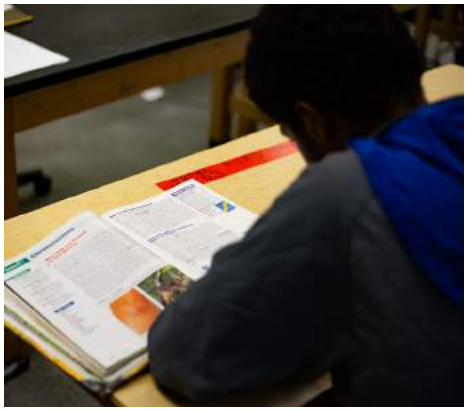
February 4, 2019

THE BRIGHT SIDE



Lansing School District

KEEPING SAFE IN THE POLAR VORTEX

The Lansing School District joined with others across the region in closing school in response to record-setting temperatures last week.

Thanks to each and every member of the LSD family for their efforts to remain safe, warm and responsible in the midst of these conditions!

Photo Credit: Lansing State Journal

In This Issue

2 • Table of Contents • Upcoming Events

3 Rodgers Administration Building Dedication

4 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebrations

5 Student Wrestler Brings Home Wins

6 District Showcase Information

7 Sexton STEM Students Work with DNA

8 Donations Support Homeless Students in Lansing

9 "Jump with Jill" Program Visits Riddle

10 2019 LEAF Scholarship Info

13 Bright Spots

UPCOMING EVENTS

Impression 5 Visit: *Pattengill Biotechnical Magnet School third graders visited a local science museum for learning and exploration, where they experienced a forces and motion workshop!*

February 6

- Late Start Wednesday

February 7

- Regular Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

February 10

- District Showcase Don Johnson Fieldhouse 12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

February 13

- Late Start Wednesday

February 14

- Information Study Session 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

February 15

- Half Day of School

District Leaders Dedicate Rodgers Administration Building Signage

Above: *Lansing School District leaders, community leaders, friends and family unveil the new signage outside the freshly-dedicated Shirley M. Rodgers Administration Building.*

In the aftermath of the unexpected death of board member Shirley M. Rodgers in 2018, the Lansing School District Board of Education voted to rename its administration building after the longtime district employee and board member. This month, her memory is celebrated through updated signage and a time of remembrance.

The Rodgers family joined with school district officials in January to unveil a new brick building marker and electronic sign.

"In my opinion, no one deserves to have their name on this building more than Shirley. She spent her entire career in this building, moving up levels of responsibility throughout her 30+ years," said superintendent Yvonne Caamal Canul. "Her advice was sound and thoughtful, it was foresighted and made you think of the long run."

Rodgers was known for her mentorship of students, her fierce advocacy, and her ability to make tough decisions when called.

"She was one of us, lived in this community, served this community in ways most of us do not know, and she loved this community," Caamal Canul said. "She was a little spitfire that impacted the lives of so many of us."

Above: *Shirley M. Rodgers*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebrations Remind Lansing Community to Dream—and Serve

Lansing middle and high school students were honored by the Greater Lansing Area Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission as part of a 2019 essay contest.

The theme, "Be the change you wish to see in the world," allowed students to articulate their dreams and plans for the future.

Students were recognized at the 34th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Luncheon at the Lansing Center. Also participating in the event were Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor, U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin, and L. Douglas Wilder, the first African American ever elected as a state's governor. U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow also was in attendance.

Everett High School senior Monta Williams earned a $5,000 scholarship prize, while Everett seniors Koren King and Siham Abdullah-Hassan earned $2,500 prizes.

Other essay contest winners included J.W. Sexton High School sophomore Khylee Allen (first place–$500 prize), Everett 7th grader Ella Gordon (second place–$350 prize), and Everett 8th grader Anjel Dixon (third place–$150 prize).

Lansing Student Successfully Pursues Wrestling Career

As a four-time state wrestling champ, Dwight Rich Elementary School student Edward Moore, Jr. is a force to be reckoned with.

"He was a natural at 3 1/2 years old," said his mother, Cayle Godel. "He wrestled for the first time in a meet at 4 years old, and walked away with first place hardware."

Godel said Edward finished his first year as a wrestler as state champion in the freestyle and Greco-Roman events for USA wrestling.

"At five years old, he was a 2x state champion. I don't think he even knew what that meant," Godel said.

Moore trains at the Capitol City Wrestling Club, and has even been a protegee of the "E.L. Strangler" Nick Simmons.

"We couldn't believe this little boy was so dedicated and dominating the mat like he was," said his father, Edward Moore III. "But he still wanted more. He was so determined to be folk style state champion and to wrestle in nationals he trained five times a week, and sometimes more!"

Godel agreed. "We were tired for him," she said.

This hard work paid off, however, and today Edward Moore Jr has reached his own goals. He is not only the MYWAY State champion at 43 pounds, but also ranked fifth at the NUWAY national championship.

"At seven years old, he is the most humble four-time state champion," Godel said. "We can't believe he ranks fifth in the U.S., and we couldn't be more proud!"

ONE DISTRICT • THREE PATHWAYS
TAKE FLIGHT
DISTRICT SHOWCASE
DON JOHNSON FIELDHOUSE
Lansing School District
FEBRUARY 10, 2019
12:00 - 4:00 P.M.
DREAM BIG WE'LL GET YOU THERE
Let's Talk!

Sexton STEM Students Learn DNA Fundamentals With MSU

In January, MSU came to Sexton High School to lead an Agriculture Science workshop event.

The event was attended by 60+ Sexton students in all grades, who worked together to extract DNA from strawberries.

The opportunity gave students the chance to understand the chemical process used with common household substances.

Students got to take home a small sample of the DNA that was extracted. Eyes lit up as the process caused a small bubbling effect as DNA was revealed.

The session was led by LaBrawn Wade, a 2015 graduate of Sexton. Wade is currently an MSU senior.

Donations Support Homeless Students in Lansing

The employees of GUD Marketing in Old Town donated $7,500 in $25 gift cards—along with personally signed and written holiday wishes—for approximately 60 high school homeless students for the holidays.

The firm also is doing a collection drive via social media for items—like food, clothing, and household needs etc.—that are much needed.

At the same time, Westlund Apple Market donated approximately $400 in non-perishable foods for our students.

Local neighborhood schools, such as Pattengill and Eastern, also are encouraged to participate in give-back programs that benefit students.

Lansing School District administrative employees working in accounting, purchasing, and other departments donated several household, clothing, food and personal hygiene items over the past few months and continue to give much-needed items.

An anonymous donation of $1,000, other cash donations, and other holiday help for needy families has been a welcome addition this holiday season.

"Jump With Jill" Program Comes to Riddle Elementary School

In support of Milk Means More, the rock & roll nutrition show Jump with Jill came to Riddle Elementary School in January. The program was funded by Michigan's Dairy Farmers in partnership with the United Dairy Industry of Michigan (UDIM).

In engaging directly with schools, Jump with Jill endorses Michigan dairy with the Emmy-nominated song about breakfast, "Get Me Goin'" and the show closer, "The Bone Rap."

The production of these music videos also featured Michigan dairy farmers. A blinged-out milk jug affectionately called by his rapper name, Calcium, dons bling and sunglasses to represent with his whole bone building crew – yogurt and cheese.

The set of the show includes campaign signage, and the cast travels in a vehicle designed like a delicious glass of Michigan-produced milk. A custom-designed milk crate filled with educational materials is given to schools so they can continue the show's messages all year long.

The Milk Means More Jump with Jill Milk Crate helps schools maximize learning opportunities by integrating nutrition messages in school cafeterias with life-sized posters and dairy cooler magnets, a DVD of the danceable music videos, and an Action Pack to bring the moves from the live show into the classroom.

"The lasting message is not just that drinking milk is cool," says the star of the touring Jump with Jill cast, Renee Storm. "But that the hard-working Michigan dairy farmers that bring this super fly drink to their table are, too."

We are dedicated to being a source of information on dairy foods and Michigan dairy farming," said Sharon Toth, CEO of United Dairy Industry of Michigan. "The Milk Means More brand captures the impact Michigan's dairy industry has throughout our state, from providing nutritious and wholesome foods to creating jobs in our communities. We are so proud to partner with Jump with Jill to take this message to Michigan kids."

2019 LEAF Scholarship Information

LANSING EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION

2019 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

GENERAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO ALL SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Students need to only submit one application. Students will be considered for all appropriate categories.**
- Student must be a current senior attending school at a Lansing School District High School.
- Student must be a graduating senior.
- Student must have a 3.0 GPA unless otherwise stated below.
- Scholarships may be used for tuition, books, lab fees, and housing only, unless otherwise stated.
- Student must provide a high school transcript, personal statement, career goals, letter of recommendation, an acceptance letter from an accredited community/2-year/4-year college/university
- Provide a list of extra curricular activities and pertinent background and financial information.
- Student must fill out the LEAF Scholarship application and submit first set of materials by the printed due date.

- Please print and make sure that all applications are legible.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered for scholarships.
- Make sure to read the application and all the requirements and provide all the necessary documentation
- All applications are due to the LEAF office by Friday, March 1, 2019 by 4:00 p.m.
- Applications can be mailed or delivered to the LEAF Office at the Beekman Center 2901 Wabash Road Lansing, MI 48910
- Awards recipients will be notified by April 1, 2019.
- For more information, contact the LEAF office at 517-755-2175 or via email at lansingleaf@gmail.com

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITITES:

John Aldinger 1 Year Educational Scholarship: $1,000.00

- Priority will be given to students with high financial need who do not have any other funds available, excluding the Hope Promise Scholarship.

South Lansing Kiwanis Scholarship: $1000.00 award

- Scholarship will be awarded for one year.

Joan Weaver Visual Arts Scholarship: $1000.00 award

Joan Weaver was an arts teacher for many years in the Lansing School District.

- Student must major in the visual arts.

Clayton Kowalk Athletic/Coaching Scholarship: $1000.00 award

Mr. Kowalk retired after 35 years of service with the Lansing Schools as a teacher, coach and Director of Coaching at Sexton High School. His Sexton basketball team had two State Championships.

- Student must have an interest in pursuing a degree in the field of physical education, coaching, athletics, athletic training or teaching.

Dr. Laurence MacQueen Scholarship: $1,000.00 award

Dr. MacQueen served on the Lansing Educational Advancement Foundation and was a leader in the MEA.

- Priority will be given to students who pursuing a career in the field of Education.
- Personal Statement must include an answer to the following question, "What characteristics/experiences do I have that will allow me to influence others in a positive manner?"

Maria Velasquez Scholarship: $500.00 award

- Preference will be given to a student with a migrant family background or to be the first in their family to attend a college or university. This information should be made known in the personal statement.
- Student must present an essay on their community involvement and how achieving a college degree will assist them in their future endeavors.

Mark Mehaffey Visual and Performing Arts Scholarship: $1000.00 award

Mark Mehaffey is a local artist and retired Lansing School District Art teacher

- Students applying should show potential for leadership and have a grade point average of at least 2.0
- Student must be pursuing a degree in either visual or performing arts
- The scholarship may be used for art supplies, tuition for visual arts classes, materials or lab fees.

Dr. W. E. Maldonado/Sparrow Scholarship $1,000.00 award

Dr. Maldonado is a retired former Chief of Medical Affairs at Sparrow Hospital.

- Only students that are enrolled in a medical/health career path will be considered
- Priority will be given to students who have volunteered or already attended classes that pertain to a medical field

Cindy Short Memorial Scholarship: $500.00 award

Cindy was the Athletic Director at Everett High School for many years.

- Priority will be given to students who have been involved in and would like to continue to pursue additional education in the field of education and/or athletics.
- <u>This scholarship is distributed and selected by an independent committee. Applications are available at Everett High School.</u>

Cecil Nickel Scholarship: award varies up to $2,500.00 each year

Mr. Nickel was a physical education teacher and coach and a phenomenal supporter of Sexton's youth.

- Student must be enrolled at Sexton High School
- <u>This scholarship is distributed and selected by an independent committee. Applications are available at Sexton High School.</u>

2019 LEAF Scholarship Information (continued)

Dr. Richard Halik Scholarship: $1,000.00 award
Dr. Halik retired from the Lansing School District after serving as a superintendent for many years. The scholarship rotates between Eastern, Everett, and Sexton each year.

- This award is for students who will be attending Lansing Community College, with a grade point average of 2.0-2.9 only, and have a need for financial assistance.
- The student is chosen by the building principal

Eva Evans Scholarship - $500.00 award

- To assist graduating seniors from the Lansing School District to pursue a higher education in Visual and Performing Arts.

Dr. E.Sharon Banks - $500.00 award
Dr. E. Sharon Banks retired from the Lansing School District in 2007 after serving several years as the superintendent.

- This scholarship is to enable graduating seniors of the Lansing School District to continue an educational journey in the field of education.

Members of the board of education attended the 34th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. luncheon.

Thank you to Dick's Sporting Goods for donating $1,000 to the Lansing School District sports programs!!

Lansing School District staff promoted all the great offerings in our district at the annual WKAR PBS Kids Day in January.

Congratulations to "J", our winner for our snow day reading challenge! "J" is a kindergarten student in Mrs. Gonzalez's class. She will be treated to a free book! We are proud of her for practicing your reading skills on her day off. Keep up the good work!