



focus

June 2017

Volume 22, Issue 5

Website: www.fhps.net



inside ▶

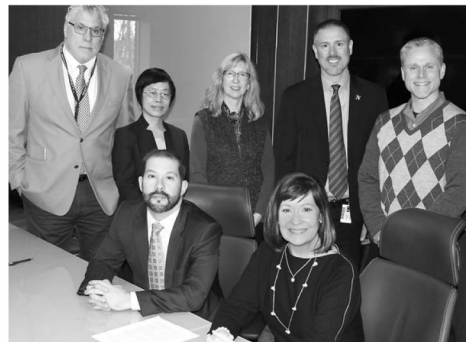
- Odyssey of the Mind Teams Advance to World Competition, Page 3.
- Students Excel in Mathematics, Science Competitions, Pages 4-6.
- Preschools, Kindergarten Enrolling, Page 7.
- Students Take Top Art Awards, Page 13.

FHPS Signs Agreement with WMU to Provide Dual-Enrollment Courses in Mandarin for Chinese Immersion Students

Forest Hills Public Schools signed an agreement with Western Michigan University to launch a new program beginning in the fall of 2017 for FHPS Mandarin Chinese immersion students attending Forest Hills Northern High School. This partnership marks a first for both WMU and FHPS in offering a program in high school that will provide students with an opportunity to earn a full Chinese language minor through WMU while still attending high school. WMU's Extended University Programs, in partnership with the Department of World Languages and Literature, will deliver this program called "Collegiate Pathways."

This new program will include two courses taught by WMU instructors each high school year at FHN. To accommodate the combined schedules of the high school and university, each class will be delivered over the course of the academic year, spanning fall and spring semesters, but with an equivalent number of contact hours to the standard university course.

According to WMU EUP Associate Provost Dawn Gaymer, this is the first program offered through WMU's new Collegiate Path-



Representative from Western Michigan University and Forest Hills Public Schools sign an agreement to bring a Chinese language minor to FHN.

ways initiative. "This partnership with Forest Hills provides a model we hope will be used to deliver similar programs for other districts," Gaymer said. "We are confident Collegiate Pathways will provide students with a rich learning experience that will streamline their path to earning a college degree."

According to Jon Gregory, Forest Hills Northern High School principal, the program affords Mandarin Chinese language immersion students an excellent opportunity that cannot be found elsewhere. "This will be a great transition for our students

(continued on page 2, column 1)

A Message from the Superintendent

Concluding the School Year the Way We Began: With Passion



Superintendent Behm

In the fall, we were excited to start a new school year. We asked our community to ponder the question, "What fuels your passion?" Every year, I witness the joys, dreams, goals, and aspirations that students have during the school year. They are passionate, hopeful, encouraging, and inspiring. Now with summer beckoning, I know our students' minds are on other passions, like swimming, playing at the beach, riding bikes, hiking, and for some, starting a new chapter in their lives following commencement. We know each of our 10,000 students have their own interests and curiosities, and as educators, we hope this school year was about helping our students create and share new learning experiences - engaging their hearts and minds.

(continued on page 4, column 1)

FHPS Signs Agreement with WMU

(continued from page 1)

heading to high school next year and we're excited to implement it."

Gregory explained that the Mandarin Chinese immersion program began in Forest Hills in 2008. These students are completing eighth grade at Northern Hills Middle School and will be freshmen next year at FHN.

"Forest Hills is very proud of the high quality immersion language programs we provide to our students," said Margaret Fellingner, FHPS assistant superintendent for instruction. "Partnering with WMU to provide expert Mandarin language instruction and engaging courses at the high school level provides our students not only with a wonderful learning opportunity, but also valuable college credit."

"Our kids will graduate high school with enough credits to receive a college minor in Chinese," said Edward Kuo, parent of a Chinese immersion student. "Can you even imagine that? We certainly didn't!

"When we placed our oldest child into the

pilot class of the FHPS Chinese immersion program, we placed a significant amount of faith in the district," Kuo explained. "At the time, we only hoped the benefits would outweigh the challenges. This partnership between FHPS and WMU is a defining moment for the entire program. It helps validate that on their journey toward full language fluency, our students will gain a real-life skill for today's global workplace and a better understanding of the culture behind one of the United States' largest trading partners. Thank you Forest Hills!"

"We are very excited about this opportunity for our students and are grateful for the time and diligence on the part of WMU's EUP and the Department of World Languages and Literature staff to collaborate on this partnership," Fellingner added. "We have experienced an ardent and earnest team effort in terms of the planning that has been necessary to bring this opportunity to fruition.

"We're thrilled for our students, their families, and what it means for the immersion



The Mandarin Chinese immersion program begins in kindergarten. Pictured here is an immersion teacher reviewing some of the Chinese characters with her class.

program in its entirety," Fellingner concluded. "Having our immersion students graduate from FHN with a Forest Hills Public Schools diploma and a Chinese language minor from WMU is pretty impressive. Our language immersion programs are outstanding and they only continue to grow and build upon their successes."

FHPS is home to two dual-language immersion programs — Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. Both programs begin in kindergarten. To learn more about the immersion programs, visit the FHPS website www.fhps.net.

Thank You for Supporting Strong Schools, Strong Communities

The recent community-wide public school millage approval will provide millions of dollars to support teaching and learning. By making Kent Intermediate School District the sixth ISD in the state to adopt an enhancement millage — by a 54 to 46 percent margin — nearly 40,000 voters showed they not only place high value on public schools, but recognize they need more help than they're getting from Lansing, leaders said.

Forest Hills Public Schools Superintendent Dan Behm came to work, the day following the election, feeling "a deep sense of gratitude to our community and the entire region," he said. "Public education and teachers have taken somewhat of a beating when it comes to funding," Behm said.

"An election like this reaffirms people's trust in and esteem for the people who teach our kids," he said. "I heard lots of voters say 'Yes, we want to support the staff in our schools.' After a decade of cuts, our community realizes that those who work the front lines have been making sacrifices to keep their children's education the priority."

STRONG Schools
STRONG Communities



Behm said two of three voters in the district supported the measure, and nearly 24 percent voted. Every precinct that was exclusively Forest Hills voters passed the request.

The district laid out before the vote that increasing pay to retain and attract teachers was the priority if the enhancement millage passed. Behm said a "very modest" pay increase will be factored into the budgeting process, though increases are subject to collective bargaining and negotiated agreements.

For perspective, he said, "given that the cost of a 1 percent increase in salaries for

employees and granting a salary step increase for those who are eligible to receive one costs \$190 per student, the enhancement millage money does not create some sort of windfall, though this certainly helps.

"As we've said all along, we're not going to use this to buy a shiny new object, but to support the people who do the primary work every day with our children."

Behm said maintaining and designing quality programs for students also would remain priorities. Those include K-12 counselors in school buildings, additional reading support at the elementary level, and the district's own transition program for severely cognitively impaired students.

"Thank you to all who participated and casted their vote," Behm continued. "We have immense gratitude for the continual outpouring of support from this community that has characterized this community for decades as proud supporters of our schools. Community support is key to our

(continued on page 6, column 1)

Upcoming District Events

Calendar Listing of Community-Wide School Events

June

- 14 FHPS Foundation Annual Golf Tournament, 11:30 a.m., Thornapple Pointe, RSVP
29, 30 FHPS Summer Stock Presents "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," 7:30 p.m., FAC

July

- 1 FHPS Summer Stock Presents "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., FAC

August

- 28 First Day of School for 2017-2018 School Year

FHPS Odyssey of the Mind Teams Advance to World Finals

Forest Hills Public Schools had 16 teams compete in Odyssey of the Mind State Finals. Only the top six teams in each category are recognized, and only the top two teams advance to World Finals. Of the 16 FHPS teams to compete at the state competition, 14 teams were in the top six in their category, nine of the teams received medals, and seven teams advanced to compete at the 2017 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at Michigan State University. At press time, the teams had yet to compete at World Finals. The following were the problems the teams had to solve and the students from FHPS who competed at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals.

Problem 2: Odd-a-Bot

For this problem, teams create a humorous story about a family that brings home an "Odd-a-Bot." Instead of being programmed to perform tasks, this Odd-a-Bot robot learns from watching others. Teams will design, build, and operate an original robot that demonstrates human characteristics when performing tasks. The Odd-a-Bot learns more than it was expected to learn, and will confuse its actions with humorous results.

Ada Elementary School

Division 1 – Gold Medalists at State Finals

Students: Aadi Shah, Sierra Williams, Katie Scanlon, Fielding Elzinga, Shanza Sheikh, Keyan Roelfzema, and Ally Zawacki.
Coaches: Myra Williams and Kalyani Shah.

Central Middle School

Division 2 – Gold Medalists at State Finals

Students: Julia Brown, Sam Brown, Jayden Savin, Jack Bidwell, Ella Satterthwaite, Ben Taylor, and Abby Satterthwaite. Coaches: Carol Brown and Megan Bidwell.

Northern Trails 5/6 School

Division 1 – Silver Medalists at State Finals

Students: Tess Kelkar, Tyler Kelkar, Freida Kincaid, Allison Edwards, Pranit Koppolu, Taniya Patel and Jacob Sorenson. Coaches: Anand Kelkar and Marianne Menger.



Ada Elementary School's OM team received gold medals at the State Finals and moved on to World Finals.

Problem 3: Classics... It's Time, OMER

The future and the past collide in this problem about important works of art — both existing and yet-to-be-created. Teams create and present an original performance about time travelers looking to discover the

(continued on page 4, column 2)

Summer Stock 2017 Musical

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"

June 29 and 30, 7:30 p.m.

July 1, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center



The biblical story of Joseph and his coat of many colors comes alive in this musical retelling. Joseph, the favorite son of Jacob, is blessed with vivid dreams that

foretell the future. Sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph endures a series of adventures which challenge him to his core. Soon he finds himself belonging to Potiphar, and ultimately finds himself behind bars. However, news of Joseph's ability to interpret dreams sparks the interest of the hilariously Elvis-like Pharaoh. Soon, Joseph is out of jail and well on his way to second-in-command. Eventually Joseph's brothers find themselves unknowingly groveling at the feet of the brother they betrayed. As they fail to even recognize him, Joseph tests their integrity. He ultimately reveals himself and the brothers are reconciled. "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" features many musical genres, from country-western and calypso, to pop and rock'n'roll.

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 at the Fine Arts Center Box Office (in person ticket sales only) or online at showtix4u.com.

Cover Photo



The Central Woodlands 5/6 team takes a moment to pose before going on stage to present their solution to, "It's Time, OMER."

Concluding the School Year the Way We Began: With Passion

(continued from page 1)

As a school system, we remain focused on two things. Our first focus is to provide all students with the building blocks to be self directed, lifelong learners. Our second focus is to provide all students with authentic experiences to help each student discover, and nurture their own interests, passions, and gifts. We are fortunate to have such an amazing staff filled with professionalism, dedication, expertise, and compassion toward students. Fueling that passion-based learning is our job, no matter what role we play in our district, because every student deserves our very best every day. When we engage with our students in inquiry, and tie their interests to realworld applications, we believe it will fuel their passion for learning.

Learning should never cease when the final school bell rings. Therefore, I encourage us all to explore this summer. Try something new. Pursue an existing passion. Create. Ponder. Solve a problem. Volunteer. Relax. Find joy. As we conclude the 2016-2017 school year, I am encouraged by the willingness of our staff and students to end on a positive note, and leave our schools in the way they first began — with enthusiasm, happiness, and a passion to learn. Thank you for being our partners in education and helping all learners achieve their true potential.

With deep respect and appreciation,

Daniel S. Behm, Superintendent

Odyssey of the Mind Teams Advance to World Finals

(continued from page 3)

inspiration for great works of art, little did they know — it was OMER (Odyssey of the Mind's raccoon mascot) every time! The performance will include how three works of art positively impact the world, a visual and audible effect that indicates when time travel is occurring, two re-creations of the classic works of art selected from a list, and a team-created work of art.

Central Woodlands 5/6 School – A

Division 2 – Gold Medalists at State Finals

Students: Lauren Brace, Tara Brace, Maya Rogne, Katy Stevenson, Jackson Savin, Gabby Hendricks, and Jake Bieniewicz.

Coaches: Mike and Ren Brace.

Central Woodlands 5/6 School – B

Division 1 – Gold Medalists at State Finals

Students: Sammy Rabideau, Ford Fauson, Alexa Fauson, Madison Evans, Zariah Knuff, Jack Anderson, and Maya Fitzgerald.

Coaches: Miria Rabideau and Kristen Fauson.

Problem 4: Ready, Set, Balsa, Build!

In this problem, teams design, build, and test a structure made of only balsa wood and glue that will balance and support as much weight as possible. The structure must include sets of balsa pieces of predetermined sizes and quantities; the more sets of pieces used, the higher the score. Teams will present a performance with a theme about using what's available and that incorporates weight-placement and assembling original team creations.

Ada Elementary School

Division 1 – Gold Medalists at State Finals

Students: Heather Ringel, Declan Erhardt, Keegan Redmond, Anna Sapp, Faith Lee, Eli VanSkiver, and Jonah VanSkiver.

Coaches: Laura Ringel and Kim Erhardt.

Problem 5: To Be Continued: A Superhero Cliffhanger

Teams create and present a humorous performance about an unexpected superhero that encounters three different situations where it must save creativity in some way. The superhero will change appearance when it displays its superpowers and go back to blending in with society when not. The performance will also include a clumsy sidekick, a nemesis character, a choreographed battle, and a cliffhanger ending.

Central Middle School

Division 2 – Gold Medalists at State Finals

Students: Isaac Fiorenzo, Spencer Irving, Roman Kalaczinski, Sam Schwarze, Thomas Smith, Kevin Bartek, and Nick Grooters.

Coaches: Ana Fiorenzo and Cindy Irving.



Students from Central Middle School take the stage in the Odd aBot problem.

FHPS Science Olympiad Teams Advance to State Competition

The Science Olympiad teams from Northern Hills Middle School and Forest Hills Central High School advanced to the state Science Olympiad tournament. The Forest Hills students on these teams were among more than 1,000 middle and high school students competing at the regional tournament hosted by Grand Valley's Regional Math and Science Center. According to Karen Meyers, RMSC director, "Science Olympiad is important with respect to the growing demand for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) professionals. This event exposes students

to practicing scientists and career choices through Science Olympiad's ever changing lineup of events in all STEM disciplines."

Forest Hills Central High School

The following students from Central High School competed in the state tournament: Geoffrey Batterbee, Dorris DaGama, Francesca Duong, Nicholas Ettinger, Scott Hadley, Danny Richardson, Yusra Sannah, Erica Santos, Rithik Sawant, Andrew Travis, Anthony Viola, Kevin Wang, Abigail Wolff, James Xu, and William Xu.

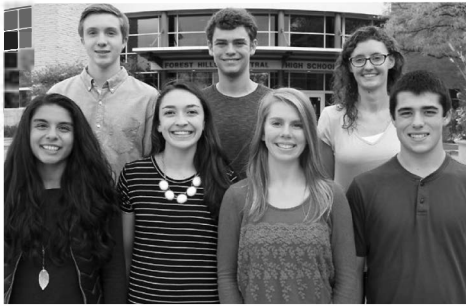
Northern Hills Middle School

The following students from Northern Hills Middle School competed in the tournament: Vishal Amarnath, Anusha Balakrishnan, Ava Bell, Malcolm Boyd, Benjamin Dimenstein, Lydia Festian, Benjamin Gorski, Lilia Henkel, Aidan Hillman, Cooper Hoeksema, Rebekah Jackson, Samuel Joseph, Josephine Koch, Will Mathias, Blake Mischley, Tanishka Shenoy, and Aaryan Singh.

National Merit Scholars Announced for the Class of 2017

Sixteen Forest Hills Public Schools seniors earned the top distinction of National Merit Scholar. All FHPS students who originally were semifinalists in the competition have been named finalists and carry the National Merit Scholar title. As finalists, these students have an opportunity to be awarded some 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million.

Central High School



National Merit Scholars, front row from left: Amytess Girgis, Megan Henriksen, Katherine Knister, and Alex Martin; back row from left: Cameron Wintrich, Nicholas Ettinger, and Adelaide Morris. (Missing from photo: Lindsey Furness).

Students who score in the top percent on the Preliminary SAT (PSAT)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test achieve the semifinalist status. To advance to the finalist level, each semifinalist had to submit a detailed scholarship application outlining: an outstanding high school academic record; school and community activity participation; demonstration of leadership ability;

Eastern High School



National Merit Scholars, from left: Benjamin Brown and Rachel Westrick

employment; and honors and awards received. Each semifinalist also needed the endorsement and recommendation of a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT scores confirming their previous performance on the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Northern High School



National Merit Scholars, front row from left: Bharathi Ravikumar, Megan Bruneau, and Kayla Gillespie; back row from left: Mihir Gondhalekar, Victor Hao, and Cyrus Amirfazli.

Stellar Year for FHPS Students in Michigan Mathematics Competition

Forty-seven Forest Hills high school students were among the top finishers in Part I of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. Their scores automatically qualified them to take Part II of the exam. Among the FHPS students participating in the state competition, Scott Hadley, a Forest Hills Central junior, and Camil Suci, a Forest Hills Northern freshman, both received bronze recognition for finishing in the top 100 in the state.

Part I of the MMPC is open to all students in Michigan high schools. This exam consists of 40 multiple-choice questions involving topics from high school mathematics. From approximately 10,000 participants in Part I, the top 1,000 students are invited to take Part II of the MMPC exam. There, students work on five challenging problems and write their solutions providing full justification and one proof of their claims. The MMPC is offered by the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America to encourage students to develop their interests and abilities in mathematics.

The following students advanced to take Part II of this year's MMPC exam.

Central High School

Awatef Ayesh, Dorris Dagama, Nicholas Ettinger, Lindsey Furness, Scott Hadley, Johnnie Lin, Elijah Logan, Yuyuan Luo, Alex Martin, Elena Nasser, Maighdlin Patterson, Daniel Richardson, Jason Ross, Owen Thamban, Andrew Travis, Kevin Wang, Ziyi Wang, and Irene Yi.

Eastern High School

Tyler Dann, Sneha Rajagopalan, Harsh Sinha, Karthik Vuyuru, Rachel Westrick, and Thomas Westrick.

Northern High School

Megan Bruneau, Evan Calderon, George Chu, Dylan Chung, Ethan Cripe Bonnell, Nav Dalmia, Mihir Gondhalekar, Victor Hao, Shane Hykin, Ethan Jansen, Cameron Larson, Julien Levesque, Maxwell Lu, Liam Maloney, Chase Morello, Hursh Motwani, Qusay Omran, Baharathi Ravikumar, Zoe Reep, Jin-Hwan Ro, Camil Suci, Changhun Yang, and Felicia Zhang.

2016-2017 Board of Education Members

Mary Vonck, President

Martha Atwater, Vice President

Susan Lenhardt, Secretary

Walter F. Perschbacher III, Treasurer

Suzanne Callahan, Trustee

Nicole Meloche-Gregory, Trustee

Michael Seekell, Trustee

Daniel Behm, Superintendent



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.

Thank You

(continued from page 2)

success. Our residents support education in Forest Hills and in all areas of Kent County. Strong schools do build strong communities.

"These enhancement dollars represent 2 percent of the district's revenue, and they will fill in about 2 percent of the expenditures we were going to have to reduce if the proposal did not pass," Behm continued. "This funding does not erase over \$20 million dollars in reductions our district has made over the past decade. Maintaining what we have doesn't sound very scintillating, but if it hadn't passed, we would have had to make a 13th straight year of cuts."

"I think it's a reflection of the community's support of their local schools, and the quality work happening in those schools, and an understanding of the financial strain these schools have been under for quite some time," said Ron Caniff, superintendent of Kent ISD. "I'm very grateful to our voters and our stakeholders for their support."

STRONG Schools
STRONG Communities



FHN Interact Club Takes Third Place in Rotary Service Above Selfie Contest

The Rotary Club of Grand Rapids Second Annual Service Above Selfie Contest drew 75 entries from local volunteers participating in community service projects and posting a "selfie" on social media. The Forest Hills Northern High School's Interact Club entered the contest with an initiative called "End It" to raise awareness to end human trafficking. The entries were narrowed down to the top three groups — each group earning a cash prize. The students from Northern took third place and received \$1,000 for the Manasseh Project which will go directly to help end human trafficking.

"We are honored to be able to continue expanding our efforts in ending human trafficking," said Ella Streng, president of the FHN Interact Club. "It is truly an incredible initiative and something we are all very passionate about. It's alarming how many people go missing each year because of human trafficking, and the numbers are increasing in Kent County. We need to take a stand and end it."

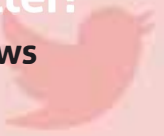
In the fall of 2015, the Rotary Club of Ada-Cascade started sponsoring a group of high school Rotarians, called Interactors, at Forest

Hills Northern. Local Ada resident and Rotary Club of Ada-Cascade President Catherine Jacobs stated that the Interact Club helps build future leaders, one child at a time. "The high school Interact students are a great example that, given the opportunity, our children can become impactful leaders and do great things in the community."

Jacobs praised the students for their accomplishments. In a little over a year, they raised thousands of dollars for charity, were featured as one of the best Interact clubs in West Michigan (from Muskegon up to Ontario), traveled around the state to speak with Rotary clubs considering sponsoring a high school club, featured in MLive and on the WGTV Morning Show with Shelley Irwin, and the club had a student appointed to the Homeland Security Task Force on human trafficking.

Visit Us on Twitter!

twitter.com/FHPSnews



FHC Student Presents Research at 53rd Annual Junior Science and Humanities Symposium

Forest Hills Central High School senior, Emma Hall, presented her research at the 53rd Annual Junior Science and Humanities Symposium at Wayne State University. Her presentation titled, "Evaluation of IL-6 and SAA as Biomarkers for Depression and Suicidality," went very well. Her presentation was from research she conducted with her mentor, Dr. Elena Bryleva at the Van Andel Institute. Hall's full abstract is reprinted below. In short, her research focused on looking at two different proteins (that haven't been studied before) and using them as indicators for depression. Her study may allow for an easier and more accurate diagnosis of depression to potentially reduce suicidal behavior.

Abstract:

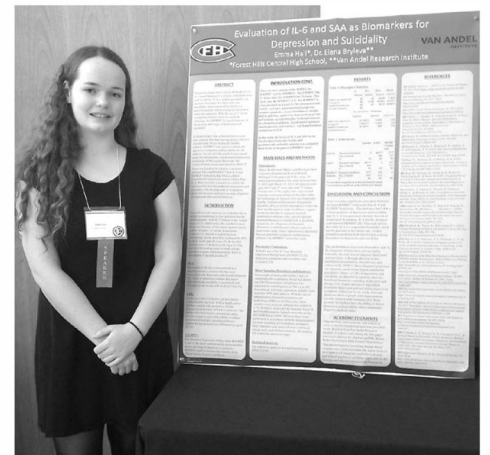
"Numerous studies have linked interleukin-6 (IL-6), a proinflammatory cytokine, with depression and suicidality. IL-6 is widely accepted as an accurate biomarker

for depression and suicidality. Serum amyloid A (SAA) is a powerful protein whose biological function is relatively unknown. With the use of 17 items (symptoms) that are rated on a scale by clinicians, the HAM-D17 is good measure of the severity and range of depression and suicidality.

A blood sample was collected from 79 subjects who had ongoing or past affective disorders and 10 psychiatrically healthy subjects. HAM-D17 was used to evaluate the depressive symptoms and suicidality for all subjects. Levels of SAA and IL-6 were tested using the ultrasensitive electrochemiluminescent technology of Mesoscale Discovery. A statistical analysis was performed by SPSS 22.

There was found to be a higher correlation between SAA and HAM-D17 than IL-6 and HAM-D17 indicating that SAA is a better biomarker for depression and suicidality than IL-6. More research is needed to con-

firm the validity of SAA as a biomarker for depression and suicidality. The development of biomarkers allows for an easier and more accurate diagnosis of depression and suicidal behavior."



FHC senior, Emma Hall, presented research at the 53rd Annual Junior Science and Humanities Symposium at Wayne State University.

Forest Hills Public Schools Kindergarten Now



Enrolling!

Help us prepare for the next school year! If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten in the fall, please enroll them as soon as possible. Children must turn 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2017, in order to register for kindergarten. Children who turn 5 after Sept. 1, 2017, and no later than Dec. 1, 2017, may request an early entrance waiver to attend kindergarten. A waiver form may be found online at www.fhps.net, or by contacting the school office.

If you have a child starting kindergarten, complete the first step in the enrollment process. Pre-register your kindergartner online at www.fhps.net/enrollment-information. Additional information about the necessary forms and procedures also are detailed online.

If you have specific questions pertaining to kindergarten enrollment, please contact the elementary school your child will be attending in the fall, or call the FHPS administration office, 616-493-8800.



Forest Hills Public Schools

FHPS Preschools Enrolling for Fall 2017

Forest Hills Public Schools offers many high quality educational options for preschool aged children. FHPS programs include both traditional and Spanish immersion tuition-based preschool programs. 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.

The two traditional preschool programs for 4-year-olds are located at Ada Elementary School and Knapp Forest Elementary School. The Spanish immersion preschool

is housed at Ada Vista Elementary School. The Great Start Readiness Preschool is located at Ada Elementary School and Collins Elementary School. For more information about FHPS tuition-based preschools, please call the child care office, 616-493-8787, or visit: www.fhps.net. For information about Great Start Readiness, call 616-447-2409.



Learn and Play With Bright Beginnings



The program serves children from birth to toddlers to kindergarten with home visits, play groups, infant/caregiver field trips, a baby buddies group, and provides free developmental screenings. Bright Beginnings is coordinated by the Kent Intermediate School District and promotes the early development, learning,

Bright Beginnings empowers parents with the skills and tools they need to be their child's first and best teacher.

The program serves

and health of young children. They serve all families in Kent County and even offer home visits and play groups in Spanish. All programs and services provided are free to all families.

Some FHPS elementary school buildings host Bright Beginnings play groups. Bright Beginnings continues to offer programming during the summer months as well.

To learn more about Bright Beginnings visit the Kent ISD's website: www.kentisd.org, or call 616-365-2276.

Meadow Brook Students Leap into Genres

Forest Hills Northern High School Advanced Placement language and composition students organized an event for Meadow Brook Elementary School students. The event was called, "Meadow Brook Literacy Night: Leaping Into Genres." The high school students helped create and run activities in classrooms that introduced elementary students to a variety of literary texts and

genres. For example, in the "mystery" genre classroom, students became detectives to help solve puzzles from a story. In the "fantasy" genre classroom, students explored the world of Harry Potter and created their own Hogwarts bookmark. Other genres the students explored included spooky thrillers, sports, music, historical fiction, action, graphic novels, and many more.

FHPS Launches News App

Get the latest news and information from Forest Hills Public Schools on your iOS or Android device with the FHPS news app. The app gives you access to featured district news, updates from individual schools, and school closing information. The app is free, so download it today. Go to your app store, do a keyword search for Forest Hills Public Schools, look for the FHPS logo, and download the app.



Left: View of FHPS news app when first viewed in Apple's App Store.

FHPS Robotics Team Makes It to World Finals

The Forest Hills robotics team, COMETS, comprised of students from all three high schools, had a winning season again this year. The COMETS, an acronym for Creating Outstanding Minds Embracing Technology and Science, were ranked second out of 40 teams at the East Kentwood district event. At the Lansing event, they came in first. Then they traveled to Saginaw Valley State University for a four-day competition against 160 other teams in the state. Their performance was good enough to qualify the team for World's in St. Louis. Here, the competition was fierce, and the COMETS were knocked out of the competition in the semifinal round. Throughout the season, the students received several awards including: Gracious Professionalism, Innovation in Control, and the Creativity Award.

"We are so very proud of this team again this year and how they represent Forest Hills Public Schools wherever they compete," said Sheryl D'Amato, one of the COMETS coaches. "The team takes pride in their work and it's great to see students from all three schools coming together for a common goal and purpose."

The FIRST Robotics competition combines the excitement of a varsity sport with hands-on training in science and technology to help high school students discover how rewarding a career in engineering or technology can be. Remote-controlled robots, piloted by students, go head-to-head in short games on the floor of a sports arena, battling it out to earn points during two-minute rounds.



The FHPS robotics team, the COMETS, is shown here after winning the First Robotics Competition in Lansing.

Elements in 3D

Northern Hills Middle School students used 3D printers in science class to create the elements of the periodic table. They learned about protons, neutrons, and electrons in a very cool way.

They had to look up the number of protons, neutrons, and electrons in the atom and figure out where each of them went. For example, they had to figure out that oxygen has two electrons in the first ring and six in the second.

The class used the printed atoms to discover why certain elements will bond together, while others will not. This activity encouraged understanding of atomic structure to chemical bonding and incorporated engineering and design principles.



A Northern Hills Middle School student designs an element for the periodic table.



Here is a complete version of the element sodium created using a 3D printer.

Save the Dates for Upcoming Class Reunions

Forest Hills Northern High School Class of 1997

20th Reunion

Saturday, July 22, 2017, 6 p.m.

Please visit www.facebook.com/groups/fhn1997 for reunion details, updates, and location information.

For additional information, email Kristin Long at fhnclassof1997@gmail.com.

Forest Hills Northern High School Class of 1977

40th Reunion

Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017, 7-11 p.m.

Bistro Bella Vita
(No tickets needed.)

Contact Sarah Elliott for additional information, sje6159@gmail.com.

Forest Hills High School Class of 1967

50th Reunion

Saturday, Sept. 30, 2017, 6 p.m.

Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park
(Informal get-together at Gippers, Friday, Sept. 29, 2017, 6-8:30 p.m.)

For more information about these and other weekend activities, please email the reunion committee at foresthills1967@gmail.com or call Claudia (Voigt) Ferch at 616-828-3141 or 616-942-8787.

Forest Hills Winter 2017 Athletic Awards

FHC

Boys' Basketball

OK Conference Champs
Daniel Deindorfer (ACHM)
Ryan Dunn (ACHM)
Tyler George (AC 1st Team)
Salim Sidebotham (AC 1st Team)

Girls' Basketball

Claire Baguley (AC 1st Team)
Madalyn Winter (AC 1st Team)
Emma Yoder (ACHM)

Bowling

Hailey Beaufait (AC 1st Team)
Alexis Ghareeb (ACHM)

Competitive Cheer

OK Conference Champs
Maija Dickens (AC 1st Team)

Gymnastics

Carly Anderson (AC 1st Team)
Christine Byam (ACHM, AS)

Ice Hockey

OK Conference Champs
Regional Team Champs
Academic All-State Team
Zachary Aboufadel (AAS)
Jack Bowling (AC 1st Team, AAS, ASHM)
Zachary Currie (AC 1st Team, AS 1st Team)
Drake Deering (AC 1st Team)
Connor Foresman (ACHM)

Ice Hockey (continued)

Bryce Gerondale (AAS)
Jesse Hall (AAS)
Carl Mielock (ASHM)
Zachary Morton (AAS)
Nicholas Sarjeant (AC 1st Team, AS 1st Team)
Mackey Withey (ACHM, AAS, ASHM)
Nicholas Withey (AC 1st Team, AS 2nd Team)

Boys' Skiing

Mitchell DeJong (MSA)
Benjamin Finkelstein (AC 1st Team, MSA, AS)
Benjamin Hatley (MSA)
James McDonald (MSA)
Mark Scannell (AC 1st Team, MSA)

Girls' Skiing

OK Conference Champs
Regional Team Champs
State Champions
Emily Cobb (MSA)
Lynsey Davison (MSA)
Ashley Jenkins (MSA)
Megan Johnson (MSA)
Katherine Knister (AC 1st Team, MSA)
Courtney McAlindon (AC 1st Team, AS)
Kayley Reynolds (AC 1st Team, AS)
Sydney Reynolds (AC 1st Team, AS, MSA)
Lauren Rowell (MSA)
Claire Schmidt (MSA)
Megan Tiggleman (MSA)
Anna Tomscheck (MSA)

Boys' Swim/Dive

OK Conference Champs
Kazuya Iwatsu (AC 1st Team, CC, SQ)
Charles Krug (AC 1st Team, CC, SQ)
Mitchel Miller (AC 1st Team, CC, SQ, AAS)
Ryan Talbot (AR, SQ)
Logan Vrendenburg (AAS)
Dakota Weinman (AC 1st Team, CC, SQ, AS, AAS)

Wrestling

Isaac Torrey (AC 1st Team)

FHE

Boys' Basketball

Grant Trisch (AC)

Girls' Basketball

Marcia Hawkins-Day (ACHM)
Lindsey McKee (AC)

Boys' Bowling

Brayden Boomers (AC)
Allan Karmanowski (AC)

Girls' Bowling

Brianna Boomers (AC)

Competitive Cheer

Lauren Burkhardt (AC)
Mina Cranmer (ACHM)
Margo Cranmer (AC)
Alanna deSibour (AC, AD)

Competitive Cheer (continued)

Zoey Goehring (ACHM)
Olivia Idema (AC)
Paige Kelso (ACHM)
Gabrielle Sleeman (AC)
Ashley VerPlank (AC)

Ice Hockey

Joshua Boverhof (AC, AS 1st Team)
Ian Familak (ACHM, AS 2nd Team)
Nathaniel Nickelson (ACHM, AS 2nd Team)
Wyatt Radakovitz (AC, AS 1st Team)

Boys' Skiing

Kelly McDonagh (AC)
Conrad Kuz (AC)

Girls' Skiing

Olivia Maynard (AC)
Ingrid Schroeter (AC)

Boys' Swim/Dive

Conference Champs
Brandon Lee (AAC, AAS)
Adam Sands (AC)

Wrestling

Blake Crane (AC)
Grant Greene (AC)
Ryan Roth (AC)

FHN

Boys' Basketball

MHSAA District Champs
Tyler Black (AC)
Trenton Summerfield (AC)
Chase Morello (ACHM)

Girls' Basketball

MHSAA District Champs
Bethany Chick (AC)
Nadia Colbert (ACHM)
Alexis Hill (ASHM)
Lauren Kozal (ACHM)

Boys' Bowling

Jeremy Cornell (AC)
Michael Gumbko (ACHM)

Girls' Bowling

Gretchen Kyes-Myland (ACHM)

Competitive Cheer

Gabrielle Hensley (AC, ADHM)
Hannah LaFave (AC, AD 2nd Team)
Carley Lopez (ACHM, ADHM)
Skylar St. John (AC, AD 2nd Team)
Sarah Siskonen (AC)
Jordan Thiede (AC, AD 1st Team)

Gymnastics

6th in State Finals
Samantha Blair (AAS)
Lydia Bouma (AC, AS, AAS)
Elise Turke (AAS)

Ice Hockey

State Runners-up
Joel Brandinger (ACHM)

Skiing

MHSAA Academic All-State Team
Benjamin Meyers (AC, AS, SC)
Kevin Rowland (AC)

Boys' Swim/Dive

Conference Champs, 7th in State Finals
Jonathan Bloedow (AC, CC, AA, SQ, AS)
Seth Fagen (AC, SQ)
Henry Schutte (AC, CC, AA, SQ, AS, SC, AAA)

Wrestling

Connor Bruinius (AC, SQ)
Casey Brownley (SQ)
Patrick Hebreard (SQ)

Key:

AC = All-Conference
ACHM = All-Conference Honorable Mention
AAC = Academic All-Conference
CC = Conference Champion
AD = All-District
AR = All-Region
AA = All-Area
AS = All-State
ASHM = All-State Honorable Mention
AAS = Academic All-State
SQ = State Qualifier
SC = State Champion
MSA = MHSSCA Scholar Athlete

2016-17 FHN-FHE Varsity Hockey Team Makes It to State Finals

The Forest Hills combined Northern/Eastern hockey team advanced to the state finals this spring. Brother Rice defeated the FHPS team during the final game at USA Hockey Arena in Plymouth, Mich. This was the first time the Northern/Eastern team made its appearance in a state final hockey game. Congratulations team.



Enroll Your Family in Youth and Adult Classes This Summer!

Aquatic Center Classes and Open Swimming Times

Empower your child with the skills to enjoy the water as a lifelong activity. For summer, the Aquatic Center offers the American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim program for children ages 5-17. This program is available in three sessions — all in the months of June and July. The first session begins on June 12.

During the summer, the Aquatic Center's pool is available for lap swimming, open swimming, water walking, and parent/child swims. For the most up-to-date schedule, please check the website at www.enjoylearning.com/poolschedule.html or call the Pool Schedule Hotline, 616-493-8775, extension 3, for the days and times for these activities. The Aquatic Center will be closed July 24 through August 6, 2017, for routine maintenance.

Youth Classes and Sports

Safe Bridges to Kindergarten: This class provides entering kindergarteners with a stimulating home-to-preschool-to-kindergarten connection. Students are grouped according to the school they will be entering in the fall in order to acquaint them with their future classmates. The program includes inside and outside activities that will focus on many areas of safety. The class helps build safety habits and positive school attitudes. It's a fun and educational class and fills up quickly.

Kendall College Art Classes: These classes are great for creative first- through fourth-graders. Deep SEE Divers (drawing and painting), Ready, Set, Draw! (drawing), and Picasso's Animals in Clay (sculpture) round out the classes offered by Kendall instructors at Northern Trails 5/6 School.

Reading and Writing Class: Books, Buddies, and Brilliance — A Creative Story Time is a new class for first- and second-graders. Students of all abilities will be engaged in stories that come to life while they work on their reading, writing, and art skills. Students will write and create their own stories and create their own storybook.

Science and Technology Classes: From Mind Boggle's Super Power Science, to Bricks 4 Kidz Advanced Builders 101 Camp, we have a techy class for your child ages 4-18. This summer we're offering 14 different

science and technology classes and several offer multiple day/time options. Our Video Game Development Boot Camps sell out fast.

Horse Camps: Boys and girls ages 8-12 will learn how to care for horses, how to groom them, how to ride them, and how to have fun while "horsing around." A professional horse trainer will provide a safe, fun camp.

Summer Basketball Camps: Girls and boys in first grade through third grade will enjoy our Summer Basketball Camp where our experienced coach will teach drills and skills to enhance their game in both knowledge and ability. For those in fourth through sixth grade, our Summer Basketball Camp is offered in two rounds: round one is open to those who are just learning the game, and round two is for those who have completed round one or who are intermediate players that want to perfect their skills.

Self-Defense Classes: For ages 5-15, our self-defense classes focus on child safety awareness and promotes discipline rather than aggressiveness.

Midwest United FC Soccer: Future Stars: This class for boys and girls, ages 4-7, advances each child's technical skills and helps develop their passion for the game. Licensed, professional coaches provide a fun and creative learning environment.

Wonderful Classes for Adults

Community Services has added many new classes this summer for the adult learner. Classes in oil painting, watercolor painting, Zentangle, Microsoft Excel, yoga, driver safety, as well as many returning favorites make up our lineup of 39 classes.

Summer Learning Café

Are you looking for a noon-time activity that teaches, inspires, and entertains? We invite adults to come for a delicious lunch every other Tuesday at the Forest Hills Senior Center. After lunch, enjoy an interesting presentation from a member of the community. Visit enjoylearning.com/learningcafe.html.

Register for summer classes by visiting enjoylearning.com or calling us at 493-8950.



Community Services
Forest Hills Public Schools

Student Receives Grant to Bring STEM Education to Others



Hannah Levy with Roby

A Central Woodlands fifth-grader turned a little TV-watching time into a golden opportunity to reach students who maybe haven't had the same opportunities she has.

Inspired by a commercial, Hannah Levy applied for and received

a \$500 grant from "Summer of Service," a program of Youth Service America and The Walt Disney Co., to build a robot she called Roby. She then took Roby to North Park Montessori Middle School to show students there how to build their own.

Hannah was one of eight Michigan students to win one of the 340 grants awarded nationwide, and the only student from Kent ISD.

"It was fun," she said. "I like to build robots and I think this will help other kids' interest in technology."

North Park teacher Tonia Ettinger said her class looked forward to trying to replicate Hannah's robot in class. "They were really excited," she said. "There was a lot of jumping up and down when I told them about the idea. They had a super positive reaction."

High Schools Offering Summer Sports Camps

All three FHPS high schools are offering summer sports camps for youth. Some of the camps include strength and conditioning, boys' basketball, girls' basketball, crew, baseball, softball, football, field hockey, boys' lacrosse, soccer, tennis, volleyball, and cheerleading. Summer sports camp information is available online, www.fhps.net, on the "Community Fliers" page. Additional information and registration for summer sports camps is available online through each high schools' camp website. They are as follows:

- Central: www.fhcrangercamps.com
- Eastern: www.fhehawkcamps.com
- Northern: www.fhnhuskycamps.com

Most camps begin the week of June 12.



FOREST HILLS

PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

June 2017

2017 State of the District Luncheon a Huge Success

The 2017 State of the District luncheon was a great success. We had the opportunity to hear from Superintendent Behm and four educators who shared how the Foundation, through community support, is impacting their classrooms. Staff members shared great stories about how the Foundation has helped them and their students succeed. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported academic excellence in Forest Hills. Community support allows the Foundation to fund innovation in the classroom, providing opportunities for student engagement and academic excellence.



Rob Miedema, teacher at Forest Hills Central High School, speaks about the Foundation's impact in his classroom.

Spring 2017 Grants Awarded

The Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation awarded over \$50,000 during its spring 2017 grant cycle. The following individuals and programs are grant recipients.

Teacher	School	Grant
Jo Anderson/ Scott Haid	Ada Elementary/ Knapp Forest Elementary	A Little STEAM
Michele DeVries	Northern High School	Adaptive Music
Erin Gauthier	Eastern Middle School	Sensory Items
Jaclyn Hartman	Eastern High School	Student-Centered Classroom
Anne Keller	Orchard View Elementary	Earth Science Labs
Anne Keller	Orchard View Elementary	Sustainable Solutions
Rob Miedema	Central High School	Laser Cutter
Lindsey Patt	Central High School	Anatomy in Clay
Chad Scholten	Central High School	Central High Solar Hoop House
Jackie Schoon	Meadow Brook Elementary	Chinese Taiko Drums
Lisa Smith	Transition Center	CPR Manikins
Amy Terry	Central Middle School	Classroom Libraries
John Vanderburg	Eastern High School	Digital Expansion III

The primary purpose of the Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation is to provide funds for creative and unique programs and activities that promote academic and arts excellence and are beyond normal school budgetary and operation functions. The Foundation awards grants to programs and activities that can be directly or indirectly identified as part of, or related to, the school curriculum. The Foundation looks upon grant requests that have the potential of impacting the greatest number of students and integrates disciplines or curricular areas.

To learn more how you can support the Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation, please visit: www.fhpsf.org.

Save the Dates

■ Charlie Anderson Memorial Golf Tournament

Wednesday, June 14, 2017
Thornapple Pointe Golf Club
Chairperson: Brian Sandberg

■ 2017 Gala

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2017, 6 p.m.
Frederik Meijer Gardens
Chairpersons: Jenell Corey and Katie DeCamp

Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation
600 Forest Hill Avenue SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-493-8500
www.fhpsf.org

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

Stephanie Taylor, Foundation Coordinator,
staylor@fhps.net

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center

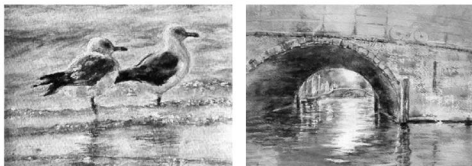
Upcoming Exhibits

Valentina Grigorieva

Paintings

June 1 - 26, 2017

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



Ralph "Nunzi" Annunziata

Drawings, Paintings

June 30 - July 21, 2017

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



FHFAC Calendar

June

7 Valentina Grigorieva
Artist's Reception, 6-7 p.m.

29, 30 Summer Stock presents "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," 7:30 p.m.

July

1 Summer Stock presents "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

6 Ralph "Nunzi" Annunziata
Artist's Reception, 6-7 p.m.

Visit fhfineartscenter.com for a calendar showing all upcoming events.

Follow the FAC on Facebook, Twitter:

- Twitter: twitter.com/FHFAC
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Forest-Hills-Fine-Arts-Center

Artist-in-Residence Program Helps Inspire Students

The Forest Hills Fine Arts Center Artist-in-Residence program offers selected local and regional artists a unique opportunity to share their work and talent with students and art-lovers in the Forest Hills area through short-term residencies. Each residency begins with a public reception to introduce the artist to the community and unveil an exhibition of their work in the Center gallery. During the period "in residence," each artist works with the three high school art teachers to provide a curriculum-tied experience for high school students. Pictured here is a session where high school students explored art taught by an artist-in-residence.



Presenting Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsors:



Forest Hills Special Olympics Unified Basketball Team Wins State Championship



Congratulations to Forest Hills Central High School's Special Olympics unified basketball team. The team won the state championship held at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. Approximately 450 athletes and 125 coaches/chaperones participated in the state unified basketball finals. According to SOMI's website, unified basketball teams consist of players both with and without intellectual disabilities.

Back row, from left: Steve Passinault (coach), Tanner Hallock, Konstantin Melder, Ian Kastner, Nikolay Wordhouse, Bryce Clay, and Jace Thornton. Front row, from left: Clay Udell, Christian Beckering, Noah Stout, Jonathan Burr, Liam Francis Doyle, and Daane Spielmaker (coach).

FHPS high school students spend time fine-tuning their skills and learning more about enhancing their techniques from artists-in-residents such as Mary Reusch and Margaret Kriegbaum. They focused on still life art and self portraits.

Students Take Top Honors in Art Competitions

Regional Scholastic Art Awards

Congratulations to the student artists who received honors in this year's Regional Scholastic Art Awards. The work shown to the right was on display at Kendall College of Art and Design.

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards date back to 1923. Over the years, the competition has grown to become the longest-running, most prestigious program for creative teens in the United States, and the nation's largest source of scholarships for young artists and writers.



"Self-Portrait," Drawing/Illustration
Honorable Mention
Melanie Berends, FHN



"A Black Eye with a Crooked Nose,"
Drawing/Illustration, Honorable Mention
Melanie Berends, FHN



"Creatures from Mars,"
Drawing/Illustration, Honorable Mention
Melanie Berends, FHN



Zoe Cheatham Photography
Honorable Mention
Zoe Cheatham, FHN



Zoe Cheatham Photography
Honorable Mention
Zoe Cheatham, FHN



"The Secret Nook," Digital Art
Silver Key
Kaitlyn Goldberg, FHN

ArtFest 2017

The Congressional Art Competition for Michigan's Third District

Congratulations to this student artist whose work, shown to the right, received an award at ArtFest 2017.



"Enlightenment," Digital Photograph
Honorable Mention, Lyrah Woltjer, FHE

Art is Important

"Art is a language of visual images that everyone must learn to read. Complete literacy includes the ability to understand, respond to, and talk about visual images. Art education stimulates language — spoken and written — about visual images."

— National Association of Art Educators

MAEA Show at the GRAM and Michigan Youth Arts Festival

Several Forest Hills high school students had art selected to be in the Michigan Art Education Association's regional show at the Grand Rapids Art Museum. Following exhibition at the GRAM, their artwork went to the Kresge Center for state competition where it was adjudicated again. As a result, Forest Hills Northern High School junior, Melanie Berends, had two pieces selected to be on display at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival and included in the Governor's Traveling Show. Forest Hills Central High School senior, Eryn Ho, had her self-portrait selected as the top 100 artworks in Michigan. The portrait also was on display at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival.



"Untitled," Watercolor Painting
Breanna Boersma, FHN



"Self-Portrait*," Watercolor Painting
Eryn Ho, FHC



"Self-Portrait," Painting
Abigayle DeWeerd, FHC



"A Black Eye with a Crooked Nose*,"
Drawing/Illustration
Melanie Berends, FHN



"Self-Portrait**," Drawing/Illustration
Melanie Berends, FHN



"Face of the Seasons"
Kara Yeomans, FHN



"Still Life"
Kara Yeomans, FHN

* Top 100, Michigan Youth Arts Festival

** Top 18 in Michigan; Selected for Governor's Traveling Art Show



Like Us on FB!

www.facebook.com/fhps.net

Volunteer Activist Helps Keep Arts Alive in Schools

As a young mother new to the district in the early 1970s, Candace Hinshaw remembers hearing about a magazine sale at Pine Ridge Elementary to raise money to bring in outside performers.

"They brought in an individual who was doing dog tricks," she recalled. "I thought, we're sending these kids out to raise money and they're seeing dog tricks? I said, what about the performing arts?"

For more than 40 years, the all-volunteer Cultural Arts Committee she founded, made up mostly of district parents and elementary principals, has worked to help its elementary schools attract and book local and regional artists to provide programming that aligns with curriculum.

"I look at education like a cake," Hinshaw said. "You can't bake a cake without the flour, or the shortening, or the sugar. The arts are the sugar. It's a basic element of education.

"Not every student does well academically, but there is something for everyone in the arts," she added. "And a lot of students find their way through the arts, and it spills back over into the academic field."

The Arts Are a Family Passion

Hinshaw comes from a family of art lovers. Her aunt was a docent at the St. Louis Museum for the Arts, and her mother took an active interest in the arts that she passed to her children.

Hinshaw and her husband, Mark, bought their first piece of original fine art, a painting of a Hopi Indian, when they lived in Arizona. She was an elementary teacher for four years while she pursued a master's degree in special education, before moving to Michigan to raise their children.

Having recently gone to a meeting of an arts group in Grand Rapids, the longtime arts aficionado asked around at the district whether there was interest in meeting about improving offerings in the schools. From that, representatives from each elementary school and interested parents formed the district's Cultural Arts Committee in the fall of 1976.

"The committee decided we would do whatever we could to bring in all aspects of the arts," Hinshaw said. In those early



This is a mural at Central Woodlands 5/6 School created by students who worked with the artist Jose Narezo. The mural has stood the test of time and is located in the school hallway outside of the gym.

years, performers would "audition" for the committee in a member's home. Hinshaw recalls an opera singer, a theater actor, and a dancer who demonstrated how she would work on movement with students.

They have booked symphony musicians, fine artists in-residence, authors, puppeteers and theater performances. In the case of performing artists, they hosted groups in the schools during the daytime and booked events for district families at the high schools in the evening.

"This generated a lot of interest from the families," she recalled. There also was an astronaut who inspired the 1998 creation of a mural by students at Northern Trails and Central Woodlands elementaries, who worked under the direction of the late artist Jose Narezo.

Attracting Visiting Artists

Hinshaw, now 76, with grandchildren in the district, started what became an elementary school visiting artists effort that has secured hundreds of thousands in grants over the years. Along with PTO funds, the grants have kept the district's spending on those programs at zero. She also helped found the district's Educational Foundation, now the Forest Hills Public Schools Foundation, which has awarded grants to pay for some of the committee's programs.

Other programs have included illustrator Tom Woodruff, the Mackinac Island Historical Touring group, the artist-in-residence program with the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra, folk artist Reb Roberts, Circle Presents theater performances, Schuler Books & Music author presentations, Bright

Star Touring Theatre, Brainstormers, and more.

The Forest Hills Cultural Arts Committee has not kept its methods a secret. Other districts have attended committee meetings, most recently from East Grand Rapids, Rockford, and Grand Rapids Public Schools, to learn how they can up their own arts programs offerings.

Abby Sorota, co-chairwoman of curriculum enhancements at EGRPS, said she attends the Forest Hills meetings to trade experiences on performers.

"We recently had singer Tony Reynolds perform at Wealthy Elementary," she said. "He did a wonderful program of different styles of music and explained their cultural and historical significance to the students. We would never have known about Mr. Reynolds and his show without the committee."

Sorota added that the committee plays a critical role in helping to share costs and coordinate calendars across the area. "As we all know, school funding declines have had a significant impact on the cultural arts in our schools," she noted. "By 'block booking' we all save on the funds required to pay for these programs, which enables us to do more with less."

Hard to Impact Upper Grades

Hinshaw said efforts to include the middle and high school buildings in programs of the Cultural Arts Committee had trouble getting off the ground, whether it was trouble securing funding or ever-present demands on students' time.

She said she regrets the committee hasn't been able to make more of an impact on the district's upper grades.

"I would like to see teachers be able to have the time to bring programs into the high school and grades seven and eight. To me, what's 45 minutes or an hour a month to bring in something that's going to expand children's imaginations, their creativity, their understanding of the humanities?"

John DeStefano is director of fine arts for the district, overseeing all programs such as band, orchestra, choir, performing arts and theater. He sees the arts in school as "critical in allowing kids to express themselves (continued on page 15, column 1)

Volunteer Activist Helps Keeps Arts Alive

(continued from page 14)

in a way where it's not always related to a grade, or where you have an opportunity to express yourself in multiple ways before you even think about what grade you're going to earn. Plus there's just volumes and volumes of research that shows that kids in music and art do very well in school."

Things get complicated in later grades, he said, because of demands on students' time. "Student-wise, the number of kids in seats is not what it was 10 years ago because of the added options, (with students) saying 'Do I want to take that extra math class that might get me better positioned for college, or do I continue in orchestra?' We have those kids who try to hang on (to arts classes), but it becomes a challenge."

DeStefano also noted an overall decrease in elementary students and the shift about a decade ago from a seven-period day in the district's middle school to a six-period day. "That really put a bit of a squeeze on things, and not just the arts. All those singleton classes were really pushed to maintain their numbers."

'A Living Legend'

Nonetheless, the Cultural Arts Committee's impact on the district has been measurable. Meggan George, manager of the Forest Hills Fine Arts Center and cultural arts coordina-

tor for the district for 22 years, calls Hinshaw "a living legend" for what she and the committee have accomplished.

"My involvement (with the committee) has been the most enjoyable aspect of my employment with Forest Hills Public Schools," George said. "The parent volunteers who give their time and talents are beyond exceptional."

"Their work to enhance existing curriculum and work with their principals and teachers is so important to the success of the programming," George continued. "Their work drives the importance of continuing to keep the arts as an integral part of the lifelong learning experience."

For Hinshaw, whose goal was to find a way to share her passion for the arts with others by creating something with lasting impact, the Forest Hills Cultural Arts Committee has fulfilled that goal.

"I really love being involved with children, and I believe we have to put a lot into forming strong, well-rounded citizens," she said. "My dad always told me, you've been given a good mind and you should be out in the community using it."

See more at www.schoolnewsnetwork.org.

Central Middle School Students Take Part in Little Hats, Big Hearts Program

Students in the natural expressions class at Central Middle School took part in a nationwide program to provide 100 tiny little hats for 100 little babies. This placed-based learning class took it upon themselves to loom 100 red hats. The hats were then donated to local hospitals as part of the Little Hats, Big Hearts project coordinated by the American Heart Association. WOTV4 caught up with the students to tell their story about how this project has impacted students and the community.

Pine Ridge Students Take Part in Empathy-Building Experience

The first-graders at Pine Ridge Elementary School had a morning structured around learning and accepting people with different abilities. Students worked with their counselor, teachers, and local physical therapists to learn more about challenges some students face and how students of different abilities overcome obstacles. Activities were structured around empathy building, awareness, acceptance, and understanding.

High School Students Recognized by State Association for Excellence in Journalism

The Michigan Interscholastic Press Association honored high school students at its spring conference. Students from Forest Hills Central and Forest Hills Eastern received awards. Congratulations to the following students.

FHC "The Central Trend" Staff Member Awards

- 1st place: Abby Scutch, Science/Environmental/Health
- 2nd place: Hannah Kos, Diversity Coverage
- 2nd place: Joseph Freihofer, Sports Feature
- 2nd place: Jacob Heilman, Sports News Story

Honorable Mentions

- Nisha Rajakrishna, Review
- Abby Scutch, Feature Columnist
- Sophie Bolen, Feature Columnist

- Krystal Koski, In-Depth Feature
 - Tyler George, Sports Columnist
- All stories can be read at thecentraltrend.com.

FHE "Hawk Herald" Staff Member Awards

- 1st place: Lois Biggs, In-Depth Feature
- 1st place: Remy Nelson, In-Depth Feature
- 3rd place: Noah Weller, Special Topic, Election
- 3rd place: Samuel Frishman, Special Topic, Election

Honorable Mentions

- Rachel Westrick, Personality Profile
- Rachel Westrick, Special Feature
- Samuel Mendoza, Cover
- Noah Weller, Cover

All stories can be read at hawkherald.com.

Catch a Glimpse Into the World of an FHPS Employee

Have you ever wondered what inspires our employees? Why are FHPS employees so passionate when it comes to education and positively affecting students? What makes Forest Hills Public Schools a great place to work? The district has launched a new video series that highlights various FHPS staff members from around the district. These videos showcase the talents, passions, and dedication our staff has for their profession, their students, colleagues, and school. Students in Dave Howard's senior video production class at Northern High School created the videos. The students working on this video series include Alexander Broughal, Hannah Callahan, Matthew Durr, Jace Hatfield, Blake Hedges, Chase Morello, and Simon Post. The videos are posted on

(continued on page 16, column 3)



Forest Hills Public Schools

6590 Cascade Road SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Phone: (616) 493-8800
www.fhps.net



POSTMASTER:

This publication contains dated material. Please deliver to homes on or before June 12, 2017.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Grand Rapids, MI
Permit No. 237

FHPS DECA Students Qualify for International Conference

Congratulations to the following high school students who competed at the DECA State Career Development Conference, held in Detroit, and who qualified to represent Forest Hills at the DECA International Career Development Conference:

- Elijah Gurley (FHC) and Jace Thornton (FHC) in the Sports and Entertainment Team Decision Making event
- Conor Streng (FHN) in the Principles of Finance event
- James Ruotsala (FHN) and Eric Symons (FHN) in the Sports and Entertainment Marketing event

- Benjamin Meyers (FHN) and Jack Garrett (FHN) in the Marketing Management event

Students from all three high schools participated at the state event and were among over 4,000 DECA participants from around Michigan. FHPS students received more than 30 medals in a variety of categories. DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management in high schools and colleges around the world.

Catch a Glimpse

(continued from page 15)

the FHPS website: www.fhps.net, and the FHPS YouTube channel. Take a moment to view the videos and see, for a moment, what inspires our staff.



Amy Terry, English teacher at Central Middle School, talks about being inspired by motivated students and supportive parents at her school. Watch our newly launched "Staff Focus" video series and catch a glimpse into what fuels our staff and how and why they are so dedicated to their students and their profession.

ASL Helps Students 'See From a Global Perspective'

Gabriel Vogt has no problem honing his sign language skills. It's the ideal way, he said, to communicate with his older brother, Aden, who is hard of hearing.

The third-grader at Meadow Brook Elementary took advantage of a visit from Central High students who are in the school's American Sign Language class. The high schoolers designed lesson plans for the visit aimed at introducing or improving signing skills. "I'd like to do better at this," Vogt said. "I'll be able to talk with my brother better and understand what he needs. I want to know more about it."

Central High students divided four sections of the third-graders, about 100 students, among various work stations. Elementary students spent about 15 minutes in a vocabulary room, learning common terms; a "blind" room where they had to guess signed words by feel; a deaf room; and a "brown bear" room, where they learned the words for colors.



Forest Hills Central student Gabrielle Homant helps Meadow Brook student Philip Chamberlain learn sign language.

Meadow Brook teacher Amanda Dault, whose class had studied the life of Helen Keller, said few third-graders have been exposed to sign language unless it is used by a family member. "The exposure to different types of communication and realizing there are people who benefit from this is important," Dault said. "I think this helps kids see outside themselves, that they see (signing) from a global perspective."

Sign language can be taken as a foreign language in the district's high schools. Central

High teacher Kimberly Williamson said ASL is the third-most popular foreign language class. "Kids don't know much about it, and people don't understand that it really is a language," Williamson said. "People think they're just gestures. People are curious about this. Learning (about signing) will bring exposure to it."

Central senior Kylie LaBeau, who helped develop lesson plans for the visit to Meadow Brook, said she and her classmates were eager to introduce third-graders to sign language.

"I've always thought it was elegant," Kylie said. "By learning this, so many people can communicate — even if they don't know it well."

Junior Jillian Chamberlain said she was intrigued by the idea of putting what she's learned in ASL to practical use. "I love teaching it," she said. "I'd like to be an interpreter some day, so it's exciting to be here to teach."