



Students *Making History* at PSD

Each day our students impress us with their achievements in academics, athletics, and as human beings. We are proud to be able to celebrate them with our community and to see the positive impacts they are already bringing to the world. Below are just a few recent history makers. To learn about even more of our students' accomplishments, tune into our Board Meetings on Facebook or PSD-TV22 where each meeting we celebrate our students doing amazing things.

students from low-income communities. Their Poetry in America course is an intensive dual ed course taught by a Harvard Professor.

Huang was named Valedictorian for the course as he received the highest grade of any student nationally. Dinkins-Goldsmith was named to the Honor Roll for placing in the top one percent of students nationally.

McDonald's Black History Makers of Today

Lola Chi-Ann Milton, PHS

McDonald's honors students across the country each year who show exceptional leadership, character, stewardship, community service, and scholarly



National Equity Lab Valedictorian and Honor Roll

Guo Huang, ITA and
Taya Dinkins-Goldsmith, ITA

National Equity Lab is an education justice nonprofit that works to bridge the gap between high school and college for



Students *Making History* at PSD

achievement. The award includes a scholarship and locally is featured on WDIV news. Milton was chosen for her many accomplishments including being our 2023 Class President, a member of our career pathways program, and a talented performer among her many other achievements.



MHSAA District Wrestling Champions

Adam Polk, PHS and
Cory Thomas, Jr, PHS

Early February led to the crowning of not one, but two MHSAA District wrestling champions from PHS.

Adam Polk and Cory Thomas, Jr. both took home the number one spots in their weight class at the 2023 District Championships.



At press time they were both headed next to the State Championships and no doubt will continue to do us proud with their skill and strategy on the mats.

First PCT Graduate Hired by McLaren Healthcare

Kitana McCloud

Our Patient Care Technician program launched our Career Pathways initiatives. This program has brought training, real world experience and jobs for our participating students. This year, we have the honor of announcing that Kitana McCloud is our first student to receive employment with McLaren Hospital. McCloud is not only representing Pontiac at a major healthcare system, he has also been accepted to Oakland Community College's Nursing Program.

Phoenix Talks at AOCC Conference, Harvard University

JaQuise Butler, Quentin Castro, Darian Laws Wilson, Greyonna Mayor, Savannah Taylor, Ariyale Thomas-Webb, Audriana Thomas

Through our partnership with OUPICE Pontiac Resilience Project, our students created TED talk style presentations on important topics such as Depression, Anxiety and more. The students have been invited to share their presentations at the upcoming Alumni of Color Conference (AOCC) at Harvard University. The students will be traveling to Harvard to present their work.



Greetings

from
Superintendent Williams

Greetings Pontiac School District Family:

Be proud of your students. Be proud of your district. Be proud of your community. Exceptional things are happening here, and the world is taking notice.

As you read this newsletter you will learn about current and former students who are doing remarkable things that are not only bringing a positive impact to Pontiac, but on a national scale. Pontiac is standing up, standing out and shining bright. As we celebrate a few of these many achievements, it's important to remember the roles each of you have played in

helping to form our students' current and future success.

Our district has captured national recognition from the National Association of School Boards, and we continue to receive accolades and inquiries about the many accomplishments happening here.

I am grateful not only to our students and staff for their hard work and commitment, but I am also thankful to each of you. Every member of our community plays a part in the formulation of our district and our children's education. You may not realize it, but your role matters. Thank you for supporting our kids.

The support voters gave to pass our bond in 2020, has led to numerous upgrades, improved facilities, and excellent resources for our students and staff. We are starting to see some of our largest bond projects come to completion.

We just celebrated the reopening of our WHRC building. This building is the home of ITA, ILA, and SEA, as well as several administrative departments including Student Services, Special Services, and Bilingual Services. The renovation of WHRC has been a major undertaking which required the displacement of many students and staff.

It is exciting to see them back in their beautiful home. I am grateful to all who were impacted for their patience and flexibility during these past several months. It hasn't been easy!

As we move through this second half of the school year, stay tuned for even more positive news coming from our staff, students, and community. This is only the beginning. We will continue to fly to new heights and can't wait to share each new summit with all of you.

Sincerely,

Kelley Williams, Superintendent

Board of Trustees

President Gill Garrett

Vice President Kenyada Bowman

Treasurer ShaQuana Davis-Smith

Secretary Kevin Gross

Trustee Anisha Hannah

Trustee Marcus Terry

Trustee Troy Craft



Greetings

from
President Garrett

Greetings Phoenix Nation:

The winter months are some of the busiest and most exhilarating for the district. As your Board of Education, we look forward to spending this time engaging with our community and celebrating the many victories happening here. Simultaneously, we begin to look forward to what is ahead for the 2023-2024 school year.

These weeks are a combination of reflection, preparation, and strategic planning as we review our goals as a district.

This year has been an outstanding one for Pontiac. The Phoenix Nation has shown the world what we're made of, and people are paying attention to see what's next.

I, and my fellow board members, are proud to serve all of you. We are working closely with the Superintendent and administration to continue to work together cohesively to build on our success.

So often the world sees great achievements as "one hit wonders." We know that is not the case for Pontiac. The triumphs we are seeing from our students and staff are not flukes. They are well-earned through commitment, hard work, resilience, and a refusal to accept being considered less than exceptional.

We know that our future as a district will include not only setting the standards for others but raising them. We know that for years to come districts across the country will hear our story and look to us as inspiration for their own journeys. We are ready to be that inspiration.

As your board, our commitment to you is that every decision we make is made with that in mind. What is best for the students, the staff, and the community are the only things that matter.

You may see us in meetings seeming to overwhelmingly be on the same page most of the time. That comes from hours of research, discussion, and education on each issue before it reaches the board room. We too are students who are learning every day. We connect with not only stakeholders in our district, but with others across the country who have been on similar paths.

We approach every important aspect of the school district with the same unwavering commitment that has brought Pontiac to new heights and we know together we will continue to fly.

This is our pledge to you, Pontiac.

Sincerely,

***Gill Garrett, President,
Pontiac School District Board of Education***

Board of Trustees

President Gill Garrett

Vice President Kenyada Bowman

Treasurer ShaQuana Davis-Smith

Secretary Kevin Gross

Trustee Anisha Hannah

Trustee Marcus Terry

Trustee Troy Craft

PSD Receives NATIONAL HONOR

Pontiac School District recently received Honorable Mention for the National School Board Association 2023 Magna Awards.

The organization recognized us for our innovative approach and success with our Career Pathways program and the game changing impact it has on students. The criteria for the award was to demonstrate how the district took a challenge or problem and solved it through out of the box thinking.

This award places us in the ranks with some of the top school districts in the country.

We will be honored in the April edition of American School Board Journal and



highlighted at the upcoming National School Board Association's Conference.

We are proud to be able to showcase the incredible work of our students and staff in this program and look forward to even more opportunities in the near future.

Pontiac is on the Move and Being Green!

Keep your eyes peeled on the road for one of our new E/V vans! We're on the move and now able to transport small groups to field trips, athletic events and more with these efficient vans that aren't only good for the environment but look great too! Everyone's going to know Pontiac!

This is yet another step our district is taking to have a cleaner environmental footprint.

Additionally, we recently were named the largest recipient in Michigan for the EPA's grant to provide electric school buses. PSD will be adding 25 electric



buses to our fleet for the 2023-2024 school year. This is a huge win for our district and will provide our students with clean and efficient transportation.

Currently driving an electric vehicle? Be sure to stop by our charging stations located at the Board Office, Pontiac High School, and Pontiac Middle School.

SOARING IN PONTIAC

Mittens for Detroit
Brought Smiles
and Gloves to
Every Student



Herrington Hosted Its First Barber Shop Day



Nothing Beats a Great Dance Party



Dr. Powell & Dr. Kavanaugh are at the Ready at Trunk or Treat



Our Facilities Team is Pontiac Proud



Kennedy Students
Showcased Their
Star Power at the
Talent Show



Our Friends
from OU Helped
Beautify PEACE

SOARING IN PONTIAC



The Holiday Parade was a Huge Success



Students Interfaced with Recruiters at the College Fair

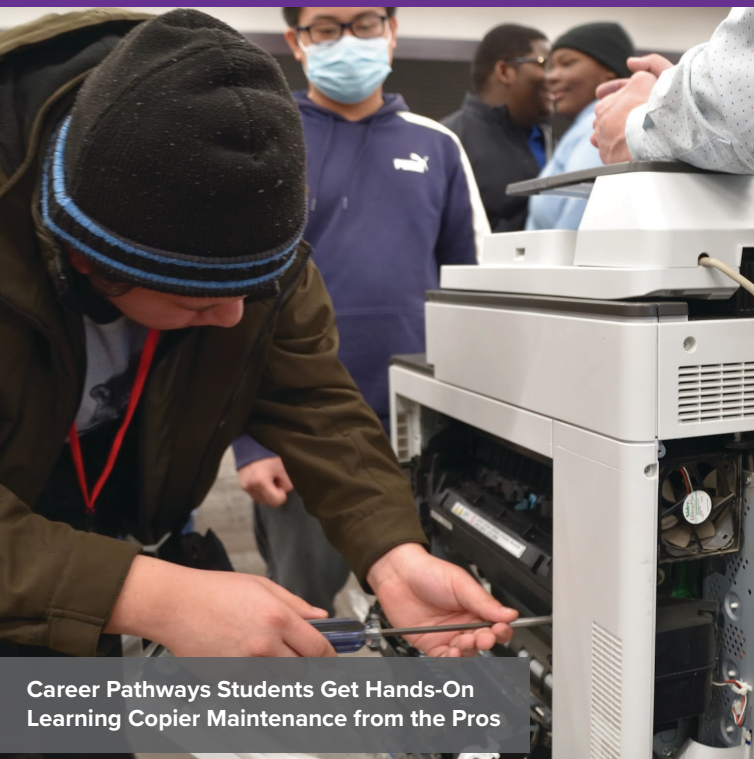


PMS Optimist Club Made Blankets for Patients at St. Joseph Hospital



Mittens
for detroit™

Partners Joined Forces In Support of Our Students



Career Pathways Students Get Hands-On Learning Copier Maintenance from the Pros



The Pistons XTreme Team Took PMS Students to New Heights



Wings of Fire Continued to Soar



New Springfield Surprised Rogers Students with New Coats



Rogers Students Shared their Heart Healthy Knowledge for Go Red Day with a Little Help from Our Friends at McLaren Hospital

SOARING IN PONTIAC



**Former Students Are
Achieving Greatness and
Bringing It Home to Pontiac!**

ROLAND “RO SPIT” COIT

Burn Rubber/Nike Shoe Designer

Roland Coit was recently one of two designers worldwide chosen to create the latest limited edition Jordans. He designed a highly coveted shoe that paid homage to Detroit, Flint, and Pontiac. The shoes flew off the shelves with collectors and fans scrambling to get them any way they could.

Coit isn't just a Pontiac success story, he brought his story home to inspire current students and show that with determination and passion anything is truly possible.

Coit felt so strongly that he wanted to share his success with Pontiac students that he negotiated into his contract with Nike that he be able to provide pairs of the shoes to Pontiac Middle School students.

Coit and a team of professional designers and marketers came to PMS to share their stories of how they achieved their dreams before surprising the students with their own shoes. It was a day that will never be forgotten, and the students left motivated



and ready to make their own impact on the world.

In addition to his work with Nike, Coit is the owner of Burn Rubber and Two 18 sneaker boutiques.

PONTIAC PROUD

Former Students Are Achieving Greatness
and Bringing It Home to Pontiac!



DAVID STIMAGE

Family Empowerment

David Stimage was an AP student on track for a career in nursing when life changed his path and he became a young dad. Being faced with the joy of fatherhood mixed with the challenges of having to provide for a family without the ability to pursue his original dreams didn't derail Stimage. His indomitable spirit and drive to support his daughters drove him to work tirelessly despite having no transportation at the time and having to crash on a friend's couch for a while.



Stimage reminds us that adversity and struggles can lead to incredible things. Through his interactions with other parents at the park and learning from his own challenges in balancing his roles as a father, he became inspired to begin his Family Empowerment program. He achieved this all while working multiple jobs up to 80 hours per week.

Today he is inspiring families across the region through his program, which brings families together to empower, inspire and grow together. His proven program brings important dialogue and interaction between parents and children to build the family unit and reinforce their shared values.

The program involves parents and students engaging in activities that strengthen their commitment to one another and brings unlimited potential.

Stimage inspires families and works with them to understand tools they can apply together from an onsite vow ceremony to tips for learning together they may have never explored before.

Families who have participated in the program have continuously shared their excitement and gratitude for the ways it has helped them navigate the many things life throws their way.

It was important to Stimage to bring these tools to his community in Pontiac and he is looking forward to working with families throughout the year.

PONTIAC PROUD

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KENTRELL ROUSER

2022 Golden Boy Golden Gloves of America

Kentrell Rouser took home the title belt, a gold medal and more from the 2022 Golden Gloves of America competition. The Pontiac raised boxer next has his eye on Olympic gold and bringing not only a medal back home but building a gym here as well.

Rouser began boxing at the age of 4 working with his grandfather Keith Rouser and father Kenyell Rouser. Rouser immediately felt that boxing was natural for him and began training regularly learning moves and strategies of the sport.

He took the discipline and tools he gained from training and applied them to his day-to-day life while in school. He saw the connection between the mental and physical. He took the work he did

in the gym and used it to help him study, eat right and more.

That commitment to excellence brought him to his recent championship and a place in the Olympic trials happening March 20-25. He intends to earn his spot on the team and bring that gold back with him.

His plans don't stop there. In addition to the Olympics, he's on track to go pro in 2024. Rouser dreams of building a boxing gym here in Pontiac. A place where kids and adults can train and gain the many skillsets associated with boxing. It's ultimately not just about the fight, it's about building character, mental toughness, and strategic thinking.

Giving back to the community that got him his start, is something that is number one for Rouser. Showing kids that from adversity comes great strength and learning positive discipline leads to success is something he can't wait to bring to home.



YOUR BOND DOLLARS\$ AT WORK



February marked the completion and opening of several new bond projects.

From the excitement of our first games in the beautiful newly renovated PHS gym, to the reopening of WHRC, the changes across the district are exciting and exhilarating.

The energy in the gym for our first triple header on our new home court was infectious. The Phoenix was soaring as our players and fans were pumped up and ready for action. Even though there are still some finishing touches left to do to complete the gym, it didn't stop anyone from soaking up the excitement of the night and the anticipation for the great things to come.

Following Winter Break several of our schools celebrated being home with ITA and ILA returning to WHRC and fully renovated

"The energy in the gym for our first triple header on our new home court was infectious."

spaces. The building's upgrades and additional resources will further enhance our students' learning experiences.

The returning schools join our Student Services, Bilingual Services and Special Services teams who returned to WHRC in January.

Although there are still national supply chain issues impacting construction across the country, there are great things ahead. We are grateful to all of you for your continued support as we work together to build an even better district for us all!



COME TO CLASS TO WIN SOME CASH

**Win \$500 for perfect
attendance!**

**IN ORDER TO GIVE EVEN MORE
STUDENTS A CHANCE TO WIN, THIS
YEAR WE ARE PICKING 20 WINNERS!**



All PSD students who receive perfect attendance in a semester receive an entry to win. Winners will be drawn at our **Back to School Rally in August 2023.**

You must be enrolled at a Pontiac Public School for the next year or be graduating in order to win.

For more information visit
cometoclasswincash.com or email
student.services@pontiacschools.org

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP

WHEN

Wednesday,
March 15, 2023
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

LOCATION

PEACE Academy
723 Cottage
Pontiac, MI 48342



We're excited to welcome a new class of kindergarteners for the 2023-2024 school year! Please join us for a fun Open House event. Stop by any time during the event that evening.

You and your students will meet their teachers and principals and learn more about their home school. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions and hear about the many exciting things happening in our district.

Activities and giftbags will be given to all incoming kindergarteners.

All PSD Elementary Schools will be there!

Light refreshments will be provided.





CAREER FAIR



**PSD is
hiring!**



**SATURDAY, MARCH 4
10 AM - 1 PM**

**BOARDROOM
47200 WOODWARD AVE
PONTIAC, MI 48342**

**CONTACT REGINA NICHOLAS
WITH ANY QUESTIONS**

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