

Insight

Wyoming Public Schools

Winter 2010

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State School Funding Crisis

A Message from Superintendent Felske

The 2009-10 school year has started out as the most difficult financial year of state funding since the early 1980s. The state of Michigan had to make more than \$2 billion worth of budget reductions statewide.



Superintendent
Jon A. Felske

How does this affect our district? Last spring, the state of Michigan told our Board of Education to prepare our 2009-10 school budget without any additional revenue as compared to the 2008-09 school year. In June, the Board of Education adopted a balanced budget with no additional revenue planned.

What has happened since? The state of Michigan has implemented a \$165 per pupil reduction in September, which for our district amounts to \$869,715. Recently, Governor Jennifer Granholm announced another per pupil reduction of \$127, which is another reduction of \$669,417 for our district. These revenue reductions equal a loss of \$1,539,182 for Wyoming Public Schools.

Please assist our Board of Education in contacting our state representative and senator in asking for their support of K-12 education. You can contact our Representative, Kevin Greene, at (517) 373-2277 or kevingreen@house.mi.gov, and our State Senator, Mark Jansen, at (517) 373-0797 or SenMJansen@senate.michigan.gov.

Inclement Weather Calling System

Wyoming Public Schools now has a call system that will dial the main contact number of all students and staff members in the event of a school closing for any unscheduled reason. This may include school closings for snow days, unusually high absence in a building due to illness or any other reminder calls that may need to be made on a mass basis.

Please be sure that your student's building has the correct phone number on file to ensure that you receive these important calls. When a building is closed on a regularly scheduled school day, please check the district website to see if evening or extra curricular activities will take place on that day.

The district will also continue to use the traditional media outlets and our district website to convey this information.

Wyoming Park Students Earn AP Scholarship Awards

by Steve Klein

Three students at Wyoming Park have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program provides motivated and academically-prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 18 percent of the nearly 1.7 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award.

Student Anne Francois qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Two students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars are Kevin Dempsey and Jacob Hunsberger.

We would like to congratulate these students who are now enrolled in their first year of college. ☺



Rogers High School Student Congress members collected winter hats, scarves and gloves to keep area families warm. Top row: Sarah Ferguson, Kevin Humphrey and Elaine Trinh. Bottom row: Kali Nelson and Adam Gajewski.

Rogers' Student Congress Warms Heads, Hands, Hearts

by Trina Harris

For the past few years, Rogers High School Student Congress has held their annual Hat, Glove and Scarf Drive during the month of November.

During this drive, students seek donations of hand-made or purchased hats, gloves and scarves from Rogers students and staff as well as people in the community. These hats, gloves and scarves go directly to elementary students that attend Wyoming Public Schools. RHS Student Congress also provides Holiday Baskets filled with essentials items (food, toiletries, and cleaning supplies) that are delivered to families that have students attending Rogers.

With the generous donations from Meijer Corporation, community members from Grand Rapids, Kentwood and Hudsonville, and Rogers students and staff, Student Congress members shopped at Meijer on 54th Street during December for items to fill the baskets.

The baskets are then assembled and delivered prior to winter break. Rogers Student Congress members along with their advisors, Trina Harris and Pam Morell, hope to continue to provide Wyoming Public Schools elementary students and Rogers families with these baskets and winter gear for years to come. ☺

Gladiola Celebrates Literacy at the “Beach!”

by Dawn Judge

What do “Fin” of the Grand Rapids Griffins, “Crash” from the West Michigan Whitecaps and the staff from the Wyoming Public Library have in common? They all attended Gladiola’s Literacy Night at the Beach!

More than 300 parents and students arrived ready to eat hot dogs and participate in many different literacy activities throughout the building. Some of the most popular activities with the

students were designing a personal writing journal, using a recipe to make “Beach Blanket Trail Mix”, using a beach ball to retell a story, and rhyme “fishing.” In addition to those activities, the students and their parents were even able to read a book and take an Accelerated Reader quiz together on the computer!

As students completed each activity, the teachers in charge of that activity initiated their Activity



Isaac (right) and his dad “dive” into a non-fiction book to read together at Gladiola’s Literacy at the Beach Night!

Ticket. At the end of the night, the tickets went into a container for a drawing to win prizes donated by area businesses. Prizes were awarded the next day.

The Gladiola Gators would like to thank Family Video, Barnes and Noble, Spectrum Lanes, Red Robin, Applebee’s, The Grand Rapids Griffins and The West Michigan Whitecaps for their generous donations to our effort. We would also like to thank the Kent District Library for donating their time to get students signed up for library cards and let them know about the exciting reading opportunities at the Wyoming Branch.

Ending our evening on a high note, “Crash” read Casey at the Bat to the students as their “bedtime story.”

Our Literacy Night not only brought staff, parents and students together, it provided a great opportunity to show the importance of literacy. After reading the parent surveys, we believe that everyone found out that literacy can be a lot of fun, too! 📖

WPS Students Sing With the Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys

by Chad Dykema

Two Wyoming Public Schools students, Riley Aldrich (grade 3, Parkview Elementary) and Joseph Schimmelmann (grade 3, Gladiola Elementary) have joined the treble ranks of the Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys (GRCM&B).



Riley Aldrich



Joseph Schimmelmann

The GRCM&B is currently celebrating its 20th Anniversary season.

Wyoming music teacher, Chad Dykema, recommended the boys to Choirmaster, Scott Bosscher during the summer months.

“These boys are ideal pupils for the choir. They are serious about their music study, enjoy the camaraderie of being in the treble ranks, have excellent attitudes and are well mannered young lads,” said Dykema.

Bosscher says the boys are doing very well adjusting to the rigorous rehearsal and performance schedule and the challenging repertoire of the choir.

The boys sang a service of lessons and carols with the choir on Friday, December 18, at St. Andrew’s Cathedral in Grand Rapids. Later in the spring, the choir will rehearse and sing three services in Chicago with Dr. Martin Neary, who is Choirmaster emeritus, at Westminster Abbey in London. 📖

High Schools' FIRST Robotics looking for new team members

by Bruce Klemm

“2010 FIRST Robotics Competition! It’s a competitive sport. It’s a life experience. It’s opportunity. It’s community. It’s amazing. It’s the varsity sport for the mind.”

The FIRST Robotics Competition combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, limited resources and time limits, teams are challenged to raise funds, hone teamwork skills and build and program robots to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. It’s as close to “real-world engineering” as a student can get. Volunteer professional mentors lend their time and talents to guide each team.



Wyoming Public Schools FIRST Robotics Team Competes in 2009 Competition.

Wyoming Public Schools' FIRST Robotics Team is looking for new members from both Rogers and Wyoming Park. If interested

in joining the team as a student or mentor, contact Bruce Klemm at Rogers High School or email klemmb@wyoming.k12.mi.us.

Literacy Night at Rogers a Success

by Katie Pennington

On Tuesday, October 20, Rogers High School hosted Literacy Night for the parents and families of Rogers students. The purpose of this event was to share some of the instructional strategies used by Rogers teachers in an effort to improve students' reading abilities. Since many of these strategies can be used by students at home, parents left Literacy Night with lots of tools to use with their sons and daughters.

Parents learned the definition of a lexile score and how it applies to their sons' and daughters' reading abilities. During three different seminars, teachers demonstrated the use of

Frames and LINC tables as study strategies. Parents also learned how to access Parent Gateway, monitor their children's grades, and apply good study habits at home. Door prizes with a reading theme were distributed as well. These included magazine subscriptions and a hardbound set of the Twilight series books.

Literacy Night is the product of almost two years of intense focus at Rogers on improving reading achievement. During that time, the staff at Rogers has worked closely with the world-renowned literacy strategies from the University of Kansas to incorporate consistent instructional

strategies school-wide. In addition, all students at Rogers High School have taken the Scholastic Reading Inventory and received a lexile score as an indicator of reading ability. Students will be re-tested in January and May to monitor their growth in this area. The materials in the Media Center at Rogers have also been clearly identified with their lexile scores, so students are able to pick reading materials in their lexile range.

Thank you to the 35 families who attended Rogers' first Literacy Night. We look forward to seeing our Golden Hawk families at our next literacy-themed event.

Unsung Hero Award Given to Taft Educator

by Sharon Wolfe

Kathryn Jobson, a literacy coach at Taft Elementary, was awarded a \$2,000 ING Unsung Hero Award.

One hundred winners were selected from a group of more than 2,000 applications, and she will now compete with other winners for one of the top three prizes.

The ING (a global financial services company) is committed to helping make it easier for educators to engage their students by recognizing and rewarding them for their innovation and hard work. This program recognizes K-12 grade educators nationwide for their creative educational projects, their innovative teaching methods, and ability to positively influence the children they teach.

Jobson developed the "Mailbox Book Club" to promote year-round learning, which includes summer vacation, for students at Taft Elementary.

Interested students sign up to receive books over the summer to increase their retention of

knowledge learned during the school year. Students living in households where English is not the primary language are encouraged to participate to maintain communication skills.

During the school year, students are introduced to a book series and the first book will be read aloud in the classroom.

Students who want to continue the series are responsible for reading the second book during the school year and then will receive the third book in the mail at their home along with a pre-addressed, stamped envelope. Students will continue to receive books until they finish the series or the summer ends.

Students also fill out a questionnaire about the book they read.

Jobson believes this is a great solution for students who are not able to travel to their local library.

Congratulations! 🎉

Roger's Grad Enters Michigan Women's Hall of Fame as First Female American Indian Dentist

by Sharon Wolfe

Jessica A. Rickert, DDS, the nation's first American Indian woman dentist and longtime resident of Northern Michigan, was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in October 2009 along with nine other inductees.



Dr. Jessica A. Rickert

Dr. Rickert grew up in Wyoming, where she graduated from Rogers High School. She went on to attend the University of Michigan, where she earned her DDS in 1975. She is a descendent of Chief White Pigeon (Wahbememe) for whom the town of White Pigeon, Michigan, is named and is a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi tribe, whose home reservation is in Mayetta, Kansas.

Some of Dr. Rickert's many accomplishments include; founding member of the Society of American Indian Dentists, Michigan Chapter of the American Dental Association, the Michigan Dental Association, the American Association of Women Dentists and the National Association of Women Professionals. She is also the author of the 1983 book, "Exploring Careers in Dentistry", and has written a dental advice column.

Congratulations, Dr Rickert! 🎉

Wyoming Park Boys BB Winter League

The second annual West Michigan Winter Boys Basketball League has begun. This program was developed so our kids could compete at home without having to travel and pay the heavy cost of playing on "house" teams or "travel" teams. These teams compete against other teams from around West Michigan. Games for 3rd through 6th grade begin January 9 at Wyoming Park; 7th and 8th grade games start January 23.

Any questions, please contact Head Basketball Coach Thom Vander Klay at vandert2@wyoming.k12.mi.us. 🎉

Parkview Students Say “Thank You, R.I.F.”



Tierney Hewett, Taylor Moore and Gabe Pulaski stand in front of the “Thankful Tree” with their new books.

by **Peg Machuta**

Early November found all of the Kindergarten through 4th grade students at Parkview Elementary eagerly searching for just the right book.

Our students are thankful to the Reading Is Fundamental organization, Wyoming Public Schools and Wesley Park Methodist Church, as well as the helpful volunteers for making it all possible. There was a wonderful assortment of books to choose from, and the students thought it was super that the books were actually FREE!!

Students also had the opportunity to trace their hand on colorful construction paper and write something they were thankful for on it (most of them wrote “family”). All of the leaves were placed upon the “Thankful Tree”, which was constructed by teacher Sally Kapteyn. The tree will grace the hallway near the front entrance for the entire school year and will change along with the seasons. ☺



Above Photo Clockwise from Bottom: (Museum Docent is standing) Delilah Tyler, Shaun DeWent, Jennie Losinger, Sarah DeWent and Travis Wright. Right: (Back row) Vinh Le, Jennie Losinger, Travis Wright, our Muskegon Art Museum Docent, and Delilah Tyler. (Front Row) Shaun DeWent, Tyler Reno and Sarah DeWent.



Oriole Park Students Visit Muskegon Art Museum

by **Theresa Almonte**

On November 11, 3rd and 4th grade students from Oriole Park Elementary School took a trip to the Muskegon Art Museum.

As leaders of research, six students attended from the five 3rd and 4th grade classrooms. “A Paradise Up in the Air” by Xuhong Shang is shown here. Mrs. Mucha, the art teacher at Oriole Park, was able to secure a grant funded by the Michigan Humanities Council.

Students and parents attended the trip and were delighted by the art at the Muskegon Art Museum. Thank you to the parents who chaperoned the trip, the museum, Mrs. Mucha for her grant efforts, our wonderful transportation by one of our Wyoming Public School staff- , John Stengink, the Michigan Humanities Council for the funding, and the Oriole Park students who represented Wyoming Public Schools well!

Docents, the people who lead the guided tours through the museum, educated students on several pieces of art in the museum.

Delilah Tyler thought the butterfly was so pretty, and it made her think about flying her kite when she was six years old.

Travis Wright thought it was cool and it reminded him of a kite, too.

Shaun DeWent said, “We had a feeling of being in the air. It was fun!”

Jennie Losinger was thinking that it reminded her of flying or riding the butterflies herself. It would be cool to have a big pet butterfly so you could always ride it to school.

Sarah DeWent, a 4th grade student, said, “The first gallery we went into was a room filled with kites that looked like butterflies.” ☺



Newhall students pose in front of some of their favorite Art Prize entries. Above: Nathan Van Hoeven, Jose Rodriguez, Michael Bui and Logan Buikema. Top Left: Lilly Gleason. Left: Michael Bui, Zeke Prause, Matt Beerens, and Nick Lierman.

Newhall Students Visit Art Prize

by Sharon Wolfe

Students from Newhall School had an educational and entertaining day at Grand Rapids's Art Prize on September 16. They visited three of the venues which included Ah Nab Awen Park, the Grand Rapids Art Museum and the Urban Institute for Contemporary Art.

At Ah Nab Awen and the Urban Institute, students were actually able to meet the artists and listen to them explain their art work. Ninth place winner (overall), Jason Hackenwerth, showed a short video, and students were allowed to ask questions. Ten kids received t-shirts from the artist. Students were asked to write about their experiences when they returned to school. The following is a sample of some of those writings.

Student Matt Beeren wrote that he saw many "cool pieces of art,"

one of which was the jellyfish made out of 3,000 balloons that took 60 hours to make.

A favorite painting for student Michael Bui was of a man's face made out of Michael Jordan symbols.


"The reason that the painting of a man's face was my favorite is because at first glance I thought it was just a man's face but when I got close enough to the painting, it had a repetition of Michael Jordan's and I was wondering how the artist assembled all of those Michael Jordan's to make a face.

"The face of the man was huge, but the scale of the Michael Jordan's were tiny.

"I think the Art Museum should keep that painting for a long time."

Samira Mohamed wrote, "The visual art that I liked the most was the portrait. At first glance I thought it was just a painted picture but it wasn't. If you look closer you can see that it is assembled with pushpins. There really wasn't any negative space because the whole thing was a girl's face. Her face was huge in scale to a normal person's face."

"There were so many great art pieces like the table and chair set and the giant sea dragon", wrote Zach Barnes. "But my favorite and what I think to be the most creative and unique was the 3D balloon sculpture."

Teacher Anne Harig said, "I am thankful we took advantage of this invitation because it gave kids, who may not have had another opportunity, a chance to be part of the Art Prize experience." 

Lights On Event Raises Awareness for

by Jessica Hughes

Gyms, multi-purpose rooms and classrooms at Gladiola Elementary, Jackson Park Intermediate, Newhall Middle, Parkview Elementary and Taft Elementary were even busier than usual during after-school hours on Thursday, October 22. Normally lively with the bustle of T.E.A.M. 21 after-school students and staff, these schools were further energized by the presence of parents and family members of T.E.A.M. 21 students, teachers and building and district administrators as the program celebrated Lights On, a national after-school advocacy event designed to raise awareness of and support for after-school programs in communities around the country.

Students and their families enjoyed a unique mix of activities at each building.

At Jackson Park, families enjoyed experiencing a day in T.E.A.M. 21, trying the normal dinner of sub sandwiches that was served to T.E.A.M. 21 participants that day (special thanks to Donna Smith from Food Service for preparing extras!) and participated in activities including mat ball and making slime.

At Newhall, highlights included a photo slideshow of the program, making caramel apples, playing an active game and making a craft.

At Gladiola, students and families had the opportunity to enjoy cider and doughnuts, pick from a variety of toppings for their caramel apples, create an art project, watch a photo slideshow of the program and vote on a coloring contest. A big hit with the Gladiola students included the opportunity to select a few of their peers to throw a whipped cream pie at a



Above: Mayra Marcos, 7th grader, and her mom, Petra Urquiza, work on arts and crafts.

Right: Krystyna Sheets, 7th grader, and Patti Reeder, T.E.A.M. 21 Group Leader, hard at work at the caramel apple station.



few of their group leaders!

Lights On participants at Taft enjoyed a cake walk, face painting, carnival games, and a dinner of pizza and fruit. Two of their planned activities, a balloon launch and a soda pop experiment, had to be postponed due to inclement weather.

At Parkview, they had a Hawaiian Luau theme that included a lei-making station, a hula hoop station, a pizza dinner, and, most popularly, a dunk tank. Two T.E.A.M. 21 group leaders, Nick Cron and

Emily Balcer, agreed to brave the water and sit on the dunk tank. Between the two, they were dunked approximately 20 times!

It was a great day for staff, students and parents alike and was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the good work students are doing after school this year! 🍷

Importance of After-School Programs



Left: Antonia Ramos, Sammy Navar, Uly Navar and Jose Navar, all family members of participants Critian and Emmanuel Navar (who are not featured), enjoyed the festivities at Parkview's event.

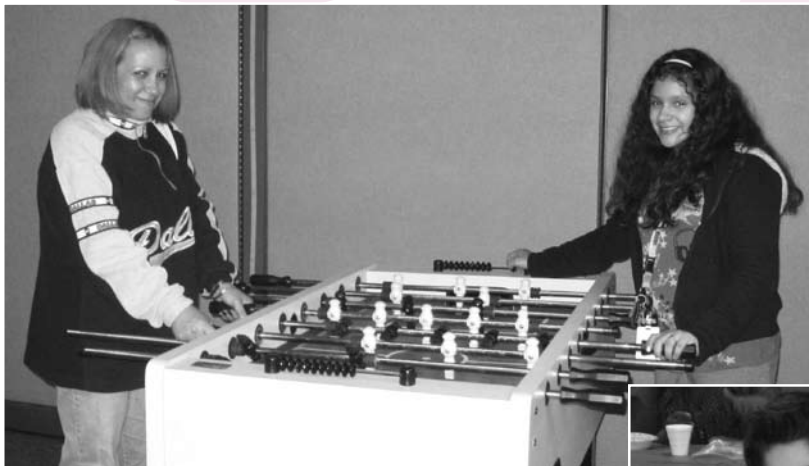


Right: (Clockwise from top) Melissa Rivera (5th grader at Jackson Park), Michelle Rivera (2nd grader at Gladiola) and their mom, Alejandra Rivera. Melissa was in TEAM 21 at Gladiola last year and stopped by with her mom after attending JP's Lights On event. They enjoyed getting creative with their caramel apple decorating!



Above in Circle: Fun-loving Group Leaders (left to right) Eric McKeever, Ashley Yondo, and Kyle Weld-Wallis have a good time getting pied in the face, especially as the cheers erupted from the students and families who filled the multi-purpose room.

Above in Square: Victor Ramirez, a Jackson Park 6th grade volunteer, watches as Emon'tae Long tries to hit the target and dunk Nick Cron, T.E.A.M. 21 Group Leader.



Above: Maria Morales, 5th grade and her mother, Lupe Nila-Alferez, enjoy a game of foosball.

Right: 6th graders Sebastian Garcia and Chase Segovia enjoy making slime.



Parkview, Taft Students Touched by Music of Jose Feliciano

Students from Parkview and Taft Elementary were recently introduced to the music of singer/guitarist, Jose Feliciano.

Music teacher, Chad Dykema taught a lesson on the famous musician from Puerto Rico who grew up in Brooklyn, New York. Students learned about Feliciano's background and listened to several pieces from the early periods of his career.

Dykema sensed his students were enamored of Feliciano's music and decided to write to Feliciano, telling him how much the students had enjoyed his music. Dykema sent Feliciano (blind since birth) an email in which he described the lesson he taught the students and the songs they had listened to, and thanked Feliciano on behalf of the students for his excellent work.

Three weeks later, Susan (Mrs. Jose) Feliciano wrote back to Dykema:

Chad - Hello! I shared your letter with Jose and he is touched by your kindness. He appreciates it very much, as do I. We both hope that you and your children and their families enjoy a wonderful Holiday Season filled with all good things. May God bless you all.

*Cordially,
Susan (Mrs Jose) Feliciano*



Above: Eighteen Oompa Loompas perform a magical number. Right: Zachary Hutchinson as Candyman with Charlie Balzeski as Charlie Bucket.



“Willy Wonka” Production Shows “Pure Imagination”

by Sherrie Davis

December 2-5, the Wyoming Park High School's Theater Company presented the musical of Roald Dahl's "Willy Wonka". Theater Company members performed this fantastical and heartwarming masterpiece about the power of childhood innocence and imagination in the face of hardship.

Audience members packed the Dan Heintzelman Auditorium to join Charlie for an adventure of "pure imagination!" During these trying economic times, Grandpa Joe's message to Charlie, "think positive," encouraged audience members of all ages. The musical highlighted how dreams really can come true!


Adding to the enchantment of this show, all costumes, sets and props were made original by the Wyoming Park Theater Company.

This quality arts experience could not have happened without the support of hundreds of community members including parents, teachers and students. We thank everyone who supported the Theater Company! We appreciate your encouragement and enthusiasm for the show!

Once again, the Theater Company's production was highlighted on WZZM's Take Five and Company. Reporter Stephanie Webb interviewed Junior Rachael Reinholtz, who played Veruca Salt, and Sophomore Cooper Skillman, who played Grandpa Joe. See the video clip of the story on the Wyoming Park Theater Company's new website, www.wyomingparktheatercompany.com.

Director Jeremy Schnotala appreciated the Wyoming Public School's staff attendance during the performances. More than 400 staff members and their families attended. Their positive response to this year's massive undertaking helped us produce such a large and high quality production.

Every year, the Theater Company connects with the community through a service project. This year, the company ended the fall season with a charity performance for the DeVos Children's Hospital.

DVDs and Picture CDs of "Willy Wonka" can still be ordered by emailing Sherrie Davis at daviss@wyoming.k12.mi.us. 

West Students Help Local Families with Food Drive

by Lori Brillowsky,
Social Worker

West Elementary again took part in the annual West Michigan Access Food Drive in November.

The supplies we collected during the food drive allowed our local pantries in Wyoming to help families throughout the holiday season. Students collected soup, peanut butter, canned meat, rice, noodles, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit and vegetables, boxed dinners, cereal and personal care items like soap, shampoo and toilet paper.

Students filled 19 boxes full of food and were also able to make 10 holiday baskets for some of our families at West. Mrs. Rudolph's 4th grade class helped sort, organize and make food baskets.

Two of our 1st grade classrooms earned a Crazy Hair Day by bringing in more than 200 canned goods between the two classes. Another classroom had PJ Day for reaching their goal.

The students at West really enjoyed participating in this worthy cause. ☺



West students collected 19 boxes of food and personal care items for families in need.

Top: Raqaiyah Memon, Juliann Anstey, Kyahn Wilson, Celeste Fales, Kegan Schuur, Justus Ward, Talia Jenison and Jennifer Huizenga. Above: Raqaiyah Memon, Kyahn Wilson, Talia Jenison, Juliann Anstey, Jennifer Huizenga, Kegan Schuur, and Celeste Fales. Right: Julian Anstey and Principal Mike Sturm.



Help for Homeless Families and Unaccompanied Youth

As times become more difficult in our state, the need increases for our homeless families and unaccompanied youth. Federal law mandates that homeless children and youth have access to a public education. A homeless student is eligible to remain in the school they are attending when they became homeless, or they may choose to attend the district where they are currently housed. Services available may include transportation to ensure access to the school of origin, free and reduced lunch and additional special services. This is intended to be temporary support until a permanent residence is found.

A homeless individual is someone who, because of unforeseen reasons or situations, lacks a fixed, regular and adequate night-time residence. This includes anyone who, due to lack of housing lives:

- In emergency or transitional shelters.
- In motels, hotels, trailer parks, campgrounds, or is abandoned in hospitals or awaiting foster care
- In cars, parks, public places, bus or train stations, abandoned buildings.
- Doubled up with relatives or friends.
- Migratory children living in these conditions.

If you or someone you know is in one of these situations, please contact your school building office for help, or contact Paula Skoog or Dr. Tom Reeder at 530-7555. ☺



Left: Mrs. Truax encourages her children, Hunter and Ridge with their writing. Below: Student Jared Brewer takes advantage of new Publishing Center.



West Publishing Center Opens

by Lori Brillowsky

West Elementary staff and parents worked throughout the summer to organize and create a center where students could go to formally publish a piece of their writing. The goal is to encourage, recognize and inspire young authors at West. The hope is to have every student attending West publish at least one book during the 2009/2010 School Year.

The Publishing Center is

open each Wednesday and is run by parent volunteers. The young authors are interviewed, and have their picture taken for their book. Students edit, revise and illustrate their work. Then they can select a book cover, and their book is bound. To date, there are 50 books in the process of being published. The students are very excited to share their finished product with their class, family and friends. ☺

Rogers' Volunteerism at Work



Every Friday night home football game at Rogers High School brings out the best in how the spirit of volunteerism is alive and well at Rogers. Shown above are the members of our varsity chain crew that have been volunteering for us for a number of years. From left: Mark Robbins, Chuck Mann, Ron Kadzban and Crew Chief Brian Carpenter.

Career and Technical Educational Programs

by Johanna Hoekstra

Things are constantly changing in our lives and the lives of our students. We are trying to develop our students for the changing job market and their own personal lives. Our career/technical programs do just that.

If it is Video Production 1 & 2 that captures the emotional last shot at a basketball game or the fun moments of the Senior's last year of high school. Our Web Design program encourages students to design web pages for business or entertainment and many of our students help our teachers design personal and school websites for their classes. Our Personal Finance course, which has teamed with Macatawa Bank, helps them understand credit along with personal and business transactions that affect student's daily lives. Accounting 1&2 supports students to balance checkbooks, read and calculate financial spreadsheets as an entrepreneurship and a corporation. Personal Finance and Accounting will count as a 4th credit for math curriculum next year and Web Design will qualify as a Fine Arts credit. We are currently creating four new courses in business and technology for the upcoming 2010 & 2011 school year. They are Foundations of Business, Advanced Business, Foundations of Technology and Advanced Technology. These classes will incorporate past Business classes and will also bring some newer technology and employability skills to continue to develop our students.

If you meet the qualifications, we do have work experience and

internship opportunities available. We have had interns in the past at local hospitals, vet clinics and the Civic Theater.

With college accreditation at Grand Rapids Community College and Davenport University, many of our students receive college credit for their current high school courses, if they successfully complete the class to the university's standard.

We will soon be scheduling classes for the 2010/2011 school year. All of the course descriptions will be in the curriculum guide which is available thru the school and also posted on the Wyoming Public Schools website.

If you have questions regarding our CTE programs or are interested in these classes, please speak to a school counselor or instructors Jon Bushen, Derek Schmidt and Shawn Veenstra at Wyoming Park High School. ☺

Rogers Grad Selected for MSU Medical School

Excerpts taken from GVSC – News and Information Services

Mitch Sydloski, a Rogers High School graduate, is one of six Grand Valley students who comprise the first group to be admitted to the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine.

Through an agreement with Grand Valley State University and Michigan State University, the Early Assurance Program links pre-med GVSU students to MSU's medical school. The EAP provides an enhanced opportunity for admission to medical school to qualified pre-med students who are the first generation to attend college, students who graduated from a low-income high school, those eligible for Pell grants or those who express interest in a high-need medical specialty area.

Congratulations! ☺

Rogers Staff Gives Back

by Roy Black

Rogers High School has participated in a variety of charitable efforts for many years. Staff and students have participated in food drives, hat and mitten drives and a number of other efforts to support those in need in their community. Instead of buying items for the person they draw in their Secret Santa drawing each year, the staff buys toys that remind them of that staff member. The toys are then distributed to children in the community.

This year, the staff at Rogers decided to go a step further. In an effort to increase the effectiveness of their Holiday Gift Basket Drive, staff collected more than \$1,500. That money will be used to purchase food and personal care items which will be distributed to needy families in the area. ☺

Jackson Park Students Collect Food, Prepare Thanksgiving Baskets for Local Families

by MaryAlice Miller

The month of November was a giving month at Jackson Park Intermediate School. The Leadership Council had a food drive to collect non-perishable items for a local food pantry as well as prepare Thanksgiving Baskets for some of our own families in need. The students at Jackson Park gave in abundance! Soon our boxes were overflowing with food items.

The Leadership Council decided to have a competition between the 5th and 6th grades. The challenge: Who could bring in the most non-perishable items. The competition was fierce! The 6th grade started out with a more than 200-food-item lead. In just one night, the 5th grade started to inch their way closer. A second evening past, and the 5th grade went into the lead, surpassing the 6th grade by 100 items. For the remaining days of the competition our food item tally went back and forth between the competitors.

The students were having such a great time with this activity that the Leadership Council decided to extend the food drive. Food items kept on coming, and students were taking pride in what they were doing for their community. But alas, our competition had to come to an end, and our 6th grade students narrowly won!

The 6th grade members of the Leadership Council had to pick a prize and choose between a pajama day with a movie or having their teacher dress up as a movie star. The council chose Pajama/Movie Day. On Friday, December 4, they gathered in the gym with pajamas on, a great movie to watch and popcorn from the PTO.



Top: 5th grader Matt Bulthuis stacks boxes of donated food. Right: 5th graders Jacob Bond and Nick Talsma help load boxes.



Back Row: Mrs. Potter, Mrs. Steensma, Mr. Navis, Mr. Fuller, Mrs. Baarda, Mr. Bilski, Mr. Debrri and Ms. Schwartz. First Row: Mrs. VanKoevering, Mrs. Westcott, Mrs. Miller, Ms. McHugh, Mrs. Bredeweg, Mrs. Norman and Mrs. Nelson. Kneeling: Mr. Hernandez and Mrs. Pratt.

Our 5th Grade reaped the benefit of having their teacher dress up as a movie star character. Teachers did it in style by showcasing such great movies

as Grease, Fame, Alvin and the Chipmunks and A Christmas Carol. This created a win-win situation for all the students at Jackson Park. 🍿

Innovations Students Take Disc Golf Challenge

by Tim Plants

The rain couldn't stop 11 Innovations students and their two chaperones October 2, 2009, when they embarked on a journey to compete against six other alternative school teams at the 8th Annual Disc Golf Challenge held at Brewer Park.

High winds and an endless downpour of precipitation made the three-round course particularly



Innovations Disc Golf Team enjoys a pizza picnic after the competition. Clockwise from bottom left: Bonifacio Alvarado, Luis Encarnacion, Kyle Griesmeyer, Randy Mullins, Benjamin Taylor, Brian Miles, Adam Phillips, Megan Walcott, Andrew Rinard, Debby DeGroot, Ricardo Ortiz and Teacher Shantel Vandergalien.

difficult. Of the 11, two students placed on the All Tournament Third Team - Megan Walcott with a score of +12, and Randy Mullens with a score of +13.

The rain cleared in time for the students to enjoy pizza and pop and make plans to prepare for the State Tournament held in the spring. ☺

Rogers Adds to Athletic Hall of Fame

by Dave Price

The third annual Rogers High School Athletic Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremonies was held on Thursday, September 24, 2009, at the Brann's Catering Center on South Division. This year's class features two former athletes and one former coach/administrator.

Our first inductee is Ed VanAllsburg, who coached at Rogers High School for 21 years, from 1966 until 1987. VanAllsburg was a basketball coach at Rogers for all of those 21 years, coaching the varsity team for three years. He ended with a 40-24 overall record.

As our boys' varsity golf coach for 10 years (1977 to 1986), VanAllsburg's teams qualified for the state meet five times, won one league and two regional titles.

VanAllsburg became our athletic director in 1986, serving in that capacity until his retirement in 1998. During his years as the athletic director, Rogers added 10

new girls' or boys' sports to the overall athletic program.

Our next inductee is Carol Farquhar, who graduated from Rogers in 1978. Farquhar represented Rogers in both golf and tennis. She was the MVP on our girls golf team for 1976, 1977 and 1978, and also all conference in golf for those three years; she was team captain in tennis and MVP in tennis in 1977; and she was a member of the Rogers High School National Honor Society in 1978. Farquhar attended Ferris State University and played golf for FSU, where she was the team MVP in 1982 and team captain in 1983.

Farquhar has been a member of the PGA since 1986 and director of golf at Saskatoon Golf Club since 1989. Only the second woman in the country to become a PGA Master Professional and first in Michigan. Farquhar is extremely active in promoting junior and kids golf within the golfing community.

Our third inductee, Karla



The 2009 Rogers Athletic Hall of Famers Carol Farquhar, Ed VanAllsburg and Karla (VandenBrink) Stevens.

(VandenBrink) Stevens, was a 1982 graduate of Rogers High School, where she swam competitively for the GoldenHawks for all four years of high school. She set and still holds many of the swim records for Rogers High School. Stevens was listed as a top swimmer in The Grand Rapids Press rankings in all events during her high school years. She was an all-conference swimmer in her sophomore year in the 50 freestyle and the 100 butterfly.

Stevens went on to participate in swimming at GRJC, where she swam in the junior college nationals. After injuring her shoulder, Stevens finished her collegiate years at Central Michigan University. ☺

Wyoming Public Schools
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Insight is published by the Wyoming Board of Education as the official newsletter for residents of the Wyoming School District.

Sharon G. Wolfe, Editor

Items for publication in the *Insight* should be sent to the following address:

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In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Elliot-Larson Civil Rights Act of 1977, and the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, it is the policy of Wyoming Public School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, disability, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program, activity, or in employment. The lack of English skills will not be barrier to admission or participation in educational programs. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies. Inquiries related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, origin, age, height, weight, sex, or marital status should be directed to Thomas Reeder, Assistant Superintendent, 3575 Gladiola SW, Wyoming, MI 49509, (616) 530-7556. Inquiries related to discrimination on the basis of disability or religion should be directed to Harry Knol, Director of Student Services, 3575 Gladiola, SW, Wyoming, MI, 49509, (616) 530-7525.

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Snowman

By Kalin Wiltrout, age 4, Great Start Readiness Program at the Huntington Woods Early Childhood Center.

Wyoming Public Schools
 REGULAR BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2009-2010

January 11, 2010.....7:00 p.m.	April 19, 2010.....5:30 p.m. (Note: Third Monday)
January 25, 2010.....5:30 p.m.	May 10, 2010.....7:00 p.m. (@ Gladiola Elementary)
February 8, 2010.....7:00 p.m.	May 17, 2010.....5:00 p.m. (Budget Hearing)
February 22, 2010.....5:30 p.m.	June 14, 2010.....7:00 p.m.
March 8, 2010.....7:00 p.m.	June 28, 2010.....5:30 p.m.
March 22, 2010.....5:30 p.m.	

Regular Board Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. and the 4th Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m., unless otherwise specified.

In the spirit of compliance with the ADA, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Office of the Superintendent by phone (616) 530-7555 if requesting special services to effectively participate in this meeting.