



focus

April/May 2015

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Website: www.fhps.net



inside ▶

- Music, Math, Sports Awards, Pages 2, 8, 9.
- Odyssey of the Mind State Finals Competition, Page 5.
- eAchieve Program Comes to High Schools This Fall, Page 6.
- Community Services' Classes, Page 12.

A Message from the Superintendent

Vote in Important May Election



Superintendent Behm

Next month there is a very important election within the Forest Hills Public School district and in Michigan. On Tuesday, May 5, 2015, Forest Hills voters will have the opportunity to go to the polls and make a decision on two main issues.

School district approve the millage renewal, it will continue to provide approximately \$15 million in revenue for district operations and will not increase the tax rate paid by property owners. If this millage does not pass, the state of Michigan will not replace the funding and Forest Hills Public Schools will be forced to reduce or cut programs to offset the loss in revenue.

The second item on the May ballot is Proposal 1, a statewide ballot initiative that will raise funds to improve Michigan's roads and bridges.

Voters will decide on May 5, 2015, whether to:

- Create a funding stream that the constitution guarantees must go to roads, bridges and transportation. No longer would the state Legislature be able to divert state taxes we pay at the pump to non-transportation purposes.
- Require road builders to warranty the roads they build; violators of the warranty would pay for subsequent repairs.
- Replace the revenue local communities and schools would lose from the elimination of sales tax on gas by increasing the sales tax from 6 percent to 7 percent; groceries and prescription drugs will con-

(continued on page 2)

First, the Forest Hills Public Schools is asking the community to consider a renewal of its non-homestead millage. Non-homesteads are industrial, commercial, some agricultural property, and "second homes." It does not include a family's primary residence.

This non-homestead millage is not new, as we only ask voters to renew this millage once every 10 years. It is NOT an increase of mills. Funding for school districts changed significantly in 1993-1994 when Proposal A was passed by Michigan voters. Under Proposal A, the state of Michigan pays the majority of the cost, but to receive full funding, schools must levy 18 mills on non-homestead property in their district—hence this upcoming renewal on May 5.

If voters within the Forest Hills Public

Community Forums Scheduled

Prop. 1 Information and Ballot Initiatives: What Do They All Mean for Schools?

Are you wondering what all this hubbub is about on Proposal 1? Do you have questions about why Proposal 1 is about more than changing the state constitution, or raising the sales tax 1 percent? Do you want to know what's really behind the Proposal? What are our state Legislators doing? How will the outcome of the May 5 election impact schools? Did you also know that Forest Hills has its own non-homestead millage renewal on the ballot? Do you ever wonder how schools receive their funding from millages, taxes and the government? Then come and explore these perplexities in a common-sense, easy-to-understand approach.

Superintendent Dan Behm will host two community forums pertaining to the May 5 election. Be an informed citizen and voter. Attend one of the following events.

- Thursday, April 16, 2015, 7 p.m., Forest Hills Central High School Auditorium
- Tuesday, April 21, noon, Forest Hills Fine Arts Center, Rooms 121-122

Vote in Important May Election

(continued from page 1)

tinue to be exempt from the sales tax.

- Create a constitutional protection for the School Aid Fund, directing 100 percent of School Aid Fund revenue to K-12 schools and community colleges only. Four-year colleges would be excluded.
- Reinstate the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Presently, Michigan spends less per capita than other Midwest states on roads and bridges. If Proposal 1 passes, Michigan's sales tax rate would be the same as Indiana's, and still lower than Ohio's, Minnesota's and Illinois'. Ultimately, Proposal 1 is about much more than a 1 percent increase in the state's sales tax. It will have an effect both on the condition of our roads and Michigan's schools.

Whether voting by absentee ballot, or going to the polls on Election Day, Tuesday, May 5, our responsibility, as stewards of the community's assets and trust, is to ensure that our citizens are aware of these proposals and their impact on school funding.

Additional information such as answers to frequently asked questions about the non-homestead property renewal, fact sheets about both the renewal and Proposal 1, voting precinct information and a copy of the actual ballot language can be found on our district website, www.fhps.net. I encourage you to read and analyze this information, and, should you have any questions, I encourage you to call my office at 616-493-8800.

Thank you for your involvement in helping to build strong schools and a thriving community. Working together, we will continue to make Forest Hills a great place to live, work, learn, and grow!

With deep respect,

Daniel S. Behm
Superintendent

Remember to Vote Tuesday, May 5

Please call the Administration Building at 616-493-8800 if you have any questions about the upcoming election.

Five FHPS Band, Orchestra Students Receive Top Honors

Selected to Participate in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival

Five students from Forest Hills Public Schools have been selected to perform at the prestigious Michigan Youth Arts Festival, May 7 through May 9 at Western Michigan University. These students will join the most talented high school students in Michigan for a three-day extravaganza of master classes, exhibitions, workshops and performances. Congratulations to the following students: from Central High School, Nicholas Mallet, baritone, and Kathryn Martin, violin; from Eastern High School, Owen Longjohn, trombone, and Jonathan Thomas, violin; and from Northern High School, Belle Coty, harp.

The FHPS students will be part of the Youth Arts Honors Band and Orchestra performing at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival. They were chosen to be members of this prestigious group based on their ability to perform scales, sight-read, and their performance of a solo. Longjohn and Coty received a perfect score of 100, and Coty also is the only harpist chosen from the state. Additionally, Longjohn and Thomas were also selected to audition for the Youth Arts Festival Solo Competition.

According to Anne Thompson, orchestra conductor at Forest Hills Eastern High School, the Michigan Youth Arts Festival showcases outstanding high school artists in over 50 interactive, hands-on, educational rehearsals, workshops and master classes taught by distinguished working professionals in the arts. Nearly 20 performances and exhibitions are also an integral part of the festival experience.

"The level of talent is exceptional at the



Michigan Youth Arts Festival," Thompson said. "It's a wonderful event for the arts where high school students are challenged and inspired not only by the Festival's educational programming, but also by opportunities for interaction with other artistically-gifted peers."

FHC Math Team Reigns Supreme



Congratulations to the math team students from Forest Hills Central High School who competed in the Grand Rapids Community College Math Challenge on March 14. They took first place out of 21 schools! Way to go Rangers! Congratulations to team members Isabelle Popp, Kathryn Knister, Rea Parocarar, Scott Hadley, Nick Ettinger, William Xu, and teacher/coach, Jake Mills.

Preschools Hold Spring Open Houses

Are you looking for a preschool that can offer a half-day program five days per week for your 4-year-old with the added benefit of knowing it is taught by an FHPS teacher? Ada Elementary Preschool and Knapp Forest Elementary Preschool are hosting Spring Open Houses for interested families and their preschooler. Visit Knapp Forest Elementary Preschool on Thursday, April 16, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Visit Ada Elementary Preschool on Monday, April 20, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Children must be 4 years old by Sept.

1, 2015. Morning and afternoon sessions are available. More information can be found on the Child Care website, www.fhps.net/child-care or call the Child Care office at 493-8787.



Two Ada Elementary preschoolers study the details of leaves and other objects found in nature.

Upcoming District Events

Calendar Listing of Community-Wide School Events

April

- 13 School Resumes, Two-Hour Delay for Students/Staff Professional Learning
- 14 FHC eAchieve Informational Meeting, 7 p.m., FHC Auditorium
- 15 Ada Volunteer Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Ada Elementary Cafeteria
- 15 Thornapple 4th Grade Musical, 7 p.m., FAC
- 15 FHN eAchieve Informational Meeting, 7 p.m., FHN Media Center
- 16 Knapp Forest Elementary Preschool Open House, 6:30 p.m., Knapp Forest Elementary
- 16 Orchard View 5th Grade Musical, 7 p.m., FAC
- 16 FHE eAchieve Informational Meeting, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 16 Community Forum on Proposal 1 and Non-Homestead Millage, 7 p.m., FHC Auditorium
- 20 Ada Elementary Preschool Open House, 6:30 p.m., Ada Elementary
- 20 FHC Evening of Percussion, 7 p.m., FAC
- 20 Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Central Woodlands 5/6
- 21 Meadow Brook Kindergarten Kickoff, 7 p.m., Meadow Brook Elementary
- 21 FHPS K-12 Student Artist Reception/Fashion Show, 6 p.m., FAC
- 21 Community Forum on Proposal 1 & Non-Homestead Millage, 12 p.m., FAC Rooms 121-122
- 22 FAC Presents "100 Years of Broadway," 7:30 p.m., FAC
- 23-24 FHN Spring Musical "Zombie Prom," 7:30 p.m., FHN Auditorium
- 23 Ada Kindergarten Kickoff, 6 p.m., Ada Elementary School
- 23 Collins Kindergarten Kickoff, 7 p.m., Collins Elementary School
- 23 Northern Trails 5th Grade Musical, 7 p.m., FAC
- 24 Knapp Forest 6th Grade Solo Event, 3 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 24 Diversity Fair, 7 p.m., Central High School
- 24 FHPS Students Participating in LiveArts Concert, 8 p.m., VanAndel Arena
- 27 Northern Trails 5th Grade Musical, 7 p.m., FAC
- 28 FHPS Foundation's Destination: Innovation Town Hall Meeting, 1 p.m., FAC
- 28 Orchard View Kindergarten Kickoff, 6:30 p.m., OV Gymnasium
- 28 Thornapple Kindergarten Kickoff, 7 p.m., Thornapple Multi-Purpose Room
- 28 Knapp Forest 5th Grade Finale Show, 7 p.m., FAC
- 29 Meadow Brook 2nd Grade Concert, 7 p.m., FHN Auditorium
- 30 FHE Community Blood Drive, 7 a.m., FHE Gymnasium
- 30 Collins 1st Grade Musical, 6:30 p.m., FHN Auditorium
- 30 Orchard View Celebrates 50 Years of Global Connections, 6:30 p.m., OV Elementary

May

- 4 FHE Spring Jazz Showcase, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 4 FHC Spring Band Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 5 Election Day
- 5 FHC's Singational, 7 p.m., FHC Auditorium
- 5 FHN Spring Band Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 5 Meadow Brook 1st Grade Concert, 7 p.m., Meadow Brook Auditorium
- 6 FHC Spring Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 7 FHPS Foundation State of the District Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Watermark CC, RSVP Required
- 7 FHN Spring Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 7 EMS Choir Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 7 Meadow Brook 3rd Grade Concert, 7 p.m., FHN Auditorium
- 7 Thornapple 1st Grade Concert, 7 p.m., Thornapple Gym
- 11 Collins Kindergarten Musical, 6:30 p.m., Collins Gym
- 11 EMS Band Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 11 Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Goodwillie Environmental School
- 12 Central Woodlands 5th Grade Musical, "We Haz Jazz," 7 p.m., FHC Auditorium
- 12 FHE Spring Band Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 12 FHN Spring Choir Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 13 NHMS 8th Grade Choir Spring Musical Review, 7 p.m., FAC
- 13 FHE Spring Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 14 Ada Kindergarten Fine Arts Night, 5:30 p.m., Ada Elementary School
- 14 Central Woodlands 5th Grade Musical, "We Haz Jazz," 7 p.m., FHC Auditorium
- 14 FHE Spring Choir Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 15 FHC Senior Recognition, 9 a.m., FHC Gymnasium
- 15 FHN Senior Recognition, 9 a.m., FHN Gymnasium

(continued on page 4)



FHN's "Zombie Prom"

April 23-24, 7:30 p.m.
Forest Hills Northern Auditorium

"Zombie Prom" is a 1950s era horror story brought to life as a musical comedy.

Jonny Warner, a rebel, is the new transfer student at Enrico Fermi High School. He falls in love with a good girl named Toffee, the first girl who's ever loved him. Toffee's parents and principal, Miss Strict, pressure her to break up with him, and when she does, Jonny rides his motorcycle into a nuclear plant where he meets his demise. He comes back as a zombie, and wants to take Toffee to the prom. Miss Strict, however, does not want any zombies at her high school. Jonny teams up with fame-seeking reporter Eddie Flagrante to campaign for zombie civil rights. It turns out that Miss Strict has a few secrets of her own that she wishes to keep under wraps!

All tickets are available at the door and are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students 18 and younger.

► **Another upcoming production is listed on page 4.**

■ Cover Photo

Congratulations to all Odyssey of the Mind teams representing Forest Hills Public Schools. Pictured on the front page are Central Woodland's 5/6 School students who finished in first place at the State competition and who will be going to the World Finals in May: Front row (from left): Gavin O'Meara, Kali Coppess, Hannah Krause. Back row (from left): Jacob Erickson, Daniel Burns, Ava Dixon, Jack Woods. For more about the Odyssey of the Mind competitions, see page 5.



Summer Stock 2015 Musical "Hairspray"

July 15-17, 7:30 p.m.

July 17, 3 p.m.

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

Broadway's big musical hit "Hairspray" will get you dancing to the beat this summer!

Follow the show's protagonist, Tracy, as she achieves her dream of performing on a TV dance show in 1960s Baltimore—and works to integrate the show in the process.

Summer Stock is Forest Hills' annual musical theater summer study program for ninth- through 12th-graders. Enjoy wonderful singing and dancing performed by our talented students!

Tickets are available starting the third week of June at the Fine Arts Center Box Office (in person ticket sales only) or online at Showtix4u.com.

Calendar Listing of Community-Wide School Events

(continued from page 3)

May (continued)

- 18 FHE Senior Recognition, 9:30 a.m., FHE Gymnasium
- 18 FHC Graduation, 7 p.m., Sunshine Church
- 19 FHE Graduation, 7 p.m., Sunshine Church
- 19 Central Woodlands/CMS Orchestra Spring Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 19 Central Woodlands 6th Grade and CMS Choral Concert, 7 p.m., FHC Auditorium
- 20 FHN Graduation, 7 p.m., Sunshine Church
- 20 Healthy Living Lecture Series, 12:30 p.m., FAC
- 21 Ada Vista Spring Music Program (Grades 1-4), 6:30 p.m., FAC
- 22 No School/Extended Memorial Day Holiday (Inclement Weather Make-Up Day)
- 25 No School/Memorial Day
- 26 Northern Trails 6th Grade/NHMS 7th Grade Spring Choir Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 26 Central Woodlands 6th Grade/Central Middle School 7-8th Grade Band Concert, 7 p.m., FHC Auditorium
- 27 FHPS Foundation Business Advisory Council Meeting, 7 p.m., FAC
- 27 Carol Klooster Herrendeen Artist Reception, 6 p.m., FAC
- 27 OV/KF/EMS Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 28 Northern Trails 6th Grade/NHMS Spring Band Concert, 7 p.m., FHN Auditorium
- 29 Meadow Brook Celebrate the Arts Day, 9 a.m., FAC
- 29 Central Woodlands/CMS Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FHC Auditorium

June

- 1 Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m., FAC
- 2 FHC Underclassmen Honors Assembly, 9 a.m., FHC Gymnasium
- 2 Northern Trails 6th Grade/NHMS Spring Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 2 Knapp Forest 6th Grade Band/Choir Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 4 CMS 8th Grade Celebration, 7 p.m., FAC
- 8 Exams: 7-12 Students Half Day a.m./Record Marking p.m.
- 8 Meadow Brook 4th Grade Music Program and Awards Assembly, 7 p.m., FAC
- 9 K-6 Students Half Day a.m.; Exams 7-12 Students Half Day a.m./Record Marking p.m.
- 9 Ada Elementary Talent Show, 9:15 a.m., Ada Gymnasium
- 9 NHMS 8th Grade Class Night, 7 p.m., FAC
- 10 Collins Student Recognition Assembly, 9 a.m., Collins Gymnasium
- 10 Ada Elementary Awards Ceremony, 9:15 a.m., Ada Gymnasium
- 10 Last day of school K-6 Half Day a.m., 7-12 Students Exams Half Day a.m./Record Marking p.m.
- 17 FHPS Foundation Charlie Anderson Memorial Golf Tournament, Thornapple Pointe, RSVP

July

- 15-17 FAC Summerstock Presents "Hairspray," 7:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Friday Matinee, FAC

For up-to-date calendars and event information, go online to www.fhps.net.

2014-2015 Board of Education Members

Douglas Josephson, President

Mary Vonck, Vice President

Martha Atwater, Secretary

Walter F. Perschbacher III, Treasurer

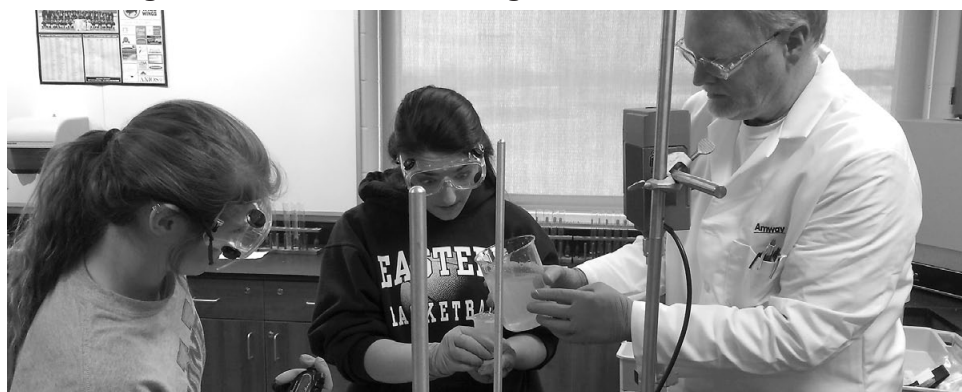
Dr. James Fahner, Trustee

Susan Lenhardt, Trustee

Michael Seekell, Trustee

Daniel Behm, Superintendent

Amway Visits Chemistry Class at FHE



Students from Forest Hills Eastern High School recently had an opportunity to work with chemists from Amway. Amway chemists worked with students and helped teach them about viscosity and pH in shampoo. It was a great way for FHE students to see chemistry in real-world applications. Thank you Amway for coming to Eastern and working with our students.

14 OM Teams Compete at State Finals; 7 Move on to Worlds

Exemplifying the best in creativity, hard work, determination and teamwork, 14 Forest Hills Public Schools Odyssey of the Mind teams took the stage at the State OM Finals. Of the 14 Forest Hills teams, half of the teams have advanced to the World OM Finals at Michigan State University in May. The teams could select their problem to solve, and their problem descriptions are explained here. Teams competing in "Experiencing Technical Difficulties" had to come up with solutions to design, build and demonstrate various devices that complete specific tasks. Teams competing in "Pandora's Box" had to put a video game spin on the story of Pandora's Box. In the "Lose Your Marbles" problem, teams had to design, build and test a structure, made only of balsa wood and glue, that balanced and supported as much weight as possible. The structure also had to hold five marbles that were to be released during weight placement as a result of a team-created device removing a piece of the structure. Finally, in the "Silent Movie" category, teams had to create and present a performance depicting a director character that produces and presents a silent movie featuring a humorous villain that commits three silly acts.

Congratulations to the following teams who will participate on the world stage and represent FHPS at the World OM competition.

Finishing in First Place, Problem 2, Division 1—"Experiencing Technical Difficulties," team members: Catherine Carlen, Ben Paplawsky, Jack Bonner, Will Bonner, Olivia Booth, Jenna Detweiler, and coach Gail Carlen.

Finishing in First Place, Problem 2, Division 2—"Experiencing Technical Difficulties," team members: Nate Kennedy, Caroline Kuntzman, Max VanDoorne, Emily Gabbert, Jack Jendrasiak, Annie Johnston, Will Heiney, and coach Don Kennedy.

Finishing in First Place, Problem 2, Division 3—"Experiencing Technical Difficulties," team members: Sarah Kuntzman, Emily Joseph, Rachel VanGeest, Aryn Hans, Elise Kennedy, Carson VanSkiver, and coach Jamie Kuntzman.

Finishing in First Place, Problem 3, Division 1—"Pandora's Box," team members: Ava Dixon, Hannah Krause, Danny Burns, Jacob Erickson, Jack Woods, Kali Coppess, Gavin O'Meara, and coaches Karen Dixon and Ann-Drea Burns.

Finishing in First Place, Problem 4, Division 3—"Lose Your Marbles," also recipients of the Ranatra Fusca Award, team members: Tanner Atwater, Brooke Bacigal, Josh Cassidy, Evan Martin, Anna Pastyrnak, Camden Pastyrnak, Emily VanDyke-Mathews, and coaches Marti Atwater, Toni Martin and Steve Pastyrnak.

Finishing in Second Place, Problem 5, Division 1—"Silent Movie," team members: Isaac Fiorenzo, Thomas Smith, Sam Schwarze, Spencer Irving, Nick Grooters, Roman Kalaczinski, and coaches Ana Fiorenzo and Cynthia Irving.

Finishing in Second Place, Problem 5, Division 2—"Silent Movie," team members: Mia Rabideau, Sydney Lauer, Oliva Vallone, Ben Rowland, Anna Lawson, Audun Thorson, and coaches Miria Rabideau and Johnny Rabideau.

Additionally, each year, seniors from all over the state compete for four OM college (continued on page 10)



Central Woodlands 5/6 School's Problem 5, Division 1 Team—"Silent Movie"—won second place.




"Water you weighting for?" The sea-themed Odyssey of the Mind team from Central High is still waiting for its structure to break, and that's no bull! After stacking 1,103 pounds atop their 17.9 grams of balsa wood and glue, the structure still held. Pictured from left to right are (kneeling) Emily VanDyke-Mathews and Josh Cassidy and (standing) Anna Pastyrnak, Brooke Bacigal, Tanner Atwater, Evan Martin and Camden Pastyrnak.

Now Accepting Nominations

2015 Ben Emdin Guiding Principles in Action Award

The Ben Emdin Guiding Principles in Action Award recognizes individuals who have had a long-term commitment to Forest Hills Public Schools, have started a project of long-term benefit, and/or have consistently demonstrated the district's guiding principles of respect, caring, collaboration, diversity, learning, trust, open communication, and high expectations. The award recognizes individuals in three categories: student,

community, and business. Residents of the district are invited to nominate anyone who has made a significant contribution to the greater FHPS community. Nominations are due in the Board of Education Office at the Administration Building by Friday, May 1, 2015. Nominations may be submitted using the following form, or emailing the information to Tricia Karnes, tkarnes@fhps.net.



Ben Emdin Guiding Principles in Action Award

Name of Nominee: _____

Category: Student Community Business

Reason for Nomination: _____

Submitted by: _____ Phone: _____

Please return to Forest Hills Public Schools, Attn. Tricia Karnes – Emdin Award, 6590 Cascade Road SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. Fax nominations to: 493-8552. Nominations due: May 1, 2015 at 4 p.m.

eAchieve Coming to High Schools in the Fall of 2015

The Forest Hills Public School district is excited to launch a new high-school initiative for the 2015-2016 school year. This new initiative is called “eAchieve,” and is based on the premise of digital learning and the educational opportunities it affords for students, teachers, and all learners. With eAchieve, beginning on the first day of the 2015-2016 school year, our three high schools—Central, Eastern, and Northern—will encourage all students to bring their own digital device to school for instructional purposes.

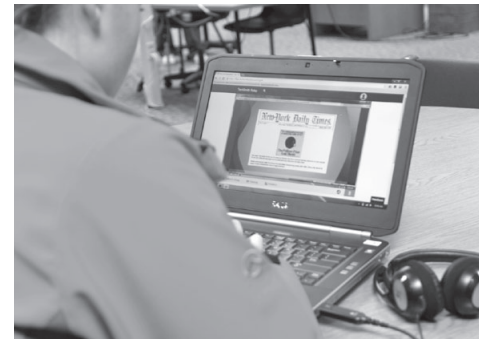
While iPhones, smartphones, and tablets are considered digital devices, the recommended device would be equipped with a larger screen, a keyboard, and Internet capabilities. If families are unable to procure a device for a student, students will be provided with one when required by the teacher.

According to Scott Korpak, assistant superintendent of instruction, as the district continues to supplement traditional hard-cover textbooks with digital resources; some courses may only incorporate a device occasionally, while others will utilize digital resources daily. “From the first day of school, our teachers will collaborate with students about how to best integrate technology and electronic devices in their learning,” Korpak

said. “Digital literacy and digital citizenship will also be addressed.”

Using technology in the classroom and optimizing digital educational resources isn’t something new for Forest Hills. In fact, the implementation of eAchieve in all three FHPS high schools is the result of a year-and-a-half-long pilot program involving students in middle and high school classrooms throughout our district. “As a result of this pilot program, and our additional research and testing, we believe eAchieve will help position our students for success in an increasingly digital, global world,” Korpak said.

“One of the many strengths of our district is our recognition of individual student learning needs; one size does not fit all in education and each learner is different and unique,” said Dan Behm, superintendent. “This is especially true when it comes to using technology in an educational environment. According to Behm, during last year’s eAchieve pilot program, it became apparent that having access to individual digital devices allowed both students and teachers an amazing degree of flexibility, permitting them to leverage their interests and learning styles with global resources.



“Preparing our students for a digital, global world does come at a cost,” Korpak said. “We are grateful for the community’s support of the November 2013 bond election. Bond proceeds have already been allocated to significantly enhance the overall technology infrastructure throughout the Forest Hills Public School district, thus preparing the district’s network to support eAchieve, and other key technology programs.”

According to Korpak under eAchieve, families do not have to rush out and purchase devices, and the district is looking at identifying possible options with a technology vendor which may offer families and students purchasing discounts.

“eAchieve is designed to enhance the educational experience by empowering students to create, communicate and collaborate to reach their individual potential,” Behm stated.

To learn more about eAchieve, students and families are encouraged to attend one of these upcoming meetings:

- Central High School, April 14, 7-8 p.m., Auditorium
- Northern High School, April 15, 7-8 p.m., Media Center
- Eastern High School, April 16, 7-8 p.m., Auditorium

Additional eAchieve information, along with answers to commonly-asked questions, can be found on the district’s website: www.fhps.net.

Lt. Governor Visits District’s Special Education Program at Meadow Brook



Michigan’s Lt. Gov. Brian Calley (front row, center) visited with Meadow Brook Elementary School students who participate in their Project Unify and LINKS peer-to-peer program. Calley’s visit enabled him to receive a first-hand look at some of the amazing, positive things happening in our schools supporting special education and benefiting all students.



Like Us on FB!

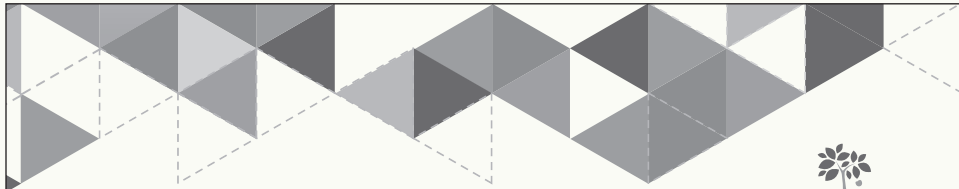
www.facebook.com/fhps.net



FOREST HILLS

PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

April/May 2015



Destination: Innovation

Equipping Teachers to Transform Learning

The vision of Forest Hills Public Schools is to create a new model of education which equips each student with the 21st-century skills they need to be successful.

This includes four essential elements:

- ▶ achieving educational standards
- ▶ project-based rather than subject-based learning
- ▶ individual plans based on a student's progress
- ▶ advanced training for teachers

Creating a new model is exciting, fulfilling, and leading-edge work. Oddly enough, it bears a much stronger resemblance to research and development than it does to traditional education. It is, in fact, true innovation.

The Campaign

The Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation is charged with raising the funds needed for this educational R&D. Our \$500,000 "Destination: Innovation" advancement campaign will fund exploration of new learning methods, structures and ideas. These funds will enrich teachers with essential resources - such as time, training and technology - so they can deliver a new type of learning in a new way.

Exciting concepts keep emerging from both students and faculty as they embrace innovation. This campaign will allow both teachers and students to test and explore the most intriguing paths for research.

Save the Dates

■ 2015 State of the District Luncheon

Thursday, May 7, 2015, 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Watermark Country Club
Chairperson: Allison Martin

■ Business Advisory Council

Wednesday, May 27, 2015, 4 p.m.
Fine Arts Center
Chairperson: Kathy White

■ Charlie Anderson Memorial Golf Tournament

Wednesday, June 17, 2015
Thornapple Pointe Golf Club
Event Chairperson: Brian Sandberg

■ The Gala

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2015
Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park
Event Co-Chairpersons:
Mark and Kellie Custer

Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation
600 Forest Hills Avenue SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-493-8500

Stephanie Taylor, Foundation Coordinator,
staylor@fhps.net

Jana Siminski, Director of Philanthropy,
jsiminski@fhps.net

Show Your Support for Destination: Innovation

You can make a gift to Destination: Innovation online at www.fhpsf.org or by mailing your contribution to 600 Forest Hill Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, 49546. Every gift counts and every dollar matters! At \$10 per student, we would raise over \$100,000. Thank you for your consideration. Together, we can do this!

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

A New Decade

Ten Years and Going Strong

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center 2014-2015 Season



100 YEARS OF BROADWAY

Wednesday, April 22, 2015
7:30pm

\$26 • \$30 • \$32 • \$40

Recreating greatest moments from the finest shows featuring actual stars of *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Miserables*, *CATS* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

Final Show
of the
2014 - 2015
Season!

Show Tickets

Tickets for 100 Years of Broadway on sale now!

Tickets can be purchased in person only at the FHFAC Box Office, at any Ticketmaster outlet, by calling 800-745-3000 or at ticketmaster.com.

Fine Arts Center Box Office: 600 Forest Hill Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546. 616-493-8966

For additional information, visit the Forest Hills Fine Arts Center website at www.fhfineartscenter.com.

Season Sponsors



Upcoming Exhibits

FHPS Student Exhibit

April 16 - May 13, 2015

Artists' Reception: April 21, 6-7:30 p.m.

Carol Klooster Herrendeen

Paintings

May 21 - June 15, 2015

Artist's Reception: May 27, 6-7 p.m.



Presenting Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsors:



FHFAC Calendar

April

- 21 FHPS Student Art Exhibit
Artists' Reception, 6-7:30 p.m.
- 22 FHFAC presents 100 Years
of Broadway, 7:30 p.m.

May

- 20 Healthy Living Lecture Series,
12:30-4:30 p.m.
- 27 Carol Klooster Herrendeen
Artist's Reception, 6-7:30 p.m.

Visit fhfineartscenter.com for all events.

400+ FHPS Students to Perform in LiveArts 2015

On April 24, 2015, over 400 third- through eighth-grade Forest Hills Public Schools students will join their voices with students throughout the greater Grand Rapids community and participate in a vocal ensemble at LiveArts 2015. These FHPS performers will join a 1,000-plus choir and will perform a piece written by Central High School choir director, composer and conductor, Sean Ivory. LiveArts will also include performances

by the Grand Rapids Symphony Chorus, Grand Rapids Youth Symphony, Grand Rapids Symphony Youth Choruses, Opera Grand Rapids, Broadway Grand Rapids, and the Grand Rapids Ballet Company.

For additional information about LiveArts 2015—a unique one-night event at the Van Andel Arena, Friday, April 24, 2015, at 8 p.m., visit grsymphony.org.

School Sports Accolades

- Congratulations to Andy Nikolajuk (FHN ice hockey) who was awarded the Zetterberg High School Hockey Scholarship.
- Congratulations to Andrew Fox (FHC baseball/tennis) on being named a Class A MHSAA Scholar Athlete.
- Jaie Loree, assistant football coach at Eastern High School, was named 2014 Michigan High School Football Coaches Association's Assistant Coach of the Year.

Investing in Our Future: A Bond Update

Many exciting projects will be happening this spring and summer due to the passage of the \$45 million bond issue in 2013. Here is a list of the highlighted projects that are slated to begin in the upcoming months.

- We will break ground on the new auxiliary gym addition on the Eastern Middle/High School campus during spring break.

- The Fine Arts Center will have some roof repairs and exterior waterproofing, as well as the refinishing of the stage and portions of the lobby floor.
- The Aquatics Center will receive a new roof, and repairs will be made to the exterior brick work at this site.
- Central Middle School will receive a new roof.
- Playground improvements will address child safety and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance.

Thank you Forest Hills residents for your continued support of the district's goal to preserve district assets the community has invested in, and maintain a quality educational environment for our students. Additional questions pertaining to bond projects, should be directed to the FHPS Business Office, 616-493-8804, or email Julie Davis, assistant superintendent of business and operations, jdavis@fhps.net.

New Heating Systems Yield Huge Savings

Did you know that by installing a new boiler system at the following schools—Central Middle School, Central Woodlands 5/6, Northern Trails 5/6, and Thornapple Elementary—as part of the district's bond projects, we ultimately saved thousands of dollars in heating costs? In January and February alone, these new boiler systems cut the district's util-

ity costs by an average of 48 percent—saving the district \$29,800 in two months. This was even though February was a near-record coldest month, with average daily temperatures of 13 degrees Fahrenheit, and eight days below zero. Thank you community for your support of the 2013 bond election.



Last summer, four FHPS schools installed new boiler systems as part of the district's bond projects.

Forest Hills Winter 2015 Sports Awards

FHC

Boys' Basketball

MHSAA District Champs
OK Conference Champs

Chad Bauchan (AC)
Alex Dykema (AC)
Ikechukwu Kanu (AC)
Xavier Tillman (AC)

Girls' Basketball

MHSAA District Champs
MHSAA Regional Champs

Jessica Fuller (AC)
Sophia Sanfilippo (AC)

FH United Competitive Cheer Team

OK Conference Champs

Gymnastics

Elliane Siebert (SC)
Cassidy Terhorst (AC, SC)

Ice Hockey

MHSAA Regional Champs
Academic All-State Team

Nicholas Allen (AC, AS, AAS)
Cullen Beaufait (AC, AS)
Luke Easton (AAS)
Lukas Gaudette (AC, AS, AAS)

Ice Hockey (continued)

Christopher Kramer (AAS)
Patrick Lunt (AC, AS, AAS)
Maxwell Meekhoff (AC)
Colin Murphy (AAS)

Boys' Skiing

Keaton Averill (AC)
Benjamin Finkelstein (AC)
Eric Krejci (AC)

Girls' Skiing

OK Conference Champs

Kelsey Lefley (AC, AR)
Katherine Knister (AC, AR)
Sydney Reynolds (AC, AR, AS, SC)

Boys' Swimming/Diving

Karsen Diepholz (AC, AS)
Zachary Hoiles (AC, AS, AAS, AAA)
Nicholas Jansen (AC, AS)
Nicholas Samra (AC, AS, AAS, AAA)
Dakota Weinman (AC)

Wrestling

MHSAA District Champs
Academic All-State Team

Benjamin Fox (AC)
Matthew Mills (AC)

FHE

Boys' Basketball

Steven Harvey (ACHM)

Girls' Basketball

Kaleese Jeffries (AC)
AnnaLee Konsoer-Rose (ACHM)

Competitive Cheer

Brittany Boomers (AC, ADHM)

Rebecca Novitsky (ACHM)

Emilia Novitsky (ACHM)

Macie Pasciak (AC)

Gymnastics

Summer Hagan (ACHM, AR, AS)

Ice Hockey

Wyatt Radakovitz (AC, ASHM)

Boys' Skiing

Nicolas Fereday (AC)
Conrad Kuz (ACHM)
Kelly McDonagh (ACHM)

Girls' Skiing

Grace Greiner (AC, AR)
Andie Schroeter (AC, AR, AA, AS)
Keely Vandenberg (ACHM)

Boys' Swimming/Diving

Nathan Sands (AC, AAS, AAA)
Brendan Lenhardt (AAS, AAA)

Wrestling

Anthony Castillo (AC)
Jacob Dault (AC)
Randy Smith (AC)

Boys' Bowling

Brayden Boomers (AC)
Trevor Wolters (ACHM)

Girls' Bowling

Victoria Schmidt (ACHM)

FHN

Boys' Basketball

Jacob Martin (ACHM)
Amandeep Singh (ACHM)

Girls' Basketball

Mia Havey (ACHM)
Alexis Hill (AC)
Lauren Kozal (ACHM)

Competitive Cheer

Melissa Baughn (AC, AD)
Gabrielle Hensley (AC)
Samantha Spicer (AC)
Jordan Thiede (AC)

Ice Hockey

Chase Lebster (ACHM)
Connor Matulaitis (AC)
Andrew Nikolajuk (AC, ASHM)
Matthew Pakkala (ACHM)

Skiing

Alexander Flory (ACHM)
Benjamin Meyers (AC, AR, AS)

Boys' Swimming/Diving

Jonathan Bloedow (AC, AS)

Wrestling

Casey Brownley (AC)
Connor Bruinius (SQ)

Boys' Bowling

Devon Chandler (ACHM)
Michael Gumbko (SQ)

Girls' Bowling

Amy Doster (ACHM)

Key:

AC = All-Conference

ACHM = All-Conference Honorable Mention

AD = All-District

ADHM = All-District Honorable Mention

AR = All-Region

AA = All-Area

AAHM = All-Area Honorable Mention

AS = All-State

ASHM = All-State Honorable Mention

SQ = State Qualifier

AAS = Academic All-State

SC = State Champion

AAA = Academic All-American

Spring Changes and Student Transitions

Spring brings about many changes—from warmer weather and longer days, to the site of new plant growth peeking through the snow-free ground. For our schools in Forest Hills, it is the time of year we call “Transitions.”

Kindergarten families will or already have attended a kindergarten kickoff event. Fourth-grade families will soon be attending open houses for their soon-to-be fifth-grader, if they will be going to a 5/6 building. Our sixth-grade families have already undertaken the task of selecting classes with their soon-to-be middle-schooler. Current eighth-graders discuss their high school schedule choices with their family. High school seniors are making final choices on their post-secondary adventures.

Transitions between grades, school buildings and high school graduation can be a stressful time in a student's life. In Forest Hills, we try to make these transitions as successful as possible for all students. There are many supportive mechanisms in place and activities we have to promote a positive transition. Some of these include:

- Kindergarten introduction programs;
- School tours;
- Open house events;
- Ambassador programs;
- Meet and greets;
- Pen pal letters;
- Peer-to-peer programs;
- Links program;
- End-of-the-year assemblies to learn from the principal and counselors about the next building;

- Articulation meetings between teachers, administrators, counselors and special education staff;
- Classroom guidance lessons at the beginning of the school year to introduce the counselors and share how they can be a support;
- Counselor visits from feeder schools;
- Scheduled help from counselors;
- And much more.

We know that transitions can cause stress. Many of our teens report feeling stressed. A survey by the American Psychological Association, found that nearly half of all teens said they were stressed by school pressures. Even young children experience stress. Family support is critical in helping the transition process be streamlined and as stress-free as possible.

Here are some ideas that may be helpful at home for your child:

- Encourage your child to talk about the upcoming transition.
 - What are things they are excited about?
 - What are some things they may be worried about?
- Emphasize the positives about the next school they will be attending.
- Help your child become familiar with their new school.
 - Tour the building during open summer hours if possible.

– Attend the parent/family nights held at the new school to help everyone become familiar with your child's new school.

- Listen to, and support, your child through this transition. Remind them that some stress is normal, and even healthy, in anticipation of changes. Often, just being a “listening ear” for your child as they go through these big transitions is the most valuable support you can give.
- For parents of middle-schoolers it is important to remember that this is a time when they want to develop autonomy and friends mean everything, but your presence is needed no matter how much they may push you away.
- By high school, your child is becoming largely independent, making many of their own decisions about how to spend their time. This is a time when they are exercising their increasing freedom, but still need your guidance and unconditional support.

Your child is part of a caring community of educators. If you see changes in behavior that persists, or stress is causing serious anxiety, or if a behavior causes significant problems at home or school, please know that your school counselor is available to offer suggestions and/or outside referrals, if needed. Transitions are a part of every family's life, and FHPS counselors are happy to assist your family through the transitions of the K-12 school years.

Publication information:

The Forest Hills Public Schools' "Focus" newsletter is published bimonthly during the school year by the FHPS Board of Education. It is mailed to all residents of the Forest Hills Public Schools district, and additional copies are sent to every district school for distribution to staff, new residents, and visitors. FHPS is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination of all its programs in relation to race, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability and genetic information.

Odyssey of the Mind Teams Compete

(continued from page 5)

scholarships. This year, all four scholarships were awarded to Forest Hills students. Congratulations to the following seniors: Tanner Atwater, Forest Hills Central High School; Emily Joseph, Forest Hills Northern High School; Sarah Kuntzman, Forest Hills Northern High School; and Evan Martin, Forest Hills Central High School.

“Every team that competed at the state level is a winner by virtue of advancing to the State Finals,” said Marti Atwater, OM coach

for Central High School. “Our teams truly lived out our district's Guiding Principles. The students embraced challenges and gave it their best. They exhibited collaboration, teamwork, caring, loyalty and respect. They even attended one another's performances and supported each FHPS team, even when that meant supporting their opponent when competing head-to-head in various problems and divisions. Everyone should be proud of these students.”

District, School Websites Becoming the Place for Current Information

Residents Encouraged to Sign Up to Receive School, District News Digest Information

Last year, Forest Hills Public Schools' families and residents were asked to take a district climate survey where people provided input on many facets of their school district. One recurring theme was the need to make sure school websites have current, timely, accurate information, and to make sure this information is updated daily.

In an effort to continue to improve our communication, all of our schools will be migrating toward an emailed news bulletin or digest. No longer will families receive numerous emails in one day about announcements, sports practices, field trip reminders, and more. Families will receive one communication news bulletin a day, per school building, if new announcements or news posts have been added to the home page. If nothing has been added that day to the website, families will not receive an email update that day. Additional benefits of the emailed news digest include that communication will be short, clear and concise, and point you or link you to additional information if you need it. No longer will you need to search previous emailed announcements or previous Listservs, since everything will be online.

If you'd like to receive the emailed district news bulletin, here's what you need to do:

1. Visit our web page: www.fhps.net.
2. Find the "Subscribe to" box on the right-hand side of our home page.
3. Fill in your first name, last name, and email address.

Limited Spots Available in the Chinese Immersion Kindergarten Program



Do you have a child entering kindergarten this coming fall? Have you thought about the benefits of a language immersion program, or would like to learn more? The Forest Hills Public Schools Mandarin Chinese Kin-

dergarten Immersion Program, located at Meadow Brook Elementary School, has a few openings for the fall. To learn more about the program, please visit our website, www.fhps.net/immersion, or schedule a classroom visit by contacting Lisa Peabody at 493-8740 or emailing lpeabody@fhps.net. The remaining openings will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

4. Click the Subscribe button. A confirmation message should appear stating that your request was successful and to check your inbox.
5. IMPORTANT: Go to your email inbox and open the confirmation email regarding your subscription, and follow the directions.

By subscribing to the district's news bulletin or any of our schools' bulletins, this will be one of the many ways to stay connected. By signing up to receive the emailed district news bulletin, you're signing up just for district news. If you'd like to receive an emailed news bulletin from a particular school, you must also subscribe by visiting each school's website.

Earlier this year, the district launched SchoolMessenger to communicate urgent and emergency notifications, and the district will continue to look at ways to utilize our SchoolMessenger system to alert families of urgent news. For general news and announcements, the school websites and news emailed bulletins or digests will be your source.

By mainstreaming our communication and keeping everything web-based we're enhancing simplicity and consistency across the district. Should you have any questions about this emailed news bulletin, please email info@fhps.net.

FHPS News Online with School News Network

Forest Hills Public Schools and Kent Intermediate School District are very excited to bring Forest Hills residents School News Network. This news site has the feel of a newspaper, with all the advantages of a website, and is staffed with experienced journalists and columnists who are passionate about education. FHPS news will now be featured on School News Network, and the best way for the community to access this news is by clicking on the School News Network button on the right-hand side of the district's website's home page: www.fhps.net. You can search stories by topics, by school district(s) and much more. School News Network brings stories out of our classrooms and into the community!

Calling All FHC Alumni of the Class of '85 and '86

The Forest Hills Central High School Graduating Class of 1985 and 1986 will be getting together for a homecoming reunion, Oct. 10, 2015. We encourage all alumni to reach out to their fellow classmates to inform them of this event. More information can be found on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/groups/fhc1985. For additional information, email Brad Reincke, brad@concreteprep.com.

FHN Looking for Baseball Alumni

The athletic department at Forest Hills Northern High School is looking for assistance in putting together an alumni database about Husky baseball information. The department is in need of varsity teams, players' names and records. If you'd like to assist with this endeavor, please email Pat Edwards, pedwards58@aol.com.

Think Summer Day Camp

FHPS will once again offer the Summer Day Camp program at Central Woodlands. Our experienced staff is ready to engage your child all summer long in fun-filled activities. Online registration begins April 15, 2015. Visit www.fhps.net/child-care for registration and additional information or call the Child Care Services Office at 493-8787.



Forest Hills Public Schools

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Enroll Your Family in Youth and Adult Classes This Spring and Summer!

Aquatic Center Classes

Empower your child with the skills to enjoy the water as a lifelong activity. The Aquatic Center offers the American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim program on Saturday mornings from 9:10 a.m. to noon for ages 5 and above. Each class is 50 minutes long. For spring, classes start April 18 and end on May 16. For summer, classes are available in three sessions—all in the months of June and July. Preschool swimming lessons are offered on weekdays during the spring and summer. Visit our website at enjoylearning.com for more information.

Want to enjoy some revitalizing water exercise before or after a long day of work? We offer day and evening water exercise classes that fit your schedule this spring. All of our adult water exercise classes are co-ed.

Youth Classes and Sports

Run for the Hills Track Club—This is a great activity for first- through sixth-graders. Students will train for a track meet scheduled for May 19 at Forest Hills Eastern High School. Track practice will meet for five weeks.

Indoor Tennis for Beginners/Returning Students—This class is for first- and second-graders and is perfect for the beginning tennis player or the returning player who wants to continue improving their technique!

Kendall College Presents Painting, Clay Sculptures and Drawing Classes—A variety of classes are available to students who want to explore the world of art and create with their own hands. A variety of classes are offered for first- through fourth-graders.

Open Hoops— This class is open to all fifth- and sixth-graders in the district who want to shoot hoops, play some 3-on-3, indulge in

a free throw contest (with prizes) and burn some energy with an open basketball venue.

Girls' Volleyball—This program will be an opportunity for not only the beginner player but also those girls who want to improve their skills. It's for girls in fifth and sixth grade.

CREW Soccer—Geared toward boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 7, this class promotes the advancement of individual technical skills while developing a passion for the game.

Pre-Ballet and Creative Movement—Classes for 3- to 7-year-olds are taught by the skilled staff at Michigan Ballet Academy.

Etiquette—This class is for boys and girls in second through fourth grades. Contemporary manners are blended with traditional etiquette to teach students how to be at ease in a variety of social settings.

Irish Dance—This class is for boys and girls in second through fifth grades. Students will learn the basics of Irish dance along with a jig, and a group dance, ceili.

Co-ed Lacrosse for Beginners—This is a class for third- and fourth-graders and will teach the basic game knowledge needed and the proper game-playing techniques.

Register for all classes at enjoylearning.com.

Wonderful Classes for Adults

Community Services has added 15 new classes this spring and summer for the adult learner. Classes such as photography, email etiquette, utilizing an iPad, and selling items on Etsy, to using Microsoft SharePoint 2013, things you should know about Social Security, long-term care planning, and self-improvement classes are being offered. Don't miss this opportunity to learn something new. Register today through enjoylearning.com.

Healthy Living

Lecture Series 2015

It's All Free!

Wednesday, May 20

12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

Keynote Presentation by

Juliet Dragos

WZZM TV-13

1 p.m.



Professionals from Mercy Health will present two 30-minute presentations with 15 minutes for questions and answers.

- **Brain Health: What Can You Do to Remain Young?, 2 p.m.**
- **Relief from Shoulder Pain Through Surgery, 3 p.m.**



Stay the Afternoon ...

- Exhibitor booths and health screenings
- Door prizes include \$200 gift cards from Forest Hills Foods and Fuel; and \$250 VISA gift cards from Founders Bank & Trust, a division of Old National Bank
- Healthy snacks provided

Visit enjoylearning.com

Reservations not required.



Community Services

Forest Hills Public Schools