Krish also recognized the educational gap that was created in students' learning during online schooling, and the shortage of internship opportunities. This led him to develop a virtual tutoring program and an internship event. Due to these efforts, he has brought out the best in his team and it resulted in Key2Finesse expanding to 10 states and five countries as they help to provide the tools needed for students to succeed.

is **Ava Julianna Garza Bunao** cont...the highest award for her Girl Scout level), received the 2022 Tammie Murray spirit award, was selected as an MHSPEA scholar, and won a state championship as a part of the Troy Athens Winterguard. Ava is an inspiration to her peers and has become a genuinely impactful person that is making a tremendous difference.



**Akshitha SAHU**

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT AWARD**

IA-EAST: 2023

**Akshitha Sahu** found her love and creativity for the environment inside the walls of International Academy East High School. Akshitha created the EcoBricks project, which uses hard-to-recycle plastics to transform them into useable bricks. Her environmental club was able to work with local sponsors to create a bench from the items collected from the project. In that same club, Akshitha started an annual Earth Day convention and Go Green talk show. Both initiatives have had a prominent impact on her community and were recognized for their professionalism and thoroughness. Her ventures did not stop at school, as she has both a poetry workshop and summer camp where her heart and bright mind have impacted younger children. Akshitha has dedicated hours to the Parks and Recreation Board of Troy, the Troy Historic Village, and the Stage Nature Center. "As a volunteer, Akshitha has shown outstanding commitment, leadership, attention to detail, and a can-do attitude towards anything unexpected that comes her way."

Troy Schools Superintendent Dr. Rich Machesky expressed his pride in these students for their leadership and philanthropy: "We could not be prouder of these three students. They exemplify the spirit of our OneTroy community as they demonstrate examples of deep learning extending beyond our classrooms and impacting the health, welfare, and sustainable future of our community. Krish, Ava, and Akshitha are shining examples of the power of public education."

"Michigan succeeds because of Michiganders who go above and beyond to serve their communities and lift up others," said Governor Whitmer. "This year's winners get things done even when nobody's looking because they know that every contribution makes a huge impact."



**Ava Julianna  
GARZA BUNAO**

**COMMUNITY IMPACT &  
2022 MI HERO AWARD**

Athens High School: 2025

**Ava Julianna Garza Bunao** is an impressive young philanthropist and sophomore at Troy Athens High School. As a student, she is a top scholar of her class and a talented musician. She is someone who exudes joy, generosity, and kindness. Ava has a long history of using her time and talents to improve the lives of others. She serves in the emergency shelter, supported and celebrated veterans, helped with writing letters to pen pal residents at nursing homes, supported Girl Scout troops, provided her hair for Wigs for Kids program, conducted friendly visits at nursing homes, provided needed items for Humane Society, maintained a community garden, wrapped donated Christmas gifts for kids, educating the community about recycling, assisted with providing STEM projects, delivered food to people in need, and much more. One of the programs she provided leadership to was supporting the school food pantry. When she recognized there were not options for people with food allergies, she took it upon herself to develop a fundraising program called Macarons for Morse. She baked and sold macaron cookies and used the proceeds from her impressive baking skills to buy specialty foods for people with special dietary needs. Ava's ingenuity has been used to get chain stores like Kroger and Aldi on board with her mission of making specialty/gluten-free foods more accessible. Her work has led to dozens of macaron deliveries and in turn, made immediate relief for those with severe food allergies. Ava dedicated her time during the summer volunteering with Fundamental Therapies, tutoring young students with learning and reading challenges, and serving as FIRST crew during the GIRLS R GRAYT. Ava received the Silver Award in Girl Scouting (which





*Productions*

— AHS-IAE-THS —

Our high school theatre troupes had successful fall productions and are already working on their spring shows!



### TROY THEATRE ENSEMBLE

TTE'S fall production of *Radium Girls* told the true story of female factory workers in the 1920s who began developing mysterious illnesses. TTE will be presenting *Curtains*, a musical murder mystery March 10-12 & 17-19, 2023.



### ATHENS THEATRE COMPANY

ATC put on Disney's new show *Descendants, the Musical*, which follows the children of Disney Villains. ATC is working on comedy *You Can't Take It With You* for their 50th season, with performance dates April 14 at 8:01pm, April 15 at 3pm.



### IAE-EAST STAGE PRODUCTION

IAE put on an amazing stage production of the classic whodunit *Clue* in the fall, and is already planning for courtroom drama *12 Angry Jurors* on March 3-4, 2023.



## TSD COMMS TEAM CREATES BRAND AND SWEEPS NATIONAL AWARDS

The TSD Communications team, branded ONETroy Creative, once again won big in the National School Public Relations Annual Awards contest, winning 8 Publications and Digital Media Excellence Awards, which recognize outstanding education publications, e-newsletters, digital media programs, marketing materials, videos, social media, websites and more. With 14,000+ school districts across the country, to be singled out for so many individual awards is quite an honor.

The ONETroy Creative Team was recognized for excellence across the nation in the areas of:

- Website (TSD Press Room)
- Podcasts (3 different TSD podcasts)
- Print newspaper/newsletter (TSD Supplement to the Troy Times)
- Video (Leading with Literacy in the TSD)

The team also won two merit awards for additional videos focused on TSD Preschool and our original "Refresh" music video to kick off the year.



*"We are very proud of the efforts of our communicators and are thrilled to*

*be recognized at the annual NSPRA Conference," said TSD Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives Kerry Birmingham. "We have worked hard to find unique and creative ways to tell the stories of the TSD and give our community an inside look at the amazing work going on in our classrooms all year long."*

If you know about an interesting story we should tell, reach out to [onetroycreative@troy.k12.mi.us](mailto:onetroycreative@troy.k12.mi.us) or click on our "Got News?" on the TSD website.

## TROY UNION BLACKS OUT BULLYING

On World Kindness Day the Troy Union Elementary community hosted their first ever "Black out Against Bullying" event, to raise awareness about Kindness, and on the flip side, Bullying. TU Media Center Specialist Ruba Alexander spearheaded the event, and was so pleased with the students' enthusiasm and ownership: "We discuss cyberbullying in media and how to stay safe online and since October is Bullying awareness month and November is about showing and spreading kindness we did school wide lessons in media. We did a 'chalk talk' about bullying, learning what it is, what it looks like, sounds like and feels like. Our social worker, Kelly Cordozo went into each classroom and talked to the kids about bullying."



Others. They also personalized the back with fabric paint. And finally, TU's Eagle Edits News Team put together the Kindness Matters video that was played at the beginning. As the lights went out and each student's glow stick glowed, it seemed that everyone played their part to get the word out loud and clear that bullying was bad and kindness is cool, culminating in this super positive, colorful and upbeat assembly. What amazing young people we are educating! **To View Video:**

<https://vimeo.com/770838538>

**GET IN TOUCH!**  
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<https://tsdpreschool.troy.k12.mi.us>

**TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**PRESCHOOL**  
**ENROLLMENT**  
**STARTS: JAN 17, 2023**

23-24 **ENROLLMENT**  
**REGISTER @**  
<https://troy.ce.eleyo.com/preschool>

# STUDENTS | GIVING BACK



### Martell Collects Toys

Martell students and families filled a fire truck with toys for pediatric patients, then brought their flashlights and good cheer to “Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams” at Royal Oak Beaumont.

### Hill Students Sing for Seniors

Hill 3rd Graders rehearsed, dressed the part, shared cheer, and sang holiday favorites for the residents of the Sterling Oakmont Senior Community.



### Schroeder Helping Hands

Schroeder student council collected toiletries, laundry supplies, food, and other items for their Helping Hands Collection---supporting families in need in the community.



### Hamilton Fleece & Thank You

Hamilton students partnered with “Fleece and Thank You” to create 25 fleece blankets for Children’s Hospital.



### Athens Build-A-Bear

Athens High School Project Lead recently donated 22 bears to brighten the lives of hospital patients at Children’s Hospital of Michigan in Troy.



### THS Dodgeball Tournament

The Troy High Personal Communications Dodgeball tournament raised an amazing \$17,500.69 for Gigi’s Playhouse Detroit, a local organization that operates Down Syndrome Achievement centers.

### Boulan Toys for Tots Collection

Boulan’s WeB class (We All Belong) challenged their classmates to collect as many toys as possible for this year’s Toys for Tots drive (7th graders won!)



### Troy Center Volunteering

Troy Center students in Mrs. Lawrence’s classroom volunteered for the annual city-wide rummage sale at Troy First United Methodist Church.

### Barnard Blood Drive

Barnard's PTO sponsored a blood drive in November, besting their goal of 31 units, resulting in 36 units, including some first-time donors!



### Leonard Writes Letters to the Military

Leonard students wrote letters to the military servicemen/women who are stationed overseas.



Larson students led the way along with students from Athens, Costello, & Hill, who helped collect and wrap gifts for Larson's 3 adopt-a-family families.

### Larson Adopt-a-Family



### Troy United Hockey Wraps Gifts

The Troy United Hockey team volunteered with the Knights of Columbus by shopping and gift wrapping for the mentally challenged.



Athens student and MI Heroes Awardee Ava Bunao made a donation of 75 allergy-friendly food items at the TSD Bridge-the-Gap Food Pantry at Morse Elementary, including 1 gallon of hand sanitizer.

### Morse Food Pantry

### Athens XC Gives Back to the Community

The Troy Athens High School cross country team was recently awarded a chocolate milk grant from the United Dairy Industry of Michigan, and the team balanced their season with running and giving back to the community.



IA East and Troy Athens KEY Clubs made fleece blankets for HAVEN of Pontiac residents' children. They also collected Christmas donations for teens at HAVEN, and personally delivered them to the shelter. These are the leaders of our tomorrow, and it was a great partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Troy!

### IA-EAST & ATHENS MAKE FLEECE BLANKETS



### Smith Students Stepping Up

Smith 7th and 8th grade Student Connectors group organized a food drive at Smith for Troy People Concerned Food Pantry

# MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY



We welcome back the MANY VOLUNTEERS to the MLK DAY OF SERVICE this year!

- 850+ PEOPLE ATTENDED
- 1000+ KINDNESS ROCKS PAINTED
- 300+ FLEECE BLANKETS MADE FOR HOSPITAL
- 600+ CRAFT KITS ASSEMBLED FOR ASSISTED LIVING
- 1000+ SEEDS OF HOPE PLANTED
- 700+ APPRECIATION LETTERS WRITTEN FOR U.S. TROOPS & HEALTHCARE WORKERS

It's Amazing to see the GOOD that can happen when we ALL COME TOGETHER IN SERVICE OF OTHERS



# JAN 16 DAY OF SERVICE 2023





# Troy Students CLEAN SWEEP the CLEAN WATER Contest

Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash recognized the winners of the annual Kids' Clean Water Calendar Contest. Once again, Troy students swept the contest, providing over half the calendar's artwork including the cover!

- Advika Poddar: 5th grade, Barnard
- Agnish Adhya: 5th grade, Leonard
- Julia Sketch: 4th grade, Barnard

- Yuvan Kadala: 4th grade, Wass
- Bryson Hesperheide: 4th grade, Schroeder
- Laina Pitt: 4th grade, Barnard
- Seungah Oh: 5th grade, Leonard
- Sally Huang: 4th grade, Leonard

The calendars are free and can be picked up at Central Office or at the Troy Public Library.

**Congratulations Troy!**



## THS MEDIA SPECIALIST HONORED Toni ISAAC

Troy High School's Media Center along with School Librarian, Toni Isaac, have been selected as the Model School Library for 2022/23. "Library of Michigan selected Toni's library for the Model SL 21 honor for her focus on connecting the school community with community resources such as the local public library," said Karren Reish, Michigan Library Grants Coordinator.



The newly-renovated Troy High Media Center is also front and center, an example of how building space can enhance and encourage learning. "The space is so much more inviting now," said Isaac, "It's easy to reconfigure the space to fit the needs of the students that come to the media center...it has always been a busy space, but now it feels like there is room for more students to come in and feel welcome and comfortable exploring our many resources and materials."

Isaac has been Librarian/Media Specialist in Troy for the past 23 years, and feels honored to be recognized by her peers because they "understand just how much goes into building a program like the one we have at Troy High," concluded Isaac.



Do you live in Troy School District and have a child who will be **5** years old by **Sept. 1, 2023**? If so, call your neighborhood elementary school to get on their mailing list or contact us.

**Additional Questions?**  
**(248) 823-4002**  
OR  
**(248) 823-4004**

2023-2024  
**TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT KINDERGARTEN ENROLL FEB 2023!**

TSD Central Enrollment  
4400 Livernois, Troy, MI 48098  
[enrollment@troy.k12.mi.us](mailto:enrollment@troy.k12.mi.us)



**KDG ENROLL**

**LOOKING FOR AN ALTERNATIVE TO KINDERGARTEN?**  
Ask us about our tuition-free Pre-K program for students who turn **5** by **December 1, 2023**



## LARSON REBELS HAVE HEART NAMED #1 MIDDLE SCHOOL IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN BY THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

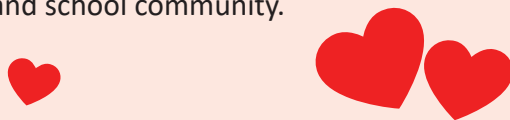
in Michigan, but named a TOP FIVE Coordinator of the year nominee out of thousands of schools across the nation!

are steps that can be taken to prevent it," said Larson Principal Joe Duda.

Larson Middle School was named the #1 Middle School in Michigan by the American Heart Association for their efforts in raising funds and awareness. After several years working their way to the top of the list, physical education teachers Oliver Helfrich, Kat Holtz, and Andrea Lothian were proud to lead the effort that not only got them to #1

Larson Rebels held a Dodgeball for the Heart Tournament and raised \$10,100.77 to support the AHA and their life-saving missions of CPR training, heart health research, and community outreach while at the same time raising awareness within their own students and school community.

Living a life with heart healthy habits starts with eating a balance of healthy foods, exercising on a consistent basis, and avoiding harmful behaviors like smoking/vaping. These programs and initiatives set the students up for a lot of fun to be had and gave them an avenue to learn about the heart and why taking care of your heart is so important for your overall health.



# ONE TROY Creative STUDENT VOICES

TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT

They've taken pictures at district events and made original short films, and now students of the Creative Guild have produced an entire album of music. This collection features five original songs and two cover songs, all showcasing the talents of these young individuals in songwriting, recording, producing, mixing, and performing. The album is titled "Dream-in' Big", and it marks the very first time Troy School District students have released music through the Creative Guild. A collaborative effort from both Athens and Troy High students, the group dedicated hours of hard work to the project in their free time. Production took place in the Creative Guild studio, located in the TSD Services Building, from April until October. It was released on November 18th and can now be found on popular music platforms such as Spotify and Apple Music.



Board of Education meeting. "I hope that with the release of this album more people can see that their dreams can become a reality, and if you do dream big, dreams can come true." He produced or contributed in some way on all seven tracks for the album. His vocal talents can also be heard on the opening track "Breakaway", released under his stage name AyKom.



For most students involved, this was the first time they've ever recorded and released music. Many have had experience in groups such as the Troy Theatre Ensemble or Athens Choirs, but some don't take any music classes in school, such as Michelle Nartey, an Athens junior and the youngest voice on the album. Now that the students are more familiar with the process for music production, many are interested in writing and recording more songs.

Anurag Komaragiri, a Troy High senior, has been releasing music on his own since his early years in high school. His desire to work with other students is ultimately what made this first album a reality. "There are a lot of people out there who want to do the things that I like to do, but they just don't know that they can do it", said Komaragiri during recognition at a recent

The Creative Guild hosted an album release party to celebrate this achievement. Each student had the opportunity to introduce their song before playing it for their fellow students and staff who were in attendance. The event has inspired more students to contribute to the next album, which has already started production.



## ATHLETE SIGNING DAY



Signing Day is one of the most exciting days for senior athletes. Four TSD students inked their names to their respective schools as they will continue their academic and athletic careers.

**HALEY HURLEY**

Haley Hurley (AHS) will be playing softball for Notre Dame College to continue her academic and athletic career.

**AMANDA LEONARD**

Congratulations to Amanda Leonard on signing her National Letter of Intent to Purdue Ft. Wayne to continue academics and soccer.



**LAUREN BOEHMER**

Former captain of the Volleyball team, Lauren Boehmer will be heading to Adrian College.

**AUSTIN CICERONE**

Saginaw Valley State University will be getting one of the premier Baseball players in the area, Austin Cicerone.

# ONETROY SPORTS

Winter Sports are in full swing with great stories from Golf, Basketball, Bowling, Soccer, Football, Hockey and more! Here are some highlights:

Athens HS



Boys Varsity Soccer finished the season ranked #5 in MI and won the Troy Soccer City Cup, a traveling trophy given annually to the winner of the THS v. AHS rivalry game with a score of 2-1.

Troy United



Girls Hockey: Just completed a highly competitive tournament; one highlight of this early season was beating Cranbrook for first time in team history with a score of 8 to 3!

Troy HS



Boys Varsity Tennis won their 11th straight regional championship and finished third in the state.

Athens HS



Varsity Bowler Jonathan Zaitouna bowled a perfect game in the match against Southfield. That's 12 strikes IN A ROW!

Athens HS



Congrats to the Women's JV and Varsity Powerlifting Teams, who took 1st place in Regionals!

Troys HS



Troy JV Girls Basketball kicked off their season with a win over Groves, 37- 36

Troy United



The boys hockey team was in East Grand Rapids and Muskegon Reeths-Puffer in January. The highlight was playing in Trinity Health Arena, home of the Muskegon Lumberbacks.

Athens HS



Girls golf won their first Regional since 1988, as well as the OAA League Championship for the second time in 3 years. At the MHSAA Girls Golf State Championship, the girls finished in 6th place.

Athens HS



Athens Cheer started the season consistently staying strong, with high scores at recent competition, especially round 3 (top 10 in the state)... Redhawks are looking forward to several home competitions in February!

Troy HS



Boys Varsity Basketball kicked off their season strong with a win against the Berkley Bears by a score of 58-29.



## ALL-STATE ATHLETES



ATHENS HIGH SCHOOL

- Ben MAHER**  
ALL STATE ATHLETIC HONORABLE MENTION  
AHS BOYS SOCCER
- Rintaro GODA**  
ALL STATE ATHLETIC HONORABLE MENTION  
AHS BOYS TENNIS (SINGLES)
- Rithwic PALADUGU / Ayush PATEL**  
ALL STATE ATHLETIC HONORABLE MENTION  
AHS BOYS TENNIS (Doubles)
- Olivia HEMILA / Ava WEEKS**  
ALL STATE ATHLETIC AWARD  
AHS GIRLS GOLF (1ST TEAM)



TROY HIGH SCHOOL

- Carter CUSAMANO**  
ALL STATE ATHLETIC AWARD  
THS BOYS SOCCER (3RD TEAM)
- John PALOMINO**  
ALL STATE ATHLETIC AWARD  
THS BOYS SOCCER (1ST TEAM)
- Nick WORRELL**  
ALL STATE ATHLETIC AWARD  
THS BOYS SOCCER (DREAM TEAM & 1ST TEAM)
- Derek BLACKWELL**  
ALL STATE ATHLETIC AWARD  
THS BOYS TENNIS (SINGLES)
- Haresh ANAND**  
ALL STATE ATHLETIC HONORABLE MENTION  
THS BOYS TENNIS (SINGLES)

- Derrick KIM / Nish PALEPU**  
ALL STATE ATHLETIC AWARD  
THS BOYS TENNIS (Doubles)
- Srihari ANANTHALWAN / Rushil KAGITHALA**  
ALL STATE ATHLETIC HONORABLE MENTION  
THS BOYS TENNIS (Doubles)
- Vishvaa RAVISHANKAR**  
ALL STATE ATHLETIC AWARD  
THS CROSS COUNTRY
- Darius WHITESIDE**  
ALL STATE ATHLETIC AWARD  
THS FOOTBALL DEFENSE (1ST TEAM)
- Riley HAYDEN**  
ALL STATE ATHLETIC AWARD  
THS GIRLS GOLF (1ST TEAM)



**Zach PENOZA**  
ACADEMIC  
ALL STATE  
ATHLETIC AWARD  
THS FOOTBALL KICKER

# DISTRICT ROUND-UP

## ATHENS

Athens Student Council is ramping up for their biggest event of the year, "Charity Week," which will be held February 12 - 17, benefitting Carol's Angels & Warriors.

## IAE

IAE brought back their Culture Show, which included performances by over 150 students and 11 teacher & admin dancers. Over 850 people attended, and they raised nearly \$7,000 for their IAE Phoenix fund.

## TCCHS

TCCHS students renovated Principal Angela Milanov's office, and in addition to patching & painting, they created an original woodworked "Belonging Wall".

## TROY HIGH

Troy High received a Walsworth Gallery Of Excellence Award for their 2022 Gladiator Yearbook along with a Gold rating, with a commendation in Unifying Concept, in MIPA's Spartan Yearbook Critique Contest.

## BAKER

Students engaged in a lesson on food insecurity and collected non-perishable food items for families who are eligible for free & reduced meals for their 2nd annual Food Drive Grocery Night.

## BOULAN PARK

7th graders learned how physical and chemical properties play an important role in deciding which material is best for single-use drink containers--aluminum, glass, or plastic--through a hands-on Chemistry program called PlastiVan.

## LARSON

Sixth grader Genevieve Kashat has risen to 4th place out of 12 contestants in the Kids Baking Championship, which aired in December on the Food Network and Discovery+.

## SMITH

All four Smith robotics teams have qualified for the FTC (First Tech Challenge) Michigan State championship!

## TSD PRESCHOOL

SRO Zach Yeomans visited and talked with students about stranger danger and who our trusted adults are. He also took photos with them, and they were able to explore the police car!

## BARNARD

After a 2-year COVID break, Barnard students enthusiastically welcomed the Barnard Dads back into the classroom, where they spend time as mentors in the classroom, at specials, and during recess time.

## BEMIS

A broadcast team airs messages three times a week about strategies around well-being, conflict resolution, highlighting our students, and overall celebrations.

## COSTELLO

Held a Winter Wonderland celebration before the holidays, including Santa, caroling, hot chocolate, and live reindeer!

## HAMILTON

Hawks are enjoying meeting in their multi-aged Hawk Nests, "family units" where they practice Hamilton's character values: responsibility, resilience, empathy, and integrity.

## HILL

Students are conducting a crayon drive in cooperation with Troy High's "Random Acts of Kindness" club. They will repurpose the crayons and donate them to local pediatric hospitals.

## LEONARD

5th graders spent three amazing days at YMCA Camp Storer building shelters, learning how to start a fire, holding reptiles, and even square dancing! The confidence, independence, teambuilding skills, and incredible memories will last a lifetime!

## MARTELL

Martell 3-5 grade students were inspired by the book, 'What are words, really?' by author Alexi Lubomirski. Students chose a special word to inspire others and designed the word in the Cricut design center on their iPads, which they printed onto t-shirts to be worn to remind others about kindness, joy, and positivity.

## MORSE

Our new Instagram page: @one\_troy\_morse\_mustangs is a great way to communicate with our Mustang community! Check it out to see a clip of Morse kindergarteners doing a sight word scavenger hunt.

## SCHROEDER

Science Alive presenters visited each classroom to teach students about animals and their habitats. Students were able to get an up-close look at a sloth, snake, chinchilla, turtle, frog, and many other interesting animals.

## TROY UNION

The Troy Union staff welcomed back Teachers College with a focus on supporting students in the area of reading and writing. Teachers College will be working with our community throughout the school year.

## WASS

Students collected 430 pajamas for the Southeast Michigan Pajama Program. Scholastic Media added free books for children to be cozy readers. The donations were taken to Neighborhood House to benefit students in our area.

## WATTLES

Started 2023 by welcoming Dads and male role models to "Donuts with DOGS" (Dads of Great Students.)

## TROY CENTER

TCT students opened a school store called "Up-cycled Threads" at IAE to sell donated clothing. It's a "giving store," so there is no cost to shop, and students learned to give back, recycle, and gain skills for employment as they wash, prep, and stock the store.

