

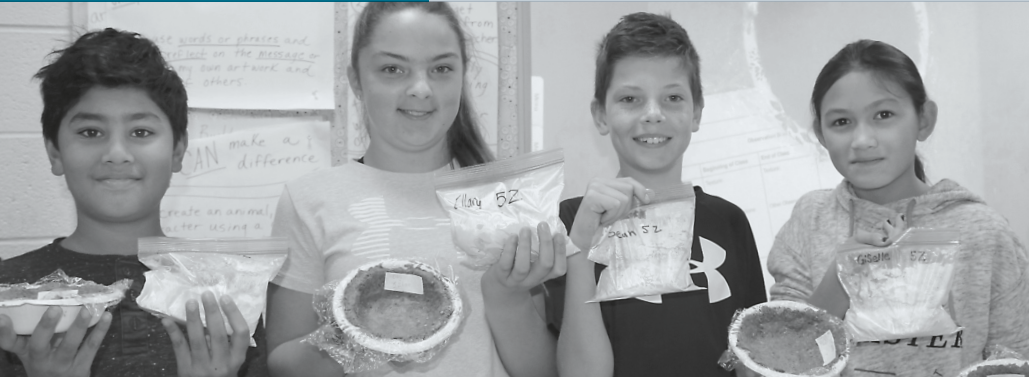


# focus

December 2017

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## FHPS Seniors Named National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Students

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the names of the Semifinalists in the 63rd Annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Of these 16,000 students nationwide, eight Forest Hills Public Schools students are among the academically-talented high school seniors who have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$33 million that will be offered this spring.

To qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program, students take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which serves as an initial screen of program entrants. About two-thirds of approximately 50,000 high scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT are named Commended Students. About one-third of the 50,000 high scorers are notified they have qualified as Semifinalists. Semifinalists are designated on a state-representational basis and are the highest scoring entrants in each state.

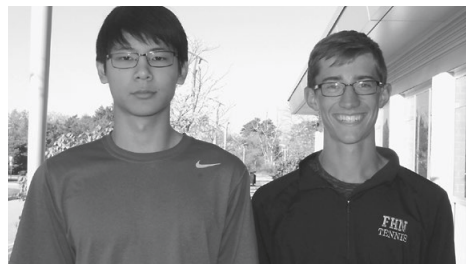
Commended Students do not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships; however, some of these students do become candidates for special scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level

### Central High Semifinalists



National Merit Semifinalists (front row, l to r), Irene Yi, Destiny Wu, Evelyn Pae; (back row, l to r) Kevin Wang, Scott Hadley, and Jason Ross.

### Northern High Semifinalists



National Merit Semifinalists (l to r), Maxwell Lu and Brett Bauman.

of the competition. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title. National Merit Finalists will be announced in the spring of 2018.

(continued on page 2)

## The Nature of the Place: Forest Stewardship Plan

Forest Hills Public Schools owns almost 200 acres of natural, forested land. Many of these parcels are utilized for hiking and teaching by faculty across the district in support of outdoor, or place-based, education. The district's coordinator for place-based education is Lea Sevigny, who is on staff at both Central and Eastern middle schools and has been an educator in the FHPS district for 23 years. Sevigny shares her love of nature with her students by leading and advocating for hands-on, experiential learning opportunities.

Middle school students in her natural expressions classes forage on campus to gather sap, berries, and roots to create jelly, syrup, and tea. They study Monarch butterfly behavior and habitats while learning

(continued on page 2)



Protecting and restoring natural habitats is one goal of the stewardship plan.

# National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Students

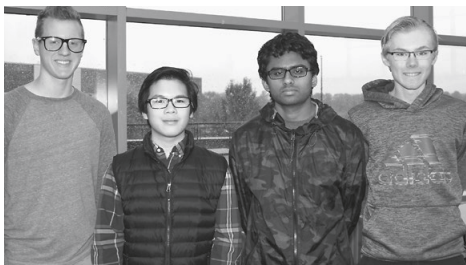
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## Central Commended Students



National Merit Commended Scholars (front row, l to r), Ziyi Wang, Kellie Zhou, and Rachael Shier; (back row, l to r), Connor Stadler, Munseok Jeong, Arshon Saadati, and Joseph Batdorf.

## Eastern Commended Students



National Merit Commended Scholars (l to r), Micah Longjohn, Andrew Lu, Karthik Vuyyuru, and Conrad Kuz.

## Northern Commended Students



National Merit Commended Scholars (front row, l to r), Bennett Lawson, Aliyah Anderson, and George Chu; (back row, l to r), Liam Maloney, Jacob Robles, and Luke Schellenberg.

## Cover Photo

Students (l to r), Ram Reddy, Ellary Belote, Sean Hall, and Giselle Wong at Northern Trails 5/6 School learn about science while in art class. Art teacher, Stephanie Cionca, infuses science, technology, engineering, and math while creating art. Read more about this class on page 5.

# The Nature of the Place: Forest Stewardship Plan

(continued from the front page)

about invasive and native plant species on school grounds. Students discover the wonders of nature through hands-on adventures such as birding, hiking, plant and animal identification, and sketching and photographing the natural world. They share their experiences within the school and community through blogging, citizen science apps, social media, journalism, and broadcasting. Students also have an opportunity to share their voice through service learning projects.

The FHPS natural expressions classes also team up with environmental organizations. Some environmental partners include Groundswell, Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds, the West Michigan Conservation Network, and Ada Parks and Recreation, to name a few.



Middle school students collect berries and nuts which they'll use to create jam.

In addition to environmental organizations, Seigny partnered with the Forest Stewardship Plan, a program that is funded by the US Forest Service and administered by the Michigan DNR. The Stewardship Plan's goal is to assist landowners in long-term care and management for their natural spaces. Last year, Seigny met with a forester to discuss and help prepare a 20-year plan for the Forest Hills Public School District's natural areas. By gathering feedback from faculty and staff, they landed on several goals for the district's forested property: safety for students and hikers, control of invasive species, preservation of wildlife, and restoration of natural species. As part of the plan, the district has gathered essential forestry data for all of the individual parcels, identifying trees, plants, and soil conditions. The result of that information gathering is detailed in



Students help care for their school's property by controlling invasive plants.

the plan filled with management objectives for the district's forest property. This will serve as a guide to accomplish the identified goals set by faculty and staff.

Local business owner, Sally Triant of Grow Wise Learning, describes the district's support of the plan as "visionary" in acknowledging that their properties serve as valuable natural resources for their community. She is inspired by the district's commitment to the plan, and believes it provides a "rich and meaningful stewardship experience for all students."

Rick Armbruster, a parent in the district says, "The district is visionary in this important step toward conservation, while joining landowners from every county in Michigan in developing a stewardship plan.

"The place-based learning that is happening on the grounds of our schools creates breadth and depth in content area and understanding," he continued. "It's a win-win for the district, the environment, and our students."

If you are interested in learning more about the Forest Stewardship Plan, visit [www.Michigan.gov/ForestStewardship](http://www.Michigan.gov/ForestStewardship) or contact Lea Seigny at [lseigny@fhps.net](mailto:lseigny@fhps.net), for a copy of the plan.



At Eastern Middle School, students help their natural environments and water systems by pulling detrimental plants.

# Upcoming District Events

## Calendar Listing of Community-Wide School Events

### December

- Now-22 Sibling enrollment for language immersion kindergartens
- 10 Forest Hills Adult Community Band concert, 2:30 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 11 Central Woodlands 6th grade and Central Middle orchestra concert, 7 p.m., FAC  
Eastern Middle and High winter jazz band concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 12 Central Woodlands 6th grade and Central Middle choir concert, 7 p.m., FAC  
Northern Trails 6th grade band concert, 7 p.m., FHN Auditorium  
Eastern Middle winter orchestra concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 13 FHE orchestra concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 14 FHN and Northern Middle orchestra concert, 7 p.m., FAC  
Thornapple Elementary 3rd grade musical, 7 p.m., Thornapple Gym
- 15 Central Woodlands 5/6 community blood drive, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., CW Gym
- 18 FHC's music department's collage concert, 7 p.m., FAC  
Northern Trails 6th grade orchestra concert, 7 p.m., Northern Trails Cafe  
Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Orchard View Elementary School  
FHE band concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 19 FHN choir concert, 7 p.m., FAC  
Knapp Forest/Orchard View 6th grade band concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium  
Eastern Middle winter band concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 20 FHN band concert, 7 p.m., FAC  
Eastern Middle winter choir concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 21 Northern Trails 6th grade and Northern Middle choir concert, 7 p.m., FAC  
FHE choir concert, 7 p.m., FHE Auditorium
- 25-1/5 No school for students or staff / winter recess

### January

- 8 School resumes
- 8-2/9 New family enrollment for language immersion kindergartens
- 15 No school for students / Staff professional learning  
Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Central High School
- 17 FHFAC presents "Tower of Power 50th Anniversary Tour," 7:30 p.m., FAC
- 18 Artist's reception for Anne Berends exhibit, 6 p.m., FAC
- 20 FHC's Random Act of Talent, 7:30 p.m., FAC
- 23 Meadow Brook Elementary 2nd grade concert, 7 p.m., FHN Auditorium
- 24 K-6 students full day / 7-12 students exams a.m. / 7-12 record marking p.m.
- 25 K-6 students half day a.m. / 7-12 students exams a.m. / K-12 record marking p.m.
- 26 K-6 students half day a.m. / 7-12 students exams a.m. / K-12 record marking p.m.
- 29 AAA presents the movie, "Angst," 7 p.m., Celebration Cinema North
- 31 Northern's Got Talent, 7 p.m., FHN Auditorium



## Adult Community Band Concert

**Sunday, Dec. 10, 2017, 2:30 p.m.**  
**Forest Hills Eastern High School**

2200 Pettis Avenue NE, Ada  
Free Admission • Doors Open at 2:15 p.m.  
Enter off of Knapp Street and enter through the doors on that side of the building.

Come treat yourself to an afternoon of delightful holiday music! For more information, please visit [fhacb.org](http://fhacb.org).

Forest Hills Eastern THEATRE presents

**ANYTHING GOES**  
BY COLE PORTER

February 1, 2 & 3 at 7:00 p.m.  
February 3 at 3:00 p.m.

Forest Hills Fine Arts Center  
600 Forest Hill Ave.  
616.493.8965

Tickets at the door and online!  
[www.fhtheatre.com](http://www.fhtheatre.com)

Anything Goes is produced in arrangement with TAMS-WTMARK MUSIC LIBRARY, INC., 360 Livingston Avenue, New York, NY 10023.

Forest Hills Central's

**PETER PAN**  
A MUSICAL ADVENTURE

March 15-17 at 7 p.m., and March 17 at 3 p.m.  
Forest Hills Fine Arts Center • Info. Coming Soon!

For the most up-to-date district and school calendars, visit our website:  
[www.fhps.net/about-us/district-calendar](http://www.fhps.net/about-us/district-calendar)

# Record Number of FHPS Students Qualify for Round Two of Michigan Math Exam

Forty-nine Forest Hills high school students were among the top finishers in Part I of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition. Their scores have qualified them to take Part II of the exam, which is held in December. 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 will take Part II of this year's MMPC exam.

## Central High School

Dorris Dagama	Yuyuan Luo
Benjamin Finkelstein	Nolan Ott
Suchir Gupta	Jason Ross
Scott Hadley	Rithik Sawant
Thomas Hendricks	Andrew Travis
Johnnie Lin	Ziyi Wang
Elijah Logan	Irene Yi

## Eastern High School

Praneet Gundepudi	Anish Premkumar
Vaishnavi Krishnan	Thomas Westrick
Josiah Lambert	

## Northern High School

Ella Baker	Paul Manderfeld
Joel Brandinger	Thomas McClelland
Evan Calderon	Hursh Motwani
George Chu	Lucia Pfeifer
Ethan Cripe Bonnell	Zoe Reep
Nav Dalmia	Ross Richards
Calvin Dorais	Jim-Hwan Ro
Erik Hammon	Jacob Robles
Jack Hillary	Troy Sorensen
Julian Jacobs	Camil Suciu
Ethan Jansen	Stefan Tolea
Bennet Lawson	Scott Tran
Maxwell Lu	Ethan VanValkenberg
Bridget Maloney	Changhun Yang
Liam Maloney	Abigail Zhang

# FHE Writing Center Embarks on Second Year of Peers Helping Peers

Last year, students at Forest Hills Eastern High School had a goal: to help their peers become better, stronger writers. With that in mind, students approached their teacher, Lynn Cvengros, and posed some questions. "What if we could create a place where other students could come, and get assistance writing a paper?" "What if we could create a peer-to-peer place where others could get help in writing a better report or paper?" "What if we could not do the work for others, but give them feedback to become better writers?"

With that in mind, Cvengros then empowered the students to do just that. What they created last year due to their thoughts and ingenuity was the FHE Writing Center. It is again in place this year, and as seniors Sarah Gerard and Alexia Zolenski explained to the Forest Hills Public Schools Board of Education during an instructional highlight, the Center provides guided writing rather than copyediting.



FHE senior Avneet Deol, consults with freshman, Lleyton Olson, and offers suggestions to strengthen his writing.

help with workflow, idea generation, and appointment scheduling. The FHE seniors in the class are called "consultants" and any student can make an appointment to discuss their essay, ideas, and organization of thoughts. Students are encouraged to make appointments at least 24 hours in advance and are told to bring in two copies of their work they are writing, and the assessment standards for which it will be reviewed. Writing consultations occur during lunch periods.

Zolenski says she has seen students come in with a variety of writing, and the Center encourages students to go deeper in their thoughts, explanations, support, and written expressions. From an opinion piece on a Supreme Court decision, to a book review of "The Great Gatsby" and more, Eastern students are learning from peers how to become better writers.


In addition to FHE's Writing Center, Gerard, Zolenski, and their peers are collaborating on a project called Design Innovations for Culture Enhancement. Through their efforts, they are trying to launch TED Talk Fridays. Their goal is to invite industry professionals to speak on a variety of topics to inspire students and broaden their educational opportunities. If you'd like to learn more about TED Talk Fridays, email Cvengros, at [lcvengros@fhps.net](mailto:lcvengros@fhps.net).



Forest Hills Eastern High School senior, Benjamin Centner, consults freshman, Peyton Harter, on her paper.

"We're helping build a community of writers and thinkers and getting to know our underclassmen," Gerard said. Although they agree that one of the outcomes could possibly be a better grade on a writing assignment, they both concur that it also helps them become stronger writers too.


According to the students, they also have created a Student Writing Center website to



## Winter Recess

December 25 - January 5

School Resumes Monday, January 6



# Art Infused with STEAM

Learning about chemistry and physical science is all in a day's work in art class. For some fifth- and sixth-grade students, they are not only making art, but also learning about chemical and physical reactions to materials used to create art.

In Stephanie Cionca's art class at Northern Trails 5/6 School, she infuses STEAM education into her lessons. STEAM education adds science, technology, engineering, and math, and incorporates art along with it. Cionca first told students about chemical and physical changes and how they apply to art forms. Examples were given, such as when water freezes, a physical change occurs; and when iron rusts, a chemical change occurs. She explained to the students why it is important to know about these changes in art when selecting materials for sculptures and creating art forms.

Following a quick lesson on physical and chemical changes, Cionca then had students mix Plaster of Paris with water and put it in a Ziplock bag to harden. She then handed students a mixture of Elmer's Art Paste and green fiber insulation and had them press the substance along the sides of a paper bowl.

"It feels gross, but kind of good," said one student pressing the mushy fiber insulation substance in the bowl. "It's so weird, but cool to learn art this way," said student Lucy Thorpe.

"It's art class, but we have to figure out what's happening to our art materials," said student Ellary Belote. "We have to record

our findings and observations, but it's fun. Learning art this way is more 'hands-on' and you think more in art class."

"It was cool how the Plaster of Paris powder changed into a solid by adding water in the Ziplock bag, and it also started to produce heat," said student Sean Hall. "There's more thinking involved doing art this way, and it is more fun than just drawing or painting things on a piece of paper."



Quinn Suvedi uses his hands to press the green insulation mixture to the sides of a bowl.

Cionca is using Next Generation Science Standards and Michigan Art Standards as inspiration for her art program. Students recorded their investigations and findings to determine whether they thought a chemical or physical change occurred with their materials based on their observations. These investigations about physical and chemical changes were part of a four-week unit. At the culmination of the unit, the students had created a functional paper-mache bowl painted with a self-designed symbol, and a plaster sculptured piece inspired by American artist Frank Stella.

"We are doing something really cool and fun in art," concluded Thorpe. "This school year is going to be amazing with art being taught like this. Anyone can be an artist, and it's okay too if your piece doesn't turn out the way you wanted it to. You can always learn something and it's okay to make mistakes and then figure out how to fix them. I love art class this way, and our teacher brings art to life."



Art teacher, Stephanie Cionca, (left) gives a mixture of Elmer's Art Paste and green fiber insulation to Ellary Belote to make into a bowl.

# FHPS Catch the Spirit Day Unifies All



FHC Ranger football players are proud of their Special Olympics athletes.

The third annual FHPS Catch the Spirit Day was a huge success. The event brought together the three Forest Hills high school football teams and cheerleading squads and 70 Special Olympics athletes from West Michigan. The three school's varsity football and cheerleading teams helped organize the event which was held on the football field at Forest Hills Central High School. Special Olympics athletes of all ages had the opportunity to learn football skills from the varsity football teams — the Eastern Hawks, Central Rangers and Northern Huskies. The event ended with the Special Olympians playing football and scoring touchdowns against the varsity football teams. The athletes also were taught a few cheers by the varsity cheerleaders.

According to Chris Thomas, the FHPS coordinator of the event, it was a special day for all involved. "We're reaching out to help others," Thomas said. "We're helping others that have a disability...that have a dream to score a touchdown, to catch a ball, to be a cheerleader. But we get to do it, instead of as three schools, as one community. We're Forest Hills."



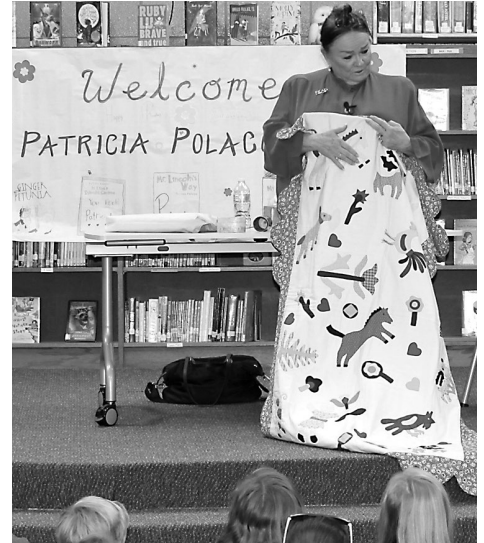
FHPS high school cheerleaders help Special Olympics cheerleaders root for their team.

# Around Forest Hills Public Schools in Pictures

## Best-Selling Author Visits FHPS Elementary Schools



Children's author, Patricia Polacco visited with students at Collins and Pine Ridge elementary schools. While at Collins she told the students, "You were always born with the power to change people. You change people with love, understanding, kindness, and patience. You can't change people on a wish." Polacco talked to the students about her two books, "The Keeping Quilt" and "Meteor!" and she also met with the school's student senate for a one-on-one question-and-answer time.



## Eastern Middle School Aids Hurricane Relief



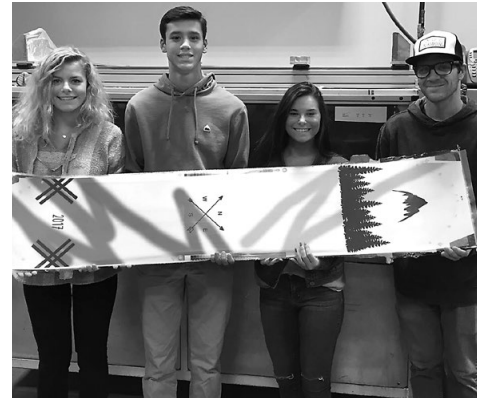
Many student groups around the FHPS district organized fund drives to help with hurricane recovery in the south. Pictured here is just one of the initiatives. Students at Forest Hills Eastern Middle School held a "Hurricoin" Project collecting coin donations for two weeks in a friendly, yet competitive, class competition. The students collected \$2,640 which Lake Michigan Credit Union matched, for a total donation to the American Red Cross of \$5,280.

## FAC Artist-in-Residence Works with FHC Students



Mike Bryant, an FHPS Fine Arts Center artist-in-residence, spent time with Central High School art students sharing his talent and creating art. FHC students learned about Raku firing from Bryant and created their own masks based on his teachings and expertise.

## Gone Boarding at Burton



Forest Hills Eastern High School students (l to r) Lauren Rechner, Jacob Hoexum, and Lane Litzan meet with Burton snowboard builder Jon Laramie. The students in the Gone Boarding class recently collaborated with Burton Snowboards to design and create a snowboard from the ground up. They met with Burton graphic designers, finalized the design, and then helped Burton engineers build the board. This is an ongoing partnership between the district's Gone Boarding class and Burton.

## Conference Goers Get the Full GES Experience



Goodwillie Environmental 5/6 student Madison Evans (left) gives her mom Tara Evans (right) a tour of the chicken coop during student growth conferences. Every year Goodwillie students oversee a chicken business on the property of their school and are responsible for all aspects of the business including marketing, financing, distribution, quality control, inventory and more.

## Ada Vista Students Learn About Dia de los Muertos: A Celebration of Life



Ada Vista students learned about Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), a holiday to honor the dead that originated in Mexico and is recognized throughout Latin America. The fourth-grade students worked with kindergarten students to help them color masks and learn new vocabulary words associated with the celebration. Photo by School News Network

## Ada Elementary Students Explore Other Cultures



Ada Elementary School students continue to learn about a variety of cultures, customs, religions, and beliefs, and they learn about embracing and understanding that we all are part of a global community.

## Students Paint Shoes for GVSU Art Installation



Northern High School students in the Spanish and global issues class collaborated with Mexican artist, Elina Chauvet. The students donated shoes, then painted them red, which were included in an exhibit called Zapatos Rojos displayed at Grand Valley State University's downtown campus. The project helped bring awareness to the ongoing violence against women in Mexico.

## Understanding the Physics of Projectile Motion



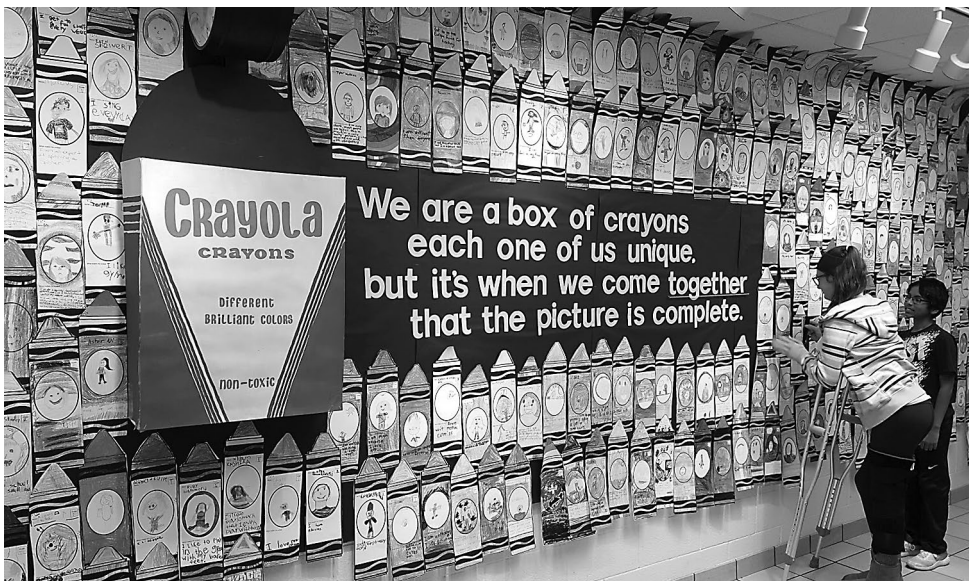
STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) students learn practical applications of physics and robotics by building robots that were specifically designed to help students understand projectile motion. The students are 11th graders in the STEM program. Calculations were made prior to testing and firing, adjustments were made, and the students analyzed their results and formed scientific and mathematical conclusions.

## Central Woodlands' CPUs Help Provide Safe Drinking Water



Central Woodlands sixth-grade students learned how a project they will be doing this spring has a potential of impacting 75,000 people in remote villages around the globe. Representatives from Safe Water International Ministries talked with the students about the importance of having clean, safe drinking water. Later on in the school year, the students will be doing a global educational unit, reading the book "A Long Walk to Water," and much more to learn about the importance of clean water. Central Woodlands' goal this spring is to make 75 Chlorine Producing Units (CPUs) which will help make water safe for drinking. This is the third year Central Woodlands has teamed up with Safe Water International. If you would like to know how you can help the students accomplish their goal, email Judy Bouley, Central Woodlands school counselor, at [jbouley@fmps.net](mailto:jbouley@fmps.net).

## Orchard View Students Create Unique Mural



Every student at Orchard View Elementary School was invited to color a crayon for the mural. Each crayon also allowed students to draw a self-portrait and share something that makes them unique. Seeing the crayons displayed together reminds students, and everyone, that the variety of individual talents and differences within a community makes it stronger and more vibrant. The project was part of the school's Global Learners Initiative which, among many other things, works to bring awareness, acceptance, and appreciation to all.

# Around Forest Hills Public Schools in Pictures (continued)

## Knapp Forest's Zoo Lab



Knapp Forest fourth-grade students spent a week at John Ball Zoo learning about animals, habitats, wildlife environments, conservation efforts, and much more. The students were placed in groups where they intensively studied a particular animal for the week and wrote about their observations in a journal.

## Greenhouse Goes Up at Forest Hills Central



Under the direction of teacher Chad Scholten, Central High School students are constructing a greenhouse on campus to be used by students and classes. Their goal is to create FRESH (Forest Hills Research, Economics, Sustainability, Horticulture) where students in classes such as biology, chemistry, environmental science, geology, health and nutrition, marketing, drafting and design, and wood working could learn first-hand principles and concepts associated with a variety of educational topics.

# Enroll Your Child in a Language Immersion Kindergarten

It's not too early to begin thinking about kindergarten for next fall. If you are a resident living within the Forest Hills Public School District, and have a child who will be entering kindergarten in the fall of 2018, did you know that you could enroll your child in a kindergarten language immersion program? Whether the avenue is early total one-way Spanish immersion or early 50/50 one-way immersion in Mandarin Chinese, there are pathways to bilingualism and bi-literacy through immersion education beginning in kindergarten.

FHPS is home to two language immersion programs which begin in kindergarten. Language immersion programming is designed intentionally, providing learners with time and intensity in a target language to encourage bilingualism and bi-literacy. Students experience daily core content instruction through the means of a target language. As part of this content instruction, students acquire skills unique to the target language, with the overarching goal of developing student performance and proficiency over time. This means that the language is not the sole content of instruction itself, but rather it serves as the vehicle through which content knowledge and skills are accessed and engaged.

There are three goals of dual language immersion education:

1. Achievement of grade-level Michigan Academic Standards / FHPS Curriculum Standards.
2. Attainment of high levels of target language performance and proficiency.
3. Awareness, appreciation, and sensitivity for world cultures.

The kindergarten Spanish immersion program is housed at Ada Vista Elementary School and the Mandarin Chinese program is housed at Meadow Brook Elementary School. There are two ways Forest Hills residents are accepted into a dual language immersion program. One is through siblings and the other is through an in-district lottery. Families who currently have enrolled immersion students or have immersion alumni siblings are eligible for the sibling registration. Sibling registration begins this year on Dec. 4, 2017, and ends Dec. 22, 2017, at 4 p.m. New student lottery registration begins Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2018, and ends Friday, Feb. 9, 2018, at 4 p.m. Both Ada Vista and Meadow Brook elementary schools have many opportunities for families to explore more about immersion

programs, to attend events, and to tour the programs. These tours can help families learn more about language immersion, the steps language immersion students follow throughout their education at FHPS, and how families can support their child's learning. For additional information on upcoming tour dates and times, and for more information about the enrollment process, please visit our website, [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net), click on the "Schools" tab, and then click Ada Vista Elementary and Meadow Brook Elementary.

## Enrollment Dates for Language Immersion Kindergartens

### ■ Sibling Enrollment

Dec. 4 - 22, 2017

### ■ New Family Enrollment

Jan. 8 - Feb. 9, 2018

### ■ Lottery

Feb. 16, 2018

### ■ Placement Letters Mailed

Feb. 23, 2018



# Students, Staff, and Community Honor Veterans

Featured on this page is a collection of activities and events that occurred last month to honor our Veterans. Many activities and educational events also are held throughout the school year in classrooms and service learning projects.

## Central Woodlands 5/6 School



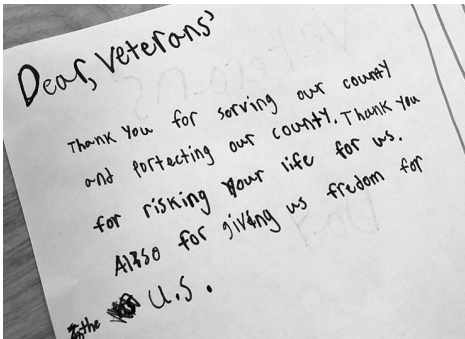
Central Woodlands 5/6 students honored Veterans with a flag raising ceremony and a special lunch.

## Pine Ridge Elementary School



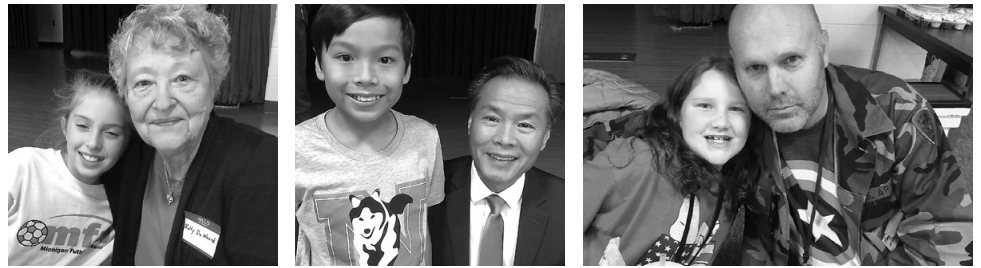
Pine Ridge Elementary School held its 11th Annual Veterans Day Luncheon. Students wrote cards and thank-you notes, created posters, decorations, and much more.

## Ada Elementary School



Ada Elementary students wrote letters, made cards, and drew pictures for Veterans.

## Northern Trails 5/6 School



Northern Trails 5/6 students honored Veterans during their first Veterans Day luncheon and honors program.

## Forest Hills Northern High School



FHN held its 14th Annual Veterans Day Ceremony and paid tribute to the men and women who have served with honor, dignity, grace, courage, and pride.

## Forest Hills Central High School



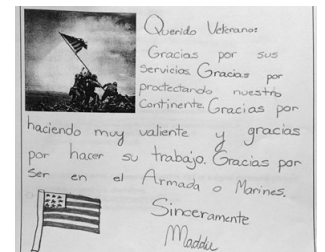
Forest Hills Central High School held their Veterans Day Ceremony with bagpipers, a color guard, speakers, military music, and more.

## Knapp Forest Elementary School



Knapp Forest students honored Veterans by writing cards that were delivered to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.

## Ada Vista Elementary



Ada Vista students wrote letters in Spanish to Veterans and military families.

## Did You Know?

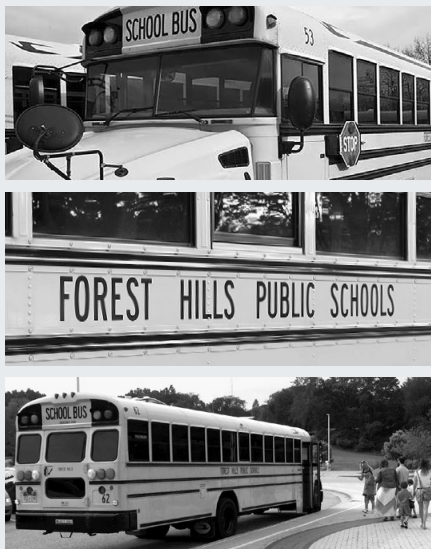
# FHPS Operations and Transportation Departments Keep District Running Smoothly

It takes a team of individuals to help keep schools running smoothly. Here we highlight our operations and transportation teams who work around-the-clock to take care of our valuable resources and keep kids safe.

## Operations Department

Our operations department for Forest Hills Public Schools takes pride in keeping our facilities well-maintained for students, community, and faculty.

- They are responsible for over two million square feet of building space; 650 acres; 68 square miles; and 26 building sites.
- They are responsible for building and facilities usage for all after-school activities and events.
- They are responsible for all cleaning and infection control as well as maintenance compliance issues.
- They use green energy and recycling.
- They have a team of 82 employees, many of whom are part-time, serving in custodial, grounds, and maintenance roles. Combined, these employees work 563 hours each day to keep our spaces clean and maintained.
- Between 2014 and 2017, the department has increased recycling and reduced trash throughout the district for an annual savings of \$26,424.



## Transportation Department

Our transportation department for Forest Hills Public Schools provides students living within our 68 square miles with safe and reliable transportation to and from school every day. While maintaining the highest safety standards, they continue to strive for efficiency by finding better ways to route our buses in order to reduce mileage and time. Here are some things to note.

- The FHPS fleet of buses traveled a cumulative total of 843,696 miles during the 2016-2017 school year.
- Collectively, our buses used 126,562 gallons of diesel fuel last year.
- Our transportation team provided service for 2,300 scholastic field and athletic trips.
- Our transportation team includes a fleet of 80 buses, and 80 employees, including drivers, vehicle repair and maintenance employees, and office support for dispatching, routing, and scheduling.
- The transportation staff conducted school bus safety presentations in all kindergarten through sixth-grade classrooms across the district and conducted a total of three evacuation drills on every route and at all grade levels on our buses last year.

## Get the Most Out of the MyStop Bus App

Have you downloaded the Versatrans MyStop app which provides mobile access to bus information? If you have, make sure you complete another step in the app. Once in the app, go to "Setup" and to "Notifications." Activate the "Delayed Bus" notification to make sure you are receiving "push" notifications when a bus has been delayed. By activating this feature, you will be alerted to changes in a child's bus schedule and will be informed when a bus has been significantly delayed (typically 10 minutes or more) due to weather, construction, and other road conditions.

With MyStop, parents and guardians know exactly where their child's bus is on the route and an estimated time of arrival at their stop. The app is available on both iPhone and Android devices. If you have questions about the MyStop app, please call FHPS transportation, 616-493-8785.

## Do You Want Your Phone to Wake You up on Snow Days? If not ...

## Set Your SchoolMessenger Preferences

Forest Hills Public Schools uses a communication system called SchoolMessenger to notify families of school closings or delays due to inclement weather. Usually, the district uses the text and email option of this notification system. However, there are times when the district also uses the phone call option. SchoolMessenger is only available to enrolled families and is accessed by parents/guardians logging into PowerSchool. Before winter weather hits, you're encouraged to log into PowerSchool and check your SchoolMessenger preferences.

In order to receive SchoolMessenger texts from FHPS, families must opt in by texting "YES," to 68453. Please note, FHPS is not responsible for text message charges people may incur by opting in to this service. Families can repeat the opt in process for any other wireless numbers they wish to include, only if these numbers are on file with the school.

Please remember, always contact your child's school to update your phone number and email contact information if or when a change occurs. If you have questions about SchoolMessenger and/or how to log into PowerSchool, contact your school's secretary.

# FHPS Athletics

## FHN Huskies Girls' Golf Team: State Champs!



Congratulations to Forest Hills Northern Huskies girls' golf state champions. Pictured (l to r), Olivia Moran, Chloe Johnson, Kay Zubkus, Lisa Reynolds, Gabriela Mas, Lilia Henkel, Anna Fay, Madeline Goodrich, and Coach Kent Graves.

## Combined FH Field Hockey Team Takes State!



Congratulations to our combined Forest Hills girls' field hockey state champion team: Front row (l to r), Elena Cook and Molly Growney. Kneeling (l to r), Rain Tarango, Karah Martin, Natalie Winn, Gwen Cook, Emma Dodson, Madisyn Bunke, Madison Bruno, Katlyn Noom, Ellen Korest, and Jayden Bonsall. Standing (l to r) Head Coach Andrea Shaner, Mallory Jacobs, Katherine Slywka, Gwyneth Ackerman, Kirsten Fentzke, Emily Cobb, Brooke Buchanan, Elysee Gerondale, and Assistant Coach Kevin Hausch.

Photos by Jim Hill

Please note: All fall sports teams and athletic accomplishments will be featured in the next "Focus."

## Collins Elementary Makes Way for Butterflies



Collins second- and fourth-graders help to remove invasive species from the school's garden space.

by Linda Odette, School News Network

The nasty invasive species and weeds that took over the Collins Elementary garden space have disappeared, making way for a new garden next spring. Marnie TenCate's second-graders and Karin Cramer's fourth-graders made it happen as part of a STEM project. Students learned how human activity has destroyed natural habitats, with one of the results being the decrease in monarch butterflies. Earlier in the school year, they watched caterpillars turn into butterflies before releasing them. Now the garden has been cleared and new life will begin popping up in the spring to attract Monarch butterflies.

## Thornapple Students Love Spanish Class



Thornapple Elementary School students enjoy Spanish class and learn new vocabulary words every week. In fact, all FHPS students in grades kindergarten through six are exposed to a world language. With the exception of Ada Vista Elementary, the district's Spanish immersion school, and Meadow Brook Elementary, home to the Mandarin Chinese immersion program, most students are provided with Spanish instruction for two 30-minute periods per week per grade level. The focus in kindergarten through second grade is on listening and comprehension. In third through sixth grade, students begin to read, write, translate, and retell stories in Spanish.

## Bocce Ball Unifies Students

Students from Northern Trails 5/6 School joined forces with students from Meadow Brook Elementary School during a Youth Activation Committee lunch and unified sport day. Both schools have a program called LINKS, a peer-to-peer program where a general education student is paired or "linked" with a same-aged peer from their school's cognitively impaired classroom. The pairs of students from both schools also participate in the United Champion Schools Program, an education and sport-based program that promotes acceptance, respect, and leadership for students of all abilities while creating an inclusive school environment. Meadow Brook served as the host school for the event. The afternoon concluded with several games of bocce ball filled with lots of laughter, high-fives and huge smiles.



Students take a break in between games of bocce ball during the event at Meadow Brook Elementary School.

# Forest Hills Fine Arts Center



## LET THE RHYTHM LEAD YOU

### FOREST HILLS FINE ARTS CENTER 2017-18 SEASON



#### TOWER OF POWER 50TH ANNIVERSARY 2018

January 17, 2018, 7:30 pm  
\$40, \$44, \$50, \$60

#### SINGLE TICKETS

Single tickets on sale Monday, November 6, 2017 at 9am for Tower of Power 50th Anniversary 2018, Dublin Irish Dance, and An Evening with Bruce Hornsby. Single tickets can be purchased in person only at the FAC Box Office, by calling 800-745-3000 or at ticketmaster.com.



#### DUBLIN IRISH DANCE

"STEPPING OUT" AN EXTRAVAGANZA OF SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF IRISH CULTURE

February 7, 2018, 7:30 pm  
\$28, \$30, \$34, \$40



#### AN EVENING WITH BRUCE HORNSBY

March 21, 2018, 7:30 pm  
\$46, \$48, \$52, \$60

#### SEASON SPONSORS

CENTENNIAL SECURITIES

Investments & Advice



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GRAND RAPIDS  
AIRPORT



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Season materials designed by:

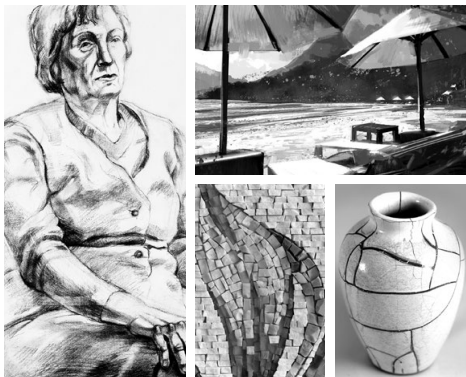
atmediastudio  
Be seen, heard & remembered.

## Art Exhibits at the Center

### FHPS Staff and Community Exhibit

November 28 - December 15, 2017

Artists' Reception: December 7, 6-7 p.m.  
Forest Hills Fine Arts Center Lobby



Presenting Sponsor:

CENTENNIAL SECURITIES

Investments & Advice

Supporting Sponsors:



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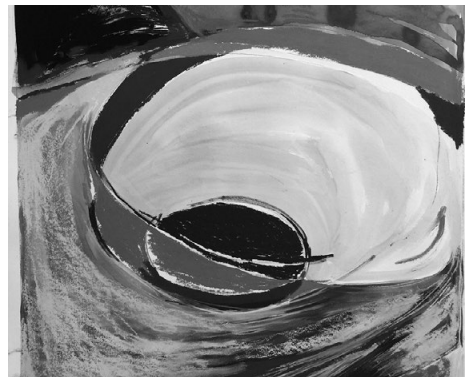
atmediastudio  
Be seen, heard & remembered.

### Anne Berends

Drawings, Paintings

January 10 - February 2, 2018

Artist's Reception: January 18, 6-7 p.m.  
Forest Hills Fine Arts Center Lobby



## FHFAC Calendar

### December

7 FHPS Staff and Community Exhibit: Artists' Reception, 6-7 p.m.

### January

17 FHFAC presents Tower of Power 50th Anniversary Tour, 7:30 p.m.

18 Anne Berends Artist's Reception, 6-7 p.m.

### February

7 FHFAC presents Dublin Irish Dance, 7:30 p.m.

15 Linda Walburn Artist's Reception, 6-7 p.m.

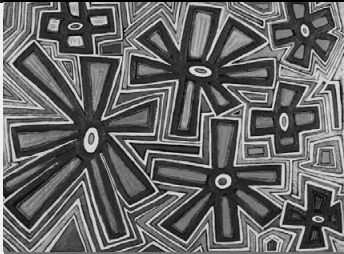
Visit [fhfineartscenter.com](http://fhfineartscenter.com) for a calendar showing all upcoming events.

### Follow the FAC on Facebook, Twitter:

- Twitter: [twitter.com/FHFAC](https://twitter.com/FHFAC)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Forest-Hills-Fine-Arts-Center](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Forest-Hills-Fine-Arts-Center)

**Forest Hills Fine Arts Center**

# 17/18 Artist-in-Residence & Exhibit Schedule



**LOFTIS**



**BRYANT**

**CARMELLA LOFTIS**

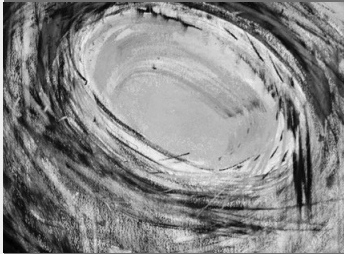
August 24 - September 22, 2017

Reception: Thursday, September 7, 2017

**MIKE BRYANT**

September 28 - October 26, 2017

Reception: Thursday, October 5, 2017



**BERENDS**



**WALBURN**

**FHPS STAFF & COMMUNITY EXHIBIT**

November 28 - December 15, 2017

Reception: Thursday, December 7, 2017

**ANNE BERENDS**

January 10 - February 2, 2018

Reception: Thursday, January 18, 2018



**HOSTERMAN**



**WONG-LIGDA**

**LINDA WALBURN**

February 8 - 27, 2018

Reception: Thursday, February 15, 2018

**BILL HOSTERMAN & ED WONG-LIGDA**

March 2 - 23, 2018

Reception: Wednesday, March 7, 2018



**DICKSON**



**MEYER**

**FHPS STUDENT EXHIBIT**

April 12 - May 11, 2018

Reception: Tuesday, April 17, 2018

**JILLIAN DICKSON**

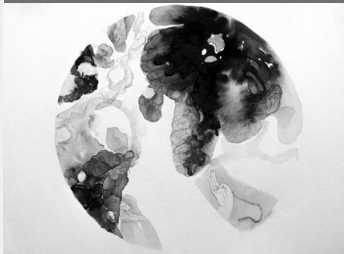
May 25 - June 22, 2018

Reception: Wednesday, June 6, 2018

**KATE MEYER**

June 29 - July 27, 2018

Reception: Thursday, July 12, 2018



**CHEN**

**BEIBEI & LEILEI CHEN**

August 3 - 24, 2018

Reception: Thursday, August 9, 2018

All exhibits are free to the public.

**Exhibit Hours**  
9am - 5pm Monday - Friday

**Summer Exhibit Hours**  
9am - 5pm Monday - Thursday

**Artist Receptions**  
6pm - 7pm in the FAC lobby.

Everyone Welcome

Artist-in-Residence Artists are in gray.



600 Forest Hill Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
Phone: 616.493.8965 Box Office: 616.493.8966  
www.fhfineartscenter.com

Presenting Sponsor for the 17/18 Exhibit & Artist-In-Residence Program



AIR/Exhibit Supporting Sponsors





# Forest Hills Community Services Gears Up for Winter Classes

## Winter 2018 Dance for Girls! Passport Around the World Party

Friday, Feb. 2, 2018  
7 - 9 p.m.

Frederik Meijer Gardens

Take a trip around the world without leaving Frederik Meijer Gardens. It's the perfect place for your kindergarten through sixth-grade girl, with her adult accompaniment, to enjoy. This year, we will be celebrating all the wonderful things the world has to offer while enjoying a masterpiece of desserts, dancing, and social time with friends.

Please register early as this popular event typically sells out.

- Resident couple, \$59\*
- Non-resident couple, \$69\*
- Additional sibling, \$25
- Two additional siblings, \$35

\* early bird price (purchase at least one week prior to event)



## Quick, Secure Registration

It's easy to register for Community Services classes and events. Here are the two most popular ways:

- Visit our website, [enjoylearning.com](http://enjoylearning.com).
- Call us at 616-493-8950.

## Winter Class Catalog

Check out the Community Services winter 2018 catalog delivered recently to Forest Hills' mailboxes. If you missed it, you can always visit our website, [enjoylearning.com](http://enjoylearning.com), and page through our interactive online catalog. Just select the catalog cover graphic on the homepage.

## Severe Weather/Closings

Winter weather is unpredictable. If Forest Hills Public Schools is closed due to severe weather, the FHPS Community, Aquatic and Senior Center also will be closed and all classes will be canceled. Make sure you check local media sites and the district website, [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net), for school closings, delays, and cancellations.

## Aquatic Classes

### Lifeguarding Class (Age 15+)

One American Red Cross waterfront lifeguarding class will be offered this winter:

- Starts Feb. 21 and ends March 26, 2018.
- Course code: 18WPLGT.

The class meets Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5 - 8 p.m., and meets 10 times. Save \$10 if you register at least seven days prior to the start of the course.

### Swimming Lessons for Children

Do you have a child who doesn't like the water or doesn't know how to swim? Help them be prepared and give them the skills they need. The Aquatic Center offers the American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim program, and swim lessons are on Saturdays starting Jan. 13, 2018, and meet for nine consecutive weeks, ending March 10. Classes are offered at 9:10 a.m., 10:10 a.m., and 11:10 a.m.

### New Aquatic Classes for Adults

This winter, we are excited to introduce three new classes for adults. The Adult Learn-to-Swim class helps adults get over their fear of water in a positive, encouraging environment. Deep Water Exercise provides a challenging workout using fins and resistance training in the diving well. Swim Training uses lap swimming to perfect your stroke dynamics and build endurance.

## Youth Classes and Sports

We are offering many exciting classes for kids in all grades this January, February, and March, including:

- KCAD's Underwater Sea Creatures • Ballet Fundamentals I • Bricks 4 Kidz: Kings and Knights • Bricks 4 Kidz: Robotics Engineering: Robotic Flying Machines and Animals
- Midwest United FC Soccer • Peaceful Dragons Self-Defense • Co-ed Basketball • Fencing for Beginners • Volleyball for Girls
- Middle School Girls' Water Polo • Middle School Co-ed Tennis • ACT, PSAT Seminars

### New Sports Training Classes

This winter, two new sports training classes are coming to Forest Hills for the first time! Co-ed Basketball Skills Training by Basics Basketball will teach your son or daughter the skills and regimen they need to advance to middle school basketball and beyond. MLXA's Little Laxers: Introduction to

Lacrosse class will teach the fundamentals of this popular sport to children in grades K-4.

## Middle School Sports

**Girls' Water Polo:** The season starts on March 13 and meets for 36 sessions (Monday through Thursday). **Co-ed Tennis:** The season starts on March 19 (weather permitting) and runs through the middle of May (Monday through Thursday). Please call Community Services at 493-8950 to register for these middle school sports teams.

## Awesome Classes for Adults

We are offering 16 new classes that start in the winter months:

- Learning Never Ends: American Sign Language • Watercolor for Beginners • Acrylic Madness: Pouring Paint • Word I, II, and III
  - Maximize Your iPad • Bridge for Beginners II • Strategic Sponsorships • Asking Matters: Ask in a Way That's Comfortable and Effective • No-Ask Fundraising • St. Valentine's Special: A Jungian Exploration of Why We Fall In and Out of Love • Health Advocacy • The Mexican-American War • Loom-Knitted Hat • Loom-Knitted Scarf
- Many returning favorites are scheduled too. Check our catalog or website for more information.

## Learning Café for Seniors

### Family Tree Search

Tuesday, January 9, 2018; Lunch at Noon

Researching your family tree is a fun project that can benefit your children and grandchildren. Learn about free websites to help with your search and basic ways to keep your information organized. This seminar is presented by Adam Oster of Kent District Library.

### Protect Yourself from Financial Fraud

Tuesday, January 23, 2018; Lunch at Noon

Can you always tell the difference between a legitimate sales pitch and one that's fraudulent? Learn ways to protect yourself from becoming a victim of financial scams. This seminar is presented by Nancy Kropiewnicki, contract coordinator, with the Area Agency on Aging.

Additional Learning Cafés are scheduled for February and March. Please check our website for more details.



# FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Providing funding for all areas of academic excellence in Forest Hills Public Schools  
For more information and to donate, call 616-493-8954, or visit [www.fhpsf.org](http://www.fhpsf.org).

## 2017 Fall Individual Teacher Grants

We are pleased to announce that the 2017 Fall Grants were recently awarded to teachers throughout the district. Over \$60,000 were distributed to fund amazing programs

that will directly impact students. From a solar-heated sustainable greenhouse project at Central High, to breakout boxes at Northern Hills Middle School, to explorations

in alternative energy sources at Eastern Middle School, to a 3D printer at Collins Elementary, we invite you to check out the complete list below.

Applicant Name	Bldg.	Project Name/Description	Amount
Brian Johnson	FHN	Loaded!/Class set of books for personal finance course	\$484
Chad Scholten	FHC	Anatomy in Clay/Six clay models of the human organ systems	\$1,600
Chad Scholten	FHC	Solar-Heated Sustainable Greenhouse/Greenhouse for growing, studying produce	\$10,000
Carie Martin/Team	NHMS	NHMS Breakout EDU/ Eight breakout boxes for critical thinking, problem solving	\$1,000
Jen Veltman	FHN	Culinary Arts/Kitchen equipment for the culinary arts program	\$2,000
Jill McCullough	EMS	Explorations in Alternative Energy/Solar car kits and wind turbine science kits	\$1,869
Katie Sobecki	TR. CTR.	Yoga for All/Mats for student yoga classes to manage anxiety and improve focus	\$700
Scott Kemperman	FHN	Laser Cutter/Machine to allow students to cut out or engrave on a variety of materials	\$14,050
Kim Evans	COL	3D Printer/Machine allows students to experience science, math, engineering concepts	\$900
Patty Tolly	CW	Exhibit Design for Zoo Day/Student workshop to design exhibits for John Ball Zoo	\$600
Sharon Tabaczka	KF	3D Printers/Machines for students to aid creativity, problem solving in STEAM program	\$1,800
Diane Peneycad	CW	Breakout EDU Boxes/ Eight breakout boxes for critical thinking, problem solving	\$1,000
Evie Vincent	OV	High-Interest, Low-Readability Books/Books for students with reading challenges	\$870
Kendra St. Antoine	FHN	Full STEAM Ahead/Set of 3D printers for student learning and engagement	\$8,200
K. Kempainen/Team	ADA, FHC	Cross-Collaboration/Books to foster mentoring between different-age students	\$560
Bridget Bennett	ADA	LEGO Education WeDo 2.0/Supplies, software to study sciences and engineering	\$5,279
Matt Meyer	KF	If You Build It...They Will Code!/Computer kits to study coding, application design	\$1,500
Kristy Butler	FHC	Incubators/Student research equipment to study biology, geology, and the environment	\$1,200
Jeremy Cox	FAC	FAC Wireless Part II/Equipment for six additional channels of wireless microphones	\$6,025
John Vanderburg	FHE	FHE Visual Arts Visibility/Printer for greater functionality, integration of visual arts	\$3,667
<b>Total Awarded</b>			<b>\$63,304</b>



Teacher Jill McCullough (right) at Eastern Middle School received her grant check for science kits that will enable her students to study alternative sources of energy.



Teacher Kim Evans (right) at Collins Elementary School received her grant check for a 3D printer so her students can experience science, math, and engineering concepts in a hands-on way.



Forest Hills Public Schools

6590 Cascade Road SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Phone: 616-493-8800

**POSTMASTER:**

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## AAA to Host a Showing of "Angst"

**A documentary with candid interviews with teens talking about anxiety and offering tools that help and provide hope**

Save the date, Monday, Jan. 29, 2018, at 7 p.m., for a special movie premier of "Angst" at Celebration Cinema North. Hosted by the parent group for the Awareness, Acceptance, and Advocacy of Mental Health (AAA), this hour-long documentary explores anxiety, its causes, effects, and what parents, teachers, students and the community can do about anxiety.

Anxiety disorders are real, common, and treatable. The filmmakers' goal is to have a global conversation and raise awareness around anxiety. "Angst" features candid interviews with kids and young adults who suffer, or have suffered, from anxiety and what they've learned about it. Following the movie there will be a question-and-answer period with mental health experts.



More information will be revealed soon about how you can secure your free tickets to this important event. Check the FHPS website, [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net), in January for additional details.



## Growth Mindset Video Available Online

If you were unable to attend the presentation on growth mindset at the Fine Arts Center, the video presentation is available on the FHPS YouTube Channel. The video features Becky Telzerow, Northern Hills Middle School counselor, discussing ways in which people can develop and foster a growth mindset and why this is important. The evening included a 45-minute presentation from Telzerow, and then included a panel of experts who answered questions

from audience members. Having a growth mindset is a shift in the way of thinking, solving problems, and responding to obstacles. If you'd like additional resources on growth mindset and/or have additional questions, please contact your child's school counselor, or email Telzerow at [rtelzerow@fhps.net](mailto:rtelzerow@fhps.net). The program was organized and coordinated by the Forest Hills Public Schools team for the Awareness, Acceptance, and Advocacy of Mental Health.

## 2017-2018 Board of Education Members

- Mary Vonck, President
- Martha Atwater, Vice President
- Susan Lenhardt, Secretary
- Walter F. Perschbacher III, Treasurer
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- 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.

Questions and/or comments about this publication should be emailed to the editor at [ebrink@fhps.net](mailto:ebrink@fhps.net), or call 616-493-8800.

## School News Network

Our district is a proud partner of School News Network, an online news site for public school districts in the Kent County area. This site has school news you won't read anywhere else. Please bookmark our district's news page (<https://www.schoolnewsnetwork.org/districts/forest-hills>), or better yet, sign up to get news articles delivered right to your inbox. Read about Forest Hills Public Schools and other educational stories from all schools throughout the Kent Intermediate School District. Visit [www.schoolnewsnetwork.org/newsletter](http://www.schoolnewsnetwork.org/newsletter) to sign up to receive news stories featuring schools, teachers, students, programs, and educational topics.

# We're Hiring!

- Substitute Bus Drivers
- Food Service Workers
- Child Care Aides
- Custodians/Cleaners
- Substitute Teachers
- ... and more!

Visit [www.fhps.net](http://www.fhps.net)

