



focus



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Eighteen FHPS High School Students Recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program

Every year, Forest Hills Public Schools ranks among the top high schools in Michigan for students recognized at various levels by the National Merit Scholarship Program. This year, 18 Forest Hills students have reached high levels of honor and recognition.

Semifinalists

About 16,000 students, or approximately one-third of the 50,000 high scorers on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, are named semifinalists. To ensure that academically talented young people from all parts of the United States are included in this talent pool, semifinalists are designated on a state-representational basis. They are the highest scoring entrants in each state. This year's semifinalists from Forest Hills Central High School include Emma Kraimer, Jared Richardson, Tasneem Sannah, Taylor Schermers, and Nicholas Todoroff; from Forest Hills Eastern High School are Spencer Linn, John Rumery, Natalie Shabahang and Jonathan Thomas; and from Forest Hills Northern High School is Victoria Spiegel. Semifinalists must advance to a finalist standing in the competition by meeting high academic standards and other requirements. Finalists will be announced in February 2015.

(continued on page 4, column 1)

Central High School



Emma Kraimer, Nicholas Todoroff, Taylor Schermers, Jared Richardson and Tasneem Sannah, Semifinalists



Kevin Pope, Eric Krejci, Alexander Girgis and Alison Farmer, Commended Scholars

Eastern High School



Jonathan Thomas, Spencer Linn, John Rumery and Natalie Shabahang, Semifinalists



Brendan Lenhardt, Commended Scholar

Eastern High School



Amrit Deol, Nat'l. Achievement Scholarship Program Semifinalist

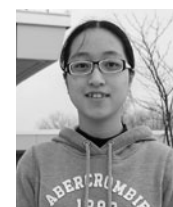


Malaya Stewart, Nat'l. Achievement Scholarship Program Outstanding Participant

Northern High School



Victoria Spiegel, Semifinalist



Chu-Yuan Chu, Commended Scholar

Bond Update

Community Invited to Open House on Dec. 15 to See Eastern's New Addition

The community is invited to an open house, Monday, Dec. 15, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. to tour the new secure entrance addition to the Forest Hills Eastern Middle and High School building. The open house will occur prior to the board of education meeting, also held at Eastern.

"We are very excited to be opening this beautiful addition to the Eastern campus and more importantly enjoy the additional level of security this entrance offers," said Steve Harvey, Eastern High School principal. "We are incredibly thankful to the supportive Forest Hills community for recognizing the importance of having a safe, secure building for our students and staff."

This addition allows for a greater level of security for the Eastern campus, as all persons arriving to the building must now enter into a main office area and go through a secure checkpoint or sign in area. This new addition houses the high school office personnel including the high school

principal, assistant principals, counselors, registrar and support staff. The existing office in the center of the building now houses the middle school office administration and support staff.

As routinely reported in the "Focus" newsletter, we like to keep our community up to date on things that have occurred as a result of the voters approving a \$45 million bond issue in November of 2013 with funds going toward safety and security, building improvements and technology. In the spring of 2014, the district secured the first series of bonds, or \$25 million. The remaining \$20 million will be issued in the future at a time determined by the board of education. To avoid disruption in student instruction, much of the work that has been done, and will be done in the future, will occur during the summer months.

To see a list of completed projects and those targeted for 2015 and 2016, visit the district's website: www.fhps.net.



The Forest Hills Eastern Middle School and High School building addition features a secure entrance for all persons entering the facility as well as high school administrative offices.

District Receives Strong Financial Ratings

FHPS Board Approves the Refinancing of Bonds; Saves District, Community Nearly \$7 Million

At the Oct. 20, 2014, meeting of the Forest Hills Public Schools Board of Education, the board unanimously approved the refinancing of its 2005 bonds—ultimately saving the school district almost \$7 million. By approving the refinancing of the bonds, the interest rate decreased from 5 percent to 1.7 percent.

"By refinancing these bonds at a lower interest rate, it allows the district to meet our other debt obligations without needing to raise taxes," said Doug Josephson, school board president.

The district also has received an Aa2 rating from Moody's Investors Service, with strong financial management being a contributing factor, and the district has been awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Association of Schools Business Officials International.

According to Josephson, only a small handful of school districts receive these exceptional financial ratings. "We are extremely thankful for our community support in our educational endeavors and thank our district for being good stewards of financial resources," Josephson concluded.

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

Enjoy the Winter Break!

December 22 - January 2 • School Resumes January 5

Upcoming District Events

Calendar Listing of Community-Wide School Events

December

- 1-19 Kdg. Language Immersion Enrollment for Siblings of Currently Enrolled Immersion Students
- 11 Eastern Middle School Choir Concert, 7 p.m., FHE
- 11 NHMS/FHN Winter Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 13 ACT Testing, 8 a.m., FHC
- 14 FHN Winter Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 14 Forest Hills Adult Community Band Concert, 2:30 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 15 Jim Brickman On a Winter's Night, 7:30 p.m., FAC
- 15 Community Open House/Tour of Eastern Building Addition, 6:30-7:30 p.m., FHE
- 15 Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Eastern Middle School
- 15 Orchard View, Knapp Forest, Eastern Middle 6th-8th Band Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 16 Northern Trails 6th Grade Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., Northern Trails Cafe
- 16 FHE Band Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 17 FHE Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 17 FHN Winter Choir Concert, 7:30 p.m., FAC
- 18 Gingerbread House Craft Day and Musical Performance, 10 a.m., Meadow Brook Kdg.
- 18 FHE Choir Concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 18 FHN High School Band Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 19 Last Day for Students/Staff Before Break
- 19 First Forest Hills Special Olympics Basketball Game (Halftime), FHE
- 22-1/2 No School for Students/Staff – Holiday Recess (10 Days)

January

- 5 School Resumes
- 5-21 Language Immersion Enrollment Open for Any Forest Hills Resident
- 13 Central Middle School National History Night, 6:30 p.m., CMS Media Center
- 13 FHE Symphony Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 15 FHN One Act Plays, 7 p.m., FHN Auditorium
- 15 Reception for Artist-in-Residence Stone Peng, 6 p.m., FAC
- 16 Meadow Brook Family Dance and Game Night, 6 p.m., Meadow Brook Gym
- 16 FHN One Act Plays, 7 p.m., FHN Auditorium
- 17 Central Middle School Restaurant Night, 5 p.m., CMS Cafeteria
- 19 Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Ada Vista Elementary
- 20-21 Exams: 7-12 Students Half Day a.m./7-12 Record Marking p.m.
- 22 Exams: 7-12 Students Half Day a.m./7-12 Record Marking p.m.
- 22 No School for K-6 Students/K-6 Record Marking
- 23 No School for Students/Record Marking
- 23 FHE Orchestra Performance/Mich. Music Conference, DeVos Performance Hall, 1 p.m.
- 27 Orchard View 2nd Grade Music Program, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 30 Ada Readers' Night, 6:30 p.m., Ada Elementary
- 31 FHC's Random Acts of Talent, 7:30 p.m., FAC
- 31 FHN Hosts MSBOA Solo & Ensemble, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., FHN

February

- 2 Meadow Brook 4th Grade Music Program, 7 p.m., FAC
- 5 FHE National Honor Society Blood Drive, 7:30 a.m., FHE Gym
- 9 Forest Hills Special Olympics Basketball Game, Halftime, Grand Rapids Drive Game
- 11 Second Count Day
- 11 FHN Northern's Got Talent, 7:30 p.m., FHN Auditorium
- 12 Reception for Artist-in-Residence Marissa Voytenko, 6 p.m., FAC
- 13 No School for Students and Staff/Mid-Winter Break
- 16 No School for Students/Mid-Winter Break/Staff Professional Learning
- 16 Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Northern Hills Middle School
- 18 Central Middle School Choral Performance, 4th-12th Grade, 7 p.m., FHC Auditorium
- 19 Knapp Forest 2nd Grade Musical, 7 p.m., KF Gym
- 19 FHN Jazz Coffeehouse, 7 p.m., FHN Commons Area
- 19-21 FHE Presents "The Music Man," 7 p.m.; Matinee Feb. 21 at 3 p.m., FAC
- 24 Symphonic Orchestra Masterworks Clinic Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 24 Northern Trails 5/6 Chinese Immersion New Year's Dinner, 5 p.m., Ming Ten
- 25 Young Choral Gala, 8 p.m., FHN
- 25 FHC/FHE/FHN Concert Orchestra Soiree, 7 p.m., FAC
- 26 5th-12th Grade FHN Band Concert, 7 p.m., FAC
- 26 NT/NHMS/FHN Combined Band Concert, 7 p.m., FAC

For the most up-to-date calendar of school events, visit the district's website: www.fhps.net.

Eastern Symphony Selected to Perform at DeVos Performance Hall, Jan. 23

The Eastern High School Symphony Orchestra has been selected as one of two high schools in the state of Michigan to perform at the 2015 Michigan Music Conference. This honor was earned by submitting a recording of their 2014 February concert to the Michigan Music Conference committee, which listens to each submission in a competitive, "blind audition" format. Performing at this conference is considered the highest school honor for a musical ensemble. The Eastern Symphony Orchestra will perform at DeVos Performance Hall on Friday, Jan. 23, at 1 p.m. Come support one of the many fine aspects of the Forest Hills' music program and show pride in our students as well as the orchestra, band, and choir educators who will be in attendance from across the state. Tickets may be purchased at DeVos Performance Hall on the day of the performance.

FHE's "The Music Man"

February 19-21, 7 p.m.

February 21, 3 p.m.

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

There's trouble in River City! "The Music Man" follows fast-talking traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa, into buying instruments and uniforms for a boys' band he vows to organize—this despite the fact he doesn't know a trombone from a treble clef. His plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when he falls for Marian, the librarian. This lively and fun-filled musical is perfect for your entire family!

Advance tickets are \$9 for adults, \$7 for students 18 and younger, and all are \$10 at the door. Visit the FHE theater website, www.fhetheatre.com for more information.

Cover Photo

FHPS Teacher of the Year Meg Deegan is surrounded by her fourth-grade students at Ada Elementary School. For more about this teacher and the award, please see the Teacher of the Year article on page 4.

NHMS Takes 2nd!



Congratulations to Northern Hills Middle School students who recently earned a second place finish in the Math-Team-Matics competition. The team participated in a "quadrathlon" of four events—team challenge, individual test, relay race and quiz bowl. The event was hosted by Grand Valley State University's department of mathematics and the Regional Math Science Center at GVSU. Congratulations to teacher, Bryan Hoekstra, and the students representing Northern Hills Middle School.

National Merit Scholarship Prog.

(continued from page 1)

Commended Scholars

About 34,000 of the approximately 50,000 high scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT receive letters of commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise. Commended students are named on the basis of a nationally applied index score that may vary from year to year. Although commended students do not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, some of these students do become candidates for special scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses. This year's commended scholars include from Forest Hills Central High School, Alison Farmer, Alexander Girgis, Eric Krejci, and Kevin Pope; from Forest Hills Eastern High School is Brendan Lenhardt; and from Forest Hills Northern High School is Chu-Yuan Chu.

National Achievement Scholarship Program

The National Achievement Scholarship Program, under the National Merit Scholarship Program, is a privately financed academic competition that operates without government assistance. It too provides scholarships to a substantial number of the most outstanding program participants as noted by scores on the PSAT/NMSQT. Forest Hills Eastern High School had two students receive recognition in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. They include semifinalist Amrit Deol, and outstanding participant Malaya Stewart.

2015 Teacher of the Year: Meg Deegan

Every year, Forest Hills Public Schools, along with the Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation, recognizes an individual who really is an ambassador chosen from the ranks of their colleagues to serve as a public face for the people who serve in education in Forest Hills. This year, we are pleased to announce the 2015 Forest Hills Public Schools Teacher of the Year is Meg Deegan. Deegan ultimately will serve as an ambassador for the hundreds of great teachers and phenomenal employees who serve all of our students and families within our district.

Deegan has taught third and fourth grades at Ada Elementary School for 20 years. She has also taught in four other school districts in four other states prior to coming to Forest Hills. She loves kids, which she says is the best part of her job, and enjoys helping a child who has been struggling meet success

for the first time. She has been a pioneer with the Collaborative Learning Labs and nurturing the best form of professional development that Forest Hills has—learning from one another.

She, and Tom, her husband, have two children who are graduates of Forest Hills Central High School. When not working, she loves to travel with her husband to see their children who are now in Los Angeles and Chicago, and see sights around the 50 states and beyond.

"Meg is a phenomenal teacher, educator, colleague and person," said Dan Behm, superintendent. "She will be an equally phenomenal ambassador for the multitude of staff who have the talents and character of Meg Deegan. Congratulations."



Meg Deegan (center) is surrounded by her fourth-grade students at Ada Elementary, as she represents all educators and staff in the Forest Hills Public School District helping all students achieve their individual potential.

State Principals' Association Honors Ada Principal with 2014 Regional Honors Award



Principal Jo Anderson

Congratulations to Jo Anderson, principal of Ada Elementary School, for being awarded the 2014 Regional Honors Award for Region 9 by the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals' Association. The award is designed to recognize outstanding principals whose contributions to the profession are exemplary and who have exhibited extraordinary leadership, commitment to their students and faculty, service to their com-

munities and contributions to the overall profession. Anderson has been in education for 32 years. She was a teacher for 17 years for grades kindergarten through eighth, was a consultant for the Forest Hills Public School's Gifted and Talented Educational program (G.A.T.E.WAYS) for 11 years, and she is beginning her fifth year as principal at Ada Elementary School. She received her master's degree from Grand Valley State University. When she's not at Ada Elementary, Anderson enjoys spending time with Mark, her husband, and Ian and Quaid, their two sons.

Schools Continue to Honor Veterans

Although Tuesday, Nov. 11, is considered Veterans Day, students throughout Forest Hills Public Schools show their support to our veterans year-round. According to Mike Lareau, Pine Ridge Elementary School principal, it's important for students to learn about the history of our country throughout the year. Lareau also stated it's important for students to acknowledge the sacrifices men and women have made, and continue to make, to defend our freedoms. Here is just a sampling of activities that occurred last month throughout our district to honor our veterans.

- Pine Ridge Elementary School hosted a special lunch for veterans, something they have been doing for almost 10 years. This year, 70 veterans joined the children to share stories and a meal, but more importantly share their valuable time with today's generation.
- Ada Vista Elementary School had a Tower of London backdrop decorated with 888,246 ceramic poppies to commemorate the soldiers who died in World War I, exactly 100 years ago. The students also created poems, decorated cards and placemats and delivered them to nursing homes throughout the community.
- Forest Hills Northern High School held their annual Veterans Day assembly where they honored numerous veterans in attendance and discussed the role of our military



Enjoying the Veterans Day Lunch at Pine Ridge Elementary School are third grader Sydney Ryan, veteran Ray Winkel (Sydney's great-grandfather), and Steph Ryan (Sydney's mom and Ray's granddaughter).

in the United States and the sacrifices men and women make to defend our country. The assembly was organized by FHN teacher, David Fouch.

- Central Woodlands 5/6 School continued their "We are Family" theme and had a teacher's spouse, an active Army sergeant, discuss the importance of the armed forces, the role the military plays in our country, and the importance of our freedoms.
- Ada Elementary School child care students decorated and mailed Veterans Day cards to area care facilities.
- Collins Elementary School had students make cards of "Thanksgiving" and delivered them to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.

Thank you to all of our military men and women and our veterans for your service to our country.

FHPS Becomes "Greener"

Over the summer, Forest Hills Public Schools requested bids for revised waste handling practices. The goal was to change the district's waste handling practices from trash removal and cardboard-only recycling, to a more comprehensive, single-stream recycling program. Beginning Nov. 1, FHPS is now a single-stream recycler. What does that mean? Our new recycling dumpsters will allow collection of paper, cardboard, metal, glass and plastic containers. This will allow all of our buildings to recycle more, reduce the waste that is going to our landfills, and in turn, save money.

The changes are already providing results. At the FHPS Food Service and Operations site, we previously had an 8-yard trash container that was partially full and emptied three times per week. We also had a 6-yard recycle container that was being emptied



once per week. By revising our waste sorting methods, we have changed to a 4-yard waste container, alongside the current 6-yard recycling container.

The biggest change? The recycling container is full, and both trash and recycling-only need to be picked up once per week—reducing our monthly costs at this location by nearly 65 percent. This is just one example at one of our sites.

According to Ron Boezwinkle, FHPS director of operations, "It's our intent to continue to evaluate our waste handling practices at all FHPS sites to achieve similar reductions in cost, and more importantly, reduce the amount of waste that is headed to our local landfills."



Snow, Ice, Windchills and School Closings

Living in Michigan, snow and ice are inevitable. It's important that you're informed of school closings and delays. When weather conditions or utility problems cause a change in the school day schedule, radio and television sites are notified immediately, and parents are encouraged to use these primary sources for information. Additional sources to check include the district's website, www.fhps.net, the district's Facebook page, and other email systems you may have signed up for to receive news and information from your particular school or school principal.

When school is closed due to winter weather conditions, after-school activities for the day will be canceled at all levels unless specified otherwise. Also, all Community Services classes held for youth and adults are canceled when school is closed.

But snow and ice aren't the only things that may cause school closures in Forest Hills, as experienced last year with the extreme windchills. As a general guide, school superintendents in West Michigan, in consultation with the National Weather Service, many years ago developed a marker of a sustained windchill reading of -30 (F) as the boundary for school closure and/or event cancellation. Although it is extremely rare for our region to experience sustained windchill readings at this level, it has occurred. At this windchill reading, the time children would reasonably wait at a bus stop opens up the chances for frostbite and other health complications. Forest Hills administrators watch weather conditions and temperatures very carefully each morning.

Regardless if windchill readings necessitate a closing or not, we do know that Michigan's winters can be frigid. Always remember to make sure you and your children are prepared for unusually cold temperatures these coming months and stay up to date with information from local news media stations and the district's website.

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center



A New Decade

Ten Years and Going Strong

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center 2014-2015 Season Continues...



JIM BRICKMAN

ON A WINTER'S NIGHT

Monday, December 15, 2014

7:30 pm

\$32 • \$34 • \$40 • \$44

Best-selling solo pianist of our time, Jim Brickman, on his 18th annual holiday tour, will once again wow audiences across America with *On A Winter's Night*.



THE VERY BEST OF CELTIC THUNDER

Friday, March 27, 2015

7:30 pm

\$44 • \$46 • \$50 • \$60

This tour features an eclectic collection of the group's best-loved and most popular songs from the past seven years, married with their huge signature sound, dramatic lighting and imposing set fans love.



100 YEARS OF BROADWAY

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

7:30 pm

\$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*.

Show Tickets

- Tickets for all three remaining shows 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 Artist-in-Residence Exhibits

Stone Peng

Photography

Jan. 8-29, 2015

Artist's Reception:
Jan. 15, 6-7 p.m.



Marissa Voytenko

Encaustic Painting

Feb. 4-27, 2015

Artist's Reception:
Feb. 12, 6-7 p.m.



Presenting Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsors:



daylily

FHFAC Calendar

December

15 FHFAC presents Jim Brickman
On a Winter's Night, 7:30 p.m.

January

15 Stone Peng artist's reception,
6-7 p.m.

February

12 Marissa Voytenko artist's
reception, 6-7 p.m.

View our complete event calendar
at www.fhfineartscenter.com.



FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

December 2014/January 2015



FOREST HILLS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Dear Forest Hills Community:

Our mission is to provide funding for all areas of academic excellence and **we need your help!**

Now, more than ever, the need to fund exemplary schools and invest in the future successes of our children is paramount. *We must look beyond government resources to build brighter futures for our children.* As we embark into the future, our vision for Forest Hills Public Schools is to create a new model of education which equips every student with the twenty-first century skills essential for success. To create this new system of learning and maintain our leadership position for decades to come, we must attract research and development funding from individuals and companies who want to invest in education and our youth. **We can't rely on the state to fund excellence.**

Your gift to the Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation will create opportunities for innovation. The Foundation will provide the capital needed to fund the research and development of innovations which can lead to new levels of excellence. Once those innovations have been tested and proven, the Foundation can then provide the funds to scale them to the entire district!

It's people like you who help make excellence in education possible. Your gift will help us do more in the classroom and transcend school walls. It will inspire, encourage, and stimulate innovation and creativity. For those of you who have been long-term partners with us, we ask that you consider joining our Major Giving Society, the Superintendent's Circle. While a gift of any size will ensure we continue to meet the needs of the district, a gift in our Superintendent's Circle will allow us to reach further and aide us on the path of creating sustainable funding.

Your generosity and support of Forest Hills Public Schools are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Daniel S. Behm
FHPS Superintendent

Jeff Tuori
FHPS Foundation Chairman

We fund/support exceptional learning opportunities such as:



Biology: Dogfish Shark Dissection



Industrial Arts: Sport Boards Development



Engineering Technology: Robotic Innovations

Please Join Us!

Support excellence today by using the enclosed envelope or by giving online at www.fhpsf.org.

Since 1984, the Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation has distributed \$1,137,971 in individual teacher grants. Your gifts will help us to continue to fund academic excellence in all of our schools! Please visit www.fhpsf.org for a list of all 2014 fall grants.

Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation

Jana Siminski

600 Forest Hill Avenue SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49546

616-493-8954 or jsiminski@fhps.net

www.fhpsf.org

FHPS Announces Kindergarten Enrollment Information for Its Dual Language Immersion Programs

At Forest Hills Public Schools, we are dedicated to and are driven by our vision of all learners achieving individual potential. In our district's two dual language immersion programs, we adhere to this district vision in two languages. Whether your avenue is early-total Spanish immersion, or 50/50 immersion in Mandarin Chinese, there are pathways to bilingualism and bi-literacy through immersion education beginning in kindergarten here in FHPS. In our dual language immersion programs, we emphasize three goals of dual language immersion education: 1. Achievement of grade-level content expectations (Common Core State Standards/FHPS Curriculum Standards); 2. Attainment of high levels of target language performance and proficiency; and 3. Awareness, appreciation and sensitivity for world cultures.

There are two ways a student is accepted into a dual language immersion program, but first and foremost, the student must be a resident in the Forest Hills Public School District attendance area. Students enter the program in one of two ways: 1. Through siblings or 2. In-District lottery. The enrollment process is outlined here.

Through Siblings

- Currently-enrolled immersion students receive pre-registration forms at the end of November to enroll siblings.
- Families have from Dec. 1 through the last day before holiday break to bring in to the school office (either Ada Vista or Meadow Brook) the following: completed pre-registration form, birth certificate (original, with raised seal) and two proofs of residency (Note: a driver's license is NOT an acceptable proof of residency).
- If the pre-enrollment form is not submitted prior to the last day before holiday break, late submissions will be added to the in-district lottery.

In-District Lottery

- Beginning the Monday we return from holiday break until Jan. 21, 2015, interested FHPS resident families may bring into the school office (Ada Vista or Meadow Brook) the following: completed pre-registration form (available to pick up/complete at Meadow Brook and Ada Vista offices), birth certificate, (original, with raised seal), and two proofs of residency (Note: a driver's

license is NOT an acceptable proof of residency.).

- The computer-generated, random lottery is conducted at the FHPS administration office approximately one week after the deadline for form submission.
- Approximately one week after the lottery is conducted, acceptance and wait-list informational letters are sent to families.
- If the pre-enrollment form is not submitted by Jan. 21, 2015, late submissions will be added to the end of the waiting list.

To learn more about our dual language immersion programs and to determine whether a program is a good fit for your kindergarten, we encourage families to tour both schools. Please call today to schedule an appointment. To learn more about the Spanish Immersion Program, call Ada Vista Elementary School, 493-8970. To learn more about the Mandarin Chinese Immersion Program, call Meadow Brook Elementary School, 493-8740. For additional information about dual language immersion education, visit our website: www.fhps.net/immersion.

January Registration Begins for Traditional and Spanish Immersion Preschools for Fall of 2015

Forest Hills Public Schools offers many fee-based options for preschoolers. We have both traditional and Spanish Immersion preschool programs. In addition, the Great Start Readiness Program, a 4-year-old preschool offered through the Kent Intermediate School District, is a free preschool option for qualifying families.

There are two traditional preschool programs licensed by the State of Michigan run by Forest Hills Public Schools. One is located at Ada Elementary, 731 Ada Drive SE, and the other one is located at Knapp Forest Elementary, 4243 Knapp Valley Drive NE. The Spanish Immersion preschool is housed at Ada Vista Elementary, 7192 Bradfield SE. Transportation to and from the preschool programs is the responsibility of parents/guardians. The preschools follow the Forest



Tyler Teliczan, a preschool student at Ada Elementary School, is busy cutting out shapes for a craft project.

Hills District calendar. For the traditional and the 4-year-old Spanish Immersion programs, children must be independent bathroom users and 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2015. For the 3-year-old Spanish Immersion preschool program, children must also be

independent bathroom users and 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2015.

The Great Start Readiness Program is tuition-free, state grant funded preschool program for qualifying families and is housed at Collins Elementary, 4368 Heather Lane SE. The program requires children to be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2015. Kent Intermediate School District provides oversight for the GSRP classrooms in 18 school districts. Registration information can be obtained by calling the Great Start Preschool Intake at 616-447-2409.

Online registration for the traditional and Spanish immersion preschools for the 2015-2016 school year begins on Monday, Jan. 26, 2015. Families will receive confirmation (continued on page 9, column 1)

Forest Hills Public Schools

Mandarin Chinese, Spanish Immersion Kindergarten Pre-Registration

**Begins Dec. 1, 2014,
for Siblings of Students
Currently Enrolled
in the Program**

**Begins Jan. 5, 2015,
for FHPS Residents**

If you'd like to learn more about dual language immersion and are wondering if a program is right for your kindergartner, we encourage you to call Ada Vista Elementary to sign up for a tour of the Spanish Immersion Program, 493-8970, and call Meadow Brook Elementary to sign up for a tour of the Mandarin Chinese Immersion Program, 493-8740.

For additional information about our language immersion programs, visit: www.fhps.net/immersion.



Traditional and Spanish Immersion Preschools

(continued from page 8)

when the child's birth certificate and \$50 non-refundable registration fee (check, cash or credit card) are received in the Child Care Services Office located at 150 Alta Dale Avenue SE.

Non-resident families may register after April 13, 2015. Registrations will continue until all classes are full. Please note that enrollment in the Spanish immersion preschool does not guarantee entrance in the Spanish immersion kindergarten program.

For additional information and preschool open house dates in January, please visit the Child Care website: www.fhps.net/child-care/preschool-programs/ or call the Child Care Services Office at 616-493-8787.

Child Care Services Available; Make Plans for Inclement Weather Days

Have you ever wondered what you can do if school is canceled due to inclement weather and you need care for your child?

The Forest Hills Public Schools Child Care Services provides care on inclement weather days for children registered in the Kids Care and/or the before- and after-care programs. Please note: Preschoolers are unable to receive care on inclement weather days unless they are registered in the Kids Care program and/or the before- and after-care program. On inclement weather days, two child care sites are open for care:

- Central Woodlands 5/6 School (open for child care servicing the following schools): Ada, Central Woodlands 5/6, Thornapple, Pine Ridge

- Northern Trails 5/6 School (open for child care servicing the following schools): Ada Vista, Collins, Knapp Forest, Meadow Brook, Northern Trails 5/6, Orchard View

Breakfast and snacks are provided. Families need to pack a sack lunch with drink. Care is available from 6:45 a.m. - 6:15 p.m. Cost is \$45 per day; with a half day (under 5 hours) rate of \$25. Please note that an account needs to be current to receive child care service on inclement weather days.

For additional information, including enrollment information, visit the FHPS website: www.fhps.net/child-care or call the Child Care Services Office at 616-493-8787.

Many Hands Make Light Work



Students and parents came together on the grounds of Orchard View Elementary School to beautify an area that needed a little tender loving care. It's an outside classroom space the students refer to as the "Outback." New Orchard View teacher, Anne Keller, spearheaded the transformation and refurbishment project, and several students, families and community members lent a hand. With donated help from DJ's Lawn Service, the students and families cleared away trees, poison ivy and much more. The Outback was painted this fall thanks to Orchard View's PTO. A student bench and work area will be added thanks to a grant from the Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation. The pavilion was built years ago and dedicated to former Orchard View principal, Craig Mears.



Soup's On!

Each year thousands of individuals paint bowls for the "Soup's On" event that benefits free meal programs to Kent County residents in need. This year, Northern Hills Middle School students partnered with Catholic Charities of West Michigan and painted bowls to be given as souvenirs for guests who attend this year's fundraiser. The Soup's On event is set for Jan. 16, 2015, at The B.O.B, at 6:30 p.m. For more information on the event, visit: <http://ccwestmi.org/events/soup-s-on-for-all>. Students at NHMS have opportunities each month to volunteer their time after school for a variety of agencies.

Class Seeks Partnership with World-Leader in Snowboards

So what does a class for seniors that designs skateboards, snowboards, paddleboards and surfboards have to do with school? You may be surprised. In partnership with Bruce Macartney, industrial arts teacher, and Bill Curtis, physical education teacher, the duo has taught students the art and science of making boards for recreational purposes. However, the students have learned a lot more along the way. Now this one-of-a-kind-class is being noticed on a world stage.

Recently, 11 students from Forest Hills Eastern High School took their learning outside of their school walls. Not only have they traveled to Cannonsburg Ski Area and Lake Michigan to test their knowledge, but now they've taken their ideas and concepts out of Michigan to Burlington, Vt. where they pitched their ideas to the world leader in snowboard design—Burton Snowboard Company. While at Burton, the students discussed ways in which they could partner with Burton not only in designing boards, but really in the importance of an educational curriculum that would begin in the lower grades learning about science, industrial arts and combining concepts with fun physical fitness. Although exact plans for the partnership are still being ironed out, the teacher team is confident for an exciting future for Forest Hills students teaming up with Burton.

"The students were treated to a first-class experience in touring Burton's facilities, including their research and development prototyping lab," Curtis said. "The trip was a huge success, and we're excited about what's to come."

Counselors' Corner

Winter Months and Our Mental Health

With the winter months upon us, we're all constantly busy and running from here to there. Although winter months bring extra time to spend with family and friends, they can also be a time of stress, anxiety and depression. Being realistic, planning ahead, taking a break and seeking support can help. Forest Hills Public Schools is committed to helping every learner achieve, and we have professionals working to address all areas of a learner's mental health and well-being.



Forest Hills Eastern "Gone Boarding" students and instructors visit the Burton Snowboard Company to share their ideas and discuss possible partnering opportunities.

"The Gone Boarding class is a wonderful example of the power of project-based learning," said Superintendent Dan Behm. "We all work best when we are working on something that is tangible."

From concept to reality and real-life experience, marketing, creating business plans, presentations, and so much more, the Gone Boarding class has evolved into something that five years ago was an idea conceived by teachers. But thanks to an administration that believed in trying something new, and generous grants over the last few years from the Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation, this class and Forest Hills students are creating business partnerships with industry leaders.

Kory Kearney, FHE senior, created a video, an overview of the program, which was presented to the vice president at Burton on the trip. Following their trip, Kearney also created a video about their experiences and what may be in store in the future. The videos are posted on the district's website: www.fhps.net, on the home page under news and headlines.

Meadow Brook Rocks During "Jump with Jill" Nutrition Show

Meadow Brook Elementary School was one of 35 schools in Michigan to win a free educational program called "Jump with Jill," a program underwritten by Michigan's own dairy farmers and milk processors and the United Dairy Industry of Michigan. "Jump with Jill" is a rock 'n' roll nutrition show which uses music and dance to celebrate healthy habits by transforming nutrition education into a live concert. The show creates a world where healthy is not just an important thing to do, but the cool thing to do too. "Jump with Jill" is also part of the Milk Means More campaign promoting healthy dietary choices and the importance of milk and dairy in children's diets and even school lunches.



Tim Shaw, principal, (back row, right), has fun dancing with Jill and Meadow Brook students to show the importance of healthy eating and exercising.

chure titled "Resources for Mental Health and Wellness" which is also online. Finally, we've added links to tips and helpful information about stress and depression during the winter months.

Remember, our counselors are all licensed professional school counselors who can assist with a variety of mental health, social and academic concerns, and they are excellent resources for outside referrals. They are here to help and offer assistance.

Community Services Offers Exciting Classes/Sports This Winter!

Aquatic Center Classes

At the Forest Hills Aquatic Center, area residents discover aquatic recreation and embrace it as a lifelong activity. A comprehensive swimming program encourages students of all ages to enjoy the aquatic environment safely, while learning to swim, pursuing advanced training, or getting fit through aquatic exercise. Children's American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim lessons are offered, in addition to private and semi-private swim lessons, and lifeguard training. A generous schedule of open swim, lap swim, water walking, and parent/child swim sessions allows families and individuals to enjoy the pool at their convenience. The winter American Red Cross Swim Lessons run from Jan. 17 through March 14. Saturday classes are offered from 9:10-10 a.m.; 10:10-11 a.m.; 11:10-noon. To see the complete aquatics schedule, visit www.enjoylearning.com.

Youth Classes and Sports

A variety of new classes and events, as well as perennial sell-outs, are happening this winter to keep youth active, strong, and involved. Here is a listing of some of these offerings. For more detailed information and registration, visit our website, www.enjoylearning.com.

- Six weeks of Crazy Cooking (Mother/Daughter Cupcakes, Father/Son Soup, Pizza, Chips, Food Art and Easy Dinner Prep for fifth- and sixth-graders)
- Sports Performance Training for Sixth-Grade Boys (Marcus Kinney, a professional sports trainer, will teach boys age-appropriate training for all sports)
- T-Ball for first- and second-graders
- Volleyball for fifth- and sixth-grade girls
- Yoga for fifth- and sixth-graders
- Boys' & Girls' basketball
- Bricks 4 Kidz
- Young Rembrandts
- Children's Ballet and Creative Movements
- Etiquette for fifth- and sixth-graders
- Fencing
- Self-Defense
- Crew Soccer

Middle, High School Classes

ACT Prep Seminars: Colleges require the ACT or the SAT college entrance tests as one of the criteria for admission. We have arranged a five-hour seminar to help your son or daughter become more familiar with the ACT college entrance exam. Students must attend both sessions.

Stress and Anxiety Reduction classes for seventh- and eighth-graders, and ninth-through 12-graders: Mindfulness training is used to improve health and well-being. This eight-week course will teach teens about their brain, and will give them tools to address the stress in their lives. It will help them to think more clearly, perform better and to feel calmer.

Middle School Water Polo: It is an excellent opportunity for girls to gain polo experience before high school. Participants must be able to swim and tread water; swim team experience is not required. Tournaments will be on Saturdays. Players are responsible for transportation to tournaments. Athletes must have a physical on file dated after April 15, 2014, before they can participate. Call Community Services to register in any middle school sports program, 493-8950.

Middle School Co-ed Tennis: Here athletes participate in the West Michigan Middle School Conference Tennis program. Players are responsible for transportation to the matches and tournament. Practices will take place at the high school courts in conjunction with the middle schools. Athletes must have a physical on file dated after April 15, 2014, before they can participate. Call Community Services to register in any middle school sports program, 493-8950.

Adult and Senior Classes

This winter adults have the opportunity to perfect their camera skills, relax their mind through Zentangle classes, stay organized with technology classes, learn to cook with a little soul, stay true to their New Year's resolutions with a fitness class and much, much more! You can find it all online at www.enjoylearning.com or call 493-8950 for more information.

Senior Citizens' Corner Enjoy a Learning Café

The following Learning Café program is held at Forest Hills Community Services, 660 Forest Hill Avenue. Lunch is at noon; program at 12:45 p.m. Cost: \$8 per person for lunch and program (\$9 for non-residents); \$2 for program only (\$3 for non-residents). Please call in your reservation at 493-8950 or register online at enjoylearning.com (if you register through the website, you will automatically be enrolled for the catered lunch which you pay for at the door; or invoiced if you do not show.) For a full listing of all Learning Café programs and lunch menus, please call our office and ask to be added to the "Encore Programs Guide" mailing list.

Tuesday, Jan. 13

Soul-Touching Melodies by John Amos

Enjoy musical entertainment by John Amos as he sings favorites from Sinatra, Bennett, Mathis, Denver and many more. John sings professionally in musical revues and various venues around Michigan. For more information, visit: www.enjoylearning.com.

FHPS Community Services Special Event!

Groovin' at the Gardens



Frederik Meijer Gardens
Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015, 7-9 p.m.

Girls in grades kindergarten through sixth, along with their adult accompaniment, are invited to enjoy dancing the night away at our Groovin' at the Gardens Dance. DJ Scott Ptak will spin the music and a light dessert will be served. A photographer will be available to catch those cherished moments.

Make your reservation by calling our office at 616-493-8950 or visit enjoylearning.com. Tickets are \$44/couple for district residents.



Forest Hills Public Schools

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Forest Hills Fall Sports All-Conference Athletes

FHC

Boys' Soccer

MHSAA District Champs
Academic All-State Team

Landon Chamberlain (AD, AAS)

Eric Conerty (AD, AR, AS)

Mohamed Haji (AD, AR, ASHM)

Connor Kuhlmann (AD, AAS)

Max Postlewait (AD)

Honorable Mention:

Noah Barton (AD)

Ronaldo Cosic (AD, AAS)

Volleyball

Emily Clay (AR, ASHM, AAS)

Quin Olney (AR)

Honorable Mention:

Corinne Cavender

Emily Farwell (AAS)

Football

Dylan Otolski

David Riser

Scott Sible

Honorable Mention:

Alex Dykema

John Nutter

Jake VanderWal

Girls' Golf

Conference Champs

Emily Devriese

Girls' Golf (continued)

Maddie Lorenz

Evon Shay (AS)

Honorable Mention:

Mackenzie Sobieck

Girls' Cross Country

Sarah Anderson

Honorable Mention:

Alexandra DeStefano

Boys' Cross Country

Honorable Mention:

Alex Girgis

Boys' Tennis

Conference Champs

MHSAA District Champs

MHSAA Regional Champs

Division II State Champs

Academic All-State Team

Nicholas Finelli (AA, AS, SC)

Connor Genschaw (AA, AS)

Jake Herbruck (AAHM)

Cooper James (AA, ASHM)

Joey McClure (AA, AS, SC)

Jacob Wiltjer (AAHM, SC)

Girls' Swimming/ Diving

Felicity Buchmaier (AS)

Katlynn Emaus (AS)

Girls' Swimming/ Diving (continued)

Riley Hoffman

Kaitlind Hooper

Alex Horman (AS)

Sara Johnson

Erin Neely (SC)

FHE

Boys' Soccer

Jacob Stevens (AD)

Honorable Mention:

Grant Wallace (AD)

Volleyball

MHSAA District Champs

Nicole Jimenez

Julia Mitchell

Veronica O'Connor (AR)

Lauren Trisch (AR)

Sommer Vandenberg

Rachel Wozniak

Honorable Mention:

Megan Mccaffrey

Football

Anthony Castillo

Ryan Knight

Ryan Rozeboom

Luke Wilkerson

Honorable Mention:

Stephen Glover

Devon Reiningger

Girls' Golf

Academic All State Team

Conference Champs

Girls' Golf (continued)

Morgyn Michaels

Henna Singh (AS, AAS)

Megan Skoog (AS)

Girls' Cross Country

Grace Beversluis

Abigail Bowman

Rachel VanBoxtel (AAS)

Honorable Mention:

Madison Pullen

Boys' Cross Country

Brendan Lenhardt (AAS)

Honorable Mention:

Joseph Thieme

Boys' Tennis

Academic All State Team

Jay Byle

Spencer Linn

Randy Smith

FHN

Boys' Soccer

Hunter Barrington

Delano Capobianco

Joe Gamino-Kirkhoff

Kyryl Prischchenko

Ramy Salhadar

Garrett Vonk

Honorable Mention:

Sam Elwell

Logan Juth

Volleyball

Meredith Howe

Olivia Mackkraz

Honorable Mention:

Kelsey Smith

Football

Adam Farah

David Lange

Evan Macauley

Jake Martin

Max Mulder

Honorable Mention:

Connor Bruinius

Parker Hall

Girls' Golf

Sam Kuipers

Honorable Mention:

Brittany Seekell

Sydney Wallock

Girls' Cross Country

Katya Bohatch (AR)

Hannah Callahan

Rachel Cornell

Morgan Posthuma (AR, AS)

Boys' Cross Country

Ethan Grayeb

Jack Neeley

Owen Purdue (AR)

Scott Tran (AR)

Mitchell Vredeveld (AR)

Andrew Wittland (AR)

Boys' Tennis

Academic All-State Team

Daiki Adachi (ASHM)

Alec Berrodin

Will Christian (ASHM)

Jacob Dennen (AS)

Matt Holden (AS)

Justin Minzlaff

Ryan Roach (ASHM)

Jackson Shaver (AS)

Girls' Swimming/ Diving

Ashley Jeffries

Brooke Perras

FHC/FHE/FHN

Field Hockey

Lauren Baer (AAS)

Rebeka Benstein (AS, AAS)

Kate Cammell (ASHM, AAS)

Hannah Gavle (AS)

Sarah VanDiepenbos (AS, AAS)

Key:

AD = All-District

AR = All-Region

AA = All-Area

AAHM = All-Area Honorable Mention

AS = All-State

ASHM = All-State Honorable Mention

AAS = Academic All-State

SC = State Champion



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www.facebook.com/fhps.net

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