

Connections

Volume XXIII No. 2

November/December 2004



Holiday Sounds

The Northville High School Marching Band helped kick off the holiday season in downtown Northville at the November 19 Annual Lighted Parade. Northville Public Schools' students, staff and families spread goodwill in many ways during the holiday season. Please see pages 4 and 5 for a sampling of the generous giving extended to the community and those less fortunate by all the Northville Public Schools. (Photo by Steve Fecht)

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Seasons Greetings
From the
Northville Public Schools

Enrollment, facilities are committees' focus

The Northville Board of Education has established three community committees to study some of the most pressing issues facing the school district —projected enrollment growth, short-term (the next two years) facility solutions, and long-term (2 to 10 years) building capacity and facility projections.

With enrollment growth in excess of 300 students each year for the past few years, the district is looking for community input on how to grapple with its growing student population. David

Bolitho, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services, said residents interested in serving on any of the committees may contact him at 248-344-8441.

The three committees are charged with gathering data on student population, building capacity and future growth. An outline of each committee is as follows:

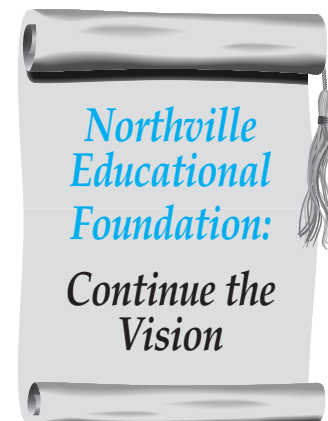
Enrollment: This committee will look at enrollment projections for the next two, five and 10 years. It will look at student population num-

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Northville Educational Foundation begins new funding initiative

Inside this issue of *Connections* is a brochure for the Northville Educational Foundation, an independent, nonprofit organization working in partnership with the Northville Public Schools to maintain and enhance classroom initiatives.

See Story Page 3.





NHS students earn top MEAP marks

Northville High School students once again earned top marks on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests, according to results recently released by the Michigan Department of Education.

Northville High School ranked among the highest performing high schools in the state on the 2004 MEAP. Northville High School's scores far exceeded the state's average in all test categories.

The MEAP is one of the criteria used by the State of Michigan in assessing schools under the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Michigan's assessment, Education Yes!, issues report cards on each school in the state. The law requires states to identify schools that don't meet adequate yearly progress standards. Michigan's standards are based on MEAP test scores, the percentage of students who take the test and graduation rates.

Despite its excellent MEAP scores, Northville High School earned an overall letter grade of B on its 2004 Education Yes! report card. Ninety-one percent of Northville High School students took the MEAP test in 2004, a few percentage points short of the state's requirement of 95 percent participation. In 2003, only 76.7 percent of NHS students took the MEAP. Participation in the MEAP is not required by the State of Michigan.

This year's results are as follows:

Math

Northville: 90.0 %
State: 58.5%

Social Studies

Northville: 55.9%
State: 35%

Reading

Northville: 96.7%
State: 76.2%

Writing

Northville: 92.7%
State: 57.8%

Science

Northville: 90.1%
State: 63.4%

Northville Composite 2004: 85.1%
Northville Composite 2003: 79.2%

Help us keep you connected

If you are a Northville Public Schools resident and are NOT receiving the newsletter *Connections*, or if you know of a resident not receiving the newsletter, please contact us. The newsletter is mailed to all households in the district. Copies also are available at the Administration Building at 501 West Main.

Please contact mmfecht@aol.com.

Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Education and the School District not to unlawfully discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status, handicap, or disability. Concerns or questions may be directed to the following individuals at (248)349-3400: Title IX, Katie Parker, Director of Human Resources, Title VI, Dr. Casey Reason, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction; and Section 504, Dr. Robert Sornson, Executive Director for Special Education (See Board Policy No. 1440.93).

Connections is a publication of the Northville Public Schools. We'd like to hear your comments and suggestions. Please feel free to email Michele Fecht, Editor, at mmfecht@aol.com. You also can find *Connections* on the district's website at www.northville.k12.mi.us

Foundation kicks off new funding campaign

The Northville Educational Foundation, an independent, nonprofit organization working in partnership with the Northville Public Schools, is reenergizing its efforts with a new brochure enclosed in this issue of *Connections*.

The Foundation is managed by a community-based board of directors comprised of parents and community leaders. The Foundation board has recently reenergized its efforts, and is actively seeking charitable contributions from individuals and organizations that recognize the essential role our schools play in the community.

The enclosed brochure and contribution envelope outline the many ways individuals and organizations can help support and enhance educational opportunities in the Northville Public Schools. The Foundation board is hoping residents will

consider the Northville Educational Foundation when making charitable contributions.

The need for private funding to help support classroom initiatives is more acute than ever. In the last two years, the Northville school district has lost several million dollars in state revenues with another executive order cut expected in January.

The Foundation's earnings help support programs that cannot be supported by the district's operating funds.



For more information on the Northville Educational Foundation, click on the district's website at www.northville.k12.mi.us

LAN seeks help from citizens on education issues

The **Legislative Action Network (LAN)**, a committee of the Northville Council of PTAs, is seeking email addresses from residents concerned about legislation impacting education.

LAN is hoping to expand its list of residents willing to send an email to their state senator and representative on matters of critical importance to our schools.

With another state budget cut in school funding expected in January, LAN is hoping residents will let their opinions be known.

When legislators get email from voters, they listen!

Residents can send an email to **northvillepta_lan@yahoo.com** with the word "subscribe" as the Subject and you will be on the list.

If you have already given LAN your email, please send another message so the committee can confirm it has your current email address.

If you would like more information or have any questions, send LAN an email with the word "question" as the subject.

Northville schools celebrate spirit of giving

During this holiday season, Northville Public Schools' students are learning about the generosity of the human spirit by giving of themselves through a multitude of community service projects. The scope of giving by Northville students, staff and families extends from local charities to international relief.

These efforts provide an important lesson to students and much needed assistance for those less fortunate. The following are some examples of the spirit of giving in Northville Public Schools:

Amerman Elementary School

The school is adopting two families in need in the Northville area through Northville Civic Concern • Students are collecting coats, mittens, hats, gloves, scarves and boots for its school partner, Maybury School in southwest Detroit • Fourth graders hosted a Holiday Sweet Shop to help needy families through Northville Civic Concern. Fourth grade students sold sweet treats to students in other classes. All proceeds, totaling \$936, are used to purchase gifts for needy families • Students also are collecting used clothes, toys, games, puzzles and books for the Development Center in Detroit, Maybury School and domestic violence shelters.

Moraine Elementary School

Student Council is sponsoring a canned goods/paper product collection to benefit Northville Civic Concern • Fourth grade classes and a fifth grade class are participating in the "Adopt-A-Family" program sponsored by the Salvation Army • Kindergartners are making cards for Meals on Wheels recipients • Student Council is sponsoring an ongoing collection of pop can tabs to benefit the Veteran's Administration • Many Moraine classrooms are participating in a "Make A Book" project to benefit children who are patients at Children's Hospital and their families at Ronald McDonald House.

Ridge Wood Elementary School

A fifth grade class collected \$900 to benefit UNICEF worldwide relief • PTA and Student Council collected watercolor paint trays for Ridge Wood's partner school Bennet Elementary in Detroit. The school recently lost funding for an art program • A second grade classroom is adopting a family



through Northville Civic Concern • The Student Council collected 610 canned food items for an area food bank for Thanksgiving • First graders are collecting Toys for Tots.

Silver Springs Elementary School

A canned food drive was held before Thanksgiving by the physical education department. All cans collected were donated to Civic Concern • PTA sent a flyer home to every family promoting awareness of Civic Concern and listing items that are needed • First graders brought books to school to donate to Civic Concern • All students in third grade read 100 books. Two businesses donated \$250 because the students reached their goal. About \$500 worth of books will be purchased and donated to Wolverine Human Services. Wolverine Human Services provides emergency shelter for boys taken from their home for safety reasons.

Thornton Creek Elementary School

Staff and families participated in Salvation Army bell ringing at Hiller's Market • The school collected more than 1,000 toothbrushes and 1,000 tubes of toothpaste to put in Christmas bags for students at Neinas and Maybury schools in Detroit through the Bridgepoint project • Third graders made candy poppers to be given out at Wolverine Human Services for the holidays • Kindergartners are collecting mittens and gloves for Wolverine Human Services • Fourth graders are collecting Toys for Tots with money students earned doing chores • Kindergartners and Kids Club made outfits for stuffed animals and donated them to the Novi Fire Department. • Wondergarten will be donating cups of "Snowman" soup to the seniors at Allen Terrace.

Northville schools provide holiday cheer

Winchester Elementary School

Student Council collected canned goods for Northville Civic Concern and went to the center to help distribute them • Each grade level is adopting a family through Northville Civic Concern. They will provide them with Christmas gifts.

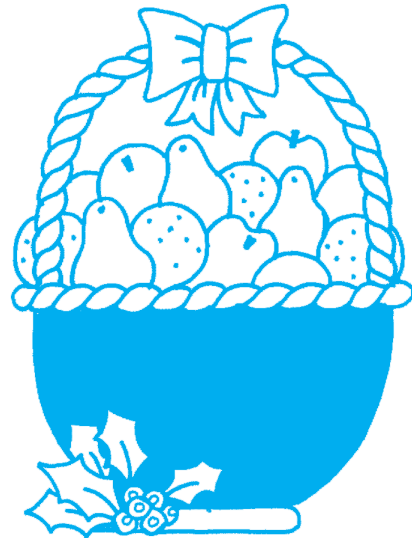
Hillside Middle School

Hillside administrators rang the Salvation Army bell at Hiller's Market • Eighth graders collected more than \$2,000 for Operation Good Cheer which benefits Family and Child Services of Michigan • Student Council conducted a toy and clothing drive for Wolverine Human Services • Student Council collected over 7,700 items for Northville Civic Concern • Student Council collected more than \$1,000 for Bridgepoint through a school-wide "change war" • The choir is singing at Allen Terrace and Old Village School • Honors Choir also is singing at Presbyterian Village.



Meads Mill Middle School

Consumer Education classes are hosting a bagel sale each morning. Proceeds will go toward adopting a family through Northville Civic Concern • Seventh graders are sending care packages to U.S. troops in Iraq • The Meads Mill Band made a CD for U.S. troops • The Seventh Grade raised money to buy beans for orphans in Zambia • The Turkey Trot raised more than \$800 for the American Heart Association.



Northville High School

Student Congress participated in the Senior Smiles project with students helping senior citizens with various chores such as raking leaves, washing windows, etc. • Many seminar classes are adopting a family through Volunteers of America • The National Honor Society collected nearly 9,000 pounds of food during its canned food drive • A seminar class is collecting used cell phones to be given to domestic abuse victims.

Cooke School

Staff and students are bringing in donations to make baskets to send home to Cooke families in need • Mitsubishi Corporation, Cooke's business partner, is once again hosting a holiday party for students. The event includes a pizza party and dance. Each student receives a \$25 gift card for either Target or Meijer, wrapped and distributed by Mitsubishi employees. Cooke staff members volunteer their time to provide care and supervision during the party.

Old Village School

Staff and parents participate in a "Families in Need" program which raises funds to purchase Meijer cards for needy families within Old Village. The program has been ongoing for several years. Approximately 10-20 families are helped each year.

Northville hosts Japanese students on Fulbright exchange



Northville played host to students and staff from Rojo Junior High School in Komatsu, Japan, during a week-long visit in October. The visit was part of a pilot student exchange program between the U.S. and Japan through the Fulbright Memorial Fund Collaborative School Science Network. Hillside students and staff visited and studied in Japan this summer. The October visit offered the Hillside and Rojo students a chance to get reacquainted. Also getting acquainted was an alligator in the Animal Room at Hillside. Science teacher Dwight Sieggreen keeps a grip on the friendly reptile.



Hillside Principal Jim Cracraft hosted a barbeque at his home for Rojo's students and staff (left). Rojo teacher Ken Yagi is greeted by Michigan School Superintendent Tom Watkins (above). (Photos by Steve Fecht)

District moves to next phase of school security

After assessing building security in each of the district's schools last spring, Northville Public Schools has moved into the next phase of emergency preparedness by conducting tabletop exercises to test disaster plan effectiveness.

The district has been working with consultant Steve Potter of Patriot Services as well as local police and fire officials, the Wayne County Emergency Preparedness Office and the county Homeland Security office to review its Crisis Management Plan. The tabletop simulations conducted in the fall offered building principals and staff an opportunity to test their emergency preparedness in a variety of circumstances including a fire or explosion, accident, hazardous material incident or terrorist threat.

The training and assessment is funded by a grant from the Michigan State Police through the Homeland Security Act.

Though the district has had a Crisis Management Plan in place for many years, there had not been a thorough assessment of building vulnerability before last spring. The district took advantage of the Homeland Security grant to bring in a consultant to work with local school, police and fire officials in doing a thorough review of each district facility.

The outcome of that review showed security vulnerabilities at several school sites. The district has since corrected those concerns and moved into training for emergency preparedness.

Building principals were the first to be trained in emergency procedures. Other staff including building administrative assistants, custodians, transportation personnel and teachers will be trained throughout the school year and into the summer. The district also is working to make its Crisis Manual more accessible to district staff.

David Bolitho, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, said the district also has assessed the district's two center programs – Cooke and Old Village School – where emergency plans were modified for more medically fragile students.

District Newsmakers

HEAD OF THE CLASS Seventeen Northville High School seniors have been honored as National Merit Semifinalists and National Merit Commended students by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. The 17 students were identified as academically outstanding based on their results on the preliminary SAT/National Merit Qualifying Test taken during their junior year. Seven NHS students were named National Merit Semifinalists, ranking among the top one percent of their peers across the nation. They include Adam Ajlouni, Steven Bennett, Andrew Buran, Christopher Kawatus, Anne Kirkpatrick, Sarah Manley and Justine Sheu.

Ten commended NHS students rank in the top five percent of their peers across the nation. These students are Robin Abbey-Lee, Nicholas Kuneman, Casey Lwo, Renee O'Neill, Nikita Patel, Alicia Raisinghani, Sarah Tochman, Brigitte Warner and Daina Zang. Congratulations to these outstanding students!

PINK FOR PURCELL More than 500 Northville High School students attended a November 19 school dance to help raise funds for counseling secretary Katherine Purcell, who is battling breast cancer. The students came up with the idea and did the planning for the event to help honor Purcell. The more than \$5,000 raised from the event will be given to Purcell before Christmas.

TEACHER CONTRACT APPROVED The Northville Education Association and the Northville Board of Education have approved a two-year contract agreement. The contract stipulates a 1 percent increase for the first semester of the 2004-05 school year — which is retroactive to the beginning of the school year in August — and a 1 percent increase for second semester. Teachers will receive a 2 percent salary increase for the 2005-06 school year. Health care provisions included an increase in prescription drug co-pays from \$5 for generic and \$10 for name brands to \$10 for generic and \$20 for name brands.

Committees study enrollment, facilities

Continued from Page 1

bers throughout the school district in both single-family and multi-family housing. The committee will work with two projection consultants, who will provide members with two sets of data for comparison purposes.

Short-term facility solutions: This committee will study the data gathered from the enrollment group and consider ways of accommodating enrollment in existing facilities.

Long-term facility solutions: This committee will consider several options to enrollment growth during the next decade. It will examine current building capacity, grade level alignment, additional facilities, impact on transportation, etc.

Findings of the enrollment and short-term growth committees are expected to be presented to the school board sometime in January. The long-term growth committee will report its findings in May or June.

Stories Available Online



Hillside Middle School Sixth Grade Science Teacher Heidi Capraro was named Michigan's Teacher of the Year in May 2004. Capraro shares her experiences through an online journal on the district's website at www.northville.k12.mi.us



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Northville, Michigan 48167

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